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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 1882.

FISHING IN CORNWALL.

I DARESAY you have all felt, as I did in June of last year, when I knew I might throw work to the dogs and start for the haunts of the finny tribe. I am always a wee bit excitable, but when I begin fancying I am playing some monster of the deep, Oh, Lor! it's something awful. As I had some months wherewith to try my skill at luring the shining beauties from their homes, the question arose as to where I should wend my way. I bethought myself of Cornwall, and, like a child of nature, acted upon the impulse of the moment. I was not long in putting my paraphernalia together, and ensconcing myself, clay in mouth, in one of the carriages of the 8.10 from Paddington. When old friend Morpheus laid his hand on my shoulder I know not, but I awoke just as we were nearing Dawlish. What a sight to meet one's eyes !—surrounded on all sides by revelling nature, after for several previous months seeing nothing but innumerable chimney-pots and the cry of the milkman or sweep in your ears. We had to change trains at Plymouth, but it was not long ere we were off again, my next stopping and changing place being Par, from whence a railway runs to Newquay. This latter place I intended making my final resting place, and it was still early morn when we whirled into its rural station. My quarters were situated just above the beach, and the water on my arrival looked so blue and clear that I resolved to take a dip in the briny, and by the time I arrived back I was well nigh starving. I shall never forget the look of horror depicted upon the countenance of the Cornish maid as she saw rasher after rasher disappear. But at last the cravings of the inner man were amply appeased, and I began to have a look about. I wandered into the village, and found it consisted of one long, straggling street, terminating at the quay. Most of the houses were new, and of the ordinary brick and mortar stamp ; but here and there might be seen the more picturesque mud-wall, with their reed covering, which formed a home for innumerable varieties of beautifully coloured lichens. The village is situated in a slight dip of the land, at the western extremity of a wide bay, having Trevose Head for its eastern termination, and bounded on the west by Towan Head. Stretching from the quay to about three miles to the eastward, is at low water a wide expanse of sand, with curiously-shaped rocks and their surrounding pools scattered here and there, and having a background of sea-beaten cliffs, rising perpendicularly from 50 to 250 feet from the beach. The rock pools form a home for numbers of shrimps and prawns, the catching of which afford capital sport, which is enlivened considerably if you happen to be naked of foot, by the vigorous stab of the "bishop." This is a small fish, which secretes itself by burrowing in the sand, and whose dorsal fin resembles that of the perch. Running westward from the quay is the headland, separating the Newquay beach from the Fistral, another long expanse of sand, having a background of sand-hills, which afford a home to hundreds of rabbits. Capital sport may be had on both these beaches by placing at low water what is locally known as a "spiller," This consists of a long line, to which is attached at intervals of two feet other lines six inches in length, having hooks attached. The extremities of the main line are fastened to stones, which must be buried in the sand. The hooks should be baited either with the sand-worm, sand-eel, or pieces of fresh fish, and these should be covered with sand, or else the gulls will take the bait off the hook. The prey that generally comes to hand include bass, skate, plaice, cod, and the Fistral beach soles. Splendid fun may be had by fishing from the rocks at low water or just as the tide is rising. The best plan is to have a good stout rod—an ordinary jack-rod is the best—and about 80 yards of fine but strong line. I found the most killing bait to be Hearder's artificial sand-eel, which may be obtained in any of the shops in the village. Another equally good bait is a piece of soft crab, which is the ordinary crab whilst it is casting its shell. The fish that I caught were bass, averaging from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 lb., but they are caught much larger ; wrass, $\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 lb. ; pollack and rock whiting, locally known as blynn. All along the coast the grey mullet is found plentifully, and in the Gannel, an estuary of the sea, about a mile from Newquay, the pools are alive with them. They are very difficult to catch either with net or hook, but I believe the best bait for them is the sand-flea and sea-bug. These latter are found in large numbers on the beaches at high-water mark. Good sport may be had by netting the pools in the Gannel, but you should be careful that the net is well leaded, or else they will burrow under, and if one gets out the rest quickly follow like a flock of sheep, and the top of the net should be kept raised quite 3 feet above the surface of the water, or else they will jump over, a trick which they served us several times. Capital bream-fishing may be had about 4 miles off the coast, but it would be necessary to take a fisherman with you to show the places to fish. But to return to my favourite sport, viz.—trout-fishing. The first day I had with the spotted beauties was at Lower St. Columb Porth, a little hamlet situate on the coast about 2 miles east of Newquay. Here a small stream empties into the sea, but, although small, it abounds in trout, weighing from 4 oz, to 1 lb. ; and during the spring and autumn months is well stocked with salmon peel, For about two miles above the beach you can easily fish with the fly, and any day when there is a nice little ripple on the water you can depend upon catching from three to

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four dozen fish. Farther up the river it is very overgrown, and you will have to resort to the use of the grasshopper, which I found a most killing bait. Another good stream is the Legonna, which empties into the Gannel about three miles from Newquay. Here the fish run to a much larger size, but you must fish with the worm or grasshopper, and with either on almost any day you can depend upon getting from two to four dozen nice fish, averaging from ½ lb. to 1 lb. Hearing several of the local Waltonians speak of the splendid sport to be had in a river at Mawgan, I determined to try my skill there; and started one morning about 4 o'clock, as I have found from experience that between daybreak and 11 a.m. is the best time to ensure success. I had a walk of about five miles to accomplish, but that itself was a pleasure, surrounded on all sides by such delightful scenery, and the air laden with the perfume of myriads of wild flowers. I only wished I had some companion who could with myself enjoy the beauty of the scene. At last I had reached my destination, and such a one, too! Never in after years, however dim my memory may grow, shall I forget the sensation that thrilled through my veins on entering that vale. But a few moments ago I heard the shriek of the gull, and the murmur of the waves as they broke on the rocks, in my ears; whilst here solitude and stillness reigned supreme, although broken now and then by the coo of the pigeon or the rippling music of the river as its water washed over its pebbly bed. A sea of mist filled the valley, but a movement soon began in the eastern clouds, and the sun peeped through, and, buried almost in a clump of majestic elms, whose branches found a home for a covey of rooks, was seen the "Lanherne Nunnery." This, in its earlier days, was one of the seats of the Arundel family, but during one of the French revolutions a score or more of Carmelite nuns made it their home. Just below is the river, over which is thrown a granite bridge, on the parapet of which I sat and smoked, all the while gloating my eyes with the surrounding beauties of old Dame Nature. The splash of a fish just below me brought back my wandering senses, so I put my tackle together and had my first cast in a pool almost underneath the bridge, and at the second throw made the first addition to my basket. I fished down the river as far as the beach, and on examining the contents of my creel found I had killed about two dozen, averaging 8 oz. I then tried another stream, which joins the main one just above the beach, making several additions to my basket, and found the fish were much larger. In a pool just where the two streams join I landed about 1 lb. 2 oz. The fly I found most killing was "Gain's peculiar," a fly with a thick buff-coloured body, and same coloured wings. On arriving back at Mawgan I was feeling peckish, so I availed myself of the hospitality of "Old Sam," as he is known thereabouts, and remained till the shades of eve bade me know it was time to start for home. This I did loathfully, every now and then heaving a sigh, and bemoaning that my lot was cast amidst such very different scenes, and to which in a few days now I had to return.

H. Boyle Bunnalls.

TROUT AND GRAYLING FISHING ON THE DOVE.

By R. B. Marston.

(*Continued from page* 564.)

The fishing immediately above the stream which I last described is very good indeed; in fact, between this point and the bridge is the best pool on the lower length of the Dove, before it joins the Manifold. The fishing is all open, and, as the banks in most places are high, I need hardly say that you must keep in the water and creep along the side if you want fish. I saw one or two anglers who were staying at Mr. Prince's, fish this water when standing on the high bank; although they thrashed most perseveringly they informed me they never rose a fish! I told them that even in a dark night they would not, if they went about it in that fashion. It cannot be too strongly impressed on the beginner in fly-fishing that unless you keep out of sight, you may throw your fly splendidly, but you will never experience that delightful burden—a heavy creel of trout.

It would be impossible to mistake the pool referred to above, as it is situated at, and in part caused by, the inflowing stream from the mill; the water is very deep, and well protected by submerged stumps and roots. To fish it you should cross the river and either fish from the bank under the big tree at the corner, or from the bushes at the back of the little spit of ground which juts out into the pool; in fact, I generally covered all the water I could from the first position, then crossed the mill stream, and threw over the lower part from the bushes. There are some very fine trout and grayling here, and however bad the day may be, if the water has not been disturbed, you may be sure of a fish or two I have christened this pool "Wisdom," in my note book I find in consequence of its being the last resting place of a very old friend of mine—a "wisdom" tooth—which had given me so much torture when fishing here one wet day, that I drove into Ashbourne and had it out; my friend the doctor, who acted dentist, packed it up, and the next day when fishing the same pool I had grim satisfaction in consigning it to the deep.

There are two or three fine streams between Wisdom Pool and the bridge. I got one of my largest grayling—over twenty inches—here one afternoon, and Mr. Bullock informed me he had taken many trout here, spinning. On arriving at the bridge the angler should walk along the road to the other bridge over the millstream, and getting into the water, fish down it; it is very narrow but rapid, and has many charming little pools holding very heavy grayling; I discovered this by chancing to see a big fish rise as I was crossing it one day to go down to Coldwall Bridge, to fish Mr. Roland's little meadows.

Between the bridges near the mill and the foot-bridge under Thorpe Cloud, the Dove runs through rich fields, and the stream has much of the nature of a Midland trout beck, quite different from its appearance in the rocky open dale above. It is somewhat difficult to fish, on account of the oaks, alders, willows and other trees, which fringe its banks, but for this very reason the chance of sport is greatly increased: and, as I said in a previous article, the fishing in these meadows is much better than any you will get until you leave Sedgy Pool well behind you, and come to the wooded stretches above. Anglers who may think of visiting the Izaak Walton should remember this, and, further, that these meadows should be worked systematically; some of the streams are best fished up, others, again, permit only of down-stream throwing. The water skirts the road, from the bridge up to a big pool, across the end of which a large tree has fallen. I always crossed at the bridge, and fished up from the mill side until I came to the dam where the mill stream is drawn off; the broken water below the dam holds good fish. To fish it properly with the fly the angler should stand at the mouth of the mill cut and throw a long line, so that the flies search every inch of the stream on the far side. You must throw within an inch of the opposite bank, for that is where the fish feed in this pool. Above the dam the water is sluggish for some distance, and, as such places invariably do, holds fine fat fellows, who lead an easy life by prowling about under the bushes lazily sucking in the flies. Put on a small winged fly, a quill gnat, a hare's ear, or a yellow dun; and, kneeling behind a bush, watch for a rising fish. Then drop your fly, but none of the line, into the splash he has made, and you may get him, but the chances are against you. The fish will rise and—look; but, in five cases out of six, that is all he will do. It is best not to waste time over dead water like this, reserve it for a much later time of the day. You may get a fish or two in the streams above the dead water, but your best chance will be when you reach the corner where the river leaves the road, and for fifty yards or so runs between the steep banks it has worn out of the meadow. This bit of water is one of the best on the whole river, and there is only one way of fishing it successfully; that is when the water is bright and low. You must cross the river from the road, and walk across the corner of the field to the end of the trees which hang over the deep pool at the corner. If you look over into the water here, you will see it coming pleasantly down its deep channel with gentle current to lose itself in the big pool below you. Get down into the water, wade straight across, and then creep carefully along the left high bank as far as you dare go. As you go, throw your flies on to the steep earth-side opposite, and pull them gently into the water. I have invariably found that the trout in this stretch feed within an inch or two of the right bank all the way along, though I have caught grayling here in the middle of the stream. You cannot fish this too carefully, and when you hook a fish keep him down-stream, to avoid disturbing the water. I got five fine trout in this way in less than an hour one day. As you wade, the water gradually deepens, until at last you find you are standing on some roots over deep water, and can go no further, but from this point with a long line—bearing in mind the high bank and long grass behind and above—you can reach the best spots. It was standing on these roots and throwing up stream under the bush above on the left bank that I got a magnificent grayling, full 22 inches long, and the very picture of what a grayling should be. He made a fine centre-piece in the dish of trout I got that day. I saw an amusing little encounter in this stream. I was lighting that soothing and ever welcome friend of the angler, a pipe of tobacco, when I saw two water-rats swimming along the opposite edge; there was a little projecting bank between them, and they were swimming towards one another. Thinks I to myself, thinks I, there will be a row, as sure as eggs is eggs, when those four pretty little bright black eyes come round that corner. Squeak, splash, dash, and in an instant one little brown coat turned tail and disappeared, whilst his victorious neighbour swam on to his next landing place, shook himself, sat on his haunches, washed his face with his paws and then plopped down to his hole to tell his wife about it. I like a river where there are plenty of voles, they are amusing little rascals, and thousands of times have I watched them. I was fishing the Severn many years ago, and had put my rod down to have lunch when a violent tug at my ledger told me to strike. Down went my lunch, and for the next few minutes I was playing an enormous perch, which made desperate efforts to bolt my coffin-shaped ledger lead; in fact so persistent was he that he followed it right up to the bank under my feet, every time I pulled the lead he dashed at it. I never saw a perch do this before or since, nor have I ever seen such a big perch at my own line. He must have been between four and five pounds if an ounce, and the way he tugged was so encouraging that I threw in again several times, but he could not bolt the lead, and disdained the lobworm, so I returned to finish my lunch. But I had been saved the trouble. Nothing was left but the paper and a few crumbs, which I traced to some rat holes in the bank. Moral: When the angler's away, the rats will eat his lunch—if they have the chance. By the way, talking of the Severn, reminds me that in the neighbourhood of Shrewsbury our crack pike-anglers would find some fish worth going for. I never saw so many pike feeding as I did one day when fishing in the Severn near Wroxeter (the Roman Uriconium —one of the finest remains of a Roman city in the country). They were chasing the roach and dace in all directions, and some were enormous fish, making waves which spread right across Severn's widest pools here. I wished I had had jack tackle with me. But to return to the Dove. I find this dear little stream wants a great deal more describing than I thought, if I am to make my description worth anything as a guide, and that is my main object; for I consider that any angler who will faithfully describe what he has found the best way to fish a stream is far more likely to please anglers than by giving merely pretty generalities about the scenery and his own catches, perhaps under exceptionally favourable conditions of water and weather.

Before closing this, I should just like to ask those gentlemen who have, on my recommendation, purchased Cutcliffe's "Trout Fishing in Rapid Streams" what they think of it? Is it not a capital little book?"

(*To be Continued.*)

PERCH AND PERCH-FISHING.

BY J. HARRINGTON KEENE.

(*Continued from page* 574).

THE making of the paternoster requires some skill and carefulness. It is not only necessary to throw the baits and plumb out with a gentle impetus, but it is imperative that it should be gently and decisively "nicked" By this I mean the whole line, between the plumb or sinker and the rod's point, ought to be quite taut, and immediately on the perception of the tug-tug indicating a bite, a little loose line may be conceded, and the strike thereafter made with sharp and instant effect. This strike must not, however, be too violent, for obvious reasons; indeed a really extravagantly vigorous hit at any fish is always to be condemned, especially if one is using light tackle, and I think that no fisherman worthy of the name of "Senior Angler" will use any other. Therefore I advise just sufficient force, after the interval for taking the bait before recommended, to cause the hook to enter beyond the bait and no more. This X, or unknown quantity, must be arrived at by practice rather than by theory or imagination; and the fact that this is so illustrates anew the impossibility of actually teaching fishing by words, an impossibility pointed out some considerable time ago by one Izaak Walton, by the bye.

I had almost forgotten to refer to the baits most useful in paternostering. Now, I emphatically pronounce in favour of small gudgeon for all sorts and conditions of perch. Minnows are certainly killing, but they are not nearly so hardy as gudgeon, unless used on a cold day, and previously got from a stream of very hard water.

In the latter case they are exceeding tough and enduring, and even surpass the gudgeon. Next to these baits come small barbel, a very rare fish, but unerring killer; and the fry of the other white fish, dace, chub, etc., also worms (lob and red), pieces of fresh meat, and the other foods I referred to in the first article on the "Perch's Natural History."

Live-baits, are, however, the most likely to ensnare our *perca fluviatilis*, and it may be useful to describe how they are best treated with. Having caught them, as Mrs. Glass would have said, they should be kept, to enhance condition and vigour, in the hardest spring water procurable, of course being careful that there is plenty of it. After several days, they become, as I have before intimated, so tough, and altogether improved both in appearance and physique, that it is quite worth while thus to prepare them. When baiting, it is better to pass the point through the upper lip, bringing it out at the nostril, than to hook it through the underjaw, the latter being very soft and liable to tear. Of course, handle the little fellow as if you loved him, always.

Minnows, etc., may be best transported alive in soda-water bottles of that kind, as Handy Andy would say, with "no bottoms to 'em to stand on,"—I mean of the ordinary oval shape. A dozen may safely be placed in each bottle rather more than half filled with water, and the cork may be safely inserted—as tightly as you like. Apparently this corking-up would be detrimental, but it is not so, unless the journey is an extra long one, as the oxygen of the air in the water is but slowly exhausted, and as slowly extracted from atmosphere present. The rocking motion caused by travelling, sufficiently aerates the water, and when the cork is tight no leakage can, of course, take place.

If worms are used as well as minnows on the paternoster, I advise for cockspurs a smaller hook, and for lobs a larger than No. 7 Dublin Limerick. In the former case this is how I bait the hook. Having a little tin with some silver sand in it, I roll the worm in the sand till it is not slippery in the fingers. I then, starting from the tail, pass the hook up half its length, and bringing out the point I push the worm up above the shank on to the gut. Starting with the next worm in an exactly opposite direction, I cover the bend, barb and point, and, bringing the first worm down, the bait presents a most attractive appearance—the two heads of the worms encircling and entwining around each other. With the lob the case is different, as one only is used unless the lob be small. I bait this worm from head to tail, threading it throughout its entire length.

Now a word as to the preparation of worms for perch-fishing. Let them be unbruised in the gathering process, and by no means allow a dead worm to remain in your worm-tins. As soon as a putrid worm is allowed to taint the moss its influence extends to all the rest of its fellows, and their attractiveness is remarkably less than if such an infection had not been effected. Pick them over, therefore, day by day, and remorselessly discard weakly or sickening specimens. The moss should always, if possible, be that known as *sphagnum*, or water moss, which is largely used by gardeners in which to grow orchids. It is clean and not too stimulating, or rather purging. If this cannot be got, however, the ordinary kind will do, or even an old clean house-flannel torn to pieces will serve; grass is too liable to putrefy. The moss, or what not, should be put in first, and the worms, cleared from soil, be poured in at top; thereafter a goodly sprinkling of water is necessary as much to damp the moss as the worms, to allow of their crawling through the interstices and so scouring themselves. The receptacle must now be placed in a moderate temperature, and protected from weather by means of an old piece of sacking or rough blanket over the top. If this precaution be not taken, the worms will sometimes escape also, on a warm night. A yolk of egg with milk is recommended by some as good for the worms, but I don't believe in it too much; the *homo* had much better swallow it himself, it will come to *lumbricus* after his demise perhaps. Seriously, however, a little fresh soil, or, better still, a nice rich grass sod, may be placed in the worm tub, if it be found that the worms are getting sickly and weak from over-scouring.

There is one way of perch-fishing I indulge in with very considerable success in summer time, and I venture to think it is rather novel than common. First, as to the bait. I get a goodly quantity of the freshwater shrimp from the Colne, where I have found them of the largest size, and keep them in water and gravel till required, selecting in a different receptacle some of the finest for the hook. Now as to place. I seek the osiers and boughs overhanging the water of the river, or the umbrageous lily leaves in the lake, and scatter a few of the *squillæ*. Then, with a fine gut-cast, fly-rod, and roach-hook, with a large live shrimp impaled through its back crosswise, I throw, as if worm-fishing for trout, artfully under the boughs or on the aforesaid leaves, in the latter case drawing the bait gently off into the water. Perch are remarkably fond of this bait, and so are trout, and many a goodly fish of both kinds have I caught by its agency. Of course, the precise moment of striking must be guessed, or, rather, found out by experience.

(*To be continued.*)

A SPLENDID TAKE OF PIKE.

WE have just returned from a flying visit to Mr. Alfred Jardine's City office to see a really splendid take of pike. There they were laid out in a row on a counter, a sight to make any angler wish for a chance in a water affording such sport. The weights of those we saw were, when caught, 9 lb., 10½ lb., 12 lb., 12½ lb., 13½ lb., 14 lb., 15 lb., 16 lb., 19½ lb. and 21 lb., and, in addition to the above, no less than thirty fish under 8 lb. were taken, all by Mr. Alfred Jardine and Mr. John Knechtli. All these fish were taken on single gut, either paternoster, or snap, or spinning. All fairly caught and in a flooded water. We may mention as a fact that in the very stream in which these gentlemen were fishing several local anglers were also trying and with but indifferent success. This is another proof that skill in pike-fishing must tell in the long run—or short one either, if there is to be a pike at the end of it.

A HISTORY OF FISHING TACKLE; WITH NOTES ON ITS AMATEUR MANUFACTURE.

By J. Harrington Keene.

No. 1. Ancient Tackle.

IN this short series (which I trust will prove interesting to the readers of the Fishing Gazette) I propose sketching—as far as the limited material on the subject will allow—(1) the primitive state of ancient tackle, and that of the middle ages and of the weapons dignified by the term in use amongst barbarous people. (2) The various distinctive tackles of to-day; adding to this latter division of the subject such hints and directions of a practical nature as my experience of amateur tackle-making will allow. At once, and at the outset, I disclaim all pretensions in this matter, and shall be glad of correction either as to history or manipulation.

Whether or not, as has been imagined by some of the writers of the middle ages, Seth was the first hook-and-line fisherman, it is certain that fishing with such implements was practised in very early ages of the world. The earliest mention of fish-eating, will be found in the eleventh chapter of the Book of Numbers, wherein is said how fish were served up—as we do salmon at this day—with cucumber. And, not to pass away from our Scriptural evidences, it may be added that references are made in several other books of the Old Testament to angling, or what was a very similar pursuit. Job, Amos, Isaiah, and Habakkuk, all have references; and in the splendid translation of Isaiah by, perhaps, that very finest of Hebrew scholars, Bishop Louth, the following very complete indication that the Hebrews used hooks and lines is translated.

> "And the fishers shall mourn and lament;
> And those that cast the hook in the river,
> And those that spread nets on the surface of the water, shall languish;
> And they that work fine flax shall be confounded,
> And they that weave network.
> And her stores shall be broken up,
> Even all that make a gain of pools of fish."

In this extract we have the hook and "fine flax" spoken of with unmistakable certainty as to their connection. Even the practice of getting gain from the fish-pools—analogous, probably, to the German fish-cultural industry of the present day—is referred to in terms leaving no doubt as to the certainty of their meaning.

The Jews, however, were probably not well versed in the actual science of fishes and fishing themselves, owing to their nomadic and wandering life in the desert—of course, I mean until a residence in the Promised Land had instructed them in the difference between its resources and the resources of the land of Egypt. In Nehemiah (xiii. 16) it is expressly said that another people, the Phœnecians of Tyre were the exclusive dealers, in Jerusalem, of fish. Of these, the Jews, of course, ate none without scales, owing to the Mosaic enactment (Lev. ii. 9-12).

The Egyptians, on the other hand, from the most remote times must have practised the art of angling, judging from the figures of persons fishing, drawn on many of the tombs. Bronze seems to have been the material from which their hooks were made; and Wilkinson, in his grand book on that ancient land of many mysteries, says they fished with a groundbait without any float. Mr. Moule says that the earliest form of weapon for taking fish used by the Nimrods of Egypt was the spear. This I think, with Dr. Badham, requires proof. Wilkinson refers to the many indications of its use, however, whether as of a single point or in bident or trident form. In spearing, the usual practice was to glide with silence over the surface of the water in a canoe-like boat, and spear the fish as they lay near to and under the water-lilies, lotus, and other aquatic plants.

On some of the monuments of Egypt it is plain that fishing was not thought unworthy of serious habits, and persons of consequence are often found seated on the bank with a rod and line, fishing. The material of the rod is not likely to be known, as there exists no specimen; but presumably, as no mention is made of joints nor rings, it was of some elastic wood, in one piece, and without a reel. On monuments brought also from Thebes and Nineveh, anglers with rods and lines, and even baskets, are represented, whilst some of the marbles exhibit exquisitely-cut representations of fish, similar in form to many known species of to-day.

It is thus perfectly clear that the angle, with its hook and line, as we know it, though probably rough and primitive, was known to the ancients of the remotest ages. What the line was composed of is matter for conjecture. Certainly gut was not used; but hemp, horsehair, and perhaps bysshus—the fibrous stuff by which some small fish are attached to the rocks—may have been the material employed. Dr. Badham says that this latter article has been long manufactured into silken stuffs, or knit into gloves and stockings, at Sicily and Tarentum; grass of a tough and tenuous kind may also have been employed by the anglers of the "very long ago."

The Greeks were acquainted with fishing tackle of a more or less refined nature. Homer tells us how

> "from some rock that overhangs the flood,
> The silent fisher casts insiduous food;
> With guardful care he waits the finny prize,
> And sudden lifts it quivering to the skies."

And 270 years before Christ, Theocritus, who was a native of Syracuse, and said by classic critics to be the founder of Greek bucolic poetry, speaks of watching

> "The fish that gambolled in the deep;

and

> "Suspended by rod I gently shook
> The bait fallacious which a huge one took."

Turning to the tackle known to the Greeks in later times, we find Oppian detailing it with great precision. Oppian was a native of Anazarbus, a city of Cilicia, and was born in the latter part of the reign of the Emperor Commodus. His work on the "Nature of Fishes, and the Fishing of the Ancients," was a most important and interesting book in five volumes. One passage is well worth quoting—

> "By those who, curious, have their art defined,
> Four sorts of fishers are distinct assigned—
> The first in books delight; here some prepare
> The angler's taper length and twisted hair;
> Others the tougher threads of flax entwine,
> But firmer hands sustain the sturdy line;
> A third prevails by more compendious ways,
> While numerous hooks one common line displays."

Of course the Romans were *au fait* of everything connected with fish-culture, but it is not quite certain what kind of tackle they used beyond nets. The well authenticated anecdote told about the fishing party at which Antony and Cleopatra were present, and where the latter played so rich a trick, indicates that the line and hook were known on the Euxine. That the Macedonians knew of artificial fly-fishing must also not be forgotten. Ælian refers to it in the following words, which I reproduce because they intimate a most important fact. "The Macedonians," he says, "who live on the banks of the river Astreus . . . . are in the habit of catching a particular fish in that river by means of a fly called 'hippurus.' A very singular insect it is, bold and troublesome like all its kind; in size a hornet, marked like a wasp, and buzzing like a bee. These flies are the prey of a certain speckled fish. . . . . The predilection of these speckled fish for their prey, though familiarly known to all who inhabit the district, does not induce the anglers to attempt their capture by impaling the living insect, which is of so delicate a nature that the least handling would spoil its texture and colour, and render it unfit for a lure. But adepts in the sport have contrived a taking device to circumvent them; for which purpose they invest the body of the hook with purple wool, and having adjusted two rings of a waxy-colour, so as to form an exact imitation of the hippurus, they drop these abstruse cheats gently down the stream. The scaly pursuers who hastily rise and expect nothing less than a dainty bait, snap the decoy, and are immediately impaled on the hook." It is also a curious fact that there is every reason to believe that these "speckled" fish were nothing less than our own particular fario—or trout.

On the excavation of Pompeii and Herculaneum large numbers of hooks of various sorts and sizes were found, and are now preserved in the Museum of Naples. They are of two materials, bronze and steel; the former of which, Pliny tells us, could be so hardened as to allow of its being drawn out to the fineness of a hair; it was of tin and copper. Most of these are of large size, and are flattened, like our own sea-hooks, at the end, thus indicating they were intended for sea-fishing only. Some are double-barbed; others fixed back to back, like a jack-hook; others are armed with wire; and there are specimens of leaded hooks, like our own gorge-hook. From the fact that they rudely represent the configuration of a dolphin, they are termed Delphini. Hence the well-known lines of Oppian—

> " He holds the labræ and beneath his head
> Adjusts with care an oblong shape of lead,
> Named from its form a dolphin."

Though these lines really apply to sea-fishing, those ensuing so accurately describe our modern trolling for pike that I will reproduce them.

> " plumbed with this
> The bait shoots headlong through the blue abyss,
> The bright decoy a living creature seems,
> As now on this side, now on that, it gleams,
> Till some dark form across its passage flit,
> Pouches the lure, and finds the biter bit."

(*To be continued.*)

ANGLING CLUBS—THEIR PROGRESS AND ATTAINMENTS.

FROM an independent, yet authentic and reliable source, I have been able to collect an amount of information which I think will enable me to form a very fair estimate of the probable number of members connected with the London and Suburban Angling Clubs. It has for some time been a matter of speculation as to the number of metropolitan anglers united to angling societies, and when a fairly correct opinion has been ascertained it does not give any proportion to the actual number of anglers residing in London and the suburbs who fish the metropolitan rivers. In the estimate which is now made there is, of course, a certain amount of deduction of members who are connected with more than one angling club. I have before me the returns of sixty angling clubs, which give an average of forty members in each; but as a number of these clubs are very small societies, of from twelve to twenty members in each, and allowing for the deduction previously referred to, the average of one hundred and fifty angling clubs, I should say, cannot be less than fifty members, thereby making a gross total of 7500 anglers. The lowest number in the clubs is twelve members, and the highest two hundred, and it is a striking fact that the latter is connected with a club which has barely been in existence twelve months—I refer to the Gresham Angling Society. There are other large societies which have between one hundred and two hundred members in each, such as the Piscatorial Society, the Richmond Piscatorial Society, and the Hoxton Brothers, and all these societies are constantly on the increase. If the progress goes on as rapidly as it has done the last year or two, the angling clubs of London and its suburbs will soon possess a body of not less than ten thousand anglers. The value and importance of angling clubs are immeasurably great, and much good can be accomplished by them when they are conducted with judgment, discretion and unity. In the general management of angling clubs important changes have taken place in late years. First of all, the introduction of musical evenings, now popularly called "smoking concerts;" and, I apprehend, there is no class of men that possess a better character for harmony than the anglers. My experience in the Larkhall Angling Society, the Piscatorial Society, and the Richmond Piscatorial Society, and other angling clubs, on those occasions, and at their annual dinners, is that the array of musical talent has always been of a first-class nature. Then, again, the revival in old clubs, and the introduction in new societies, of "readings," is calculated to instil a large amount of practical information amongst the members; and the Gresham Angling Society has set a grand example in the publication of papers which have been read in connection with it. These papers, which can be purchased by any one, have been so far of a thoroughly practical character, such as "The Scarcity of Fish in the Thames," "Jack Fishing," "The Sense of Pain in Fish," and "The Science of Angling," all bearing upon subjects closely connected with fish and fishing. After these readings, which generally occupy about twenty minutes, a friendly discussion is allowed, and opinions are expressed by the members as to their views on any points raised by the reader. Then, again, the example shown by the Richmond Piscatorial Society, the Gresham Angling Society, and some other clubs, in the punctual commencement of business at the hour fixed by the rules —in the first of these societies at eight o'clock, and in the other at seven. Nothing, I conceive, is more damaging to the true prosperity of a club than the lack of this business element. No matter whether the hour appointed to begin is seven, eight, or nine o'clock, the chair should be punctually occupied and all formal business commenced. I have just received an invitation for a musical evening on the 11th of this month from the Larkhall Anglers, and, as usual, the worthy president, Mr. G. F. Spencer, underlines the hour of commencement "eight o'clock precisely," and this is, I am happy to say, the rule there on all occasions. The introduction of cards is not of recent date, but is practised with a large amount of pleasure in some of the older clubs; and a quiet game of whist cannot be objectionable to any one, especially when it is commenced after the formal business is over—it is noiseless, and does not interfere with any one. The great advantage derivable from angling clubs in the present is that they have become schools of learning to the youthful anglers, by educating them in the true principles of sport, and generally amongst all anglers in maintaining the rightful principles of fishing laws. There are other points of usefulness in angling clubs which I need not revert to now, and prominent amongst them is what I have for years ventilated—the doing away of "gross-weight competitions." B.

"OUR TRAWL."

List of recently published New Works and New Editions

Henshall, Ja. A., M.D.—Book of the Black Bass: its Complete Scientific and Life-History; with practical treatise on angling and fly-fishing, and a full description of tools, tackle, and implements. Cincinnati: Rob. Clarke and Co., 1881. 463 p. il. 12mo. $3.

The publishers announce this volume as the most complete and exhaustive monograph ever published upon any "game-fish." The black bass is a game-fish of the highest order, and is pre-eminently American in its habitat and characteristics, its range now extending over the entire country east of the Rocky Mountains. Dr. Henshall has been well known for the past ten years as an authority on the black bass, and as an expert angler. His writings, published in the various journals of the country devoted to angling, field sports, natural history, &c., are constantly referred to as the only trustworthy data on the subject. (Am. Pub. Weekly.) [We shall notice this book more fully shortly.]

Manley, J. J.—Notes on Fish and Fishing. London: Sampson Low and Co., 1881. 372 p. il. 8vo. 6s.

Parliamentary Reports.—Herring Brand, Scotland. Report of Committee and Evidence. 1881. 3s. 3d.

Wheeldon, J. P.—Angling Resorts near London: the Thames and the Lea. London: Trübner, 1881. 226 p. 12mo. 1s. 6d. A new and cheaper edition.

Stevens, C. W.—Fly-fishing in Maine Lakes; or, Camp-life in the Wilderness (New Ed.) Boston: A. Williams and Co., 1881. 201 p. il. sq. 12mo. 1·25 dols.

Sketches descriptive of a fishing excursion to the Maine Lakes; and a chapter on pickerel fishing in winter. Illustrated by 38 vignettes and a coloured frontispiece, showing the best killing flies in vogue.

Benecke, B.—Fische, Fischerei und Fischzucht in Ost- und West-Preussen. Part III. Königsberg: Hartung'sche Verlagsdr. 1881. 8vo. 4 m.

By the publication of the above part, Dr. Berthold Benecke's important work on the Fish and Fisheries of the German Baltic provinces is brought to a close. Part I. treats of the seventy-three various kinds of fishes to be found in the maritime eastern provinces of Prussia, and describes their natural enemies. Part II. gives an explanatory and historical account of Prussian fisheries, considers their economic and national importance, and enters into minute details of the fishing-gear and tackle employed; while Part III. concludes this most elaborate and valuable book by traversing the whole subject of scientific fish-culture.

Borne, M. von dem.—Die Fischerei-Verhältnisse d. Deutschen Reiches, Oesterreich-Ungarns, der Schweiz u Luxemburgs. Part III. Berlin: Stuhr'sche Buchh., 1881. 4to. 1 m.

Forms the third part of an important statistical work on the present condition of German and Austro-Hungarian fisheries compiled for the *Deutsche Fischerei Verein*, and issued as a supplement to the Circulars of that Society; will be completed in five parts.

Fisher, J.—La Pêche à toutes lignes, théorique, practique et raisonnée, déduite de la connaissance naturelle, des moeurs et habitudes des poissons d'eau douce; ouvrage comprenant la legislation speciale et les principes d'art culinaire. Paris: Samson, 1881. 340 p. il. 12mo. 3·50 fr.

Graeffe, Dr. E.—Das Süsswasser-Aquarium. Kurze Anleitung zur besten Construction der Aquarien und Instandhaltung derselben, sowie Schilderung der Süsswasser-thiere. Hamburg: O. Meissner, 1881. 50 ill. 8vo. 1·50 m.

Gressy, Dr.—Les huîtres métisses; par un ostréiculteur à Carnac (Morbihan). Vannes: imp. de Lamarzelle, 1881. 8 p. 8vo.

Yhlen, G. v.—Die Seefischerei an der Westküste Schwedens. Gothenburg: Pehrson, 1881. 8vo. 4·50 m.

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

> "Our doubts are traitors,
> And make us lose the good we oft might win
> By fearing to attempt."
> —SHAKESPEARE.

THE Thames has nicely dropped from flood, and although still somewhat highly coloured, is in good roach, jack, chub and perch trim, and the lack of sport in all districts is purely and simply the consequence of "fearing to attempt." Roach are feeding at anything, from minced lobs to pastry, and have no objection to an *entrée* of either cockspur or brandling. Chub are best approached with nervine matter or cheese, the diet of worms seemingly just now being too serious a bait for the volatile loggerheads. Jack are in the eddies, and are best fished for paternoster fashion. Perch are taking minnows best, but in the absence of this difficult-to-obtain bait, a red worm will be found as attractive, now the fish are really hungry after their three weeks' fasting. At Streatley, some splendid perch have been taken, and at Sonning and Wargrave excellent samples of roach—all had with lob-worm tail. At Warley, Messrs. Harrison, Lumley, Smith, Jacques and Co. have been well on the roach, the former gentleman on one occasion getting six dozen and eight roach and thirty perch. Mr. Mead, with Coster on Saturday, captured a pretty jack of 12½ lb. in the Hurley district. From Marlow, Cookham and Maidenhead items of sport are meagre, but anticipations of success in the fining-down water sanguine in the extreme.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Thames.

I am sorry to say the prospects for the next few days look bad again for the roach and jack angler in the Upper Thames. I have just returned from Pangbourn and Goring. The river is again rising and becoming the colour of clay mixed with chalk. The fish that had been feeding well for some days previous are now again dead off.—CRYSTAL HOOK.

Thames (Goring).

Water came down to-day very thick. If we get it fine we will do for roach by Sunday. Prospects for this looks bad. Water was in good order here on Monday for jack and perch, but we have had a lot of rain again. Have had two days since my last report; best day, 10 lb. of roach.—JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Kingston).

The water has been rising the last two days about 18 inches upright, and thick as mud; and I think that we have not had all the up-country water yet. The bank-fishers have had all the fishing. I have seen some good roach, from twelve to eighteen fish a day. I had thirteen brought to me—nine of the roach from 8 oz. to 1 lb. 2 oz. each, and all the rest fair fish. I have seven such lots this last week. The punts have done but little—a few perch and a small jack or two, nothing over 2 lb.—so much stream.—JOHN JOHNSON.

Thames (Walton).

After the heavy rains of Sunday and Monday the water has risen here at least 6 inches, and the current is very strong. The water has clouded a trifle, but nothing to speak of. Wednesday morning brought a frost, which I think is likely to turn to rain. There is good fishing for jack in the back waters for any one who likes to try, and if the frost continues the water will fall, and there should be both perch and jack fishing in the stream. No anglers down here till Monday, when Mr. Wingrove, with Geo. Rogerson, had a very pretty jack of 4 lb., and John Rosewell another of 2½ lb. On Tuesday Mr. Abbitt, with Geo. Hone, had a jack of 2 lb., and lost one that was quite 7 or 8 lb.—a plucky fish bit the gimp.—HENRY WOOD.

Thames (Windsor).

Water this last week has been in nice order. but this morning is thick and rising. Some good perch and roach have been had, and had water kept in condition, doubtless good chub and jack might have been taken. Mr. King, of the Royal Oak, Windsor, tried the former, and had a nice little fish of 3 lb. 5 oz.—B. R. BAINBRIDGE.

Ancholme.

The beautiful and spring-like weather of the past week has proved very beneficial to the few anglers who have visited the waterside during the Christmas recess. Here and there a small pike or two have been caught, whilst coarse fish have taken both paste and worm very fairly. I fully intended having a day myself this week, but the presence of visitors, and the taking of ova from my trout ponds, have frustrated my intention.—THOMAS FORD.

Dove.

There has been very little doing on this river since I last wrote. Most of the Christmas holiday makers have now resumed business, and there have been but few rodsters out. Saturday last was a most miserable day, a thick fog prevailing, with a drizzling downpour of rain. It was hardly possible to see three yards in front of you, so that it is not surprising that scarcely an angler made his appearance at the water-side. Since then we have had alternately rainy and boisterous weather. The water has been running at a great height and out of colour, and fish have been by no means well on the feed. I hear of one dish of grayling, nine fish, being caught, and that is about all, for not a solitary capture of pike has been reported to me. The last-named fish have been very shy all through this winter, and remarkably few have been taken. Trout are getting rapidly over spawning, and I believe they will be found extremely forward in condition when the season opens. There has been lots of natural fly on the river, but grayling don't seem much inclined to take them, and they will not until their appetites get sharpened up by a good frost or two. —THE SPLODGER.

Ilfracombe (N. Devon).

The weather this week has been very squally, so that boats have not been able to venture far from the harbour. Several of the fishermen have lost their spillers, which were torn to pieces by the force of the sea, others have caught a start while it was a little moderate, and have brought in some fine cod, averaging from 15 lb. to 20 lb. each, also a few conger and ling. On Wednesday a cod and ling were caught from the jetty with hand-line, weighing about 20 lb. each. A skate was brought in on Thursday morning weighing about 50 lb., and a lobster, caught on the spiller, weighing 5 lb., also two cod weighing about 20 lb. each. The weather at present is very unsettled, blowing strong from the north, with drizzly rain.—E. COMER.

Medway (Tonbridge).

Just as the water was in first-rate condition and the disciples of the gentle art were preparing for the fray, down came the rain, with the result that in a very few hours the river was stirred up and now resembles pea-soup. It will not be fishable for some days.—YE MEDWAY WATER-RAT.

Norfolk.

As I take up my materials for the purpose of contributing to this week's issue, my eye alights upon a picture hanging in my sanctum, entitled "The Enthusiast," and in which is depicted an old gentleman evidently a victim to the rich man's malady—the gout—but, being an ardent angler and determined not to be outdone by his painful enemy, seeks his revenge by having an immense tub placed in his drawing-room, stocked with fish, and, seated by a good fire with his medicine bottles hard by, there plies the "gentle art" intent as if seated in a cosy punt surrounded by reeds and rushes and all the glories of a summer's day. Such an one as this I have not chanced to fall in with myself, but many a one during the last few weeks I have seen seated in a boat with face pinched and nose red, seemingly enjoying the sharp bracing December air, and though at the close of the day they have not been rewarded by a decent take they have at least gained a fairish appetite, and over their glass of grog are delighted to relate to relate to their brother fishermen the adventures of the day. Jack are feeding well now, and reports of some good fish are coming in from various parts. Those, as I before observed, who have had nerve enough to venture out for roach have succeeded pretty well. But the most important part of my report this week rests not with the fish but more especially with the fishermen who during the year angle on our river Yare. Whether they be strangers or whether they be citizens of Norwich, I think they are in duty bound if they use the stream for the purpose of angling to help to support the society who preserves the good sport thus afforded them. Since the formation of the Yare Preservation Society much has been done towards the privileges and benefits of the angler; illegal fishing, netting, and every other illegitimate means have been put a stop to—and for what purpose? Solely to protect the fish for the genuine and legitimate fisherman. Now, ye anglers, attend—at five stations, or rather public inns, on the river Yare are placed subscription boxes of the Y.P.S., in which it is left to the generosity of gentlemen not actual subscribers to the society, and who frequent our waters during the summer months, to contribute their mite to the funds, and thus enable the society to continue to prosecute the good cause thus begun. Last week the boxes were cleared, and of course the society no doubt anticipated, after the good season which has been experienced, to have realised a tolerable sum towards aiding them in still continuing their good work for another year; but, alas, in the five boxes was found the enormous sum of seven shillings and five pence farthing, six shillings and five pence being the result of one box; and herewith I wish to show to your numerous readers the analysis:—Surlingham Ferry, 3d.; Brundall, 1d.; Buckenham Ferry, 6s. 5d.; Cantley Red House, 8d.; Reedham Ferry, ¼d.—Total, 7s. 5¼d. Of course, when good societies are supported like this, they must prosper. I trust anglers who have enjoyed their week or fortnight's sport at the society's expense, will not forget, in future, to put in their golden coin, and so make up for past deficiencies; for it is indeed hard upon us who provide good sport and plenty of it, and then leave it to the generosity of the sportsman to contribute whatever he may think fit, to see him go off without contributing a farthing, when at home he is glad to pay an enormous sum in order to be allowed even to fish in waters at which we ourselves should be disgusted to even "wet a line in." Apologising for my lengthy report, I am still a good ANGLER.

Ouse (Littleport).

Water getting away very slowly, owing to rather heavy rain on Sunday, and still rather too thick for angling. If the weather continues fine, and we do not get much frost, I hope, if anyone comes down, to see some fair takes in two or three days. I quite thought I should have nothing worth mentioning this week, though we have been catching just sufficient to swear by. But Mr. C. Sell, of Bassingbourne, came down yesterday, and got one and a half dozen of roach, silver bream, dace, and one fish called an eel pout, in the Fen district. I think I have heard that the proper name is burbot. It weighed 8 oz. I mention this as I never saw one taken by rod and line before. He is going to have it set up as a curiosity, not for its size, as I have taken as many as three on eel lines in my life, one of which weighed over 1 lb. I caught to-day 4 lb. roach, and one bream, 1½ lb.—CHARLES SOUTH.

Ouse and Ivel (Blunham).

These rivers are now in fine fishing condition, and for the last week some fine baskets of pike and roach have been made, the roach varying from 1 lb. to 1¾ lb. each.—E. B.

Trent (Newark).

Jupiter Pluvius seems to have made up his mind to disappoint the anglers, for the water had hardly got into trim by the beginning of the week when, owing to the downpour that fell on the uplands in the higher districts of the Trent, down came another high and thick water. At the time of writing (Thursday night) the river is nearly bank-full, and, I think, is rising a little still. It will be a few days before it is in anything like form. A few fish have been taken, principally roach and dace, with the little cockspur worm, which bait, under the present circumstances, will be found the best for the next week.

Mr. Curtis captured a nice jack, 10½ lb., out of the waters of the Newark and Muskham Fishery last Friday, I believe. On Saturday I and a patron were out jack-fishing, but only landed two, best fish, 5 lb., live baiting. Weather very mild for the time of year; blowing quite a gale last night and to-day from the west. Nothing of importance to communicate this week, only the angler who visits the lower Trent within the next few days must not be disappointed if he finds the water high and thick, and a disposition to grumble on the part of THE TRENT OTTER.

Trent (Nottingham).

Angling prospects in this district just now are not at all favourable. Rain has fallen during the week, at times very heavily, and on Thursday the river was running at almost flood height. When the water was fishable anglers mustered in moderate force, and a very good take of bream and roach came from Weston on Tuesday. All the fish—and they weighed close on 30 lb.—were caught with the maggot, which proved useful in other parts. Before the discoloration was encountered pike were running well, and a Sheffield enthusiast, essaying his skill in the Blackpool underneath Weston Cliff, was rewarded with a splendid fish of 15½ lb. His intention was to fish for a few days, but on getting the one in question he packed up his traps and hastened homewards as proud as any lord. Nine fish have been shown by Messrs. Davis and Sibley from Hoveringham, and amongst five caught in the Stoke allotment was one of 9½ lb.—THE MAN AT THE CLUBS.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

The new year opened with a very great quantity of rain falling, chiefly in the night time, which caused the Derwent to have a very large flood on it last Monday morning, which quite put a stop to some good bottom fishing in various parts of the Derwent. Both on last Friday and Saturday some good baskets of roach and dace, and a small barbel of 4 lb., were killed in the Derwent, between Bromford and Ambergate, one old veteran having eleven brace of roach and dace, and one brace of chub. The roach and dace were killed with maggots, and the chub with worms. Yesterday (Wednesday) was a fair day in the Slacks which runs into the Derwent, and some good coarse fish were killed, also a few pike, one angler having both roach, dace, grayling, and a pike of over 9 lb. This pike was the best well-fed fish I ever saw in all my life—such a thick one; it was killed by live bait-fishing, with small dace for bait; and close to Whatstandwell to-day (Thursday) we had another flush on the Derwent, which has put a stop to angling for a short time. The bottom fishers ought to do well next week with both gentles and brandling-worms. No fly-fishing on either rivers for some time.—G. J. EATON.

Starkholmes, Matlock Bath.

NOTICE TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

WE shall be much obliged if all subscribers who wish to continue to receive the GAZETTE from the office by post will send in their subscriptions at once. All newspaper subscriptions are due in advance. The terms are, including postage, for three months, 2s. 8d.; for six months, 5s. 4d.; and for twelve months, 10s. 6d. Foreign subscriptions at the rate of 12s. 6d. for twelve months.

THE RIVERS, &c., OF ENGLAND.

BY CREEL.

UNDER this head it is purposed to give a short but trustworthy account of the British streams, their extent, the fish they are famous for, waters open or preserved. Clubs, annual charges of membership, whether day tickets are issued. When seasons commence and end. Distance from nearest railway station and what conveyances can be had. Hotels, inns, or lodgings, in the neighbourhood; and all which the angler may desire or expect to know concerning the aquatic resources of the country.

In order to perform our task with the better effect and simplicity we shall, each month publish the names of those rivers we intend to dilate upon, or, if necessary, personally to visit; and would therefore ask, as the undertaking is for the good of all anglers, that they will kindly give what assistance is in their power to render our exertions—necessarily a heavy and responsible one—as light as possible.

We further intend publishing these articles alphabetically. Thus we shall begin with the Adur Aëron in South Wales, the Aire in Yorkshire, the Alde in Suffolk, the Allen (of the South Tyne), the Allwen in North Wales (a feeder of the Dee), the Alne, Northumberland.

Any information respecting these rivers of interest will be acceptable.

TENCH SENT TO AMERICA.—On the 2nd of December, Captain Auguste Briand of the French steamship "St. Germain," presented to Mr. W. A. Conklin, Superintendent of the Menagerie at Central Park, New York city, twenty tench—*Tinca Vulgàris.* The fish had been twenty-five days from the ponds in France and the passage had been stormy, yet they were in good condition. This fish is a cyprinoid, and, like the carp, loves warm, still water. It has very small scales, it is of a dark olive colour, and seldom exceeds 2 lb. in weight. In Europe it is quite a favourite food fish, especially on the Continent, but in England it is not ranked very high. The flesh of those we have eaten was rather muddy in flavour and not equal to the carp. Captain Briand has brought over many fish, as well as taken some of our catfish and other species to France, and takes great interest in the exchange of valuable species.

NOTICES OF BOOKS, &c.

THE ANGLER'S COMPLETE COMPANION AND GUIDE. Being a Practical Treatise on Angling and its Requirements. With Coloured Plates of Flies and Wood Engravings. By G. Little. Published by the author, 15, Fetter Lane.

MR. LITTLE has been so long before the public as one of our leading fishing-tackle manufacturers that when we heard he was engaged in producing a work on angling we felt certain, when it made its appearance, it would be in every way well worthy his reputation. He evidently has spared no expense in getting it up, and we may say at once that the instructions and information, which cover every description of freshwater angling, are thoroughly sound and practical. The wood engravings are, for the most part, good; and, indeed, some are very good. The chief feature of the book is undoubtedly the series of plates, giving hand-coloured representations of some seventy-six standard artificial flies. With the exception of about a dozen or two, these flies are fairly well done, and in nearly every instance the drawing is very good indeed. It is, of course, a somewhat dangerous matter to entrust the colouring of some four hundred thousand flies to the human hand—and, in the large edition he has printed, this must be about the number that has been done—and in his next edition we hope Mr. Little will make use of the more satisfactory and certain process of chromo-lithography. In colouring by hand, mistakes are inevitable; the colour is sometimes too thick and at others too thin. With the exception of some of these coloured plates, we can strongly recommend the book, which contains much matter interesting to anglers regarding the fence months, the Thames fishing stations, &c., and has a most valuable and suggestive appendix in the shape of tables of fish, giving descriptions, where found, tackle and baits to be used, &c. These tables Mr. Little found amongst some old manuscripts in his possession, and he states they were drawn up by Fitzgibbon ("Ephemera"). They would be more useful if they had been revised, and such unlawful baits as salmon roe (!) cut out. Mr. Little tells us in his preface that "these pages have been written with a view of setting plainly and succinctly before anglers the chief and best styles of the tackle of the day and the methods of their use." And it is but justice to say that this he has faithfully carried out. Indeed, in face of the fact that Mr. Little has been so long before the public as one of our leading tackle-manufacturers, it would have been strange had it been otherwise. It must occur to all acquainted with angling literature that the obligation of bringing out any work possessing new features would be no easy task. Yet Mr. Little has achieved this, to a certain extent, and by doing so secured the important feature of simplicity. His chapters on each fish are divided into paragraphs, with appropriate headings. Thus, the Dace (we open the book at random): first gives its natural history and habits, where found, &c. Next we have "The Rod for Fly-Fishing," then "The Reel and Line," and "The Tackle;" followed by "The Rod for Float Fishing," "The Reel and Line," "The Tackle," "Ground Bait and Hook Baits," ending, with reference to this fish, with "Remarks on the Above and How to Use Them." It must be obvious that by such a formula great perspicuity is secured, and the remarks and suggestions, being the experience of the writer, are free from the stereotyped platitudes too often characterising the manufacture or compilation of angling books, rendering such works nothing but slightly varied copies of those that have preceded them. The title of the work is far from new, there being more than one other, if we mistake not, existing "Angler's Companion and Guide" in the *Biblio Piscatoria.* But as that before us will be better known as "Little's," perhaps confusion will not arise from any similarity of title.

The tabulated sheet termed "The Anglers' Vade Mecum and Remembrancer," showing at a glance all necessary to be known, may not, useful as it is, be exclusively claimed as the compilation of "Ephemera," for similar broadsheets (the shape in which they were issued) are extant, with evidences of publication long before Mr. Fitzgibbon was born; and after that period, and when that gentleman contributed to *Bell's Life,* they became common, being sent forth by Ustonson, and other tackle-makers of Bell Yard, Fleet Street, and Crooked Lane, London Bridge. Amongst "The Angling Axioms" (p. 157), No. 1 tells us to "keep as far as possible from the water and from your brother bobs (thirty feet)." Surely, for "feet" we should read "yards." The proximity of the former distance would most assuredly not only cause the disturbance of one or the other's swims, but cause the entanglement of each other's lines, more particularly if one of them proved to be a left-handed angler. With these remarks we can confidently recommend the work as one of the most concise and practical of the many which so loudly claim public appreciation.

The Blue Book of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, 1881. London: Offices of the Society, 7, Ironmonger Lane, Cheapside, E.C. (Price 6d.)

This annual blue-book of the T. A. P. S.—an indispensable publication to every Thames angler and London Angling Club—contains the society's annual report presented to its members on the 5th of July last, the forty-third anniversary of its existence, and a large amount of highly-valuable information, compiled expressly for its pages. In it will be found extracts from Acts of Parliament and fishery bye-laws, weights and sizes of fish, pleasure-boat tolls, and river-distance tables; above all, a complete list of fishing-stations between Richmond and Staines, the preserves and their limits, names of fishermen, angling hotels, lock-keepers, river-keepers, and railway fares.

The report of the committee having already found a place in the columns of the Fishing Gazette, there is no need to dwell upon the amount of good work performed by the society in the last, as in all preceding years. But one paragraph of the report deserves particular comment. It is that in which the society appeals to those anglers who, whilst ready to enjoy the benefits provided by the T. A. P. S., lag behind with their support. At present, for every one angling club that subscribes to the society's funds, there are five that do not. This is not at all as it should be, and every member of a non-subscribing club will, we feel sure, now that it is brought before him, take diligent care that his club shall in succeeding years be found numbered amongst the regular subscribers to the T. A. P. S. The legitimate objects of the society include not only the preservation, but the production of fish; though how this last is to be adequately effected without undivided support from the whole body of metropolitan anglers, appears likely, we fear, to remain an unsolved problem for ever. Again, if every club made it a point of honour not to reap where it did not sow, but to restore to the water in due season a fixed proportion of young fry for every pound weight of sizeable fish caught during the year, the impetus given to fish-culture would be immense. Not only would sport thereby increase, but under proper treatment and judicious crossbreeding, great improvements in fishes, as regards their size and edible qualities, might be looked forward to with certainty. Quite recently a piscicultural society has been formed in Japan, which, amongst other things, confidently aims at producing perch six feet in length, and lobsters whose solid claws shall not measure less than four feet and a half. The boundless enthusiasm of an English fish-culturist shrinks to nothingness before this; nevertheless the fact remains that fishes, like domestic animals, are undoubtedly susceptible of improvement under the fostering care and well-directed intelligence of man.

JOHN RIDD'S ADVENTURE WHILE LOACH-CATCHING.

From "Lorna Doone" by R. D. Blackmore.

(*Continued from page* 640).

For more than a mile all down the Lynn stream scarcely a stone I left unturned, being thoroughly skilled in the tricks of the loach and knowing how he hides himself. For being grey-spotted and clear to see through, and something like a cuttle-fish, only more substantial, he will stay quite still where a streak of weed is in the rapid water, hoping to be overlooked, nor caring even to wag his tail. Then being disturbed he flips away, like whalebone from the finger, and hies to a shelf of stone, and lies with his sharp head poked in under it; or sometimes he bellies him into the mud, and only shows his back-ridge, And that is the time to spear him nicely, holding the fork very gingerly, and allowing for the bent of it, which comes to pass, I know not how, at the tickle of air and water.

Or if your loach should not be abroad when first you come to look for him, but keeping snug in his little home, then you may see him come forth amazed at the quivering of the shingles, and oar himself and look at you, and then dart up-stream, like a little grey streak; and then you must try to mark him in, and follow very daintily. So after that, in a sandy place, you steal up behind his tail to him, so that he cannot set eyes on you, for his head is up-stream always, and there you see him abiding still, clear, and mild, and affable. Then, as he looks so innocent, you make full sure to prog him well, in spite of the wry of the water, and the sun making elbows to everything, and the trembling of your fingers. But when you gird at him lovingly, and have as good as gotten him, lo! in the go-by of the river he is gone as a shadow goes, and only a little cloud of mud curls away from the points of the fork.

A long way down that limpid water, chill and bright as an iceberg, went my little self that day on man's choice errand—destruction. All the young fish seemed to know that I was one who had taken out God's certificate, and meant to have the value of it; every one of them was aware that we desolate more than replenish the earth. For a cow might come and look into the water, and put her yellow lips down; a kingfisher, like a blue arrow, might shoot through the dark alleys, over the channel, or sit on a dipping withy-bough with his beak sunk into his breast-feathers; even an otter might float down stream, likening himself to a log of wood, with his flat head flush with the water-top, and his oily eyes peering quietly; and yet no panic would seize other life, as it does when a sample of man comes.

Now, let not any one suppose that I thought of these things when I was young, for I knew not the way to do it. And proud enough, in truth, I was at the universal fear I spread in all those lonely places where I myself must have been afraid if anything had come up to me. It is all very pretty to see the trees big with the hopes of another year, though dumb as yet on the subject, and the waters murmuring gaiety, and the banks spread out with comfort; but a boy takes none of this to heart, unless he be meant for a poet (which God can never charge upon me), and he would neither have a good apple, or even a bad one, if he stole it.

When I had travelled two miles or so, conquered now and then with cold, and coming out to rub my legs into a lively friction, and only fishing here and there because of the tumbling water—suddenly, in an open space, where meadows spread about it, I found a good stream flowing softly into the body of our brook. And it brought, so far as I could guess by the sweep of it under my knee-caps, a larger power of clear water than the Lynn itself had; only it came more quietly down, not being troubled with stairs and steps, as the fortune of the Lynn is, but gliding smoothly and forcibly, as if upon some set purpose.

Hereupon, I drew up and thought, and reason was much inside me, because the water was bitter cold, and my little toes were aching. So, on the bank I rubbed them well with a sprout of young sting-nettle, and, having skipped about awhile, was kindly inclined to eat a bit.

Now, all the turn of all my life hung upon that moment. But, as I sat there, munching a crust of Betty Muxworthy's sweet brown bread and a bit of cold bacon along with it, and kicking my little red heels against the dry loam to keep them warm, I knew no more than fish under the fork what was going on over me. It seemed a sad business, to go back now, and tell Annie there were no loaches; and yet it was a frightful thing, knowing what I did of it, to venture, where no grown man durst, up the Bagworthy water. And please to recollect that I was only a boy in those days, fond enough of anything new, but not like a man to meet it.

However, as I ate more and more, my spirit arose within me, and I thought of what my father had been, and how he had told me a hundred times never to be a coward. And then I grew warm, and my little heart was ashamed of its pit-a-patting. And I said to myself, "Now, if father looks, he shall see that I obey him." So I put the bag round my neck again, and buckled my breeches far up from the knee, expecting deeper water, and crossing the Lynn, went stoutly up under the branches which hang so dark on the Bagworthy river.

I found it strongly over-woven, turned and torn with thicket-wood, but not so rocky as the Lynn, and more inclined to go evenly. There were bars of chafed stakes stretched from the sides half-way across the current, and light outriders of pithy weed and blades of last year's watergrass trembling in the quiet places, like a spider's threads on the transparent stillness, with a tint of olive moving it. And here and there the sun came in, as if his light was sifted, making dance upon the waves, and shadowing the pebbles.

Here, although affrighted often by the deep, dark places, and feeling that every step I took might never be taken backward, on the whole I had very comely sport of loaches, trout and minnows, forking some, and tickling some, and driving others to shallow nooks, whence I could bail them ashore. Now, if you have ever been fishing, you will not wonder that I was led on, forgetting all about danger, and taking no heed of the time, but shouting in a childish way whenever I caught a "whacker" (as we called a big fish at Tiverton); and, in sooth, there were very fine loaches here, having more lie and harbourage than in the rough Lynn stream, though not quite so large as in the Lowman, where I have even taken them to the weight of half a pound.

But in answer to all my shouts there never was any sound at all, except of a rocky echo, or a scared bird bustling away, or the sudden dive of a water-vole; and the place grew thicker and thicker, and the covert grew darker above me, until I thought that the fishes might have a good chance of eating me, instead of my eating the fishes.

(*Conclusion next week.*)

For the outcome of this adventure, which we shall finish quoting next week, and all the rest of the delightful story, we must refer our readers to the book itself, the matchless "Lorna Doone," as it was called only the other day by the *St. James's Gazette.* "Lorna," is the noblest, bravest, sweetest and most womanly heroine, that ever figured as the central star of a romance. But you shall find in "Lorna Doone," such a galaxy of characters as will astonish you, and yet so powerfully is each drawn, that they live in your remembrance like the familiar faces of friends or foes. We owe many of the most delightful trouting rambles we have ever had to the perusal of "Lorna Doone." It invests the enchanting North Devon scenery with an intensified interest, and we can, with the utmost confidence, recommend every angler, and especially every trout fisher—who of all anglers sees the cream of country scenes, and so ought the more to love a noble book like this—to read it; he will feel, as we do, that he cannot speak too highly of it.

THE LIFEBOAT SERVICE IN 1881.

THE frequency, determination, and gallantry of the Lifeboat Service during the storms of the year that has just closed have been unparalleled in the annals of the National Lifeboat Institution; and no one, surely, can peruse the following record without instinctively experiencing feelings of gratitude and of satisfaction at the great amount of success which continues to accompany, day and night, the operations of the Lifeboat Institution. These services are more in number than in any previous year, yet each one of them has a history of its own, the lifeboat-men having, on more than one occasion, sacirficed their own lives in the performance of their duty. An idea of the magnificent services rendered by the servants of this splendid institution, may be gathered from the fact that no less than 966 lives and 33 vessels were saved by the lifeboats last year. Besides these services, the institution granted rewards last year for saving 155 shipwrecked persons by fishing boats and other means, making a grand total of 1,121 lives saved during the year. Since its establishment in 1824, the Lifeboat Institution has contributed to the saving of 28,724 lives from various shipwrecks, a number equal to one-half of what is required to man the British fleet. It is, therefore, manifest that a Society like the Lifeboat Institution, possessing so national a character, and dependent entirely on the support of the public for the maintenance of its life-saving fleet of 270 boats, must necessarily have a large annual income, if its beneficent work is to be carried out with the same amount of success which has hitherto fortunately characterised the services of its lifeboats. We will only add that contributions are received for the Lifeboat Institution by all the London and country bankers, and by the Secretary, Richard Lewis, Esq., 14, John Street, Adelphi, London.

THE ANGLER'S SOLILOQUY.

(AT THE SEASIDE).

The earth is sad, mists dark and grey
Enfold her ancient breast!
The waves all wearied with their play,
Have trembled into rest!
And silently the God of Day
Is sinking in the West!

Now dead delights like ghosts, arise
Within my haunted brain!
The tender blue of April skies,
The sound of April rain!
The foaming beck, the gentle rise—
The princely pounder slain!

* * * * *

Then fade the flowers from my sight
And darkened in the stream,
As yonder, through the waning light,
The pier lamps faintly gleam!
Thus in the drear November night,
I waken from my dream!

Bournemouth. F. B. DOVETON.

MY FIRST BIG TROUT.

I HAVE been extremely fond of fishing from my childhood, and by the time I was fifteen years of age there was hardly a bit of free fishing within ten miles of London that I had not visited. Travelling was not so cheap thirty years ago as at present, and, pocket money not being over plentiful, my excursions were made on foot. Being a good walker this was scarcely a drawback, and in the midsummer holidays, starting early in the morning, I could enjoy a long day's fishing at Tottenham, Edmonton, or even Ponders End. My takes were, of course, nothing wonderful, but for a boy they were as good as could be expected. On a memorable occasion, just before the Easter holidays, I received an invitation from a relative to join her sons and some friends in a week's fishing. This was an annual meeting established during college days, and although the men forming it had separated to their various vocations in life, a few still managed to assemble under the hospitable roof during the mayfly season. I was intensely delighted at being permitted to form one of a party consisting of first-rate fly-fishers, and the intervening days were spent in looking up and repairing tackle and adding such items as I could manage to buy. I had a very fair fly-rod given me a short time previously, but had never had an opportunity of using it, and my only reel line was an undressed eight-plait silk; however, I got together the best equipment I could, and, full of eager expectation, took my place in a second-class carriage at Nine Elms Station (the then terminus of the South Western Railway), *en route* for Salisbury. I arrived at my destination safely, received a cordial welcome, and after dinner my tackle was produced for inspection. The reel line was, of course, pronounced quite unfit for fly-fishing, and the flies not such as were wanted. These deficiences were immediately supplied from the stores of my friends, and after an evening spent in conversation on fish and fishing, I went to bed, to dream of wonderful fish to be caught on the morrow. I was no sluggard next day, and after an early breakfast a start was made. The party consisted of four besides myself, and we were to be joined by another fisherman at the water side. It was a lovely morning in May, mild and balmy, and the spring being a forward one the mayfly was well on. I shall never forget my first experience of a trout stream—the water seemed alive, fish were rising everywhere; in some parts the noisy splash proclaimed the little skipjack, and in others the big fish were rising quietly and sucking in the flies as they floated down the river. I soon had my tackle rigged up, and after watching my mentor (one of the best fly-fishermen it has ever been my good fortune to meet with) for some time I essayed my first cast. Need I say it was a failure? I tried again, and this time a sharp crack told me that my fly was gone. I persevered, however, and although many more flies were whipped off, I managed before the day was out, by watching my instructor carefully, to throw the line without losing the fly, and to secure two or three large dace and a small trout. My instructor had excellent sport, and the way in which he handled his tackle was a marvel to me; no cast seemed too long or difficult, and the flies came down on the water as lightly as a bit of down. When a big fish was hooked, he was under control at once, and, however hard he might fight, the slender strand of gut kept him in check and brought him to the landing net. During the next two or three days I improved in my casts, and managed to secure a good many dace and a few trout. On the fourth day my friends were unable to go out, and had, as a great favour, obtained permission for me, as a youngster, to use a worm in a portion of the water; I therefore obtained a supply of lobs, and fitted up a fine gut line with a tolerably large hook and two shots about a foot above it. The day was perfection for fishing, warm, with a south-westerly wind, and occasional light showers. I commenced fishing at the head of the water, and although I tried carefully in all the likely places could not move a fish. I had nearly reached the limit to which my permission extended, when I came on a most tempting spot—the river, after a succession of rapid shallows, contracted to a comparatively narrow channel with overhanging banks, and the current, although strong, was quiet, and the water deep. I immediately thought, if there is a big fish in the water this must be his home. I therefore picked out a clear lively lob, threadled it carefully on the hook, and creeping stealthily towards the water, dropped the bait close under the bank; the current carried the line out into the stream, and it had barely reached the centre when I felt a slight vibration, followed by two or three strong pulls. I waited a moment or two, and then struck. I found at once that I had hooked a fish such as I had never hooked before. He darted down the stream like lightning, making for a heavy bed of weeds lower down; and for a moment or two, owing to my inexperience, he had it all his own way. I, however, soon recovered myself possession, and finding the fish determined to get to the weeds, put a little pressure on him; this had the effect of checking his rush, and he leaped clean out of the water and dashed up the stream as quickly as he had gone down. I had the greatest difficulty in preventing the line from getting slack as a quantity had been run out, and it was not until he had fought for nearly half an hour that I succeeded in getting him into the landing net. I then saw what a prize I had obtained—a splendid trout, short, thick, and in the very pink of condition from the may-fly diet, and when weighed, a few hours later on, he turned the scale at 4 lb. My friends were as pleased at my success as I was myself, and insisted on the fish being packed and sent to London by the night train. I have taken hundreds of trout since then, and although many have been well over 3 lb., I have never caught one so large as my first big fish. A. H.

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d, per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

On Monday evening last, January 2, the monthly meeting of the United Central Committee was held at the Baldfaced Stag, Worship Square, Finsbury, Mr. Samuel Morgan presiding. After the reading and confirming the minutes of the previous meeting, the secretary, Mr. R. Ghurney, announced the granting of further concessions on the Great Eastern Railway, full particulars of which appeared in a previous number of the Fishing Gazette. The secretary then gave the details of a recent conviction obtained for taking undersized fish from the river Lea, through the agency of one of the committee bailiffs, full particulars of which were also reported in the Fishing Gazette. Some remarks were next made by Messrs. Murphy and Millais, respecting the transfer of privilege cards to members joining a new society without having settled up their indebtedness to the old one.

The sum of 10s. was voted and handed to the waiter as a Christmas box. Increased remuneration to Lea bailiffs. This matter was brought on by Mr. Munro, and after a long, interesting, and, in some respects amusing discussion, in which Messrs. Millais, Manning, Bayley, Ghurney, High, Stevens, Phillips, Murphy, and others, took part, it was carried, "that the remuneration should in future be at the rate of 5s. per day, when on duty during the general fishing season, but to remain the same; viz., 2s. 6d. per day during the close season."

With regard to the renting of suitable waters as fisheries, Mr. Theobald said, that though his name was connected with the motion, he regretted to say he had not that evening come up as fully prepared to go into the subject as he would like to have done. He, however, ever since their last meeting, a month ago, had had fresh proofs of the absolute necessity for a movement of this kind, indeed he had no hesitation in saying that unless active steps were at once taken, in the course of a few years—with the exception of the Lea and the Thames—there would be no water free to them to angle in. Seeing the lateness of the hour (11.15), he would ask the Chairman of the West Central Association, Mr. L. Bonvoisin—who had seconded the motion—and he knew had the subject thoroughly at heart, to say a few words; after which, perhaps, the better plan wou'd be to adjourn the considering of so important a subject till another evening, when time would allow of its being properly dealt with.

Mr. Bonvoisin said that at a recent meeting of the West Central Association this important question, and the kindred one of "Coarse Fish Culture," were eagerly discussed, Messrs. R. B. Marston, Fishing Gazette; P. Geen, President W.C.A.; F. C. Clench, President Richmond Piscatorial; and other well-known gentlemen, being present; and it was ultimately resolved to refer the matter to a committee, who were to solicit the co-operation of this (the United London Anglers Central Committee), and of the third association. He thought such a committee would be far better able to collect evidence, go thoroughly into the question, and ultimately make out some simple and effective scheme for the approval of the representatives of club anglers generally. He would therefore ask them, as the chairman of that association, if they approved of such a course, to choose some twelve or fourteen gentlemen to represent them on the joint-committee. The invitation was cordially and unanimously accepted, the requisite number of delegates elected, and some routine business transacted, the meeting terminating with the usual vote of thanks to the chairman.

During the recent push of water some big roach have bitten their last bite in Godfrey's pretty reach of the Colne at West Drayton, and Mr. Lancaster tells me he has had one sent to him to preserve weighing nearer two pounds than one pound and three-quarters. I believe it was taken by a member of the Westbourne Park Piscatorials.

A capital article appears in the current number of the "Cornhill Magazine," treating of the "Boke of St. Albans," and its latest published reproduction by "an indelible photographic process." The review is full of lengthy quotations, among others the famous preface to the "Treatyse on Fysshynge with an Angle," which, however, did not appear till the second edition of "Ye Boke," issued from Wynken de Worde's press at Westminster in 1496, than which nothing can be grander in its very simplicity and freshness, or truer in its substance.

Several new societies are talked of at the West End of London. Mr. T. Hoole is anxiously watching and assisting their efforts at hatching, and in every case they have promised to acknowledge his kindness by adding their names to the already long list of societies affiliated to the West Central Association. The usual monthly meeting of the working committee of the West Central Association will take place on this (Friday) evening, January 6. The attendance of committee men is particularly requested. I mix perhaps more frequently and freely with anglers of all classes than any other man in London, and from each I hear nothing but words of praise when "A Thames Fisherman's" capital letters are referred to, to which I very heartily add, "Hear, hear!" These are the kind of articles we want—plain, sensible, dealing with facts, and having for objects the practical advancement of the sport, quaintly relieved by occasional touches of dry humour.

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout Flies which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[Advt.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents*]

CLUB ANGLERS AND PRIVATE ANGLERS.

Sir,—Being a non-member of clubs, I am about to give a calculation showing if a London angler fishing Shiplake or Henley saves anything during the course of a year by being a member of the associations, and going out once every week during the fishing season.

14 weeks from mid-March to mid-June
20 weeks from mid-June to end of October (he can get an excursion, 3s. 6d.).
18 weeks no excursion, but can go from Saturday to Monday for 5s., 2nd class (including the Underground).

Club Angler's Expenses.

38 weeks' privilege ticket at 4s. a time	£7	12	0
Cost of P.T.	0	1	0
	£7	13	0

Private Angler's Expenses.

Excursion (including the Metropolitan Railway) 20 times at 3s. 6d.	£3	10	0
18 times at 5s.	4	10	0
	£8	0	0

If we add the club expenses, and the cost of travelling on the Metropolitan Railway, the balance will be against the club man or privilege ticket holder.—I am. &c., A. J. Porter.

17, Chapter Road, Lorrimore Square, S.E., Jan. 1.

HARD FACTS FOR MR. J. H. KEENE.

Sir,—On reading Mr. Keene's article in this week's paper, I find that he refers to the spawning of dace and expresses doubts as to those fish recently taken. I think this matter is of such importance, now that the propagation of coarse fish is being so much advocated, that I venture to ask you to reprint the enclosed cutting from L. B's. jottings of Oct. 22, in which certain facts are very concisely stated:—"Nothing like facts, dates and figures to prove a case. Have dace two spawning seasons, or, rather, are there dace which spawn in the spring and others which spawn in the autumn, as stated by the chairman at the recent meeting of anglers in the Society of Arts Room? On Thursday last, October 13, Mr. Walters, while fishing in the River Colne, at Uxbridge, succeeded in taking thirty-three dace, weighing 11 lb. 15 oz., which, in my opinion, conclusively proved Mr. P. Geen's statement to be correct, as these fish were taken from a shallow, sandy-bottomed eddy in about a foot of water. The fourth of them had just completed the act of spawning, and were, on being opened, found empty; their scales were rough, their flesh flabby, and their vents distended. About one half had evidently been caught while in the act of shedding, as the slightest touch caused the fully developed spawn to come from them. The remainder were extraordinarily full, and on being opened clearly showed that they were on this particularly favourable spot for the purpose of there depositing their spawn. The chairman, the secretary, indeed the whole of the members of the Club (Hammersmith United) present carefully inspected the fish, and saw them opened."

No doubt Mr. Keene's opinions would carry more weight if they were expressed subject to such facts as these, and I would beg to add that I have now preserved in spirits two specimens of these fish, one having just completed spawning and the other in course of shedding its spawn.—I am, &c. R. W. Hobden.

23, Blemfield Road, Shepherd's Bush.

[Until it has been satisfactorily proved that the *same* dace spawn *twice* in the same year, we shall hold to our opinion that these late spawners are fish which from some cause or other were prevented from spawning with the general body in the spring.—Ed.]

EDITIONS OF "WALTON'S ANGLER."

Sir,—I am most anxious personally to examine copies of the undernoted editions of Walton, and would esteem the permission to do so a great favour; or I would purchase the volumes, should it be more agreeable to the possessors of them, at a high price:—

Chambers, 1833; Fraser, 1834; Simpkin and Marshall, 1835; Tegg, 1835; Allan Bell, 1836; Fraser, 1836; Manchester, Johnson, 1844, 1846, 1857, and no date; Liverpool, Johnson, 1848; Dublin, Curry, 1847; London, Johnson, 1849; Halifax, 1857; and Maunder, date unknown.—I am, &c., Thomas Satchell.

Downshire Hill House, N.W.

A SUBSCRIPTION FROM IZAAK WALTON TO THE ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT FUND.

Sir,—Enclosed is two shillings' worth of stamps given by my son Izaak Walton, and I, hoping you will accept the small amount for the Anglers' Benevolent Society. I will keep the burbot until you send for it; it is not a good specimen to set up, but I will try and get you a good one; and if I can get a few I will write you, as I shall be glad to please you and any other sportsman.

I was out pike-fishing on Friday last with some gentlemen from Nottingham, and had good sport, thirteen in all, ranging from 3 to $9\frac{1}{4}$ lb. I went out on Monday, but did not make a good beginning for the new year of 1882.—I am, &c., JOHN FOSTER.

Caythorpe, Lowdham, Notts, Jan. 2, 1882.

[Many thanks for the stamps. We will send them to Mr. Ghurney.]

THE BLACK BASS.

SIR,—There is a large quantity of this fish at Whitewater, Burghley Park, near Stamford, Northampton, the seat of Lord Exeter, by whose orders the fish were brought over in 1878 and 1879. From what I hear on good authority, they have thriven well and spawned last year. Some few have been transferred to Colonel Goodlake's, but now, I believe, there is some difficulty in catching them with the net, owing to the harbourage. Thus it may not be necessary to send all the way to America in order to obtain the fish for stocking water. —I am, &c., EDWIN SACHS.

22, Hyde Park Place, Jan. 2.

[The last time Mr. Silk advertised black bass for sale in our paper the price was 10s. each. We hope by this time they are cheaper. We must have the black bass; from recent investigation we find it will thrive in any water, and is a superb fish in every respect.—ED.]

ACORN ANGLING SOCIETY.

SIR,—At a meeting of our society last night one of the members mentioned to me that we were returned in your paper as being defaulters to the Hendon Tournament. I am sorry that this should have occurred, as we are above such a mean act. I will explain to you how the omission of not returning the tickets unsold occurred. They were left at the society's house and offered by me for sale. I sold only one, and the remainder were left behind the bar, as I supposed to be called for, no letter or intimation of any kind having accompanied them when sent. I return you herewith the four unsold tickets, and 6d. in stamps, and shall be glad if you will insert either this letter or an acknowledgment, in your next edition, and clear our society of the accusation.—I am, &c., WM. FOE, hon. sec.

46, Gerrard Street, Islington, N, Jan. 5. 1882.

NEW YEAR AT THE GRESHAM.

GREAT SHOW OF LARGE PIKE.

AT the meeting of this society on Thursday evening, Messrs. Jardine and Knechtli weighed-in ten pike, which, when taken, represented an aggregate weight of no less than 150 lb., all of them being in splendid condition; Mr. Jardine giving particulars of their capture, and both anglers being present. This was undoubtedly the finest sample of pike ever shown at any society. Some were taken spinning, others on snap-tackle, the remainder with paternoster, and in all cases on a salmon-gut trace. In addition to the ten specimens shown, these well-known anglers captured about thirty others; ranging from 3 lb. to 7 lb., the smaller being returned to the stream, the others given to their friends in the neighbourhood. Such a capture is unprecedented in angling history, and on the motion of Mr. Crumplen, seconded by Mr. Bentley, the society resolved to mark its sense of the skill and kindness of Messrs. Jardine and Knechtli, by passing a special resolution in the following terms—"Resolved, that this society congratulates Messrs. Jardine and Knechtli, and tenders them its hearty thanks for weighing-in the magnificent collection of pike shown this evening, such a collection being unparalleled in the history of any angling society." Messrs. Jardine and Knechtli having replied, Mr. Jardine announced that they were willing to present the society with the three largest pike for preservation, and the Society thus becomes the possessor of three pike, weighing nearly 60 lb., and which, placed in one case, will form a pleasing memento of the achievements of "The Gresham," and serve to stimulate even the activity of its members in the coming year. The chair was ably occupied on this occasion by Mr. Crump, whose services in regard to the question of Thames rights are so well known and appreciated by the great angling community.

The decoration of our dining tables has been much improved of late years and those who wish to see what the utmost skill and taste can accomplish should pay a visit to Messrs. Osler, in Oxford Street, and see the magnificent design in glass which they have just completed for His Majesty the King of Siam. This consists of a plateau of looking-glass, which is ornamented with candelabra, fountains, receptacles for ferns and palms and dessert dishes, and is surrounded by a border of flowers. The design, as it stands, is intended for the royal dinner table, and is some fifty-six feet long, thus it will run the whole length, but it is made of separate pieces and will form a variety of designs for the pleasure of those who preside over such arrangements in Siam. A feature of the decorations is the appearance at intervals of the royal arms, tastefully executed on glass, while it is needless to say anything of the admirable quality of the material used, and the precision with which it is cut and otherwise manipulated, for no name stands higher than that of Osler in this particular branch of manufacture.

DEATH OF A FRENCH FISH CULTURIST.—Mr. A. Colombe, Administrateur-Directeure of the Societe Anonyme Francaise, died a few weeks ago. The Society is largely interested in fish culture in both France and Belgium and has a capital of 200,000 francs. It was to this society that Prof. Baird sent 100,000 eggs of the California salmon last October, former shipments of these eggs having been received by the well-known Societe d'Acclimatation. Mr. Colombe is succeeded by Mr. Osiris Mendes, France, who will now fill the office of Director. The Paris office is 17, Rue Chateau d'un.

CLUB REPORTS.

ACT-ON-THE-SQUARE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Owing to the Christmas holidays, and also to the water being so out of condition, I have had nothing to report, excepting that Messrs. George and Chapman had some very nice roach and dace on Boxing-day—one roach going nearly 1 lb.—from the water which belongs to where their club is held, viz., the Ferry Boat, Tottenham, and on Thursday Messrs. W. Stone and W. Mead had roach and jack from the Lea. On Saturday the members fished for a prize at Waltham, being the third occasion on which the members have gone out to fish for it. On the first occasion it was snowing and no fish taken; on the second the floods were out, but on Saturday victory rested with Mr. H. Chapman, although closely pressed by Mr. Money.—A. GEORGE, hon. sec.

Jan. 2, 1881.

ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Very few of our members were out during the holidays; Bro. T. Bowling being the only successful member, weighing-in a show of roach from Wraysbury. Wednesday, the 27th ult., being quarterly night, the annual and quarterly prizes were distributed, the following being the successful members:—Bros. R. Smith, gross weight and largest bream; W. Salmon, largest jack; D. Liston, largest dace; H. Scott, largest chub; A. Shakel, largest barbel, a handsome pair of Parisian figures; D. Davis, set of vases and pair of glass lustres; B. C. Booth, tea service. Members will please note that our annual prizes will commence on June 16th and end March 14th, not January to December, as before. Several prizes are to be fished for before the close season, including two gross weight prizes, particulars of which can be had at the club. Sunday the 1st instant, several of our members were out, but met with indifferent luck, Bro. Summers saving the club from a blank with a nice perch and a few roach from Datchet.—DANIEL DAVIS.

BRIGHTON ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

On the 1st, being the first of the year, Mr. Anscombe, Mr. Tree, Mr. G. Saunders, Mr. Hassell, and Mr. A. Cardy made a beginning for jack, but only one was killed, and that was by G. Saunders. On Monday evening the members made a present of £1 1s to Mr. Billinghurst, the water bailiff, for good attention to his duties through the past year, and with the hope that the same will be done this year. Weather fine, wind north-west.—GROUNDBAIT.

CAVENDISH ANGLING SOCIETY.

The majority of our members were anything but successful on Sunday last. Mr. Lee had a pretty jack from the Lea, scaling 5 lb. $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; Mr. Tallman succeeded in taking one from the Thames, 1 oz. heavier; Messrs. Chambers and Drieson weighed roach and dace.

Jan. 3.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Only two of our members weighed-in on the 1st inst. Mr. Mortimer, roach, from the Rye House water, winning the Secretary's prize, and Mr. Castell, roach, from the Roding. We had no one out in the Christmas week.—CAS.

EDMONTON AND TOTTENHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above club went out on the 26th for a series of special prizes with the following results:—Mr. Stephens, 1st, with a fine show of roach; Mr. Briton, 2nd, running very close to 1st, within a few ounces; Mr. Cottam, 3rd, with a very pretty jack; Mr. Holdsworth, 4th, roach; Mr. Darter, 5th, roach. On the 28th Messrs. Stephens and Briton showed another very fine tray of roach; Mr. Ames show of perch. On the 1st January four of our members contributed a splendid show of perch, completely filling the trays. Mr. Dyson with 3 doz. and 4; Mr. Mole, 1 doz. and 3; Mr. H. Ames, 11; Mr. E. Ames, 9; Mr. Hasler, 2 doz. and 1, all nice fish. The roach rod was at a discount, as none of them had any worth speaking of, for, one day's fishing, I got one weighable roach.—G. STEPHENS.

GOOD INTENT.

We had a good show of fish at our club on Sunday last. Mr. Edward Sanders brought up a good show of perch from the Lea, twelve fish from $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. to 1 lb. each; Mr. G. Hughes, roach and dace; Mr. Gadbury, roach; Mr. Donovan, roach; Mr. Maybury, roach; R. Murphy, roach. On Tuesday evening, we had one of the largest meetings of members that we have had for a long time; our large club room was filled. We had two applications from our benevolent fund, and granted £1 to each. Our members are going to Boxmoor, to fish for twelve prizes, all pegged-down, on Sunday, January 15.—R. MURPHY.

Jan. 4.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The first supper of this society took place at their rooms on Wednesday evening, Mr. C. Graham Bennett presiding, Mr. S. C. Harding occupying the vice-chair. The tables were very tastefully arranged, and the good fare so bountifully provided more than sustained the reputation already acquired by Mr. Thompson at the City of London Tavern. The cloth having been cleared, the Chairman gave the toast of the Queen and Royal Family, which was duly honoured. Mr. Crumplen followed with "The Gresham Angling Society," which was drunk with much enthusiasm. In proposing this toast Mr. Crumplen remarked that the society had certainly something to say for itself, for it had not yet completed its first year, yet it had over two hundred members on its books; rented water of its own, which it purposed to stock as a fine museum with some unique specimens adorned its walls; it had a good library, and had already added to our stock of knowledge by the papers read and discussed at its meetings. It had contributed liberally to many benevolent objects, dear to the hearts of anglers; and given such a marked impetus to kindred societies, that its establishment and development really constituted the great event of 1881, so far as angling societies were concerned. Dr. A. C. Tucker proposed "Success to all Angling Associations," coupling with it the name of the Piscatorial Society, which he remarked was the oldest London association. The Gresham had no other object than to advance the common art, and the society, be it large or small, old or young, which did the most in that direction was always sure of a welcome at the Gresham board. The absence of Messrs. Jardine and Knechtli, who were away in the west on the war path, was greatly regretted. Captain Alfred, in responding for the Piscatorial Society, said he was sure they would appreciate the compliment so warmly offered, for they were not rivals, but should be mutually helpful to each other, and do their best to promote the common weal. Little jealousies, if they existed, must be set aside, and all must work together in conjunction with the central associations to effect a satisfactory solution of the many important questions now pending. Mr. Leo Bonvoisin (who had just entered) also said a few words, thanking the society for the good wishes expressed to all angling societies, more especially to the West Central, which he represented. Mr. Crumplen, in proposing the "Chairman," remarked that he had known him more or less as a good and true angler for nearly twenty years, and it was gratifying to know that he not only worked hard in the committee room, but had frequently filled the society's trays with good specimen fish, like the 14 lb. of roach he had shown on Monday last. "The Press" was proposed by Mr. S. C. Harding in a very pithy speech, and duly responded to, after which Mr. Parker gave "The Officers of the Society," coupled with the name of the vice-chairman, to which that gentleman and others replied. It only remains to add that the rooms presented a very gay appearance, Captain Alfred contributing a selection of the choicest examples of his genius, which were much admired. The speeches were well interspersed with musical pieces, Mr. J. E. Harding, Mr. Young, Mr. Buckworth, Mr. Parker, Mr. Winterbottom, Dr. Brunton, and others, taking part, Mr. Winterbottom being accompanyist, and displaying his accustomed skill. A fine tray of pike, taken by Mr. G. R. Hunt, Mr. F. S. Barnard, and others, was on view, the weights running from about $3\frac{1}{4}$ lb. to $10\frac{1}{2}$ lb. each. The evening closed with "Auld Langsyne" and the National Anthem. Particulars of the extraordinary show of pike at the society's rooms last evening by Messrs. Jardine and Knechtli will be found in another column.

HAMPSTEAD ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. J. Woodward, a member of the Hampstead Angling Society, brought home a nice lot of roach, weighing 16 lb., one of over 1 lb. 7 oz., from the Chelmer, Chelmsford, on the 27th December. Anglers visiting there will do well by calling at Mr. Joslings, the Half Moon, High Street, Chelmsford, who will put them on some good swims. Messrs. W. and C. Messenger had some good trays of roach and dace from Bourne End on the 1st January.—J. H. HAYWARD, sec.

Jan. 4.

JOVIAL ANGLERS.

Last Sunday's contest for the rod, winch, and 100 yards of line, resulted in Mr. Clarke being declared the winner, with 1 lb. $2\frac{3}{4}$ oz.; it was a great misfortune the weather changed, as from the beautiful morning we all anticipated a very good show of fish. A special general meeting of this club is called for Friday the 13th of this month, and it is hoped that all the members that can possibly make it convenient will attend, as business of great importance to the club will be brought forward on that night.—H. W. PLATT, sec.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above society were out on Sunday, and met with glorious sport—a handsome show of fish being put on the trays, including roach, perch; dace, chub, iack.—H. MOORE, sec.

Jan. 5.

THE NEWARK PISCATORIALS.

The half-yearly supper in connection with the above society took place last Tuesday evening, Jan. 3, in the club room of the society, Horse and Gears Inn, Portland Street. About fifty members sat down to a capital spread, drovided by Host Slater, the worthy treasurer. After full justice had been done to the good things provided, and the cloth removed, toasts, speeches and harmony were indulged in—Mr. Brooks, the president, in the chair, and Mr. Johnson in the vice. Capital songs were sung by several members, Mr. Seagraves fairly "bringing down the house" by his capital rendering of the Lancashire song, "'Twas on one Tuesday Afternoon"; Mr. Bailey amused and delighted his audience with a display of his powers as a ventriloquist—his conversation with an imaginary Jim up the chimney being very amusing. The healths of the "Worthy Host and Hostess," and also "The Secretary," were proposed and acknowledged in suitable terms; Mr. Slater stating that in addition to the first prizes for the specimen fish, he should present each lucky first-prizeman with one of his best centre-pin reels—a remark that was greeted with considerable applause. In the half-year just concluded, Mr. Slater has given to each of the six first-prize winners one of his best Nottingham roach rods. The following report shows that all the prizes of this society are for specimen fish; Mr. A. T. Allcock weighing-in no less than four of the heaviest fish, viz., dace, chub, barbel and bream; but, according to rule, no member can take more than one prize. The following are the prize winners for the last half-year:—Roach: first, T. Proctor, 1 lb. $5\frac{1}{4}$ oz., 3 shots; second, W. Bulman, 1 lb. 4 oz., 6 shots; third, T. Rushby, 1 lb. 2 oz., 8 shots. Dace: first, A. T. Allcock, $13\frac{3}{4}$ oz., 8 shots; second, W. Singleton, 9 oz., 9 shots; third, G. Johnson, 9 oz. Bream: first, R. Dale, 3 lb. 8 oz., 3 shots; second, H. Cubley, 3 lb. $4\frac{1}{4}$ oz., 4 shots; third, J. Mountney, 3 lb. $1\frac{3}{4}$ oz. Chub: first, T. Mills, 2 lb. $7\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; second, D. Slater, 2 lb. 7 oz.; third, J. Hopkinson, 1 lb. $10\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Barbel: first, W. Thompson, 3 lb. $14\frac{3}{4}$ oz.; second, W. Atkinson, 3 lb. 14 oz.; third, J. Hammond, 3 lb. $12\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Bleak: first, T. Hinds, 2 oz., 3 shots; second, J. Wheeldon, $1\frac{3}{4}$ oz., 6 shots; third, W. Brooks, $1\frac{3}{4}$ oz., 1 shot.—THE TRENT OTTER, reporter.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

We have very little news to chronicle this week, as the trays of the above society were not overburdened with fish. Messrs. Laundy and Obbard weighed-in roach from the Lea. Members are particularly requested to attend next Monday to hear the delegate's report from the central committee.—THOS. WM. LUCY, sec.

Jan. 5.

ORIGINAL ALEXANDRA SOCIETY OF ANGLERS.

We had nearly the whole of our members out on Sunday last. Mr. E. Brockett, sen., a nice show of roach; Mr. W. Fligh, roach, from the Stort; Mr. E. Dymond, sen., jack, from the Lea; Mr. Stanton, roach, from Sunbury-on-Thames; Mr. Morton, jack, from the Forty Guinea water; Mr. E. Brockett, jun., roach, from Ponder's End; Mr. C. Newton, one jack, from the Lea; Mr. Ardley, Mr. Lardell, of the City of Paris, Old Ford Road, and Mr. Cammack have been doing well among the jack at St. Alban's.—E. DYMOND, sec, pro. tem.

SIR HUGH MYDDLETON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above society mustered very few on New Year's Day. No doubt they had not quite recovered from their Christmas festivities. Only two members went out. Mr. Sacanville, one of our new members, visited the river Brent, but the fish would not feed, consequently, it was a blank day. Your humble servant saw the Colne about 12.30 p.m. The weather and water were all that could be desired by an angler. I was soon at work, and found out that gentles were the favourite bait. I stuck to work till 3 p.m., when I found I was getting wet about the legs—the rain coming down rather freely. I had a very pretty show of roach and dace, scaling 10 lb. 6 oz.—not a bad start for the commencement of the new year.—G. CABORN, sec.

P.S.—The members of the above society intend fishing for a series of prizes, at Boxmoor, on Sunday next, the 8th inst. All start by same train, from Euston Station, at 9 a.m.

Jan. 2.

SOCIETY OF CAXTONIAN ANGLERS.

The usual meeting of this club was held on Friday last. Several members were present, but in consequence of the recent floods no fish were weighed-in. In the course of the evening a member introduced the subject of the "Pollution of our Rivers," as acting to the great detriment of the angling fraternity, inasmuch as the fish in several of our rivers were killed by the refuse daily discharged into them. The subject so much riveted the attention of this meeting that it was arranged for a special meeting to be held for the purpose of enabling the speaker to go further into detail; such special meeting will be held on Friday, the 13th inst., and is looked forward to with much anxiety. The committee, we understand, is likely to bring the matter under the consideration of Government. It is quite clear, from what was shadowed forth at the meeting, that unless the pollution is stopped the several growing and influential societies of anglers will in a little time have no fishing occupation, the fish being either killed or driven from our rivers.

Jan. 2.

UNITED BROTHERS.

Although several members of the above society went out on New Year's Day, only two succeeded in taking anything worth mentioning—W. Tyler roach, and H. Tyler perch—from the Thames.—WILLIAM BELTON.

Dec. 4.

WALTHAMSTOW ANGLING SOCIETY.

This club has been doing pretty well since the run of water, Mr. D. Casey, treasurer, being out twice last week roach-fishing, taking 16 lb. and 10 lb. respectively. Mr. J. Latham, sen., out Saturday and Sunday last, having a good show of jack, heaviest fish nearly 8 lb., total, $30\frac{3}{4}$ lb.—W. HOWSE, hon. sec.

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Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., must be addressed to the Editor of THE FISHING GAZETTE, *No.* 12, *Fetter Lane, London, E.C* and should reach the office not later than Tuesday morning.

Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 1882.

ARTIFICIAL SPINNING BAITS.

THERE are probably some hundreds of different kinds of artificial spinning baits for the capture of fresh and salt water predatory fish, and to attempt to bring out anything of the kind as a novelty is almost useless. The most that can be done is to improve on old forms. The most scientific, and, in our opinion, the best principle of imparting a spin, is by curving the tail. Yet this plan is perhaps the most ancient of all. The use of side fins answers well enough in small baits, but not so well as the curved tail. Mr. Gregory, of Birmingham, makes the best artificial metal baits, and we have frequently spoken highly of some of his specialties; but we have found others of his make do not spin well, and this, in our opinion, is owing simply to the fact that the metal fins which are to impart the spin are wrongly shaped, and so great loss of power occurs. One of the most killing baits in the market is the old Devon or Totnes minnow; and if any one wants to know what the correct form of metal fin is, let them examine a good Devon, such as is sold by Mr. Bowness in the Strand, for there are good Devons and bad Devons. As we mentioned recently, Mr. Gregory is now making an artificial bait fo us which we feel certain will be appreciated by anglers. There is nothing new in the shape—merely in the details of manufacture.

If he makes it to our design—and we have no doubt he will—it will be made thus: a hollow metal fish, without side fins or hooks attached, has a brass tube through it protruding slightly at the mouth, and again at the narrow part just above the tail; a strong brass wire is passed through the tube for the bait to revolve on, and at the head and tail on this wire there is a solid metal bead, which also revolves on the wire. There are loops at each end of the wire for attaching the trace and the tail hooks, the latter being two triangles, one below the other, the lower one having a red tassel on it, or, better still, a tassel made of peacock feather mixed with red ones, like the Alexandra fly. The spin is obtained by bending the broad, salmon-tail shaped tail. Now the whole secret of the spin lies in *how* this tail is bent. We received a sample bait from Mr. Gregory in which the tail was forked, and much too large, and hardly bent at all. After cutting off half an inch of each fork, we tried it in a lake, and, as we expected, the bait would not spin in the least. With a pair of pliers it was an easy matter to bend it more. The first trial gave a wobbling spin, very slow; the second was better, and the third produced a perfectly straight and most rapid spin, even when pulling slowly in perfectly dead water. The curve should be made thus: hold the upper side of the tail between the pliers and bend it round boldly, so that the point forms a right angle with the body; now bend the lower side round in the same direction, but so that its point only forms an obtuse angle with the body. In fact, the bend of the upper part should form a segment of a circle, and the bend of the lower part should form a segment of an oval. If the tail were bent equally, a line from either point of it to the mouth of the bait would be equal; but if it is bent as we have endeavoured to describe, this line should be longer from the mouth to the end of the bend of the lower part of the tail than to that of the upper. In bending the metal, the curves must be carefully preserved. The water is thus thrown off the tail in the direction of least resistance, and forces the bait round on the powerful principle of the screw. But if, as is usually the case, the tail is bent equally, the water is thrown off equally, and the bait simply comes through the water at an obtuse angle with the direction of the pull, and does not spin.

We should very much like to have the opinions of some of our readers who have made experiments with spinning baits as to what they think the best curve. We only give the result of our own experiences, and if Mr. Gregory will faithfully copy the curves in the bait we have sent him we are certain the spin will be perfect. The bait is to be coloured dark green on the back, silver on the sides, and white on the belly. As regards the hooks, we prefer a flying triangle, fixed to the ring at the head and the two triangles at the tail, but the angler can please himself about these; but no hooks should be soldered or in any way fastened to the bait itself. They only interfere with the spin. This bait hardly turns the line at all, as it revolves on the brass wire, and a lead is hardly necessary, though we always prefer one on the trace, as it prevents kinking, adds weight, aids the strike, and makes the bait travel steadily and level. The "Fishing Gazette lead," which can be shifted without reference to swivels or undoing the trace, and taken off and put on in a moment, will be found very useful. Anglers who cannot get them of their tackle-makers should apply to us. We mention this because we have cause to complain of some tackle-makers decrying this lead. Messrs. S. Allcock and Company, of Redditch, are the sole wholesale makers of all the FISHING GAZETTE specialties.

DINNER TO THE THAMES RIVER-KEEPERS.

IT is now about fifteen years ago since the idea was first conceived of bringing the river-keepers of the Thames Angling Preservation Society together to a seasonable entertainment, and the movement at that time received great encouragement from the Baroness Burdett-Coutts, who for some time annually contributed the sum of five pounds ; and this her ladyship is always ready to renew when an application is made, but it is not considered desirable to do this only when some extra funds are required. As time wore on, it was suggested to extend these dinners to the keepers employed by the Thames Conservancy, who have instructions to act in union with those belonging to the Thames Angling Preservation Society, which was adopted ; and as the lock-keepers, under the recommendation of the latter society, have since been supplied with deputations to act as river-keepers, they are now entertained out of the funds raised by the secretary (Mr. W. H. Brougham), which fund is realised by contributions of half-a-crown from the members and donations from a few of the angling clubs. There are also three or four others who are always ready to assist the river-keepers, altogether representing a staff of twenty-five active and intelligent men, who are interested in the protection and preservation of the Thames fishery. These entertainments are, as a rule, confined to Thames-side hostelries, and this year a capital selection has been made at the head-quarters of the Richmond Piscatorial Society, the Station Hotel, Richmond, where the proprietor, Mr. John Munro, is a liberal supporter of Thames angling, and has rendered himself famous as a first-rate caterer, thereby ensuring to the staff of river-keepers a splendid entertainment. Mr. Thomas Spreckley, the president of the society, kindly undertook the duties of chairman, supported by several members of the committee and friends, who were all present at their own expense, and whose presence enhanced the pleasure of the dinner. In the immediate vicinity of the chair were Messrs. Joseph Andrews, F. C. Clench, H. B. Eyre, P. Geen, A. J. Little, T. R. Sachs, C. P. Wheatstone, W. H. Brougham, J. P. Wheeldon, Henry E. Woods, F. G. Pearce, &c. Amongst the river-keepers and assistants were Alfred Thompson, R. Relf, George Hone, William Milbourne, John Johnson, David Hackett, Alfred Trodd, Lewis Gibson, John Bushnell, G. J. Rough, John Milbourne, James Deane, John Smith, Palmer Scott, J. Tame, D. Phillips, Henry Joist, James Newble, and W. Watford. The dining-room was beautifully decorated for the occasion, and the tables were most tastefully laid out. Everything indicated the prospects of a first-rate feed. And so it proved, the *menu* including codfish and oyster sauce, fried and stewed lamperns, boiled leg of mutton and caper sauce, roast round of beef, an old York ham of 36 lb., roast chickens, plum puddings, mince pies, maids of honour, all beautifully served up under Mr. Munro's personal superintendence. The real York ham was brought into the room with great ceremony, Mr. Spreckley claiming the privilege of its being placed on the table for his special carving, and it need scarcely be added all did justice to it, and declared they had never eaten such a ham in their lives. Of the dinner altogether, Mr. Munro won golden opinions, and there has scarcely been an occasion when the men enjoyed a better entertainment. The declaration of John Milbourne, who has the credit of being a first-rate feeder, " he had never before had such a good dinner " was endorsed by all present. Only a few toasts are proposed on these occasions. The Chairman gave " The Queen and the Royal Family." Mr. F. G. Pearce proposed "The Thames Angling Preservation Society," and in responding, Mr. Spreckley made a very practical and useful reply, full of encouragement and advice to the men, contrasting the real happiness of the poor man's dwelling to that of the rich man, who was burdened with thought and anxiety, his remarks being listened to with wrapt attention and the warmest expressions of satisfaction, giving the toast of the evening, " The Thames River-Keepers and their Assistants," coupling with it the names of Messrs. G. J. Rough, John Milbourne, R. Relf, and Alfred Thompson, who each made suitable replies. Mr. Lewis Gibson, on being called upon to say something, remarked, in reference to the desired extension of angling water in the tideway, his name had been attached to the counter-memorial without his consent, and he should render the Thames Angling Preservation Society all the assistance he could in support of its memorial. Mr. F. C. Clench gave the toast of "The Chairman," in complimentary words, and Mr. Spreckley replied. Mr. Geen, in a capital speech, proposed " The Press," which was replied to in his usual good style by Mr. J. P. Wheeldon. Mr. Joseph Andrews gave "The Secretary," in very happy remarks, to which Mr. W. H. Brougham responded. The last and not least important toast was that of " Mr. Munro," which was given by Mr. W. H. Brougham, whose remarks on the excellency of the dinner were loudly applauded, and on Mr. Munro rising to reply, he was received with such hearty cheers, that must have assurred him of the general satisfaction they conveyed. There was some capital singing amongst the men, including Messrs. Lewis Gibson, G. J. Rough, George Hone, J. Tame and others. Mr. Horne, the Egham lock-keeper, gave a first-rate recitation, and Messrs. T. Spreckley, J. P. Wheeldon and Joseph Andrews, also contributed to the harmony. Mr. Thomas Spreckley presented to each of the men a box of splendid tobacco, which was highly appreciated. There has never been a more enjoyable evening ; the only regret, at a late hour, was that it must be brought to a close. There was nothing to flag the harmony and proceedings of the entertainments, and all appeared to be united in the common bond of union.

ANCIENT TACKLE.

I FEEL extremely grateful to Mr. Harrington Keene for reminding me, in his very interesting article of Jan. 7, of a passage in Homer which has often puzzled me greatly. Unfortunately the translator whom he quotes shirks the difficulty by substituting a line entirely his own for one in the original. The passage runs literally thus :—(Odyssee, xii. 251—4.) " As when on a projecting rock a fisherman with a very long rod, casting down bait as a snare to little fishes, lets down into the sea the horn of a rustic ox, and having caught a fish, throws it out all quivering."

Now, what can he mean by the horn of a rustic ox ? The scholiast says that " Aristarchus explained it as a small pipe of horn to prevent the line being bitten through by the fish ; but some think the hair-line itself." It was evidently some part of the regular tackle of an angler, for in Iliad xxiv., 80, Iris takes a header into the sea, and goes to the bottom " like a plummet, which, attached to the horn of a rustic ox, goes down to bring death to ravenous fishes." I used to think it might mean a hook made of horn, as hooks are made of bone by some savages, but that is hardly likely to have been used by people acquainted with the art of working metals.

The lines used by the anglers of those days must have been pretty strong, for in Euripides (Helena, 1614) a shipwrecked sailor is landed by one which is thrown to him.

The delightful idyll of Theocritus (xxi.), also quoted by Mr. H. Keene, deserves to be known to all professors of the gentle art. Two fishermen are sleeping in a miserably poor hut :

> About them lay the tackle of their trade,
> Creels, rods and hooks, and bait in seaweed stored;
> Lines, weels and lobsterpots of osiers formed,
> Cords, oars, and an old boat.

One of them wakes his mate and tells him his dream :—

> As I slept yesternight amidst my toil,
> (I had not eaten much—we dined betimes
> You know, and gave our stomachs holiday)
> I saw myself all eager on a rock
> Sitting and fishing, while my jointed rod
> Waved the deceitful bait. Anon, I thought,
> A plump fat fish ran at me (for in sleep
> Each hound dreams of the chase, and I of fish).
> He seized the hook, the red blood flowed : the jerk
> Curved the whole rod. Stretching my hands I found
> I had to fight a monster. How can I
> With feeble hooks bring a big fish to land ?
> I gently pricked him, just to let him feel ;
> Then gave him line : when he no longer fled
> I drew him in, and so achieved my task.
> A splendid golden fish I hauled on shore,
> Golden all over. Terror seized my heart :—
> " This fish, perhaps, is Neptune's favourite,
> Or a pet treasure of his sea-green spouse."
> Gently I loosed him from the iron hook ;
> (For fear his mouth might of some gold be robbed ;)
> With a thick cable then I lugged him home,
> And swore I ne'er again would go to sea,
> But stay on land, and with my gold be king.

He then asks his friend his opinion about the validity of the oath. To which his mate very sensibly replies :—

> Don't be afraid—you swore not, nor did'st find
> The golden fish you saw. Dreams are but lies.
> But if it was a vision, wide-awake
> Fish well that ground all over. There's some hope
> From dreams like this. Seek for a fish of flesh,
> Or golden dreams may death by famine bring.

C. C. J.

A LADY ON FERNS.

IT is probably the fact that the majority of fern lovers and fern growers in this country are ladies. The present writer can at least state that, so far as his host of correspondents is concerned, numerical superiority is on the side of the gentler sex. Like the gentleman angler, the lady fern-hunter is generally an enthusiast. " Ferning " (to use a lady's expression) is her " gentle craft," as fishing is his. May not our married anglers, by the way, take note of this circumstance with advantage, and endeavour to cultivate a love of ferns in their wives? Their absence on many a fishing excursion would then be condoned; for whilst the husband would take pleasure in watching, with subdued excitement and commendable patience, the relative position of the water and his float, the wife could pleasantly employ the time in scouring every nook and corner of the adjoining country-side. (Perhaps the editor of the FISHING GAZETTE will set the example, and "lead" so useful and desirable a fashion.) Or, by a species of "natural selection," anglers who desire to be fishers of women might choose their *fiancées* with a *penchant* for ferns, and the respective tastes might be transmitted even to "the third and fourth generations," by the judicious association of fish and ferns in drawing-room aquaria.

But to return especially to ferns. The love of a lady for the beautiful and graceful forms of the flowerless plants, affords a pretty illustration of the natural bent of a lady's mind. *Le style c'est l'homme même* cleverly said Buffon. A man is known by the books he reads; a woman by her tastes; and it is according to the fitness of things that she should love ferns. If she loves ferns, why should she not write about them?

Some of the most sensible and some of the pleasantest fern books we have had have been written by ladies. The present writer remembers a charming little volume, now, he fears, out of print, called "Ferny Combes," by the late Mrs. Chanter, a daughter of Charles Kingsley. This small volume helped largely to inflame his own love of ferns. Some delightful fern gossip, too, he has read in more than one little volume by Nona Bellairs, whom he believes to be a lady, though "Nona Bellairs," he suspects, is a *nom de plume.* And now Miss Marian Ridley has written, and Mr. David Bogue has published, "A Pocket-Guide to British Ferns"—a pretty little volume, with a cover evidently designed by the lady author. But Miss Ridley's principal object is to make her volume useful, and she has certainly succeeded. She says that to tabulate "by words without figures such of the features as alone are absolutely necessary to identify a fern, even if never previously seen, is the sole merit of this little guide-book." But the small book has other merits. It explains "the general division of flowerless plants," describes "the different parts of ferns," gives "terms applicable to the shapes, &c., of fronds," defines "the growing of ferns," and details their genera, and then proceeds to give briefly descriptive "tables" of British ferns, adding "a key to the genera," and a "list of British ferns;" and it has appended to it, as a "happy thought" of the author, printed labels to be cut out for use in the fern herbarium. Miss Ridley's nice little book is very sensible; it is thoroughly practical and conveniently "portable," and deserves cordial recommendation.

FRANCIS GEORGE HEATH.

THE STEREOSCOPIC COMPANY'S "GUINEA BOX" OF AMUSING NOVELTIES.

THIS wonderful guinea's worth contains the following charming novelties, which cannot fail to afford endless amusement:

THE PHANTASCOPE. Produces a series of grotesque apparitions varying in hue. At the bidding of the "little magician" a transparent phantom suddenly appears within the charmed circle, as if from space, and as it vanishes is succeeded by another, different in form, which in turn gives place to a succession of others. These marvellous results render the instrument a permanent source of entertainment and surprise.

THE LITTLE CAXTON PRINTING PRESS. A unique and interesting novelty. Not only affords great amusement, but is an article of utility combined with instruction. Includes a complete font of ornamental type.

THE PROLIFIC TOP. The latest and most wonderful. Evolves a series of spinning discs of varied colours. A most interesting game for two or more players.

LUMINOUS STARS. An elegant application of Balmain's Patent Medium. Affixed to the ceiling or walls of an apartment they gather light during the daytime, shining brilliantly when the room is darkened.

THE FERRY BOAT PUZZLE, or Five Jealous Husbands. New combination puzzle game. Hours of mirth for old and young. With ten medallion photographs, boat, &c., complete.

THE MAGIC BARREL. A novelty in legerdemain. The contents appear and disappear in manner most mysterious, and in full view of the audience.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

THE annual banquet of this society will be held during the month of March, when the Rt. Hon. Lord George Hamilton, M.P., will preside. Full particulars will be duly announced.

THE CRYSTAL ROACH HOOK.

MORE than two years ago we sent a few of the crystal roach hooks, made by Mr. Williams, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn, to a friend who lives at Renishaw, near Chesterfield. He wrote soon afterwards about them, but we lost his letter until the other day, when it turned up unexpectedly. Here is what he says:

"I went out purposely to try the crystal roach hook the other day, and in this case practice has proved a better test than theory. Before using them I was rather of opinion that they were too long on the shank, An hour's practice has proved they are all that could be desired for paste fishing or single maggot (and no good roach-fisher uses above one gentle). This hook is the best I have yet used. I struck 15 roach in succession, never missing a fish, and in each case the point of the hook was just where it should be, inside the ring of the top lip.—Yours, &c.,

ROTHERWOOD."

We wish Mr. Williams would get the crystal hook made in all sizes; it is a splendid hook for the artificial fly in our opinion, and we feel sure it would answer well on the spinning flight.

MESSRS. HARDY'S PATENT WINCH-FITTING.

IT is with much pleasure that we direct the special attention of our readers to the illustrated advertisement of several novelties in the way of angling apparatus, which is inserted this week by the Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., of Redditch. Messrs. A. and Co. are always alive to the necessity of improvement in fishing tackle, and they never spare pains or expense to bring out anything they take in hand. At the Norwich Exhibition, Mr. Allcock saw Mr. Hardy's patent winch-fitting, and was so pleased with it, that he gave a hundred pounds for the sole right to manufacture it, and has since spent hundreds of pounds in taking out patents for it in foreign countries. He was perfectly right in doing so, for the simple reason that it is a thoroughly good thing. Mr. Francis, of the *Field*; Mr. Wheeldon, of *Bell's Life*; Mr. Ffennell, of *Land and Water*; Mr. Mather, of the New York *Forest and Stream*; and many other prominent anglers and authorities, have spoken very highly of it. We had the pleasure of noticing it before any of these gentlemen, and are not a little gratified to find our opinion backed up by theirs. In noticing it, we suggested that its usefulness would be vastly increased if it could be made to fit on to any rod, and fit any winch. We are glad to say that this has been accomplished, and, as will be seen from the cuts in the advertisement, it is made in two shapes. The cost has been reduced to a few shillings, and as it can be purchased separately, we are certain that—in spite of trade opposition—it will soon come into general use amongst English and foreign anglers. We can easily understand trade opposition, because tackle-makers want to sell their own goods, but those who take it up at once will soon reap the benefit; if anglers cannot get it at one shop they will at another, and probably transfer their custom as well. It is in every way such a vast improvement over the old rings that it must sell.

THE "FISHING GAZETTE FLOAT."

THIS is the invention of an Austrian angler, Herr Emil Weeger, president of the Brunn Piscatorial Society, and one of the most ardent and accomplished anglers living. We are bringing it out through Messrs. Allcock and Co., in conjunction with him (he is also the inventor of the "Fishing Gazette Spinner" which we brought out some time ago. If properly made, it acts perfectly, and he has killed thousands of fish with it). This new float is so made that it can in an instant be taken off or put on a line without unfastening the line in any place. It is so extremely simple and effective that we have every confidence in recommending it. It can at present only be applied to large floats such as live-bait floats; but we have another plan of our own in hand which can be applied to a roach float.

In conclusion, we will only add that it is not likely we should bring out any bait or other tackle in connection with this paper unless we had proved its usefulness, and also had the opinions of competent critics on it. If any angler finds any difficulty with anything we bring out we shall be only too glad to do our best to remove it.

THE "FISHING GAZETTE WINCH."

THIS new winch will also be found illustrated and advertised in Messrs. Allcock and Co's. page. We have registered it at considerable expense, and are bringing it out through Messrs. A. and Co., in conjunction with its inventor—Mr. J. T. Harris, of Eastwood House, Hanley, Staffordshire. The advantages claimed for this winch over the ordinary kinds are, first, that by its peculiar shape, it gets rids of those dangerous angles between the rod and the winch in which the line so frequently catches, secondly, its peculiar shape imparts great strength to it. Every angler knows that the ordinary winch with wear and tear very often becomes rickety, caused by the great strain on the screws set close together at the fastening of the winch to the winch plate. A glance at the illustration will show that in the "Fishing Gazette winch" there is no central point—or pivot, as it often becomes—the screws which holds the winch plate to the winch are far apart, like the bolts in the iron chair which holds the rail to the sleeper. There can be no rocking or getting rickety; and further, this plan permits of the doing away with all the side bars, thus preventing friction, and permitting the line to be freely handled. Have not many of our readers often been bothered by the old-fashioned side bars preventing their getting at the line on the winch and undoing a "catch" when the line has been "over wound" or wound up loosely? The winch will be made of all sizes, and of brass and ebonite, with check and without. We trust all anglers will examine it for themselves, and not listen to the objections of a tackle-maker, who naturally wishes to sell his old stock.

Of course, there are many tackle-makers who are above this sort of thing; but we know, from practical experience, that there are others who will "run down" any novelty, however good, if they think it will injure the sale of their own goods.

KING'S LYNN ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

THE first annual meeting of the members of this association was held at the Town Hall, Lynn, on Wednesday evening. Mr. F. Ludby, the president, took the chair, and called upon

Mr. H. Bradfield (hon. secretary), who read the following report:—

The committee have much pleasure in reporting to the members at the close of the first year of the association. The year has been eminently successful, and they believe the association has been established upon a sure and sound basis. They take this the first public opportunity of acknowledging the many kindnesses shown, and the help so freely given on all sides, since the commencement of their term of office in January last.

The first work of the committee, after organising the association, was the provision of angling for the members, and they at once entered into negociations for the hire of about ten miles of the fishing in the Middle Level Main Drain, which they secured for the year to March, 1882, at £10; and they look upon this hiring with some degree of satisfaction, as it has been much fished by the members, and has been productive of what may be considered good sport, if the generally unfavourable season for angling is taken into consideration,—the reports from all parts of the country showing that the past season has been anything but a favourable one for sport.

The next work of the committee was the securing of the fishing in the waters of the Corporation, and an agreement was entered into with the Corporation for the hire of their part of the Gaywood river at a nominal rent for the first two years, subject to certain conditions as to stocking the same with trout.

The riparian owners of those parts of the river above the part owned by the Corporation were then asked for their support and co-operation, which they most readily promised; and offers of help towards stocking the river with trout were received by the committee. During the past year presents of trout were received from Mr. C. W. Harding and from Mr. B. Littlewood, of Huddersfield; and promises for this year have been received from Mr. Burkitt and Mr. Archer. The committee feel sanguine that, with this help, and the number of trout they will be able to hatch and turn into the river themselves, there is every prospect of this part of the work proving a success, and they believe that the river will be productive of good sport in the course of fifteen months from the present time. The Marquis of Cholmondeley has very kindly made over to the association his fishing rights in the river at Grimston, &c., and this has enabled the committee to protect the river at a part where it is of vital importance that it should be thoroughly protected, viz., on the spawning beds. Hitherto this part of the river has been seriously poached, but the committee now believe that to be all at an end, as the Earl of Romney's and Mr. Anthony Hamond's keepers will protect it against poaching.

The agreement with the Corporation also gives to the association the control of the fishing in the Walks Rivulet, the Long Pond and the Loke, and it is provided that the association shall stock, and keep continually well stocked, the same, for the angling of inhabitants of the borough generally, free of charge. It has been the desire of the committee to loyally observe and carry out this provision; and in March last the Gaywood river was dragged, and the fish then obtained were turned into the ponds and rivulets, with the result that, notwithstanding the unfavourableness of the season, the fishing, so far at least as the Long Pond is concerned, has been far better than previous years.

In addition to the fish obtained from the Gaywood river, a handsome present of golden tench was received from Lord Walsingham, and turned into the Long Pond. They were a splendid lot of stock fish, and the committee feel satisfied that if they are properly protected for a time, the pond will be found to be well stocked with them.

It may be as well to mention here the subject of protection of the fish in the rivulet and ponds, as complaints have reached the committee that the association have not done anything to enforce their rules, regulating the fishing, or taken any steps to punish any infringement of them; but the committee having stocked the waters, and put up notice boards regulating the fishing in the interests of the public in general, the public should see to it that their part of the obligation is fulfilled, by insisting that all who angle in these waters shall conform to the rules, and by immediately reporting to the association any breach of them. During the past year two or three cases were reported to the committee, but the information was so vaguely and tardily given that it was found to be useless to proceed against the offenders. The committee would strongly impress upon the minds of all who angle in these waters, that it is absolutely necessary for their own interests that they should see the rules strictly observed and carried out by one and all. In consequence of an unfortunate accident on the railway, the fishing in the lower part of the Walks rivulet has been utterly ruined for the present, but it is hoped that the water can be restocked in the course of a few months at a small expense. The committee take this opportunity of acknowledging the promptness with which the Great Eastern Railway Company made recompense for the damage caused by the accident, and, although it has been very much the fashion to decry the Great Eastern Railway Company, the committee can speak in far different strains, as the company have readily met their wishes in every way, by stopping trains at Middle Drove station for the convenience of anglers, and by granting return tickets at single fares to many of the stations round Lynn, and the same privileges are promised for 1882.

The committee have received the permission of several gentlemen in the neighbourhood to take trout ova from their trout streams for artificial hatching, and Mr. C. W. Harding has undertaken the obtaining of the ova, and has put up an additional apparatus for the hatching of it when obtained. Trips have been made to Heacham, Castleacre and Westacre, but at present without success, owing to the want of knowledge of the habits of fish by the keepers. It is necessary that the fish should be very carefully watched to hit the right time for obtaining the spawn, but reliable information as to the time of spawning is not to be obtained; and to show this, the committee may state that two authorities on the same river, and only two or three miles distant from each other, differ to the extent of three or four months in fixing the time at which the trout spawn.

Although Mr. Harding has so kindly offered to hatch off a large quantity of ova for the association, the committee have deemed it advisable to put up a hatching apparatus of their own, and this they have done at the Lynn museum, where they trust it will prove a source of attraction and instruction.

It will be remembered that one of the principal reasons for the formation of an angling association for the borough was that the fishing in the Nar should be secured on the completion of the Nar Valley Drainage Scheme. There is now every probability of that scheme being carried out, and the committee have therefore sent in an application to the Commissioners for the hire of the fishing, and they trust that before the end of 1882 it will be secured to the association.

The committee have much pleasure in reporting that the members numbered 132 in 1881; and they trust that all those who take a delight in angling, or wish to encourage the pursuit of the amusement in others, will heartily give their support in 1882, and so enable the association to extend their sphere of usefulness.

The Secretary, continuing, said: That is the report of the committee, but I would like to supplement it by a few remarks. If the members wish to see the association a great success, they should not only join it themselves, but induce their friends and others to join also; there must be many in a town like Lynn who will gladly assist us if the matter is only brought to their notice personally. The committee have done, and I have no doubt will continue to do, what they can in this way, but what is wanted is the earnest assistance of each member. The degree of success is governed by the means at the disposal of the association, and if members will endeavour to place larger means in the hands of the committee, so as to enable them to take advantage of the many opportunities open to the association, the result will be that anglers will have everything in the way of sport they can desire. Within the last few days I have received a letter from the Marquis of Exeter's pisciculturist, informing me of his intention to start for America in August next for the purpose of bringing over some more black bass, and offering to bring some for us at the sams time. This is an opportunity for obtaining this really excellent fish—both from an edible and a sporting point of view—that may never occur again; but I imagine the committee, bearing in mind the probable requirements of the future, will hardly be in a position to avail themselves of it, unless there is a large increase in the income of the present year over that of last year. It will be matter for regret if this is so, as there is some probability that Mr. Harding would be able to obtain a present of black bass from Professor Baird or Mr. Fred. Mather, of the United States Fish Commission, and so save the association the cost of the fish and their capture in America. Some people express their anxiety about the Nar, and say: "Oh! I'll join when you've got the Nar." Well, that is all very good as far as it goes, but why not join at once, and put the matter beyond doubt by putting the committee in such a position that they can not only hire the Nar but other waters also? (Applause.) I beg to call the attention of the members to the notice on the back of their cards as to the issue of anglers' tickets by the Railway Company. In addition to the stations there mentioned, the company have agreed to issue anglers' tickets to North Wootton and Heacham. These tickets to the latter place will effect a saving on spawning trips, and the addition of North Wootton to the list will probably be appreciated by several of our members. (Applause.) I have also been in communition with a postmaster in the town for the purpose of obtaining similar privileges on the hire of traps as the Railway Company give in railway tickets, and I have great pleasure in reporting that he offers to the members conveyances on very reasonable terms. (Applause.) I think I may say that we are now fairly started on our hatching operations; 5000 trout eggs were sent off from the Howietown fishery, Stirling, yesterday afternoon at 5.19, and were received at Mr. Harding's office at 11 this morning. Mr. Harding will hatch off 3000 of these, and the remainder, 2000, have been put in the hatching troughs at the museum. (Applause.)

The Chairman said he thought it was a very satisfactory report for so young an association. He hoped they would gather strength in the future; and all they needed to ensure success was unity of action.

Mr. J. T. Lindsey then read the statement of accounts which showed a balance in hand of £11 9s. 8d. The total amount of receipts during the year was £49 12s. 6d.

The Chairman moved the adoption of the report, which was seconded by Mr. I. Rix and agreed to.

Various alterations having been made in the rules, the meeting next proceeded to the election of officers, Mr. Ludby being re-elected president, Mr. Weston Jarvis treasurer, Mr. Fitt auditor, and Mr. Bradfield hon. secretary. A committee of twelve was also chosen. Hearty votes of thanks were accorded to Mr. Ludby and Mr. Bradfield for their past services; and it was agreed to hold an anniversary dinner during the present month.

A vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the proceedings.

Reference was made during the meeting to some unpleasantness with Mr. Baker, of Wisbech, the hirer of a portion of the fishing in the Middle Level, which he had sublet to the association at £10 per annum. It appeared that Mr. Baker had since netted the waters, for which the association claimed compensation. The difference, we are told, was amicably settled on Thursday morning.—*Lynn Advertiser*.

JOHN RIDD'S ADVENTURE WHILE LOACH-CATCHING.

From "Lorna Doone" by R. D. BLACKMORE.

(*Continued from page* 8).

FOR now the day was falling fast behind the brow of the hill-tops; and the trees, being void of leaf and hard, seemed giants ready to beat me. And every moment, as the sky was clearing up for a white frost, the cold of the water got worse and worse, until I was fit to cry with it. And so, in a sorry plight, I came to an opening in the bushes, where a great black pool lay in front of me, whitened with snow (as I thought) at the sides, till I saw it was only foam-froth.

Now, though I could swim with great ease and comfort, and feared no depth of water, when I could fairly come to it, yet I had no desire to go over head and ears into this great pool, being so cramped and weary, and cold enough in all conscience, though wet only up to the middle, not counting my arms and shoulders. And the look of this black pit was enough to stop one from diving into it, even on a hot summer's day with sunshine on the water, I mean if the sun ever shone there. As it was, I shuddered and drew back, not alone at the pool itself and the black air there was about it, but also at the whirling manner, and wisping of white threads upon it in stripy circles round and round; and the centre still as jet.

But soon I saw the reason of the stir and depth of that great pit, as well as of the roaring sound which long had made me wonder. For skirting round one side, with very little comfort, because the rocks were high and steep, and the ledge at the foot so narrow, I came to a sudden sight and marvel, such as I never dreamed of. For lo! I stood at the foot of a long pale slide of water, coming smoothly to me, without any break or hindrance for a hundred yards or more, and fenced on either side with cliff, sheer, and, straight, and shining. The water neither ran nor fell, nor leaped with any spouting, but made one even slope of it, as if it had been combed or planed, and looking like a plank of deal laid down a deep black staircase. However, there was no side-rail, nor any place to walk upon, only the channel a fathom wide, and the perpendicular walls of crag shutting out the evening.

The look of this place had a sad effect, scaring me very greatly, and making me feel that I would give something only to be at home again, with Annie cooking my supper, and our dog, "Watch," sniffing upward. But nothing would come of wishing, that I had long found out; and it only made me one the less inclined to work without white feather. So I laid the case before me in a little council—not for loss of time, but only that I wanted rest and to see things truly.

Then says I to myself: "John Ridd, these trees, and pools, and lonesome rocks, and setting of the sunlight, are making a gruesome coward of thee. Shall I go back to my mother so, and be called her fearless boy?"

Nevertheless, I am free to own that it was not any fine sense of shame which settled my decision, for indeed there was nearly as much danger in going back as in going on, and perhaps even more of labour, the journey being so round-about. But that which saved me from turning back was a strange inquisitive desire, very unbecoming in a boy of little years; in a word, I would risk a great deal to know what made the water come down like that, and what there was at the top of it.

Therefore, seeing hard strife before me, I girt up my breeches anew, with each buckle one hole tighter, for the sodden straps were stretching and giving, and mayhap my legs were grown smaller from the coldness of it. Then I bestowed my fish around my neck more tightly, and, not stopping to look much for fear of fear, crawled along over the fork of rocks, where the water had scooped the stone out, and shunning thus the ledge from whence it rose, like the mane of a white horse into the broad black pool, softly I let my feet into the dip and rush of the torrent.

And here I had reckoned without my host, although (as I thought) so clever, and it was much but that I went down into the great black pool and had never been heard of more; and this must have been the end of me, except for my trusty loach-fork, for the green waves came down like great bottles upon me, and my legs were gone off in a moment, and I had not time to cry out with wonder; only to think of my mother and Annie, and knock my head very sadly, which made it go round so that brains were no good, even if I had any. But all in a moment, before I knew aught, except that I must die out of the way, with a roar of water upon me, my fork, praise God, stuck fast in the rock, and I was borne up upon it. I felt nothing except that here was another matter to begin upon, and it might be worth while, or it might not, to have another fight for it. But presently the dash of the water upon my face revived me, and my mind grew used to the roar of it, and meseemed I had been worse off than this when first flung into the Lowman.

Therefore, I gathered my legs back slowly as if they were fish to be landed, stopping whenever the water flew too strongly off my shin-bones, and coming along without sticking out to let the wave get hold of me. And in this manner I won a footing, leaning well forward like a draught-horse, and balancing on my strength as it were, with the ashen stake set behind me. Then I said to myself, "John Ridd, the sooner you get yourself out by the way you came the better it will be for you." But to my great dismay and affright, I saw that no choice was left me now, except that I must climb somehow up that hill of water, or else be washed down into the pool, and whirl around it till it drowned me. For there was no chance of fetching back by the way I had gone down into it, and further up was a hedge of rock on either side of the water-way, rising a hundred yards in height, and, for all I could tell, five hundred, and no place to set a foot in.

Having said the Lord's Prayer (which was all I knew), and made a very bad job of it, I grasped the good loach-stick under a knot, and steadied me with my left hand, and so, with a sigh of despair, began my course up the fearful torrent way. To me it seemed half-a-mile, at least, of sliding water above me, but in truth it was little more than a furlong, as I came to know afterwards. It would have been a hard ascent even without the slippery slime and the force of the river over it, and I had scanty hope indeed of ever winning the summit. Nevertheless, my terror left me now I was face to face with it, and had to meet the worst, and I set myself to do my best with a vigour and sort of hardness which did not then surprise me, but have done so ever since.

The water was only six inches deep, or from that to nine at the utmost, and all the way up I could see my feet looking white in the gloom of the hollow, and here and there I found a resting-place, to hold on by the cliff and pant awhile. And gradually, as I went on, a warmth of courage breathed in me, to think that perhaps no other had dared to try that pass before me, and to wonder what mother would say to it. And then came thought of my father also, and the pain of my feet abated.

How I went carefully, step by step, keeping my arms in front of me, and never daring to straighten my knees, is more than I can tell clearly, or even like now to think of, because it makes me dream of it. Only I must acknowledge that the greatest danger of all was just where I saw no jeopardy, but ran up a patch of black ooze-weed in a very boastful manner, being now not far from the summit.

Here I fell very piteously, and was like to have broken my knee-cap, and the torrent got hold of my other leg while I was indulging the bruised one. And then a vile knotting of cramp disabled me, and for awhile I could only roar, till my mouth was full of water, and all of my body was sliding. But the fright of that brought me to again, and my elbow caught in a rock-hole, and so I managed to start again, with the help of more humility.

Now being in the most dreadful fright, because I was so near the top, and hope was beating within me, I laboured hard with both legs and arms, going like a mill and grunting. At last the rush of forked water, where first it came over the lips of the fall, drove me into the middle, and I stuck awhile with my toe-balls on the slippery links of the pop-weed, and the world was green and gliddery, and I durst not look behind me. Then I made up my mind to die at last, for so my legs would ache no more, and my breath not pain my heart so; only it did seem such a pity, after fighting so long, to give in, and the light was coming upon me, and again I fought towards it. Then suddenly I felt fresh air and fell into it headlong.

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

My business in this state
Made me a "looker-on."

—SHAKESPEARE.

Thames fishermen can only look on despondingly at the river, which is now, as per usual at this time of the year, of the proverbial pea-soup consistence—its thickness being daily added to by continuous rains. Anglers have come and anglers have gone from most of the best stations on the upper and mid-Thames during the past week, and left not a trace behind them, except possibly a cuss deep, but not loud, a box of gentles, and a squashy bran-besprinkled quagmire behind a bush. I have infinitesimal takes of roach and chub sent to me to report, but the items are not worth recording, unless I was "raving in the lunacy of ink," which I am not at the present moment, in consequence of having to contend with bad materials all round. The river is really fishable for bankmen, but I cannot conscientiously advise a long journey this way—which might certainly only end in discomfiture. Another week without much rain and the river will be in superb order for winter fishing.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Thames (Goring).

Water very high and thick, shall have a flood again. Prospects for the next few days look bad unless better weather. Nothing has been doing here this week, water has been too thick.—JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Richmond).

The river, since my last report, has been very high and thick in colour, but has made a start to abate now, and by Sunday will be in fair fishing order if we get no more rain to upset it again. The bank anglers have had a good time of it, some of them getitng some very good roach out of the eddies along the banks. The punt fishing during the week has been as follows:—C. Brown, two days, best day, 3 dozen roach and dace; H. Mansell, two days, 5 dozen dace; H. Howard, one day, 2 dozen dace; H. Wheeler, two days, 4 dozen roach and dace; Toby Brain, two days, 12 lb. roach; J. Bushnell, three days, best day 15 lb. bream. On Tuesday evening, the Thames Angling Preservation Society gave a dinner to their keepers and those who assisted them in their duties in preventing the illegal fishing in the Thames, and to all the lock-keepers and Thames Conservancy river keepers, as far up the river as Bell Weir Lock, at the Station Hotel, with Mr. Spreckley in the chair, and Mr. W. H. Brougham in the vice-chair. Mr. Monro put a good old-fashioned dinner before the keepers of the fishes, which I believe every one enjoyed; after which a very enjoyable evening was spent in harmony. When the Act of Parliament was called, at eleven o'clock, it seemed too early to leave such good company, but it was as well, perhaps, as some of the keepers had a long way to go to their homes. Hoping to have the pleasure of seeing the same faces again for many years to come.—JOHN BUSHNELL.

Thames (Walton).

Water rising all the week; wind, S.W. to W., and in turns N.W. Water rather thick, but in good condition for jack and perch if they would only bite. Water falling and clearing a bit; with slight frosts and dry weather the water will be in good condition for anything, and this, I think, will be the latter end of the week. Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday no fishing. Sunday, off the bank, one jack, 2 lb., 1 do. 3 lb., 1 do. 4½ lb.; Monday, Mr. Mackerell, with Geo. Hone, one bream, 4 lb. (a beauty), and one chub, 1 lb.; water rising knocked them off; Tuesday, no fishing; Wednesday, bank, two perch, undersized, put back.—HENRY E. WOOD.

Thames (Windsor).

Water still very much discoloured, but has quite left the banks, so that bank anglers can get about now. If we have no more rain, the water will be in excellent trim next week, and good jack fishing will be had, also perch and roach, though some of our best water for chub has suffered severely from the taking away of the overhanging boughs, &c. At present the tail end of a lob worm is the best all-round bait. Sport has been poor here; only small bags of roach, perch and chub being had, and a friend of mine has lately had few small barbel.—B. R. BAMBRIDGE.

Ancholme.

Though the continued fine weather has been all that we could desire for angling at this season of the year, I have not heard of a single rod being out during the past week. The pike ought now to run pretty freely at the spoon or natural bait There is sometimes a difficulty in getting natural bait when wanted. It is a good plan for anglers who come from a distance to bring suitable live or dead baits with them. There is then no delay in commencing operation.—THOMAS FORD.

Dove.

Though we have had no frost, grayling fishing has improved since I last wrote. This week the fish have been rising well to the rough bumble and the February reds. The latter flies are now on the water, which is much before their usual time, and is accounted for by the extraordinary mildness of the weather. The baskets during the last few days have averaged from five to eight brace. I should not be at all surprised if the present warm temperature of the weather continues to find the blue duns out before long. The river has run down into very nice fly-fishing order, but I cannot hear of any great quantity of coarse fish being captured. The best dishes have consisted of roach, bream, and perch, which are taking the cockspur worm best. Pike are not running in anything like their usual form, and our jack fishers are loud in their complaints about the badness of their luck amongst the genus of this water. Let us hope matters will improve before the close season puts a stop to angling.—THE SPLODGER.

Ilfracombe (N. Devon).

Streams are very high for any fresh-water fishing, and in sea-fishing there is very little doing, a few fine cod has been taken with ground lines, also a few conger and ling. Two large skate was brought in on Tuesday weighing about 60lb. each, a crab was caught with hook and line weighing 5lb., there have been a few conger and ling caught from the pier and jetty with hand lines, one boat was out Wednesday morning and had a short drift with three nets and brought in two herrings, plainly showing they have taken their departure for this season, weather mild for the present.—E. COMER.

Lea (Rye House).

The water has been very thick the last three days, but it is clearing off now, and it will be fit for fishing by Saturday or Sunday. Wind south-west and very mild. There were some nice roach taken out of the Stort on Sunday.

Medway (Tonbridge).

The river, true to its name, is still the Mudway, and there will be no fishing for a week at least.—YE THAMES WATER-RAT.

Trent (Nottingham).

There have not been many anglers out on the Trent during the past week. Heavy rains on Sunday brought down a big rise, and until Wednesday the river was scarcely fishable. On that day—and a glorious spring day it was—some small lots of roach and dace were taken with the cockspur worm at Radcliffe bend and in the quiet nooks at Wilford. Considerable curiosity has been evinced at the clubs to get a glimpse at a very large pike which, accounts go to prove, was killed on Tuesday in a private lake in the Worksop district. The fish weighed 26¼ lb., and measured round the girth 23½ inches. The actual length measurement being 3 feet 5 inches. Mr. Stanley, the well-known animal and fish preserver of this town, is now busily engaged in setting it up; and, in addition, he has three others, weighing in the aggregate upwards of 43 lb. The recent warm nights have set lamprey eels running, and large quantities continue to be taken on the weirs in this neighbourhood. On Thursday the water was improving, and prospects are more favourable.—THE MAN AT THE CLUBS.

Trent (Newark).

The river has been in a state of flood all the week, and nothing much has been done in the way of sport. I heard of one of our anglers having 10 lb. of roach last Friday; but I have not seen a catch anything like that, a few roach and dace have been had with cockspur worms for bait, but the numbers have only been very meagre. I got a 5 lb. jack last Saturday, live-baiting, out of a backwater. At the time of writing, Thursday night, the water is going down very nicely, and if the present condition of things should continue, and the wind and weather as at present, it ought to be in fairish condition by Saturday, and anglers who have a few gentles, ought to get a few roach and dace, only they must use groundbait very sparingly, a little bran and bread mixed will be the best; failing gentles, a few cockspur worms will be nearly as good. Chub fishers can renew operations in a few days, the last heavy floods have driven many of the jack into the backwaters, and anglers will have to look for them there, and try them live-baiting, but only for another week or two; they are very forward this year, and ought very soon to be let alone and left to follow their domestic operations in peace. Thursday night, water improving nicely; if only Jupiter Pluvius will grant us a truce, I think we shall be able to have a little sport.—THE TRENT OTTER.

Tweed and Teviot.

During the past ten days both these rivers have, owing to the openness of the weather, afforded excellent opportunities for bait-fishers enjoying their pastime, and many have taken advantage of the chance. Fair baskets have been got in both rivers, and the floods of the past week have very materially helped the angler to fill his creel. Although angling with roe is strictly prohibited and against the Act of Parliament, still it is very much used in this neighbourhood, and as it is a most deadly bait, many baskets said to be killed with worms, are got with "putty." These roe fishers are every now and again caught by the water bailiffs, but many get off scot free, as it is a most difficult duty to get near these persons when angling with the "doctor," as it is locally called. The work of salmon spawning goes on apace, the "beds" being literally covered with fish, all bent on nature's duty, and should the present great show of fish be any criterion for the forthcoming season, great hopes are entertained that the salmon angling of 1882 will be as successfnl as that of 1881. The fungoid disease, which was very prevalent about a month or six weeks ago in the river, has greatly abated, and the frequent floods we have had have been of great benefit in clearing the river of the disease and weak fish, and also of taking the early spawned ones down to the sea. Of course the weather has had much to do with the early and successful spawning of the salmon (and I may here state that the spawners have all but completed their work, and spawning for this season will be all over in about a fortnight), as up to the present time we have had neither frost, snow or ice, this being a different state of things from last season, when the Tweed and Teviot had at this date been ice-bound from bank to bank for nearly a month.—ANGLER.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

The weather during the past week (with the exception of to-day, Thursday) has been more like the middle of April than the second week in January. What with the weather being so delightful and the river in fair order for all kinds of angling, a good many anglers have been out, and most of them have made a very good beginning, both with fly and bottom fishing. Last Saturday a Nottingham angler killed 6½ brace of grayling and eight brace of nice roach and dace, on the Derwent, with maggots for bait; and several other anglers have been killing a great quantity of roach and dace, and a few grayling and perch, with both brandling worms and maggots, the gentles taking the greatest quantity of fish. The fish have fed the best in the swims close to the rough streams, with a gravelly or sandy bottom, and have taken a swimming bait the best. Yesterday, Wednesday, there was several of the old hands out trying their skill with the fly, both on the Wye and also on the Derwent (Chatsworth fishery), and most of them succeeded in killing a few brace of grayling with furnace and dyed hackle flies. The fish rose the best in the deep, slow runs, and in the tails of the stream, and rose the best from one to three. The pike fishers on the Derwent have taken a few pike round and about Whatstandwell, with both trolling and live bait fishing, with small dace for bait. Good sport ought to be had next week on the Wye with the fly.

Yore (Yorkshire).

Still nothing doing in this district, as during the past fortnight a succession of heavy floods have prevailed; even the bottom fishers have not had a chance of getting to the river.—Francis M. Walbram.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

Most anglers one meets are wearing very long faces. "Very worst season I ever knew," says each, adding dolefully, "and this is a lively look out for the finish, isn't it?"

With rivers in heavy flood, water the colour of clay, meadows and lowlands adjoining the said rivers all under water, it is quite a treat to have a few recent good takes to chronicle.

Mr. Wainwright, of the Dalston Angling Club, is credited with the capture of a 20 lb. pike.

Mr. Latham with that of nine perch from the Ouse, weighing in the gross 32 lb.; this gives an average of about 3 lb. 9 oz. per fish. Query.—Are they entitled at that weight to rank as pike, or are they still "jack"?

Among the Good Intents again I hear of Mr. Saunders having 12 lb. of handsome perch. But the best bit of news comes for Hurley, where in one day's fishing from a punt Mr. ——— managed to well 50 lb. of handsome roach and perch; a brother bob, hailing from the same society, fishing from the bank, succeeding in basketing 29 lb. of roach and perch. There have been a number of good takes from here lately, though, of course, the above two stand a long way ahead of anything else at present. I cannot help doing a mild crow over Hurley, it has been my tip to the readers of the F. G. all the season, and that a good many were aware of it besides myself is evident from the fact that during Christmas week, at the inn where my informant put up, there were over thirty anglers staying, for whom beds had to be made up on the floor, tables, &c. Remember, however, that Hurley is nearly six miles from Maidenhead; the price asked my informant and friends for a trap being 7s. 6d.; though, for the return journey, they were informed they could procure one for 5s.

Now for the history of two sad failures. I give no names, doing so might seem like putting pepper and vinegar into an open sore.

1st scene, Tring Reservoir; piscators in punt some considerable distance from bank, pike-fishing in very deep water. 1st piscator, with heavy fish on: "Now, put the gaff together and stand ready." 2nd piscator, or keeper, I am not sure which: "Oh! no, I have a net here big enough to land the heaviest fish in the water." Fish fairly killed, netted, and lifted some inches above the surface of his native element; net was very rotten, fish fell through, broke away. He is said to have measured quite—really I am afraid to say, lest the readers of the F. G. should think I am romancing—and, as to his weight, the lowest estimate is 30 lb. The moral to be drawn—but no, the moral is self-evident, rather let us draw the curtain.

About the second failure I will quote from a contemporary, though I have heard accounts of it from other quarters:—"At St. Margaret's an angler, who was live gorge-bait fishing, hooked what he thought was either a pike or a bullock, and was so excited that he called loudly for assistance. Several anglers near quickly made to the spot, and, his rod being seized by Mr. Flymey Da Bosta, that excitable piscator cleverly brought it to the side, and it proved to be a trout that all over would have weighed 12 lb. or 14 lb. Not liking the look of the company, his troutship gave a last despairing leap, and, presto! snap went the gimp. The party who hooked it repeated the Commandments in six different languages, and when he was sufficiently composed remarked that, as he found the fish he certainly ought to have some of the pleasurable pain of losing it."

A trout with a live bait gorge-hook in his gullet stands a poor chance, and is almost certain to die a miserable, lingering death.

The St. Margaret trout seem very unfortunate. I recollect some years ago, one bitterly cold winter's evening, being shown one in Mrs. Durnell's cottage, it was a long, thin, ill-coloured fish, which, speaking from memory, weighed 7½ lb., and should, if in condition, have weighed 10 lb. It had that day been taken paternostering at the mouth of the Magnum Stream, by Mr. Imey da Costa—beyond doubt the same gentleman above referred to. The reason given for its retention being that the hook was deeply embedded in the gullet. Howbeit, that trout haunted me all night; laid in a white cloth, it looked more like an ugly, gunpowder-blackened corpse in its winding-sheet, than anything else.

Undismayed by their previous want of success, at least in the case of the two last-named gentlemen, Messrs. Hobden, Geen and Pitts determined upon another trip to Evesham. With what result may be judged from the following extract from a letter just received from Mr. Hobden:—"Wednesday, the 4th, was a grand day, and on our journey down we noticed that wherever we sighted the river it was well within banks, and of a good colour; but above Oxford we found it all over the meadows and in flood. Now the moral of this is that the condition of the water below is no criterion of what it is above Oxford, and the information may be of use to many anglers, as it does not seem a fact generally known even to very experienced Thames anglers. Mr. Geen, for instance, would not hear of its being a flood above until he saw it by means of a punt, with which we reached the lock. Messrs. Geen and Pitts managed slyly to annex my favourite swim, where there was a coign of vantage in the form of a bit of dry bank. Retribution followed sure and quick, for the punt having drifted away, they had to wade back to the lock, a distance of nearly half a mile. Sweet, however, are the uses of adversity, for when the two above-mentioned anglers reached terra firma, and had got their boots on again, they discovered that their previously numbed extremities were now warm as toast. Just as well, as on this occasion there was no kind-hearted Mrs. Sawyer handy to supply hot water and nice dry, warm stockings." About half-a-dozen roach and perch constituted the two days' joint take of the worthy trio.

On Tuesday, 17th, the annual supper of the Westbourne Park Piscatorial is announced to take place at their headquarters, the Pelican, All Saints Road, Wesbourne Park, and after the spread the Westbourne Park Piscatorials will be glad to welcome any brother bob who can spare time to drop in and sing, or listen to, a good song.

Haslett, the well-known Chertsey pro., writes:—"There has not been much doing, old 'Father Thames' changes his moods so often one scarcely knows when to have him. Fishing at odd times with Mr. Allen I have had some good roach and a few perch, some of the former going 1 lb. and over. The water came down thick again yesterday (Tuesday), but if we have no more rain it should be right by the beginning of next week.

On Monday evening next a joint meeting of the committee of the East and West Central, and it is hoped of the Central, or Third, Association, will be held at the Portman Arms, Great Quebec Street, to consider what united action should be taken by London club anglers to further the proposed scheme for the culture of "coarse fish," and the renting of suitable waters within a reasonable distance of London.

Re the spawning of dace. I don't wish to go at length into this question, as I feel convinced in my own mind that there are two sets of spawning fish, and for once I cannot agree with our editor "that these late spawners are fish which from some cause or another were prevented from spawning with the general body in the spring," for is it probable that fish which had been maturing spawn for several months, and had only been prevented from shedding it "from some cause or another" with the rest of their kind in the spring, should retain it some four or five months and quietly deposit it in the autumn? No, I am strongly of opinion that the regularity with which this late contingent spawn year by year points clearly to the fact that they were never intended to spawn, nor were they ready to, in the spring, and that doing so in the autumn is in accordance with a doubtless wise law of nature, though the benefit thereof is not as yet understood. I have not as yet heard any one advance the theory that the same fish spawned twice, and all who have written in the Gazette have carefully guarded against anything which could be so construed.

All who know Mr. C. P. Wheatstone, the president of the Stanley Anglers, a thorough sportsman, and ever foremost in anything having for object the advancement of angling interests, will be very grieved to hear he is laid-up from an accident resulting in a broken rib, dislocated shoulder, and injury to the muscles of the chest, and will wish him an easy and speedy recovery.

It is with feelings of deep sorrow all who know Mr. Greville Fennell will hear of the sad loss he has sustained by the death of his wife, who had been the sharer of his joys and sorrows for over 50 years.

MR. GREVILLE FENNELL.

Just as we are going to press, we hear the sad news that Mr. Greville Fennell has lost his wife. Every angler will share our sympathy for one who thus loses the loving companion of fifty years of married life.

UNITED BROTHERS.

Several of our members were out on Sunday, the 8th inst., but only one turned up in time to weigh—W. Tyler, with a few very handsome roach, from the Thames. The members will fish a pegged-down match on Sunday next, the 15th, for five very useful articles, given by members. Water to be named on Saturday, the 14th.—William Belton.

Jan. 11.

SECRETARY WANTED.

An angler to take the secretaryship of an angling society already formed and enrolled, situated in the neighbourhood of the Hackney Road. For further information apply to R. Ghurney, 10, Baches Street, Charles Square, Hoxton, N.

Billingsgate Market.—Messrs. Hewett and Co's steamers only are now running to Billingsgate. A correspondent says that when they convey their fish to the market at Shadwell, which they contemplate doing, there will be obviously little or no necessity to retain Billingsgate as a water-side market.—*City Press.*

Gregory's Spinning Baits. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by he press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived. Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[Advt.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

F. HUGHES.—We have made inquiries and cannot find that the address you give is correct, and your name is not in the Directory. Under these circumstances we must decline to insert your remarks; but for your own edification may inform you that Mr. Jardine is strongly against the use of two rods, and both he and Mr. Knechtli took their splendid lot of jack all in two days, and on single gut traces, using only one rod apiece, and picked their fish out of clear though flooded water by hard fishing, mostly from eddies and corners. The fish were caught either by spinning or paternoster, or by live-snap. It reminds us forcibly of the fable of the fox and the grapes when we hear anglers running down a successful take, which everybody knows they would sell their clothes to be able to equal.

PISCATOR, Nottingham.—The longest throw with the pike-bait at the FISHING GAZETTE Tournament was made by Mr. Little.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

WANDERINGS—VERY MUCH WANDERINGS.

BY A THAMES FISHERMAN.

SIR,—I have wasted the past half hour the victim of a severe fit of indecision as to which of the many reaches where the swims are familiar to me, shall be the subject of this letter. I have now so far recovered as to be able to determine that I must, to be methodical, start from one of the ends of the stretch of water which I have already written you a description of. Shall it be up, from Old Windsor Weir towards the river's rise; or down, from Egham Lock towards its fall? That's the question, to decide which I may yet have to consult a flight of birds, draw lots, or spin a copper. Down stream is homeward to me; down past Staines, the Hook, Laleham, Borough Head, Chertsey weir and bridge, past Domsey, Hatches Boughs, Docket, and on to Shepperton, Halliford, and Walton; at each of these places every tree, bush, gate, or other landmark, is occasionally requisitioned to aid me in fixing my poles in the exact spot necessary for the successful fishing of each pitch. Let it be a shallow, a deep, a straight run, or an eddy, its depth and the nature of its under crust are as well known to me as the particular fish which they are most likely to produce. Yes, down-stream letters will be an easy pleasant task, and I hope they may prove interesting to my readers; but, before I decide to go down, let me just think a moment or two of the many happy profitable days that I have spent between the beautiful banks of the up-stream reaches. Up through Datchet, noted for its drain-fed, dropsical roach, and the first of that much-loved human species, the riparian owner, in the person of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen. When His Royal Highness does me the honour to have a a day with me, I shall do my very best to give such a jolly good Prince a day's sport: but, by all that's in me, I shall try ever so much harder to induce him to ask his royal mother to give the word that shall open the towpath between the Albert and Victoria bridges, for, so long as this remains closed, we are in imminent danger of being ordered off from some other portions that I could name.

Up through Windsor, with its unrivalled walks and scenery, its first-class barbel, jack, and chub fishing; its numerous bank swims; its choice of railways, and its indifferent preservation society. Through Maidenhead, Cookham, and Marlow, the much-frequented haunts of oarsmen, artists, tourists, and pleasure-seekers of all sorts and conditions, from the boisterous beanfeasters to the "too-too" loving couples discovered here and there, hid away amongst the osiers and bullrushes. On to Henley for its monster chub, Sonning for its barbel, Pangbourne for its roach, Goring for its perch, Moulsford and Wallingford for its jack, and Shillingford for another grand day amongst the barbel, which are veritable innocents compared with those down Chertsey way. At Clieveden, we must have a few hours amongst the shoals of big perch, but we will quickly pass the much-poached waters of Abingdon. A day we will spend—if it please you —at Oxford, and then on to the strictly preserved waters of Eynsham; a day or two here if you can spare them, and, if possible, let's on to Lechlade. Then right-about-face homewards, fishing each and every good swim discovered during the up-stream travels.

Shall I ever do this journey o'er again, except in my smoky musings or in my pleasant dreams? It's no longer the correct thing to spend a holiday like this; slaves of fashion have no choice, they must rush here and there, doing ever so many thousands of miles in no time. Just fancy the horror of a modern somebody at having to admit to an inquiring friend that he had not seen the briny or gone one hundred miles from home. I can, and do, forgive the pretty vain ladies who lace a little too tight; but, by Adam, I have only pity for the man who maps out his holiday trip with both eyes shut to what would be best and happiest for him.

Come, ye old patrons and lovers of the Thames, let the week preceding your next autumn holiday find you in correspondence with myself or some other professional, for an up-Thames voyage. Come singly, come in pairs, come as you will, but come. Forget, for once, the charms of Margate, Ramsgate, Brighton, and other seaside resorts; come and sniff the fresh, delicately-scented morning air, and see the sun rise in its splendour to gild the glorious panoramas of nature which will unfold themselves to your view. Trust me to know the swims for this particular season. I will put you into many a gentle, straight-run, sandy-bottomed, five-feet, rush-fringed pitch for roach; we will fill the well with these fish, and then pack a basket of the best for London. We must direct them; What name? What club? Shall I say A. J., Esq., The Gresham Ghost? Good name, yet I fear his pikey wrist has forgotten its once clever roach-strike.

The chub shall find us busy, to their great cost; we will search for them in the shallow scours underneath the trees and bushes, and a basket of them shall soon be ours.

I will have good store of minnows and you shall have perch galore; every little opening round the sedgy osier-clad islands we will try with care.

Jack you shall have. Can you spin, sirs? If not, let it be gut with a snap, as we can then return the small fish, and the large ones will give us play; don't let us sculldrag them with gimp.

I pride myself on being able to select, bait, and fish a barbel swim, therefore, rest easy on their account.

Trout you would like to fish for? So should I, but not too often, or some day I may catch one and then, what then? Why it will be a chub or jack.

Come, ye Piscatorial, Gresham, Stanley and Larkhall men, say you will for once forego the pleasures of crowded apartments, bad cooking, and a thronged beach, for the quiet health-giving up-stream reaches of Father Thames.

I remember to this day every little incident of my first fishing trip to Lechlade; how I thought each scene more beautiful than the previous one, and how each day provided a series of pictures, the faultless and striking features of which would sure to be detected and pointed out to me by my considerate customer, who, I am sorry to say, has long since done his last journey to where a written character is of no avail. But who knows that the good wishes of all those whose path he brightened may not have preceded him and made his way smooth? Picture him, kind reader, at full length along the bottom boards, his head resting on a rug, inviting me to put myself at ease. Our punt is fastened to the stern of a horse-towed barge, and, as we travelled slowly up, he said:—

"I have wandered rod in hand in many countries. I have seen much to astonish, much to admire, many scenes that were awe-inspiring, grand, and beautiful; but during all my wanderings to and fro I have never witnessed such exquisitely beautiful scenes as those we have passed through to-day, and never have I felt more supremely, lazily happy than I do at this present moment. I have fished in most of our English rivers; the Taw, Torridge, Lynn and Exe, have given me creels full of their plucky diminutive trout, and the Test has added many a dozen of grayling to my long score of captures. On the banks of the Trent I have tried my hand among the roach, chub and barbel; and in a flat-bottomed, equilateral triangle-shaped boat, locally called a raft, I have sat many a night out on the breamy Bedford Ouse, with a lantern fixed in each of the two angles facing the stream, the third angle or point being pushed into the sedges, which, fostered by the muddy banks and sluggish stream, grow to an extraordinary height. When the swim has been judiciously selected and carefully baited, the fun will be fast and furious between dark and dawn. You may safely reckon that as soon as the sun peeps out the bream will go dead off; then for breakfast and a well-earned rest.

"On the Norfolk Broads I have spent a week or two vainly hoping and trying to secure one of the mighty pike or perch which we hear so much of and never see; many health-giving days have I passed on the Lea, but I must confess that the canny fish of that river have suffered little diminution by my skill.

"I am at home on the banks of the Colne, whether it be Hythe End, Heath's, Wraysbury Mill, Walker's, Horton Mill, Dr. Meadows', Ghurney's Mill, Ward's Mill, Poyle Mill, Longford or Harmondsworth—(the two last places are not so famous for fish as for fish-poachers; here the latter are to be found as clever as generations of judicious marriages between the poaching inhabitants of the two villages, and constant practice, can make them; their skill is likely to be maintained, as a certain amount of practice is assured to them by kingly charters)—at Hubert de Burghs', Godfrey's, Iver, Uxbridge, Rickmansworth, or never-to-be-forgotten Mercers' Mill, at West Drayton, where, as a lad, my uncle, a clever angler, gave my cousin and I our first lesson in angling. I was not so unmindful of hunger at that time while the fish bit as now, and about twelve I persuaded my relatives that it was time to lunch. A veal and ham pie was produced and placed upon the low wall overlooking the mill tail; just then our tutor hooked a large chub, and as I rushed to pick up the landing net I quite forgot my hunger and the means of satisfying it; unfortunately, I touched that veal and ham pie with my elbow, and it toppled over into ten feet of water. My hunger instantly revived, and you might have heard my boyish heart go thump, thump, as I watched the swinging motions of the slowly sinking dish. A grand river for fish is the Colne, and lucky is the man who can afford to pay £30 per annum for one side only of less than half-a-mile, as does the renter of Cudham Mill water.

"The old river Wey, with its tortuous windings, poaching-proof rooty haunts, and old-fashioned scaly inhabitants, has helped me to much priceless pleasure. On many a bright autumn day I have laid me down for shade and rest between the trees that so gracefully robe its, here and there, high banks, and witnessed that which was far more pleasing and interesting to me than a Lord Mayor's procession. First to be detected by the weak eye is the chub, as it rises to be near the falling insect; and as I have stretched my neck to peer deeper, these fish have darted off, and a shoal of roach have come sailing by, the old and lazy bringing up the rear; then came a bream, the scout, no doubt. Yes; the shoal followed, demure, stately, and solemn, as the good sisters of Nazareth House. Next, a troop of minnows came gambolling in, as if just escaped from the restraint of a board school; with one solitary exception, they were as unmindful of my worm-baited hook as their predecessors. This little exception meant business, and had succeeded in getting the tail into him when some half score or more of perch chose to pass that way; need I say that the entangled minnow was cruelly deserted by all the rest, and that there was a rush at him by his five-barred enemies, the biggest of which succeeded in carrying him off—a little way.

"The sly, foxey Mole bream have put me on my mettle. Once I determined to wait upon them in a certain hole at Cobham until I did get them. Three long days I assiduously courted them, and never a bite rewarded my early, late, and constant attentions. The fourth day was preceded by a severe thunderstorm, and on reaching the river and seeing it discoloured, I considered myself released from my rash determination. Just to prove how useless it would be to fish, I put my tackle together for a swim. A couple of sweet-smelling brandlings were soon upon the hook, and, as I lowered the rod into the rest, the float cocked, and, strange to say, it immediately came up upon its side, and then slid up stream and down out of sight. It was a whacker! The bank was high, and my friend had deserted me, after the first day, with the opinion that if I kept my resolution I was settled on that swim for a month, at least. What a grand day I had, and all good fish! I went to bed that night a tired, happy man.

"After all my wanderings, numerous successes, and numberless failures, I am pleased to return to grand incomparable Old Father Thames, where I need not seek for order or rent; where all are at liberty to wet their lines in peace so long as they do not infringe those good rules laid down in the interests of fair sport.

"I sometimes ask myself if it can be possible that there are millions of toiling men whose love of nature would be as great as mine were not the beauties of spring, the fragrance of summer, and the splendour of autumn, unknown to them. Had I pen that would write, or voice that could speak, I would use them, hoping to hasten on the day, which is coming, when slavish unceasing toil will no longer be the price demanded for the bare necessities of life. Science, machinery, emigration, combination, and education, more merciful than man, are at work; and will most assuredly work out their task of lightening and redistributing the labour necessary for the life and comfort, if not of all, why then of the great majority instead of the small minority.

"Stupid fears, selfish interests, class prejudices, cruel indifference, robbery and jobbery, are clogs upon the wheels; but the wheels turn, and are bringing the day when men shall no longer live, slave, and die, without occasional communion with nature's truthful preachers.

"Can any one have witnessed, as you and I have done these ten days past, the hills, dales, woods and meads, all clothed in their gayest, pleasing at every turn—and sometimes so grouped as to cause us to stand and wonder at their beauty and grandeur—without feeling that of a certainty an all-wise Creator must have meant these scenes for truer, better men, or for all? That they may have been intended for all, and that the day may soon come when all shall have opportunities of enjoying them, is my earnest, humble, prayerful hope."

Rat tat; that's the postman, and he has brought me news that prevents my thinking or writing of anything else. For, so long as I can remember, I have derived pleasure, instruction and pluck from the writings of one of the oldest and best friends we fishermen and anglers ever had. He was, and is always, to be found fighting for the right, no matter the odds. On Saturday last he penned a letter which clearly shows his anxiety to take an active part in the coming work of remedying my "queer complaints." It was signed Greville Fennell.

"I should much like to come amongst my brother anglers, the more so as the days are getting longer, but fogs and mists tell me, at my age, that I ought to be at home. If, however, there are any early birds on your twigs which do not entail late hours, let me know and I will come. I feel, after a long life devoted to angling interests, that there is much to do, but I have the pleasing conviction that there are sincere hearts who can and will carry on the good mission." On Monday morning the following postscript was added:—"My beloved wife, after fifty years with me, died yesterday, Sunday, without a sigh."

I can only add, sir, my warmest sympathies are with Mr. Greville Fennell in this his new affliction.—I am, &c.,

A THAMES FISHERMAN.

P. S.—Permit me to thank Mr. L. B. for his kind notice of my letters. I am greatly gratified to learn through such an authority that my brother anglers are interested in my facts, incidents and "queer complaints."

MR. SACHS AND THE UNION JACK.

SIR,—In reply to Mr. Edwin Sachs' letter in FISHING GAZETTE Dec. 31st, relative to F. Buckland's last-published work, "The Natural History of British Fishes," a note appended to the preface says: "that some errata may remain uncorrected." Being the one most interested in the "weighing-in" of the 36lb. and 37lb. pikes, I can state that there is an error in Frank Buckland's article—pages 155 to 158—on "Jardine's Monster Pikes." For, as to the 36lbs., I caught it before 11 a.m. January 23rd, 1877—fished up to the evening of 24th—and then travelled fifty miles home to London with "the pike" and fifteen others weighing 80lbs., and conveyed the 36-pounder to F. Buckland's, not immediately, but fifty hours after its capture. With respect to the other pike of 37lbs., I caught it about 10 a.m., November 12th, 1879, and did not weigh it in at the "Piscatorial Society" till past 5 p.m. November 13th. Thus these two pike are credited with a loss of only 4½ *per cent.* in weight during the lapse of two and three days between catching and weighing-in, and we see from FISHING GAZETTE of December 24th, that Greville F—— says: "the loss is 15 per cent. during the first twenty-four hours after death."—I am, &c.,

A. JARDINE.

38, Old Change, E.C.

"THE UNION JACK."

SIR,—Wandering on the "Stygian shore," I met the "Ghost of Sir Thomas Gresham," and was told of the controversy in the FISHING GAZETTE relative to my own poor self. To vindicate my character as a respectable pike, enjoying the acquaintance of my grandfather of 36 lb., whom one Jardine translated to a better world—viz., his office at 38, Old Change, E.C.—I must state that, though sometimes keenly pressed by hunger, I never "gobbled up" a juvenile relative; and, with all deference to Mr. Edwin Sachs—who possibly knows much more about hunting after "mythical man-monkeys" in the Eastern Archipelago, than the catching of pike—it is, nevertheless, *a fact* that *when caught* I only weighed 21½ lb.; so perhaps Mr. Edwin Sachs (who may be a clever young naturalist) can explain how the jack in my inside could be "partly digested."—I am, &c.,

"THE GHOST OF THE UNION JACK."

From Hades, Jan. 10, 1882.

THE "F. G." TOURNAMENT TICKETS.

SIR,—I see two or three clubs demur because they are mentioned as not having sent in their tickets for the "Anglers' Tournament." Perhaps the following letter, received by me last night, from Mr. Ghurney, will explain why some of the tickets have not reached me. Our stamp was upon each wrapper that enclosed the tickets sent, so that it should have been known they came from me and returned accordingly. Then I should have been spared a lot of work and the causing offence, although none was intended; the insertion was merely to wake the clubs up to the necessity of sending the tickets in at once, so that the books might be closed.—I am, &c.,

T. HOOLE.

Anglers' Benevolent Society.

Dear Mr. Hoole,—I beg to inform you that I have received 6d. for ticket from Mr. Marston from the Acorn, he also has received stamps from the Social Brothers and the Hampstead. Tickets returned from The Anglers' Pride and The Havelock. This society has been defunct two years.—Yours truly,

R. GHURNEY.

Jan. 10.

HOW TO KILL TROUT.

SIR,—Will you, or one of your able correspondents, explain the best and quickest method of killing trout, and oblige yours, to a dead certainty, should you happen to practise the deceptive art near my quarters,

A DOOMED FISH.

[First catch your trout, then, if he is under 20 oz, hold him firmly in the left hand, belly up; put the thumb of your right hand into his mouth, and you can then instantly kill him by bending the head back and snapping the spine. This is the quickest and surest way. If the fish is over 20 oz. push a knife blade well into the top of the head an inch or so behind the eyes and the fish will quickly die. Fish killed as soon as caught keep fresh longer and eat better than when allowed to gasp their life out.—ED.]

THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

THE half-yearly general meeting, or what is really the annual meeting, of the members was held in the club room, Ashley's Hotel, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, on Monday evening last. Mr. R. S. Fennings occupied the chair and there were present on the occasion Messrs. W. B. Adlington, J. G. Andrew, C. Bates, H. H. Brown, W. H. Brougham, Dr. Brunton, J. Ross Faulkner, E. Foreman, G. Gillatt, T. Gillatt, D. Goodger, Henry Gray, Thomas Huggett, E. Vaux Huggett, A. G. Hammack, M. Hazeland, Alfred Jardine, James Lander, F. H. Lemann, N. F. Harrison, B. Perelli-Rocco, F. C. Hatfield, F. G. Pearce, T. Vaughan Roberts, E. Russell, T. R. Sachs, Edwin Sachs, E. Walker, C. P. Wheatstone, E. Wilkinson, H. Wilkinson, &c. Amongst the visitors were Messrs. Thomas Crumplen, S. C. Harding and C. S. Bentley, of the Gresham Angling Society. After the confirmation of the minutes of three previous meetings, the formal business commenced. Mr. James Lander, the honorary secretary, read out the audited balance sheet, which showed the receipts of the last half-year to have been, including a balance of £14 0s. 10d., the sum of £81 15s., and after payments of bills, exhibited a balance in hand of £16 15s. 4d. In addition to this, the society had a reserve found of £78 2s. 6d., and collectable arrears of £17 6s. 6d., making altogether when collected £112 4s. 4d. Mr. F. G. Pearce, the father of the society, who has just completed his 73rd year, expressed great satisfaction at the successful position of the society, which was cordially endorsed by all present; and after eulogising the labours of their honorary secretary, proposed that the usual honorarium of £20 should be given to Mr. James Lander, which was seconded by Mr. Alfred Jardine, who regretted they were not in a position to give a larger sum, and the resolution was enthusiastically carried. Mr. F. G. Pearce then suggested that as much work and time had fallen on the Librarian in the hanging of the cases;

first in their temporary removal from that room and then through the Norwich Exhibition ; he proposed a honorarium of £5 to Mr. Henry Gray, which, being warmly seconded by Mr. T. R. Sachs, was unanimously voted. The sum of half-a-guinea was also given towards the dinner to the Thames Riverkeepers. The meeting proceeded to the election of the officers and committee. Mr. F. G. Pearce was re-elected treasurer, Mr. Henry Gray librarian, Messrs. T. Gillatt and James Pattisson auditors, and Mr. James Lander honorary secretary. The appointments of a committee had to be made by voting papers, in consequence of several resignations and the displacement of others through not having attended the stipulated number of meetings. There were sixteen candidates, out of which twelve had to be chosen, and the following were elected :—Messrs. W. B. Adlington, J. G. Andrews, Dr. Coates, R. S. Fennings, E. Foreman, J. Ross Faulkner, D. Goodger, T. Huggett, N. F. Harrison, H. J. Inderwick, Edwin Sachs and Dr. Brunton. The annual dinner was fixed to take place on Wednesday, the 15th of February, at Holborn Restaurant, where the society for many years has satisfactorily held its banquets. Mr. Edward Birkbeck, M.P., has consented to take the chair, and Mr. F. G. Pearce, the respected treasurer, the vice-chair. In taking the customary vote of £14 as club prizes, Mr Thomas Huggett proposed that it should contain an additional prize for salmon over £10, but after some discussion, and being put to the vote, the proposition was not carried. Somewhat later on in the evening, Mr. Thomas Huggett announced that he had raised the handsome sum of six guineas in the room to be given in two salmon prizes, his efforts being highly appreciated. The consideration of some alterations in the rules were discussed, and one which was suggested in the committee by Mr. Thomas Huggett, as to no member being eligible for any office who occupies a position in another angling club, was, on the proposition of Mr. James Pattisson, seconded by Mr. T. Gillatt, unanimously carried ; as was also one by Mr. Alfred Jardine, seconded by Mr. James Pattisson, disallowing fish to be weighed-in, that were going to be, or had been, weighed-in at another society. Votes of thanks were given to the officers, and then Dr. Brunton read a very clever paper on "Grayling Fishing," which was highly approved and appreciated, and for which he received a very hearty vote of thanks. The meeting, which was kept up to a late hour, concluded with the usual eacknowledgments to the chairman.

THE LARKHALL ANGLING SOCIETY.

ONE of those pleasant Smoking Concerts, for which this society is famous, took place in the club room, the Larkhall, Larkhall Lane, Clapham, on Wednesday evening last, under the presidency of its chairman, Mr. G. F. Spencer, under whose auspices they were originally commenced, and through whose exertions such first-rate musical talent is always introduced. The club room, as usual, was filled to overflowing. Mr. Mallett, the new honorary secretary, was unremitting in his attention to all. The Thames Angling Preservation Society was represented by Mr. W. H. Brougham, and the West Central Association by Mr. Leo Bonvoisin. The proceedings opened with a finely executed solo on the pianoforte, and the vocal portion of the evening was commenced by Mr. F. Croutel, who is an energetic working member of the club, and rendered "The Minstrel Boy" in good style. Mr. J. Edmondson gave his "Tale of Woe" with great effect. Mr. Mallett, in "Ah! che la Morte," displayed excellent taste. Mr. W. Spencer, for the first time, appeared as a comic singer, and sang "The Happy Family" with great humour, the chorus of "We are, we are, we are," never losing its impression all the evening. Mr. J. M. Brougham narrowly escaped an encore in "The Divers," and his rendering of the low bass notes were loudly applauded. Mr. Alfred Glover was undoubtedly the lion of the evening, and was vociferously encored in both his songs of the "The Old Brigade" and "The White Squall," a special vote of thanks being accorded to him for his valuable musical services. Sergeant-Major Hemms was highly appreciated in "The Good Rhine Wine," and this may be said of all who followed. Messrs. John Lovatt, R. Edmondson, Ayling, Roberton, Hassell, and others all kept up the *prestige* of the society, and it may truly be said of the Larkhall Anglers their musical talent is of the most unique character, and that their success on these occasions cannot possibly be better. During the evening, Mr. G. F. Spencer called upon their good friend, Mr. W. H. Brougham, to say a few words, as he was certain the members would not like him to leave the room without saying something, as they were always so glad to get him amongst thom. Mr. W. H. Brougham, on rising, received an ovation, and in thanking them, expressed his satisfaction at their recognition of his presence in the club; it strikingly evidenced to him that his position in going amongst the angling clubs was identical with his duties in the Preservation Society, and to leave the clubs alone and confine himself to the other work would be only half doing what the interests of angling required from him. These remarks called forth great expressions of approval. The meeting was afterwards addressed by Mr. Leo Bonvoisin, whose practical and eloquent speech was warmly acknowledged and appreciated.

THE MANUFACTURE AND CARE OF GUT.

We notice the following interesting letter in the American *Forest and Stream* :—

Redditch, England.

(To the Editor, *Forest and Stream.*)

In your issue of Nov. 17 I notice the correspondence respecting silkworm gut. I have for the last thirty-five years purchased and sold large quantities, and always have at our works an extensive stock, which has had my personal supervision, my firm having in Murcia, Spain, a manufactory of silkworm gut. I have been in Murcia superintending the manufacturing and have discovered two causes which make gut brittle, and have instructed our manager in Murcia to see all the producers of the gut and impress upon them the importance of keeping the gut out of the sun.

The great evil is this : After the worm has been drawn out it is put in the sun to dry, and the great heat of the sun takes the moisture out of the gut and makes it brittle. I also discovered another danger in the manufacture of it, In bleaching it, if the bleaching-oven is too hot, and the gut is too long in the oven, it makes the gut brittle. If gut is made without an excess of heat it will be more pliable ; consequently, more strong. I have never found gut get brittle by keeping. The best way to keep it is in wash-leather. If large stocks, in drawers or rooms which are not over-heated. Some tackle dealers will expose gut, gut leaders, &c., in their windows. The sun gets on it, and consequently takes the nature out of it, and it becomes hard and brittle.

The cause of flat gut is disease in the worms. Healthy worms produce round gut. The manufacture of gut is very simple. The gut from the worms is bought from the small country people, who breed the worms in their houses. The first process in making is to put the gut in a furnace with water, a little soda and soap. After boiling a short time the outer skin comes off it. It is put in yellow and comes out white, after it is put in the bleaching ovens. Then girls rub it straight with wash-leather, holding one end in their teeth. The next process is to sort out the different strengths. It is then rubbed again ; counted into bunches of one hundred, then a man puts in the red jute on each bunch, and then ties it in bundles of one thousand.

This may interest your readers and prevent gut being spoiled by exposure to the sun. S. ALLCOCK.

CLUB REPORTS.

ACT-ON-THE-SQUARE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above society fished for another of their series of prizes on Saturday afternoon last, at "Ye Old Ferrie Boat." The conditions were to start at two o'clock, and to weigh-in at the club house above named at 5.30. But, most of the members being late, fishing only lasted about two hours and a half ; the prize, a very handsome biscuit box, given by Mr. T. H. Clark, being won by the secretary with four very nice roach, weighing 2 lb. 5 oz. Water in splendid condition for roach and chub fishing ; and, if we have no more rain for a few days, the jack are sure to be on the move, as they must be nearly starved, owing to the continuous floods.—A. GEORGE, hon. sec.

Jan. 9.

ACTON AND EALING ANGLING SOCIETY.

On referring to weight book I found that the following members have weighed-in fish since my last report :— Mr. Slatter, 10 lb. 14¾ oz. roach and dace ; Mr. Cook, 13 lb. 10¼ oz. do. ; Mr. Howell, 9 lb. 11 oz. do. ; Mr. Simpson, 1 lb. 10¾ oz. do ; Mr. Dean, 3 lb. 1 oz. roach and chub ; Mr. Head, 6 lb. 11¾ oz. roach and chub ; Mr. A. Eydman, bleak. We fish a match at West Drayton, Godfrey's water, next Sunday, for a plated tea and breakfast service. The first supper will take place at the George and Dragon Hotel, on Wednesday evening next, when we hope to have the pleasure of Leo Bonvoisin and T. Hoole's company ; also some of the Richmond Piscatorials. We shall I hope shortly issue a challenge to fish the Portsmouth Waltonians before the Hammersmith United do, who still owe them a return match.—BLACK BAG.

January 10.

AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Larkman commenced the new year by weighing in roach, followed by Messrs. Arnold and Hunt. Mr. Geo. Carrington had a very nice show, comprising roach, dace and perch, gross weight 8 lb. 5½ oz., a brace of the perch, weight 4½ lb.. has been sent to Mr. Cooper, Radnor Street, St. Luke's, to be preserved. A pegged-down match will take place in the river Stort on the second Sunday in February. Members will kindly observe this and come up to the club to get full particulars. The new prize list will be shortly issued, and they are well varied for all members to contest for.—T. WORLEDGE.

ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 8th inst. our members showed up in good numbers, with the following result : Mr. A. Shakel, roach and dace ; Mr. T. Bowling, perch; Mr. W. Salmon, a pretty jack, weighing about 4 lb. from the Lea ; Mr. C. Daniels, perch, from Pulborough ; M. J. Summers, dace, from Datchet ; Mr. A. Glass, roach and dace, from Windsor, one nice roach turning the scale at 1 lb. 2½ oz. L. DAVIS, sec.

BRIGHTON ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

Nothing but floods and rain ; not a line met in the Adur, Ouse or Cuckmere since last week. At Chichester, where the water is always clear, two well-conditioned jack were taken, one 6 lb. and the other 5 lb., by Mr. G. H. Salter. The members meet now only to do business for the coming season, and on Saturday evenings the harmonic meetings are still held. Wind S.W.; great show for more rain.—GROUNDBAIT.

BURDETT ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above society met in general meeting on Wednesday, January 4, to select prizes to be fished for on Sunday, January 15. Whilst so engaged a member came in with the best show of roach this club had witnessed. Mr. Lamb, for that was the member spoken of, had 26 fish, all roach, weighing 16 lb. 1 oz. ; 7 fish weighed 6 lb. 11½ oz., 17 others weighed 4 lb. 13½ oz., whilst the remaining 12 weighed 4 lb. 8 oz. The largest fish weighed 1 lb. 4 oz., and the smallest weighed 3¾ oz. well. The same gentleman had a good show on Wednesday, January 11—18 fish, all roach, weighing 9 lb. 4 oz., the smallest went 3¾ oz.—F. G. WALKER,

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

We were just saved from a blank on the 8th by Mr. Castell weighing-in a very small take of roach and gudgeon from Boxmoor.—Cas.

CITY OF BRISTOL ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, December 12, the annual general meeting was held; the secretary being absent on this occasion, the vice-president, Mr. J. H. Champion, did duty for him, when the election of officers took place. The following officers were re-elected:—Mr. J. A. Jones, president; Mr. J. H. Champion, vice-president; Mr. H. G. Lewis, treasurer; Mr. J. H. Stantial, hon. secretary; Messrs. Hobbs and Miller, auditors; and the following members to serve on the committee:—Messrs. Edwards, Billingham, Oxenham, Lynch, Parsons, Iles, Perrett, Parrey, Skuse, Hill, Stafford, Sheppard. It was also resolved at this meeting to discontinue the system of paying monthly, and to adopt one payment of 2s. 6d. for the year, and no member to receive his tablet until he has paid. On Monday, December 26, the third contest that has taken place since the formation of the association came off at Limply Stoke, for prizes to the amount of £5, when about twenty took part in the contest, but the catch of fish was not very great on this occasion. In the evening the prizes were presented to the successful competitors by the president. On Monday evening, January 2, the first annual dinner took place, at the club house, when about fifty members sat down to a capital dinner, served up by our respected treasurer, which gave great satisfaction to all present. In the unavoidable absence of the president, who did not arrive until late in the evening, the secretary, Mr. J. H. Stantial, was unanimously voted to the chair. After the removal of the cloth, the chairman gave the toast, "The Health of our Most Gracious Majesty the Queen," which was unanimously drunk, after which some capital songs were sang by members of the association, by which time the president had arrived, and was well received by the company. The chairman then asked the members to drink to the health of the president, vice-president, and treasurer, which they did with musical honours. The vice-chairman then gave the health of the secretary, which was drunk with musical honours; and the health of the host and hostess was also drunk; some more songs were then sung, which brought the first annual dinner of the association to a close. On Monday, January 9, the first meeting of the new year took place, Mr. J. A. Jones presiding, when the secretary read the balance sheet for the past half-year, which was approved of, after which the new tablets were issued, the secretary intimating that members not present could obtain them by applying to the secretary or treasurer, at the club house any time between the meeting nights, which are held the second Monday in every month.—James H. Stantial, hon. sec.

GOLDEN BARBEL.

It seems quite true to me that fish can be got, if you only know where to find them, and some of the members of this society have gained that knowledge for "let the weather be wet or fine, stormy, foggy, or hazy," there is always a show of fish to be seen on Sunday evenings (bar those during the fence months). On the 1st, the following courted Father Thames, and succeeded in getting New Year's gifts of different sorts:—Mr. J. Green, roach; Mr. Goudge, roach and perch; Mr. T. Lee, roach and perch; Mr. C. Lumby, roach and dace; E. Henries, roach; Mons. Gourquet, roach; and E. Harrison, 12 lb. of roach, the gross weight going about 35 lb. On the 8th, Mr. Goudge visited another river, and after fishing six hours succeeded in weighing-in 22 lb. of very handsome roach; C. Harrison had roach. Mr. T. Lee, "still on with the old love," managed to get over 3 lb. of roach. "Johnny my Boy," allow me to congratulate you with your Christmas present, and may it be as comforting to your father's eldest son as that son has been to his father.—Pixie.

Jan. 12.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The usual weekly meeting of this society, held on Thursday evening, was of an exceptionally interesting character, a deputation of the Good Intent anglers being present, accompanying Mr. Brookwell with his splendid case of trout taken at Flanders Weir, on the Lea. This case is, without doubt, the finest yet seen, and was greatly admired; so much so that Mr. Brookwell, to whom a very hearty vote of thanks was accorded, very kindly consented to leave it, by request, at the society's rooms for one clear week, to give all the members an opportunity of inspecting it. Messrs. Murphy, Beckett, and Tippetts, who were warmly welcomed, addressed the society in response to several toasts given during the evening, and the true goodwill and reciprocity which should, and does, exist between all really true anglers was clearly demonstrated. Mr. Brookwell was introduced very pleasantly by Mr. Jardine, who, in the course of a humorous and telling speech, expressed the opinion that Mr. Brookwell's display would be certain to stand a good chance for a prize of importance in the International Exhibition of 1883. Mr. Crumplen and other members also spoke, pointing out in the strongest terms that unanimity amongst anglers generally, quite irrespective of social position (which ought never to enter into angling questions), would assuredly bring about numerous reforms, and secure in the future the sport anglers so much desired. The hon. secretary announced that the President, Lord George Hamilton, M.P., would take the chair at the annual banquet of the society, to be held in March next. Two new member having been proposed, the first batch under the new regulations with an entrance fee, a very cordial vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. W. T. White, who had ably occupied the chair, thus terminating the business portion of one of the most pleasant evening yet held by the society. The chair was afterwards occupied by Mr. Crumplen, and the harmony of the proceedings was fully sustained until an advanced hour.

HULME ADELAIDE FISHING CLUB (AMALGAMATED).

The members of the Huime Adelaide Fishing Club, Jolly Angler, Erskine Street, Hulme, Manchester, on their annual distribution of prizes, were enter-ained, on the 2nd instant, to a substantial dinner, by Host Taylor. After dinner, Bro. W. H. Atkinson was voted in the chair, and the usual loyal and patriotic toasts were given. The business of the club was then proceeded with, nd the prizes distribuied to the successful members, of which the following is n extract:—A trout, 3 lb. 13½ oz., caught by W. H. Atkinson; a pike, 2 lb., aught by W. H. Atkinson; a roach, 1 lb. 6 oz., caught by J. Newton; a hub, 1 lb. 6 oz., caught by Henry Taylor; a bream, 2 lb, 14½ oz., caught by . Lees; a perch, 14½ oz., caught by F. Lees. The club broke up at 11 p.m., fter having spent a very pleasant evening.—W. H. Bardsley.

January, 4, 1882.

IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Two special prizes were fished for on Sunday last, the 8th inst., but owing to the inclement weather and the bad condition of the water only one of them was taken, Mr. T. Ward being the successful member. Three special prizes will be fished for on Wednesday, Jan. 25, all fish weigh; nothing under 1 lb, weight to take a prize. Competitors to choose their own fishing water; no competitor to leave London before the morning of the competition. Three special prizes will be fished for on Sunday, Jan. 29, same conditions as above, excepting that nothing under 8 oz. to take a prize. Messrs. G. Wood and G. Bliss showed roach and dace this week.

KING'S CROSS UNITED ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several members of this society were out on the 8th inst., but, owing to the unfavourable weather, the takes were small. There were, however, some capital roach on the trays. qaality making up for quantity, Mr. Davis and Mr. Treadwell divided the honours of the evening. The finny-uns of the Thames must look out for themselves next week, as a veritable giant is off on the war path.—Quill Pen.

Jan. 10.

KINGSWOOD AND DISTRICT ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

This association was formed on November 7. The want of a society of this kind having been felt in this neighbourhood for a considerable time, an effort in that direction was made by a few devoted anglers, which led to a very hearty response. The chief objects of this society are the securing of fit water for angling purposes; stocking the same to secure legitimate angling, and also to obtain railway privileges enjoyed by kindred societies. Between thirty and forty members have already joined, and it is anticipated that the numbers will be considerably augmented in a short time. The first angling competition for prizes took place on Thursday, December 29, at Kelston, near Bath, when five prizes were given by friends of the association, amongst whom were Mr. Frost, of Bristol, and Mr. Bulwer, of London. The capture of ten nice fish secured the first prize. It is hoped that these competitions will be numerous, as they will help to keep up the interest of a society of this kind, especially in its early stages of existence.—A. J. Bridges, hon. sec.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. G. Atkins, of Cross Gun renown gave a series of prizes which were fished for last Sunday, and caused the members to muster in strong force; and after a very exciting struggle Messrs. Parker, Harwood and Wightman were adjudged the lucky winners, but were closely pressed for honours by Messrs. Humphreys, Heelas, Raine and Petrie. Mr. H. Moore went to the Colne on Tuesday and got a few nice roach. Mr. J. Blenham was also there on Wednesday and bagged a handsome show of 9½ lb. Through the pressure of business during Christmas holidays we failed to notice in your paper the kindness of Mr. J. Goodes, one of our members, in getting up a subscription list for Mr. Wey, of the Phœnix Angling Society, who was, and is now, in needful circumstances through bad health and got him the handsome sum of £3 5s. Mr. H. Moore has been elected secretary in the place of Mr. W. Brown, who has resigned, aud all future communications will be addressed to him at the club house.—H. Moore, sec.

Jan. 12.

ORIGINAL ALEXANDRA SOCIETY OF ANGLERS.

We had nearly all our members out on Sunday last, but only one weighed-in fish and that was Mr. W. High, our bailiff, with roach. Mr. J. Cammack wishes me to state that he will fish Mr. C. Fardell, of Old Ford Road, a pegged-down match, change swims every hour, at the Rye House water.—E. Dymond, sec. pro tem.

ROYAL PISCATORIALS.

This society commenced the year with some glorious shows of fish. On the 1st there was exhibited 40 lb. of jack, the largest weighing 16 lb. On the 4th 45 lb. of jack decorated the trays, and on the 8th the show was truly magnificent, and was well worth going a mile or two to see, it consisted of three jack weighing 30 lb., and 12 lb. of roach, taken by Mr. T. Hughes; 30 lb. of roach and two jack of about 6 lb., taken by Mr. G. Hockley; and 30 lb. of roach and two jack of about 7 lb., was also exhibited by M. J. Frith. The roach were in splendid condition, and averaged 1 lb. 8 oz., the largest weighing over 2 lb. During the second week in February a competition will take place for £10 10s. dressing case, given by Mr. Robert Grant; a case of champagne and several other valuable prizes given by different gentlemen. Additions are constantly being made to the already extensive collection of piscatorial trophies in Mr. T. Hughes' possession; another large jack has just been added, and I have been informed that a well-known naturalist not many miles away from Southwark has a dozen cases of fish, consisting of roach and jack, in hand for Mr. T. Hughes now, and when they are finished will form one of the largest private collections in London.—Pixie.

SOCIAL BROTHERS.

I am glad to say that the last day or two of the old year and the commencement of the new proved very favourable to the few that were able to go out, over 41 lb. of fish being taken as follows:—Messrs. Valler and Lee, 7 lb 11 oz. roach and dace on the 29th; on the 30th, Mr. Irons, 2 lb. 14 oz. roach and dace; on the 31st, Mr. Bird, one jack, 3 lb. 2 oz., and Mr. Lockyear, 2 lb. 10 oz. roach and dace; on the 1st, Mr. Lee 5 lb. 6 oz. roach and dace, and Mr. Bromhead, 12 lb. 6 oz. roach; on the 6th, Mr. Irons 1 lb. 11 oz. roach and dace; on the 8th, J. Goubot two small chub; on the 9th, Messrs. Valler and Lee, 4 lb. 11 oz. roach and dace; on the 10th, Mr. Monk 1 lb., 7 oz. bleak. All the above taken in the Thames, except the jack.—J. Goubot.

SURREY PISCATORIALS.

A competition took place this day at Richmond among the members of the above society for the following prizes:—1st, £2 2s., given by Messrs. Whitby and Duck; 2nd, £1 1s., given by Mr. Elliott; 3rd, a punt rod, given by Mr. Brydges. Result: Messrs. Boalch and Meadway with C. Brown, fisherman, of Richmond. The first-named had about 4 lb. 12 oz. of roach and dace, which entitled him to the first prize, and the second prize fell to Mr. Meadway, who had about 3 lb. of roach and dace. Messrs. Duck and Beckett, with Bushnell, of Richmond, succeeded in getting among the bream and roach; the former took the third prize.

Jan. 11.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

A special meeting was held at the head-quarters of the above society, on the 6th, to consider which evening would best suit the members for meeting, Friday being inconvenient to a large number of the members. The following gentlemen were present: Messrs. Bansback, Bayley, Beale, Boalch, Cain, Curtis, Delehaye, Fieullade, Russell, Renault, Fox, and several others. Mr. C. Beale presided. Several of the members having stated the inconvenience of Friday evening, the evening most suitable to the members was put to the vote, and it was decided that on and after Thursday, the 12th January, 1882, the business of the society will be carried on on Thursday evening, and not on Friday as hitherto. And please to bear in mind all ye members that could not attend this meeting that the time for business will in future be from 9 till 10.30 p.m. "Punctuality is a jewel;" I hope the members of this society will wear it so that it can be seen, as I know it will be a great improvement to them. The next thing brought forward was Mr. L. B. testimonial. Mr. Bayley and Mr. Boalch having spoken as to the work done by Mr. L. B., 10s. 6d. was at once voted. "There, my bold Leo, is another straw to the load." I have been informed that a few members of the South London would like to have a friendly competition with some of the Walworth Waltonians for a supper. Gentlemen desirous of entertaining this competition please step to the front and see.—PIXIE.

Jan. 12th, 1882.

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THE ANGLERS' ANNUAL is a novelty in the literature of the gentle craft, but the Editor trusts that this fact will rather add than detract from its popularity amongst anglers and other interested in fishing and fish culture.

The intention has been to supply agreeable and instructive reading of a practical nature, and to furnish an album of the celebrities of the fishing world, as well as a calendar to which notes of especial interest to those concerned in the chronicles of sport are added. Whether this ideal has been reached the Editor confidently leaves to the verdict of the reader.

Mr. Spencer Walpole, Professor Huxley, Mr. T. Spreckley, and Mr. W. H. Brougham are names familiar as household words to every intelligent angler. These gentlemen have kindly allowed facilities for reproducing their "counterfeit presentments," and these will be considered, without doubt, by our readers as special features in this our new venture.

LONDON, January 1, 1882.

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Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 1882.

CANAL-FISHING IN HERTFORDSHIRE.

By CHUB CHAVENDER.

WALTON has very justly commended the London roach-fisher of his day, and the commendation might, at the present time, be greatly intensified. The angler of this genus is a species by himself. His occupation in life is chiefly that of the citizen whose daily bread is earned truly by the sweat of his brow, and whose only relaxation is his Sunday excursion, where, by river, lake, or canal, he can hold "communion with dear Nature's self," none the less sincere because he does not clothe it in poetic rhapsodies—pursuing all the same a gentle sport, the chief attributes of which are quietude, patience and perseverance. Peaceable and order-loving he is of a natural necessity; interfering with no one, jealous of none, self-contained, and sober. These, I assert, are the characteristics of the generality of anglers, and especially of the London roach-fisher.

The majority of anglers one meets at the canal side are London roach-fishers, hence my introduction of the species to my readers. That some of them may derive benefit from my experience, which has been protracted, of a certain part of the Grand Junction Canal, is my only desire in writing this article. I shall therefore plunge *in medias res* of the subject set forth in the heading, and shall be glad to continue it at some future time if it be found acceptable.

It matters not at what place I begin, so I will take the vicinity of Boxmoor, as being that of which I have had the most recent practical experience. About three miles can be comfortably fished, using Boxmoor station; and judging from the number of anglers which one meets on the platform on a Sunday night during the season, it is well appreciated, if sport is at times indifferent, owing to ignorance of the locality or of the most advantageous methods of angling.

I have not the A B C time table at hand at the moment, but I think I am right in saying that Boxmoor station is 23 miles from Euston, on the North-Western Railway, and, as concessions to societies have been made, every angler attached can get there and back for about a couple of shillings. Its distance from town is therefore no objection.

Supposing the angler desires to stay on the Saturday night, in order to be up betimes in the morning, there are several hostelries, which I shall point out as being appropriate for the different parts of the three miles to which I have referred. Winkwell is the highest point I shall talk about now, and we will suppose the fisherman intends fishing it early, as he ought, and so runs down on the Saturday evening.

Before leaving town, let him secure half a dozen nice dace and a few small other baits, in case of a pike or trout obtruding himself too obviously. Of course, live-bait tackle must be taken. Next let him lay in a stock of redworms, a few lobs, some gentles, bran, and old crusts of bread for ground bait, and some flour-made, as well as bread-made, paste. I need not remind him of the tackles necessary for roach, excepting in regard to a few hair-hooks. Curiously, I have found these kill when the finest drawn gut seemed absolutely deterrent.

Well, he arrives at Boxmoor, and, as soon as he emerges, his first course lies almost immediately before him to Crouchfield, to mine host Pearce, who keeps a pretty little house about half-a-mile as the crow flies from the station, and who, with his wife, is ever ready to welcome and comfortably put you up for the night at prices which would astonish you for moderation, considering the comforts one gets. Pearce is himself a capital angler, and if other duties do not engage him, he is only too glad to attend one by the waterside, after showing the nearest pathway to the Winkwell lock and its many attractions.

From Crouchfield to Winkwell is about twenty minutes' walk—not a moment more for the average walker—and when you get there you find that, immediately below the lock, the little river Bourne runs from a slight eminence, forming a pretty cascade about three yards across. Within the running water and hereabouts are some very respectable trout. I took two one day, fishing with the redworm for roach, and one went 2½ lb. and the other ¾ lb., both in splendid condition. There yet exists a fine old fellow, who invariably shows himself at the tail of the stream during the day. He is at least three pounds in weight, and comes up after a bait almost at your feet, not two yards in front of the iron post below the lock gates. Roach swarm this piece of water, and its eddies are also full.

In September, fishing with Mr. King's natural bait paste, I took 28 fish going 18lb. Some of them over a pound each. It is, of course, necessary to rise very early, so as to get your fish together before many of the boats pass, as these are the bugbear of the canal fisher; and if you ground bait whilst they are in full swing, coming through every ten minutes, your ground bait is likely to be washed all over the place. This being so, I advise that a good hard clay ball be always used, and if possible a peck of fresh brewers' grains should be put in overnight. Pearce will always get them if you give him notice.

There are excellent pitches right down to the railway bridge from the lock, the best are on the side opposite to the path, which is quite accessible, and not private. Jack also abound, especially in the reach to which I am referring, and there are legends of 20-pounders being bagged, though I never saw one over five pounds, which I took myself paternostering. With the stream to which I referred as coming in below the lock, Nottingham running tackle is quite permissible; indeed, I prefer it, though the ordinary tight line can be used as usual.

Now, before going further, a word as to the rod. A seventeen or eighteen foot bamboo, as stiff and light as can be got, is necessary for canal fishing. It is often necessary to fish in the deeper water invariably navigated by the boats, and constituting what is termed on the Thames the "channel." The rest of the tackle must be of the very finest, and the float especially should be either of pointed deal or of porcupine, so shotted, that the slightest nibble—which really often means a good bite—be perceived and acted upon.

However, to resume the description of the water. There is a capital spot for roach and dace just outside the bridge, and a good seat can be made on the side coping opposite the towpath. I have seen some splendid dace taken as well as roach from thence. Passing over the railway and descending the other side, there is a ploughed field, through which, by the side of the water, however, a right of way is preserved, and here some capital chub, roach, and dace, as well as pike, have fallen to my rod. Near here the river Bourne passes out of the canal and flows—filled with trout—through private property on towards the moor, and so on to the mill. Until it reaches the moor proper, it is strictly preserved by one of the grumpiest old proprietors it has ever been my misfortune to run against. He does not want his fish, but he will see you to &c., &c., he says, sooner than give permission for fishing.

When it reaches the moor, however, there is an occasional trout, and lower down, just above the first paper-mill (Messrs. Dickenson's), some capital roach are often taken from comparatively shallow water.

We must get back to our canal, however. Right away down by the lock, by the side of which stands the Fishery Inn, capital roach-fishing is to be had if it be pursued with great perseverance and copious baiting. A little bridge spans the water here, and underneath it I have had capital sport when the weather has been favourable.

Talking of weather, this reminds me that this is a most important item to be considered when you seek sport in a canal. Comparatively, the water of a canal is of small volume, and as it is also comparatively stagnant when the traffic is not excessive, it simply becomes of the exact temperature of the air. Moreover, a snow, hail, or rain storm, affects it instantly, and consequently, of course, a cold wind or frost does so similarly, Now my experience is that roach do not care about feeding when the temperature of the water is very low; and very thick water in consequence of rain, or, what is much worse, snow broth, are both inimical to good sport. For these reasons I ever keep a sharp look out on the weather and temperature, and I am persuaded many a day's disappointment would be saved if my example were followed.

The next notable places for fishing are termed "Two Waters," because it is here that the river Gade runs through the canal and joins with the little Bourne passing onward through the first of Messrs. Dickenson's paper-mills, and afterwards at Frogmore End doing a similar service. The Gade in its upper part abounds in trout, but it is extremely difficult to obtain permission from the proprietor, and so I may dismiss its higher portions as being inaccessible. Just at the bridge where the Gade traverses the canal at right angles, some capital sport has been from time to time, obtained, though in winter I cannot say I ever did much. As you near the mill-head, however, the aspect improves, and there are some good jack here as well as "wopping" roach. By the bye, these roach are early spawners, and their broad silver sides, grass green backs and bright hued fins, make a fish of a pound, in autumn and winter a real eye-restorer to behold. In this spot, where the Bourne and Gade coalesce, they are especially handsome, and, as far as I am concerned, will only take a paste well made of bread or the "natural" bait; sometimes it is advantageous to colour it with a little vermilion.

As we are referring to the "Two Waters" perhaps it may be advantageous to follow the stream till it has done service for the lower Frogmore Mill, and passes into the canal about half-a-mile down. Immediately below the "Two Waters" Mill it is rather shallow, and, as far as roach are concerned, almost unproductive; but I have seen some bonny jack lying in the sunshine, and doubt not that they could be brought to bank by an experienced troller. The Bell at Two Waters, is where I have stayed for this stream, and just about two hundred yards lower down I have had some good roach, on the side opposite to the main road. Here is a wooden bridge, and only a Sunday or two since an old friend of mine got some ten pounds of beautiful fish. Unfortunately, I am sorry to say, a quantity of esparto "broth" blackens the water and kills the fish, or at any rate debilitates them, otherwise the spot would be uniformly of a good character. The Frogmore Mill is now reached, and after the water has done service it passes out into a stream some ten yards across, and of a uniform depth of about six feet. This stream is about a hundred yards long before it reaches the canal below the lock, and I can testify to some parts of it containing some remarkable specimens of *rutilus* as well as jack. In particular there is a hole at the end of the foreman's garden from which I have derived some very fishy solace; and one gentleman, who has been fortunate enough to secure permission to angle from the garden, has gone home laden. It can be fished with a long rod, however, from the public side, and the angler will not be long in finding its precise locality, if he be commonly observant. Two large posts are driven in the water close by the deep referred to.

Just at the juncture of this stream with the canal is some very good fishing. The water is of a very respectable depth—somewhere about six feet, and as the stream aforesaid carries itself forward for some distance, a good swim can be secured for the running tackle. Let us now return to where we left the canal, viz., on the little brick bridge crossing it on the road to "Two Waters."

Just on the other side of this bridge, down stream, there is a coal and timber wharf, owned by Mr. Balderston. Some rafts of timber still lie in its basin, and it is camp sheathed all round. Perch and pike inhabit it, and a civil and courteous request to be allowed to fish would, I doubt not, be accorded. This is approached from the side opposite the towpath, and has, to my knowledge, produced jack and perch of remarkable size. All along the towpath to the next lock, or pound, is good fishing, and a nice, clear bottom; though, sooth to say, I have known it to be fished by a London club, numbering forty anglers, "from morn till dewy eve," with scarce a pound of fish as result. Still, the fish are in the water, and given suitable weather, you are sure to get some.

Near the next bridge is a capital little beerhouse—I forget the sign—selling some of the best stock ale I ever tasted. This is a fact worth knowing in a place where, as a rule, all the beers are execrably bad.

Just before you get to the pound, which is about three hundred yards below this, the water widens considerably. I have taken jack of good size and have seen trout which had been secured from the opposite side to the towpath, where the boats do not disturb the water. I am doubtful if one can get to fish from the side referred to, but a good spinner can easily get his bait across, the distance not being twenty yards at most.

Now comes the best reach I know of in all the three miles of water, except Winknell, which I must give the palm to. Between the pound we are now at and the next, the bottom seems to be considerably an improvement on the upper parts, and I have secured roach of splendid size, and more than this, have seen others do the same. Another little bridge spans the water just below this pound, and under it I have seen such fish in the clear water as would send an enthusiastic angler to a lunatic asylum could he get but one of the shoals even. My plan of fishing was to stand with my Nottingham tackle and running tackle on the pound gate, and thus keeping well out of sight, to let the light quill float down, which it would slowly do, because of the overflow of water at the gate. Sometimes I found that it was necessary to bait some days before I could fix the wandering attentions of my fish; but when I had done so the response was fast and furious. And further on, down to the next lock, on either side, some capital spots are to be found. In fact, between these two pounds, I am constrained to think that there are more roach and dace than at any other part of the canal whatever. Immediately beyond this last pound the "Two Waters" join the canal, and my description of the waters for three miles is done.

As I before remarked, I think very highly of the character and behaviour of the canal anglers, but there is one great fault with them, which I have very frequently observed and deplored. They very seldom return a fish to the water. There being no restrictions as to size, etc., all is fish that comes to the rod with them, and thus it is that undersized fish—fingerlings—are killed in common with their larger-sized brethren. This is not as it should be, and at any rate the clubs should never allow the weighing-in of miserable little roach and dace, or allow them to count in any way at all.

The scenery of the canal and rivers we have thus traversed together, good reader, is very beautiful and slightly hilly. Crouchfield is especially well-wooded and verdurous, and in the summer time I know of no more pleasant resort, or a more health-giving journey than the three miles between Winkwell and Frogmore End. The land, I am told, is about 350 ft. above the level of the sea, and its bracing qualities and cool breezes (especially in winter) are well known to the inhabitants. To those who do not know the spots I have spoken of, I would say "Go, take your fishing-rod, and enjoy a day, with every prospect of sport an' you be ordinarily lucky."

THE POLLUTION OF RIVERS.

(Being a Lecture delivered before the Caxtonian Angling Society by COMPTON READE, M.A.)

HE who is justly deemed the greatest of philosophers formulated as an axiom the obvious truth that "nature makes nothing in vain." It is not easy, I will grant, always to apply this axiom; but, speaking generally, I believe when we cannot perceive the use of any created object, the error lies in our lack of knowledge, and not in Aristotle's grand aphorism, which, however, in most nstances, is simply self-evident. I presume, therefore, that it would be difficult to discover that perverted intelligence which would seriously deny the value of a species designed, apparently, as a staple article of food, I mean fish; and though the fish of he sea may be more useful to man than the fish of the river, still he very fact of our finding such noble varieties as the trout and he eel, not to mention the pike, perch, gudgeon, and others that inhabit the fresh water, goes to prove that these species ought to serve a useful purpose. We can easily imagine that when the world came into existence, it might have so happened that the streams and rivers should have been but so many drains to carry off the superfluous water from terra firma to the ocean. They might have been mere aqueducts and their waters might have contained no living creatures. The contrary we know to be the case. Our streams and rivers abound with fish, except where, owing to avarice or stupidity, the waters have been poisoned, and this very abundance in itself constitutes a sound argument in favour of the poor fish. I myself, some years back, hooked no less than 17 trout, averaging half-a-pound each, in the Island of Mull; in other words, the little mountain torrent, from which I took these trout, yielded, exclusive of bone and refuse, from five to six pounds of solid wholesome food. That stream, I may mention by way of illustration, runs for about a mile and a half, its average width being not more than thirty feet. Now, assuming that it yielded but five pounds of solid food nett per diem, for six months out of the twelve—and this, I am confident, does not represent a tithe of the actual yield—and putting the value of such food at only 6d. per pound, this narrow strip of water would supply the human family with nearly £25 worth of sustenance. Taking the meadows on either side of its banks, I question whether the same number of square feet of grass would produce so good an average.

I have ventured these few remarks, because it is clear to my mind that the public, and more particularly its reflex, the legislature, will never be influenced by any other than the argument from utility; and one incontrovertible reason, though not by any means the only one, why rivers should be preserved is that freshwater fish form an item of our food supply, and that reason, I should remind you, constitutes the sheet-anchor of the angler, so far as preservation goes—I am not now speaking of pollution. To take a parallel case, if it were not that pheasants, hares, and partridges provide some of us with a substitute for beef and mutton, do you suppose the game laws would continue to exist for an hour? In the present temper of the country, the very fact of angling or shooting being privileged sport seems to excite an ill-conditioned sentiment of jealousy, and to militate against proper preserving. For my own part, I shall be equally grieved when trout, woodcock, grouse, pike, and pheasants, become extinct species; and I am sure that the evil day may be indefinitely deferred if only sportsmen and anglers will take the trouble to prove by statistics the actual dietary value of those species. And here, before I approach more directly the subject of my lecture, you will pardon me if I remind you that man is the emperor of creation. Now there have been in the history of the world emperors and emperors. And among these supreme beings we find such monsters as a Nero or a Caligula, who condemned to torment the noblest spirits of their age. Is man, I would ask, exercising his empire over the humble fish after the fashion of a moral and responsible agent, or is he not, rather, a very Nero, when he either nets them, or, worse still, poisons them wholesale? Mr. Ruskin, I maintain, was more than justified in raising his protest against the sacrifice of all the beauties and all the advantages of nature on the altar of commercial greed. True, we must, things being as they are, submit to a portion of the surface of nature being relegated to manufactures, but, on the other hand, we do not desire that all England should become the Black Country, still less, that all our rivers should be as dark and devoid of life as the Dead Sea.

With this preface, I proceed now to address myself to a particular phase of fish-destruction, with which we individually are in a greater or less degree concerned; I may say, however, *in limine*, that a society bearing the name of Caxton and withal devoted to the gentle art of Izaac Walton, will naturally be disposed to handle our friends, the paper-makers, even when we have spitted them on a logical hook from which they cannot escape, very much as the literary fisherman handled his worm—as though he loved him. For my own part, my pen has contributed for many years, though in an infinitesimally small degree, towards keeping the paper-mills going, and I am quite sure that the paper-maker is far more an essential to me than I ever could be to the paper-maker. I am not, therefore, about to quarrel with my best friend, albeit, I shall not shrink from indicating the extent of mischief whereof that estimable individual is guilty. In the first place, then, let me enter a protest against the bare supposition that I or my auditory are desirous of anything so chimerical and quixotic as interference with the paper trade beyond a certain reasonable limit. We, indeed, are not the aggressors. It is not the anglers, Caxtonian or otherwise, who interfere with the trade, but the trade that interferes with our pastime, our profession, if I may so term it. I must premise, moreover, that this interference with angling on the part of the trade is of comparatively recent date, and this, for reasons known to most of you, but which, for the sake of perspicuity, I will here recapitulate.

Upon the removal of duty from paper there occurred almost a revolution in the trade. At once every class of journalism was lowered in price, readers became more plentiful, and the demand for paper was indefinitely multiplied. Hence rags, whether English or foreign, failed to supply the necessary amount of material wherewith to feed the mills, and the manufacturer had to go far afield for new fibres. At that moment my father happened to be Chairman of the London and Lisbon Corkwood Company, and I remember well a statement of his, to the effect that if the demand for esparto kept increasing it would pay the company better to import that article than to import corks. Of late years, the American paper-makers have come into our markets and purchased extensively our already limited supply of rags, which, I may add, has yet further been curtailed owing to the vagaries of fashion. Twenty years ago, print dresses, and white petticoats were in vogue: now our womankind arrays herself in wool, silk, any and every garb except cotton, the result being a considerable diminution in the rag supply from this source, for I need not tell you that wool is worse than useless in a paper mill. Again, in the palmy days of the Great Exhibition, and even later, mechanics were content with fustian and corduroy, and the relics of these give the paper-maker his heaviest and best rags. Needless is it to remark on the change that has come o'er the hand-workers' dream, or on the singular illusion that possesses him, viz: that by wearing indifferent broad-cloth, he mounts one rung higher on the social ladder. The result of this deficieney of rag-supply, was the employment in huge quantities of such coarse fibre as, for example, those of esparto grass and palm leaves, and this brings me at once to my point. Rags are reducible to the proper consistency with a comparatively small quantity of chemicals, and this is why the Americans, whose paper is the admiration of the journalists of either Continent, come to us for rags. They do not lack fibres in their vast territory—indeed they must enjoy a plethora of grasses suitable for paper manufacture on their broad savannahs and prairies—but they have no chemicals; and I believe I am correct in stating that they find it cheaper to import rags and use a small amount of chemicals, than to import a large amount of chemicals and turn their grasses to account—this probably because of the heavy duty, and because of the volume of chemicals required to reduce their indigenous fibre to a pulp. Here in England we have no lack of cheap chemicals, and inasmuch as Spain and Africa are within measurable distance of this island-home of ours, esparto can be procured cheaply enough, Now in the event of caustic alkali being the medium used for reducing esparto, seven cwt. of that chemical compound will be necessary to reduce the two tons of esparto which go to make one ton of paper, and these seven hundredweight of poison—for such it is—will be dissolved in the two thousand gallons of water wherein the same esparto is steamed. You have thus a simple arithmetic sum in river pollution. If a mill manufactures ten tons of paper—representing, perhaps, the circulation of a not very Jupiter-like journal per diem—it will cast into the stream which feeds it a grand total of twenty thousand gallons of poison! Perhaps, if that stream chanced to be the Mississippi, Missouri, or the Amazon, the mischief done would be imperceptible. But to a sluggish river like our royal Thames, and *a fortiori* to such streamlets as the Darenth, the Cherwell, and the Wey, this quantity of pollution means death and destruction to fish, disease to all those, whether men or animals, who drink the defiled water, while the watershed itself, which in its pure and natural state is beneficial, becomes transformed into a veritable Styx, spreading miasma and blood-poisoning in its course. The banks of this Stygian stream you may see to be covered with the corpses of fish, the cattle that taste its waters writhe within a few hours in internal agony, the very herbage refuses to grow, flowers there are none, and, from its dull, darkling mud banks, you would judge it to be a tidal river in lieu of being an inland stream. If it be true that God made the country and man made the town, it is doubly true that the art of man can succeed in marring that glorious silent highway, which has so often been the theme of poets, those rivers that seek their rest in the bosom of the sea. Alas, man is the wolf of his fellow; and not content with devouring his species he must needs mutilate the divine face of nature. We may condemn Cromwell for stabling his horses in a church, yet, after all, the iconoclasm of trade is as fierce and destructive as that of fanaticism. To my mind the waters of the exquisite Darenth should be held as sacred as the precincts of the noblest temple ever raised by the reverent self-sacrifice of Christians.

To revert, however, after this too ideal parenthesis, to sober prose and commercial commonplace. There is a yet more destructive medium than caustic alkali in common use for reducing esparto. I refer to what is known technically as bleach, and to the public generally as chloride of lime. I am informed that it takes from 150 to 200 lb. of this noxious compound to reduce one ton of esparto, and, to pile up the agony, I have to add that a much larger amount is requisite when straw is used instead of esparto, while the proportion of caustic alkali, when that same tough material is employed, stands at five per cent. in excess of that which suffices to reduce esparto. A friend of mine, well versed in the secrets of the paper trade, assures me that a large mill, with the working of which he is familiar, discharges weekly an average of 75,000 gallons of poisoned water into a little streamlet that shall be nameless, which is thereby being converted into a running pestilence, deleterious in the highest degree. And here I pause to ask a pertinent question: Are we living under the feudal system? Are not our modern lords-paramount, not, as of old, the belted earls, but the magnates of commerce? Seriously, the country is in a far greater degree enslaved by the mighty dollar than the people wot of. Listen to this one fact, which can be verified. A large firm of paper manufacturers expended recently a sum approximating a quarter of a million sterling on their works, which are situate on a once lovely stream not a thousand miles from the metropolis. Of course they poisoned with their vile chemicals the fish, which were the glory of that little river. That goes without the saying. But I am told that they had provided against all contingencies by buying up the fishing rights below their mill. They thus constituted themselves the suzerains of the country through which that stream meanders, and it may be that they are fortified legally. I must protest, however, in the name of the people, against the damnable doctrine and position that any citizen of this country can purchase the right of poisoning a running stream. There are things that money cannot buy, and among non-purchasable commodities I certainly include the privilege of injuring your fellow-creatures for your own advantage. You will perceive that this problem of river pollution is not one altogether of sport, not one altogether of food supply, but chiefly a sanitary problem. You may abolish the fish, but if in the process you poison your water-meadows, injure your flocks and herds, and affect deleteriously the health of your riverain population, you may possibly have purchased your tons of paper in too dear a market. The angler's interest and the angler's sentiment may be treated by the oligarchy of the paper trade with contempt, but when the health of a whole district is menaced, our small gravamen as anglers becomes included in a larger and an unanswerable indictment. I am quite aware that the Pollution of Rivers Act was only passed by a Government, which took for its motto "Omnia Sanitas," with extreme difficulty, and that its main object was to divert sewage from the rivers, and not the preservation of fish. But I am satisfied that whatever Government be in office, be it in complexion High Tory or Ultra-Radical, when statistics are brought forward to show that the poisoning of rivers, either directly or through their tributaries, does affect a section of the people injuriously, that Government cannot, if it would, turn a deaf ear. The *onus probandi*, however, rests with us; I mean with those who, like ourselves, are desirous of saving the beautiful rivers of our native land, and especially those within range of London, from what we believe to be unnecessary pollution, and their finny treasures from utter annihilation. And further, while on the legal aspect of the question, we must not forget that it is easy to drive a coach and six through an Act of Parliament. For instance, the piece of legislation to which I have just alluded is almost feminine in its mass of contradictions. Not to weary with dry-as-dust details, I cannot refrain from calling attention to this bright specimen of the wisdom of Parliament. The Act opens with the usual preamble that it is "expedient," &c. I wish I could add that the expediency insisted on in the preamble led up to a thorough and drastic measure of reform. Unluckily it does nothing of the kind. Part 3, section 4, contains this simple and satisfactory clause, which hits the paper trade straight: "Every person who causes to fall or flow, or knowingly permits to fall or flow, or to be carried into any stream, any poisonous, noxious, or polluting liquid, proceeding from any factory or manufacturing process shall (subject as in this Act is mentioned) be deemed to have committed an offence against this Act." Clause 6 further enacts that proceedings cannot be taken to enforce this clause except by two parties: (1) the Local Sanitary Authority, with the sanction of the Local Government Board; or (2) the Local Government Board itself; so that, you will agree with me, the Act is accurately well tied up with red tape. Most tender care, however, is taken to render the Act wholly inoperative, for, as a rider to this yard of red tape, I find superadded a clause that practically upsets the whole Act. It runs thus: "The said Board in giving or withholding their consent (to proceedings for infringement of the Act) shall have regard to the industrial interests involved in the case, and to the circumstances and requirements of the locality, and shall not give their consent to proceedings by the Sanitary Authority of any district which is the seat of any manufacturing industry, unless they are satisfied after due enquiry that means for rendering harmless the poisonous, noxious, or polluting liquids proceeding from the processes of such manufactures are reasonably practicable and available under all the circumstances of the case, and that no material injury will be inflicted by such proceedings on the interests of such industry." How, in the teeth of such a clause, a conviction could be obtained for such river pollution as I am now referring to, surpasses my small comprehension. It seems to me that the manufacturer would only have to advance a plea that he is employing so many hands, or to urge the difficulty of dealing with his waste water, in order to gain his case. Indeed, as I read the Act, it appears as though a man might be punished for such an accident as that which occurred at Wycombe, and which was threatened with prosecution by the Angling Society of that town—where a small slate tank gave way and discharged about 60 gallons of chloride of lime into the river, causing the destruction of some 50 sovereigns' worth of fine fish—while for wilfully and systematically polluting the stream he would go scot-free. I may be wrong, but if I am not so, then it will take a very powerful leverage to set in motion so badly worded an Act against the individual or collective potentiality of the members of the paper trade; the more so because the Act allows an appeal from the decision of the County Court to the High Court of Justice, so that the cost of a test-case, supposing a verdict were obtained in the inferior court, would be heavy, so heavy as to be almost deterrent to any Sanitary Authority, or Local Government Board, the only possible prosecutors, you will remember, under the pro, visions of the Act. I have heard it suggested that the Public Prosecutor, a functionary created since the passage of this Act, would have power to take up a case of river pollution, but this suggestion requires verification, and, *prima facie*, I am inclined to believe that the Public Prosecutor has enough to do with criminal offences, and that he is not required to discharge the duties of an inspector of nuisances, or of a Sanitary Authority.

I trust, gentlemen, that I have, albeit in the fewest words, demonstrated that the Act, professedly designed to protect our rivers from pollution, in reality has saved them only from sewage pollution, a form of qualification which is indeed harmless if contrasted with that effected by such chemicals as caustic alkali or chloride of lime. The Act was obviously directed against the urban authorities of such towns as Oxford, Abingdon, Reading, and Windsor, and though it professes to be genuine and to deal with the whole problem of river pollution, there were inserted, as you perceive, saving clauses in the interest of trade. Indeed, I am doubtful whether under the old principle of equity, that a man had no right to defile his neighbour's water-course, the rivers were not better protected against poisoning by chemicals than they are under this special, and very specious, Act. Evidently, therefore, if the denizens of districts watered by rivers and streams desire to preserve themselves, their children, and their cattle from poison; if, again, the various angling associations of this country are resolved to retain that heritage of piscatorial rights which we have had handed down from generation to generation unimpaired, then we must combine and agitate for fresh legislation. Of course, if it can be shown that the purity of our rivers is protected under the existing Act, then by all means take steps, if you can, to enforce it. The difficulty of doing so, consists in the machinery provided by Parliament. You may, as has been suggested to me by an enthusiastic disciple of Izaac Walton, resolve yourselves into a sort of working committee of investigation, and if you have not the fear of rheumatism before your eyes, spend your evenings in punts, somewhere in the vicinity of mills that you know to be offending perpetually against the spirit if not the letter of the Act, in order that when the stream is flushed with poison, you may bottle off so much liquor as proof positive of a violation of the Act. And, I may remark in passing, that such information obtained by reliable persons representing an organisation of the character of the Caxtonian Angling Society would carry weight before a Committee of the House. But whether you would succeed in inducing a Sanitary Authority, or a Local Government Board, to saddle their overburdened ratepayers with the expenses of a cumbrous prosecution, that I must leave to conjecture. Perhaps the attempt should be made, the more so because there is one more argument on our side which I have reserved as a *bonne bouche*.

The greatest sinners against public sanity and private angling are, I fear, our good friends the paper-makers; at all events, I am conducting at present a sort of moral analysis of their sin, which affects the anglers of London in a very perceptible degree. Now just as theologians teach that all sin is superfluous—that everybody can be virtuous, and will be all the happier and richer for the exercise of virtue—so it may fairly be urged that the error of the paper-makers is not only pernicious but unnecessary. In a word they might, if they chose, with benefit to themselves, discharge their waste water into the streams and rivers in a comparatively innocuous condition.

Before the duty was taken off paper, when mills that are now turning our fifty tons per week turned out but five, and when the staple material in use was the British white rag, which, having already been bleached, needs but little chemical interference to reduce it to a pulp, the refuse water might have been cast into the rivers without causing any appreciable damage. But, when esparto was first used, coarse chemicals advanced in price, and the mill-owners then began to erect evaporators, so as to recover the chemicals. It was found, however, that the cost of evaporation was so considerable as to yield no gain to the manufacturers, in fact, the recovered chemicals represented exactly the cost of the coal used in evaporation, and nothing more. Hence evaporation gradually diminished. This, I maintain, ought not to have been the case. Manufacturers are under a moral obligation to the country not to pollute the river unnecessarily; and further, I am assured by a practical man that if evaporators were compulsory in every mill, the paper-makers would soon enough find out that recovery was a paying process, or, in other words, to revert to my former contention, they would be taught practically that useful lesson of our copy-books "virtue is its own reward."

Oddly enough, manufacturers, of all traders the most wasteful and shiftless (except where the wage-rate is concerned, when they are commonly stern economists), have invariably been benefited by the interposition of Government, and so far as the paper-makers are concerned, they would certainly be none the worse off, and probably effect a saving, by adopting evaporation as a *sine qua non*. At all events, we have a right to demand that they shall not be encouraged by Act of Parliament to waste such valuable chemical substances as caustic alkali, and to pollute and render pestilent the crystal streams of old England. I do not exaggerate, gentlemen, when I call it tyranny on the part of traders to convert the pure waters of a sweet stream into the vilest and most pestilential of open sewers, so that the humble folk dwelling on its banks are compelled to fetch from a distance water, not only for themselves, but for their cattle. And yet this is the state of things on the silvery river Wey, where the poor people may be said to cry

> "Water, water everywhere
> And not a drop to drink!"

One's natural indignation, too, is appreciably augmented by the reflection that this cruel defilement of the Wey with a mixture that I will call "esparto broth" might be stopped to-morrow with advantage to the paper-makers. If we could not enjoy the blessing of cheap paper except by a sacrifice of our freshwater fish and our lovely streamlets, then perhaps we might cultivate a spirit of resignation. But, gentlemen, the mischief is preventible. The remedy is at the disposal of those who cause the mischief, and if they persist in refusing to avail themselves of that remedy, you will agree with me that we must endeavour to apply the gentle persuasion of an Act of Parliament.

I have to confess, in conclusion, that I have been able only to touch, as it were, the fringe of a great subject. For that I tender you my apologies, while at the same time thanking you for the compliment you have paid me in giving your attention this evening. If the few words that I have strung together clumsily should lead others who are more competent than I am to investigate the serious question of river pollution—above all, if this Society should be encouraged to take the initiative in an agitation for the reform I have indicated—then, gentlemen, I shall not have altogether wasted either my breath or your time.

SILKWORM GUT.

IT is a bold act for a man to differ with the dictum of a member of so eminent a firm as that of Messrs. Allcock and Co., of Redditch; but the detail of the treatment of silkworm gut, as given in the American *Forest and Stream*, in your issue of the 14th inst., as emanating from that gentleman, is in many respects so totally opposed to what I have been assured are the proper preparations for this product, that I dare not suffer the statement altogether to pass without challenge. Mr. Allcock says he has been in Murcia, Spain, superintending its manufacture, and has discovered two causes which make gut brittle, and has instructed the managers there to see all the native producers of gut, and impress upon them the importance of keeping the gut out of the sun.

Are we to conclude that Mr. Allcock has only now, after "thirty five years' experience," discovered that the sun has been the cause of the complaint at present so general respecting the inferiorite of this product? I will grant, for the nonce, that the sun may b one of the causes of the present deterioration; but, if so, we have been in error from the first application of this most useful production, as the sun has not ceased to shine, nor has it diminished the power of its rays. Then how does this tally with the positive knowledge that at one time gut was of the best, no complaints were heard of its strength and endurance, and it is now charged with abuses directly opposite to those which contributed so greatly to the excellence of the material? We admit that the gut is worse now than heretofore, but we do not admit that the sun has had anything to do with it. In case, however, this indictment against the grand luminary should require proof, Mr. Allcock says that, after the silkworm has been drawn out, it is put in the sun to dry, and the great heat of the sun takes the moisture out of the gut and makes it brittle. Here we have, according to the above, that the sun is not diminished in its powers of heat, and instead of doing its task in a steady workman-like manner, overbakes the gut; therefore, we must conclude, it is not the want of the solar rays that is the cause of the deterioration. He goes on to say that in bleaching it he discovered another danger in the manufacture. If the bleaching-oven is too hot, and the gut is too long in the oven, it makes the gut more brittle.

Thus we find that, firstly, the sun had overdone the process, and, in the next, that the excess heat of the bleaching-oven had caused the same effect. But it does not seem to have occurred to Mr. Allcock, how simple was the remedy: a thermometer, at the cost of one shilling, would have determined under the sun or in the oven the proper degree of heat.

Toffee is pliable, hardbake is brittle, both closely allied sweeties. Mr. Allcock seems, however, to have discovered this, for he says, in the next paragraph, gut, if made without an excess of heat, may be more pliable and consequently stronger. Who says it would not? He says that he has never found gut get brittle by keeping. Hence we find that the fierceness of the sun, and overheating of the bleaching-oven are detrimental; but how does this agree with the following, if we are to take the process as that endorsed by Mr. Allcock? The manufacture of gut is very simple. The gut from the worms is bought from the small country people who breed the worms in their houses. The first process in making is to put the gut in a furnace with water, a little soda and soap, after boiling a short time the outer skin comes off it. It is put in yellow, and comes out white after it is put in the bleaching-oven.

For our own part, we are inclined to believe, subject to correction, that the furnace, the boiling and the baking, the bleaching, the soap and soda, have more to do with the recent deterioration of gut than the poor slandered sun and atmosphere. Mr. Allcock speaks of the moisture being taken out by the sun. I presume he means it solidifies the gum, the most vital portion of the gut that holds together the many threads of silk which form the strand. But, surely, soap and soda, boiling and bleaching, &c., is most likely to extract both moisture and gum, than any of the old processes from which we got the best material.

We have in England tried the following receipt with silkworms bred by ourselves. Steep silkworms, when just ready to spin, in strong vinegar for twelve hours in warm weather, or two or three in cold; then take them out, break them in the middle, stretch them out as far as possible on a board furnished with slits or pegs to hold them, and dry them in the sun. The worms may be known to be going to spin by refusing food, and by having a fine silken thread hanging from their mouths.

The only failures that we have had have been when the sun has not been sufficiently hot; but even then, by artificial heat, we have produced average samples of gut. We should add that, after it is dry, we wipe it with olive or sweet oil, and put it away in Russia or wash leather.

Creel.

Gregory's Spinning Baits. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[Advt.]

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

> " My business in this State
> Made me a looker on."
>
> —SHAKESPEARE.

Nothing of note has occurred during the past week in the fishing line, on the Upper or Mid-Thames to warrant a detailed account; men have come and men have gone, but fish certainly have not been of so locomotive a turn of mind, and no bait, however attractive, has weaned them from their aqueous retreat. The river as I write is dropping down to its normal height, and getting from clay to mignionette tint, so, by the time this is in print, I should say roachmen bound for the Thames will be able to exclaim " I've got 'em on." A grand old Marlow fisherman named Rockwell has recently gone to rest. As usual with his profession, he has not left a large balance in the bank, which he will honour no more, but he has left a widow and children to mourn their bread winner. A fund is being formed for the benefit of the same, and I beg earnestly that patrons and others who may have ever had the good luck to have had a day with this rare old bird, not to begrudge a *mite* or a *mightier* into the stocking of his orphan and widow. Subscriptions will be gratefully received by Mr. Maskell, the George and Dragon, Great Marlow.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Thames (Goring).

Water in good order for all sorts of fishing, in good order for jack, perch and chub, could not be better. Prospects at present good for this week. Saturday and Sunday a bank fisherman from Woolwich took about 9 lb. of roach. Monday I was out, took about 10 lb. of roach; Wednesday, one jack 6 lb. and some good roach and a few good perch.—JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Kingston).

I have not been out for some time, having met with a bad fall. John has been getting some few perch and a jack or two, nothing of any size, jacks 2 and 3 lb. and a few roach and dace; the bank fisher now and then gets a nice lot of roach. The water is in good form for perch, jack or chub; I should say that chub ought to be got at.—JOHN JOHNSON.

Thames (Richmond).

The river is now in splendid order for fishing, it has not been in such fine order since October as it is now, and the fish are feeding well, especially the dace, which are running a good size; there has not been so many bream taken as I should have thought, considering the state of affairs. The sport of the week has been as follows:—C. Brown, 3 days, 35 lb. roach and dace; H. Mansell, 2 days, 23 lb. roach and dace; H. Howard, 2 days, 9 doz. roach and dace; H. Wheeler, 2 days, 19 lb. roach; Job Brain, 3 days, 29 lb. roach; J. Bushnell, 3 days, 40 lb. roach and dace. Those who want to have another turn before the season closes should come now, as they will not have a better opportunity.—JOHN BUSHNELL.

Thames (Walton).

The water has been falling all the week, and is now only about 9 inches above last summer level. It is now in capital condition and clear. If we are not visited with the storm promised on the 20th and 21st inst., there will be plenty of sport in a day or so. The weather is dull and foggy, and the wind, if anything, S.W. Nothing at all whatever, and nobody out fishing except on Sunday, when a few bank fishers tried their luck, but I did not hear of any take. Yesterday, Geo. Hone and Rogerson were out and tried for perch, but had nothing. To-day, Geo. Hone out with two gentlemen had eight perch, and lost as many more. Jack are well on the feed, but, owing to being able to get well supplied off the flooded meadows, &c., they are overfed, and before taking kindly to the bait they must be allowed a day or two, when they, and perch also, will bite well.—HENRY E. WOOD.

Ancholme.

My sons had a run over to one of the tributaries of this stream on Satudray last, but though they tried the whole range of customary baits one small roach was the only reward they received for several days' preparation. The day was dull and murky, and this may in a measure account for their want of success, as I have generally found at this time of the year that the absence of sunshine has an injurious effect upon the appetites of the fishes. If, however, they were disappointed, I had a perfect piscatorial feast. Two years ago I placed seventy *Salmo Fontinalis* fry in one of the feeders of this river, at the very fountain head, so on Saturday last, being in want of a few for stocking purposes, I thought I would run up to see what I could find. For this purpose I took a little can and landing-net only. I was most agreeably cheered and disappointed to find five of them within 200 yards of the spot where they had been placed two years ago. There were two pairs and one(add one—the sixth fish having escaped me. It is noteworthy that, in trying one of the little pools on the way up, the male fish made a bolt down the stream for some considerable distance. So I said to a friend who was with me that we should find it again in the same place on the way back. On our return this prediction was verified. It was again in the old spot seeking its mate, which it found not there but in my water-can. Of course these fish had duly spawned, but they are now added to my stock at the Manor Fishery where I hope to utilise them with others next season. To show how fast these fish grow, I may state that they were each about nine inches long, and in every respect prettier than the common trout. Rather more than twelve months ago I read an article in the *Norwich Argus* by a local M.P. of a considerable fishing authority, in which he gave these beautiful fish the character of runaways. I am delighted to controvert this theory. They must have remained where I placed them from the first, as there is a fall about a mile below which they could hardly have mounted. I put twenty times as many common trout fry in the same place but not one of these remained above the fall I have mentioned. I trust these notes will be of some service to gentlemen who think of stocking places with this fish. It is to me the most interesting report that I have sent for months, but I hope to do better things when the trout-fishing opens.—THOMAS FORD.

Dove.

At last we have had several real hard night frosts. The sun, however, has been shining so brightly by day that every morning before eleven o'clock all has been in a state of thaw. Our river has been in grand condition since I last wrote, and there has been a nice rise of grayling on every day. The frosts have made matters much better for fly-fishers, as they have killed off a great lot of naturals, and the grayling with their appetites sharpened up by the cold have been taking the artificial flies freely. The February red has been killing best, but it is now off the water. The takes during the week have numbered in many cases eight brace per rod. The best sport has been obtained about Ilam, Uttoxeter and Dovedale. Some of the cleach-net fraternity have, I am happy to state, just been heavily fined by the Ashbourne magistrates. Mr. Eddowes, of the Trent Fishery Board, prosecuted the fellows, and I congratulate him upon their conviction. Coarse fish are biting eagerly at the cockspur; many good catches have been made almost daily since my last. I fancy the colder weather now prevailing will soon send them on to the maggot. Pike are running more freely; a seven-pounder was caught on Tuesday near the Dove's junction with the Trent by a Nottingham rodster using the live minnow.—THE SPLODGER.

Exe (Exeter).

The weather during the past week has been so very spring-like that many rods have been taken from their various winter quarters to commence their actual spring avocations, and in reality before we have had the slightest indication of winter. The pike fishermen have done but little to what they usually do at this season of the year, when the weather is generally much sharper, and the roach, dace, perch and chub are literally swarming in the lower waters, where some very fine perch have been taken. In the upper portion of the river some magnificent roach have also been secured, many of them over one pound each, and salmon are seen (as our river-watcher informed me) like flocks of sheep, scrambling and tumbling one over the other, as if keeping up unusual festivities with the coming in of the new year. A few kelts have been seen going down, but owing to the river being moderately high, not so many are seen as the case would be were it otherwise. Weather bright and mild wind S.S.W.—FRANK GOSDEN.

Ilfracombe (N. Devon).

There has been quite a variety of fish caught this week of different kinds, but few in number, consisting of cod, conger, ling, skate, codlin, whiting pout, dabs, thornback, &c. A few conger, the largest weighing 45 lb.; also some cod, from 15 lb. to 20 lb. each; one ling, 15 lb.; a few skate, averaging about 56 lb. each; and some small codlin and whiting pout. A few dabs and whiting, caught with hand lines from the pier and a rock, known as Britton's Rock, a first-rate rock for amateur fishermen. Weather at present moderate, but very cold.—E. COMER.

Lea (Rye House).

The water is in good order for all sorts of angling now, the wind south-west On Saturday Mr. Swarbeck hooked a trout, weighing 5 lb., and he returned it to the water again directly, and it went boldly off. There have been some nice roach taken this week.—WILLIAM COWELL.

Medway (Tonbridge).

We have seldom seen the river in better condition than it is at the present time for angling, but the fogs have prevented many from venturing after the finny tribe. However, a few jack and roach have been grassed. Now's the time, with a bright Thames dace, to kill a big jack or two. A well secured worm would prove an acceptable tit-bit for roach, chub, and perch, while pith and brains would not be objected to by Mr. Leathermouth.—YE MEDWAY WATER RAT.

Ouse (Littleport).

Water is a good colour again, and is getting back into the bed of the river again. It looks good for fishing in a day or two, and I hope by that time to send out invitations to some of my patrons, who are waiting very impatiently for a chance to wet a line. I did not report last week, as it would have been a waste of paper. This week again I have had no one down, as it has not been good enough. I have tried two or three times, and got a few each time. On Monday I got twenty-five roach and silver bream in about two and a half hours, largest roach going just 1 lb.; the others were all weighable fish.—CHARLES SOUTH.

Trent (Nottingham).

The Trent in this district has fined down rapidly, and is in rare trim for the votaries of pike and chub. Reports go to prove that a number of pike have been brought to bank since my last. From the back water at Thrimpton two fish killed with the livebait on Tuesday, weighed 24 lb., and in a noted length four or five miles below, one of 11½ lb. was taken by a friend of the writer. Eleven fish were also killed last Saturday, and singularly enough a barbel of 8 lb. 14 oz. succumbed to the skill of a rodster in the Shardlow allotment. Barbel very rarely feed in January, and the only reason assigned for the capture of the fish named is, or was, the extreme mildness of the weather. The cockspur worm proved the tempting lure. In the low waters a few fish have been brought up from Stoke. There has not been much doing at Weston, although the keeper informs me that five pike were killed in the Blackpool on the 13th. —THE MAN AT THE CLUBS.

Trent (Newark).

The water is now in better condition in the Lower Trent than it has been for some months past, especially for pike and chub fishing. Worm fishing for roach and dace will, I believe, be rather at a discount; although, possibly, bags of those fish may be taken with the maggot. Chub fishers should at once break the pipe of peace, and go on the war path, for the chances are about ten to one that the water will not again, this season, be in the condition it now is. Pith and brains will be the most killing bait; but, failing to procure those, a bit of nice white scratchings will kill. Pike have been driven into the backwaters, eddies, and corners, away from the main stream, partly with the late floods, and partly as their first upward shift for domestic purposes, and anglers who wish to trouble them should try the live bait in all those places. The youthful Duke of Newcastle has been having capital sport with the pike in the lake at Clumber this last week or two, hardly a day passing but what he has, among others, succeeded in taking a twenty-pounder, and one day getting one that bumped the scale at 23 lb. Several nice catches of various fish have been had this week; but, if anyone was to ask me what would be the best fish to go after now. I should certainly say chub. Thursday night—Water clear and in beautiful condition for chubbing.—The Trent Otter.

Trent (Caythorpe.)

Weather and water is all that a pike and chub fisher could hope for. I have been out to day with a gentleman but only got four pike; lost two and returned one. The same gentleman went home delighted, as I taught him to untwist his line, that is by reversing the tackle or hooks on the bait; and if this is done, there need not be any kinking of line when spinning for pike or any other fish; if spinning with a large bait and a big curve, then you will have to reverse the curve often. If this teaches any one to keep his line from kinking I shall be pleased, same as the gentleman I showed it to to-day.—Sportsman's Friend.

[A very useful plan.—Ed.]

Tweed and Teviot.

The last ten days of open weather have been of great benefit in these rivers in the way of improving the condition of the trout, and a few good baskets have been got with worm, and many of these speckled trout have been firm and hard, excelling any in point of condition that have been got for some years past at the same period of the season. One angler who, for an experiment, tried fishing with the fly this week, found that the trout rose to his cast, but not in a taking fashion. This rising to the fly so early in the year is pronounced by old anglers as a prognostication of a good and early spring time, and should we not have any very severe weather during the ensuing month rare sport is expected during March with the March brown, woodcock, and greenwell. Salmon Disease.—Since last week, this most destructive and loathsome disease has reappeared in these rivers with great virulence, and there is scarcely a fish to be seen that is not, to a greater or a lesser degree, affected with it. On Saturday last, at the stretch of water below Kelso Bridge, the water bailiffs took from the river Tweed forty or thereabouts of dead salmon, both male and female, that had succumbed to the disease. One very strange circumstance in connection with the female fish that were thus taken out was that they had been cut open and their ova abstracted. The hypothesis in this case is that the poachers had been at work, and, finding that the fish were not saleable, had killed the fish and ripped them open, taking the ova for the purpose of manufacturing it into "putty" or paste, which is greatly used for trout-fishing in flooded water, although it is strictly against the statute. On a stretch of water of about one mile in the Duke of Roxburgh's water, I noticed, one day this week, fully a score of salmon lying close to the edge of the water, some dead and others affected in all stages of the fungus—in fact, as I said before, nearly all the fish in the river are diseased, both spawned and spawning; and what must naturally be the consequence in a season or two, and years hence, when the produce of these diseased spawning fish return to the river as grilse? Salmon Spawning.—The work of the spawners on the "redds" is proceeding apace—in fact, it may be said to be just about over, and certainly will be so in the course of the ensuing fortnight. Many salmon have, of course, finished their work, and a good rattling flood would, at the present moment, be of great benefit in removing to the sea those fish that have completed Nature's duty. The water to-day (Thursday) is low and clean, and the weather gives no prospect of an immediate flood.—Max Wheel, Kelso.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

Both the above rivers are in first-class condition for fly fishing, and I am pleased to say that some nice little baskets of grayling have been killed off of both rivers since my last report, chiefly with furnace, dyed hackle, and bumble flies; the furnace fly killing the most fish. Sport with the bottom has also been very good on various parts of the Derwent, both chub, perch, roach, dace, and a few grayling (of small size) having been killed, chiefly with maggots and small brandling worms. The coarse fish have fed the best in deep water, viz., from 6 to 8 feet, and grayling have taken the groundbait in the swims the best, in water from 3 to 4 feet deep. Several pike of small size have been killed in the Derwent between Cromford and Ambergate with live bait fishing, with both small roach and gudgeon for bait. Both on Wednesday and again to-day the weather was thick and murky, a hazy fog hanging about till afternoon, when the sun brightened up and brought a good number of natural flies out on both rivers, the grayling rising nicely for about half an hour, from half-past one to two.—George James Eaton.

ACTON AND EALING ANGLING SOCIETY.

The first dinner of the above society was held at the George and Dragon Hotel, on Wednesday, January 18; Dr. Lingham in the chair and Mr. Bocking in the vice. Thirty members and friends sat down to a capital spread. The usual loyal toasts having been honoured, letters regretting their not being able to attend were read from the Rev. A. H, Dunn, Mr. Marston (Fishing Gazette), Mr. Leon Bonvoisin, and Mr. Hoole. The toast of the evening, "Success to the Acton and Ealing Angling Society," was then given by the chair, who said that every man was, in his opinion, in this high-pressure age, better for having some hobby or recreation, and, in a humorous speech, recommended angling as one of the most health-giving amusements to be obtained. Three new members were enrolled by Secretary Williams during the evening. The secretary then gave in his report, stating that thirty-seven members were now on the books; 350lb. of fish had been weighed-in since the formation of the club in August last; and that the banking account was in a flourishing state. The health of the officers of the club was then drunk with musical honours. "Success to the West Central" was then drunk, and responded by Messrs. Bocking and Cooper, delegates. The two prize winners' (Messrs. A. Eydman and C. Simpson) healths were drunk, and the prizes presented—28s. to the first gentleman, and a handsome breakfast and tea service to Mr. Simpson, who won it at Thorney Broad with two jack, on Tuesday last, beating fourteen other competitors. The health of the President. Dr. Lingham, was then drunk with musical honours. The Secretary was then given, and responded to by him in a neat little speech. The Visitors was then given, also Mr. and Mrs. Brooks. Mr. Cooper exhibited some curiosities, especially a novel groundbait bag from the Trent. Some capital songs were given during the evening, by Messrs. Bocking, Cooper, Eydman, Head, Clifton, and others, and everyone enjoyed the evening, especially—Black Bag.

RICHMOND PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The half-yearly meeting of the members of this large and flourishing society was held on Tuesday evening last in the club room, Station Hotel, Richmond. There was a large attendance on the occasion, including Mr. F. C. Clench (chairman), Major Bull, (vice-president, chairman of the Richmond Vestry, &c.), Mr. H. P. Dickenson (vice-chairman), Messrs. T. Abbott (treasurer), A. J. Little (T.A.P.S.), Towell, J. H. Gaunt (secretary), H. Gaynor, H. Nattrass, R. Rowe, Griffiths, Houghton, Giles, Taman, Tyrrell, Keyes, and about forty others. On taking his accustomed seat as chairman, Mr. F. C. Clench announced that the committee appointed for the revision of the rules had presented their report, with the necessary alterations, which were accepted by those present in their entirety. It was then unanimously agreed that half-a-guinea from each member should be contributed for the purpose of acquiring private waters as well as the propagation of coarse fish. This will enable the members to spend some £60 a year on that project alone, and no doubt with considerable success. The salary of the secretary was raised to eight guineas, and various sums were voted for piscicultural purposes. The chairman, having announced that the next business was the election of officers for the ensuing year, vacated his seat, which was taken by Major Bull, who stated he had much pleasure in occupying that post for a few minutes during its vacation by Mr. Clench. They were all aware, and none better, they had in Mr. Clench a gentleman who was not only a capital angler but one who had endeared himself to them all by his kindness, urbanity, and unfailing courtesy. He had attained eminence in the angling world by his exertions on behalf of anglers generally, and notably for the Richmond Piscatorial Society, which he had raised from a local club into one that embraced anglers from the entire valley of the Thames. He had now the pleasure of calling upon Mr. A. J. Little to say a few words. Mr. Little, in proposing the re-election of Mr. F. C. Clench as chairman of the Richmond Piscatorial Society, remarked that they knew there had been some difficulty in getting that gentleman to undertake that office for another year, but he was glad to say they had succeeded in doing so; and he was sure, under his sound and energetic management, the ensuing year would be a prosperous one for the society. Mr. Taman, in seconding the motion, spoke most highly of Mr. Clench's valuable services. On being put by Major Bull to the meeting, it was unanimously and enthusiastically carried. Mr. Clench, on again taking the chair, was loudly cheered, and after thanking the members for his re-election, said he would do all he possibly could for the welfare of the society. He was glad to find that what he had done was so highly appreciated by them all. He had only one object in view, and that was the true advancement of angling interests; and whether in that society or outside in the piscatorial world, he should continue to labour with all diligence and earnestness in bringing about all changes that would be desirable to elevate the science of angling, and to make all anglers in every part of the country thorough and upright sportsmen. The following officers were then elected:—Mr. Dickenson, vice-chairman; Mr. Houghton, treasurer; Mr. J. H. Gaust, secretary; Mr. Gaynor, curator; and Mr. Rowe, librarian. The following gentlemen were appointed as the committee:—Messrs. Giles, Taman, Tyrrell, Field, Nattrass, Keyes, Goodales, Crew and Hayward, the auditors being Messrs. Plant and Ford. A cordial vote of thanks was proposed by the chairman to Major Bull, expressing a hope that as he was one of the representatives of the vestry in the Thames Valley scheme of drainage, he would look after the interests of anglers, and so promote the purification of the Thames. Major Bull, in returning thanks, said he would do all he could to help the anglers, but he thought that from what he saw in the river they specially selected the vicinity of sewers to fish. He supposed the fish had a sewer flavour, but he trusted before long this would be remedied. And he was at all times glad to come amongst the Richmond Piscatorials. They were all genial men, with the best of feeling, and he regarded the club as a haven of rest after a hard day's work. He knew something of the trouble of working a society, and he was quite satisfied, under the guardianship of Mr. Clench, their present chairman, it would become not only the largest, but the most influential club in London. The annual dinner was fixed for the 26th of January.

We regret to learn that Mrs. Greville Fennell, wife of the veteran angling writer and painter, expired last week after a long and painful illness. Mr. F.'s family have been singularly unfortunate in the matter of accidents; we remember visiting the genial scribe at his eyrie on the banks of the Thames a few years ago, when his poor wife lay injured in one room through being knocked down by a runaway horse and cart, his daughter was suffering from serious contusions caused by another runaway—this time the carriage in which she was riding near Piccadilly, while Greville Fennell himself had just slipped down the steps leading to his breakfast room and painfully hurt his back. We sincerely condole with him on his loss. The happy pair had been married over fifty-two years.—*Norwich Argus.*

George James Eaton, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. . No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[Advt.]

WORMS IN DOGS.—Mr. James Doughty, Author of "Art of Breaking and Training Dogs," says: "I have used Maldire's Worm Powders for Dogs for many years, and they have always proved successful." Maldire's Worm Powders are sold by all chemists price 1s., 2s., 3s. 6d. and 5s. per packet, or sent post free (on receipt of Stamps) by Barclay and Sons 95, Farringdon Street, London.

RAMBLES WITH THE FLY-ROD ON VARIOUS STREAMS.

II.

> "Mid pleasures and palaces, tho' we may roam,
> Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home."

RETURNING from wandering amongst coarse fish in the far South, I found myself, in 1874, once more in the "bonnie brown Norland," on the banks of the beautiful streams of my fatherland—streams that are matchless, in comeliness at least, amongst all the proud rivers of the land.

In the North there are several Greatas, and it was not far from the banks of one of these, on the breast of a mountain of the boldest outline and descried from afar, I found my footsteps retracing the homeward path. Two rivers formed the arena of my operations, rivers notable for shy fish and indefatigable anglers, who fish with fly, minnow and worm. The two rivers are the Greata and Doe, whilst the confluent waters retain the name of the former. There is an association in the place which extends over nine or ten miles of a lovely stream, containing trout that are famous in the market for their beautiful condition. The tickets are only five shillings for the season; the cost of the ticket may easily be defrayed in a day, even at low water. Notwithstanding all this, the fish are delightfully shy, and afford the most exquisite opportunity to the strategist angler for the exhibition of skill.

And now to the river. I extract notes from my diary relating to four consecutive days of fly-fishing in these streams, in July of the year already mentioned.

The first of these days was July 1. The barometer, after falling, had just begun to rise; the wind was up-stream, but the water very low, heavy, and rain was descending. The rod I employed was my 12-ounce hickory implement, with rent-cane top, by Blacker. The cast was of the finest slate-coloured drawn gut, and I used no hand net. The scene of encounter was the Greata, but on my way to this stream I had to wade across the Doe, close to some slate quarries, about a mile above the junction. This is a lovely place, and here I caught two trout, and then went forward. I struck into the former stream above Thornton foss, and procured seven fish in the quarter of a mile of rapid river below the ford. I then entered the upper basin of the valley, called Kingsdale. Here the river is much less rapid, flowing between earthy banks several feet high, but usually low and shelving on one side. There is a fair amount of weed in the various reaches of this section of the waters, which effectually prevents much successful poaching. I now encreeled 32 captives from the lagoon reaches above the ford. Dubs eight and nine were not in fishing trim, as the wind did not curl the water. However, I had already got two fish at once in the twelfth dub, and now two more came in company from a streamy nook below the rail, just above the head of the third pool. One fish, on being removed from the hook, disclosed a half-vomited, semi-digested bulhead in its capacious jaws. On returning, I took one more fish below the ford, when a sudden rush of road washings and rising flood stopped further onslaught for the time; so I left the banks with a heavy creel. The flies employed were fatal in the following proportions: black palmer, 7; red palmer, 4; whirling dun, 13; hawthorn fly, 18. The trout numbered 42 in all.

The following day, July 2, I went to the Greata alone, and fished from the foot of Swilla-Bottom Gill, beginning at a place called Creeping-stones, half-a-mile above the junction. In this romantic gill, I took 22 trout before reaching the slate quarries on the right bank of the stream. I then obtained two more below Thornton foss, whilst nine were added between the waterfall and the ford above. Sixteen more came to creel in going up Kingsdale, and two at the stream by the fence, below Keldhead, on coming down again. The barometer was 29·575, and falling, the wind upstream, whilst it was fine most of the day. There was a little rain with strong wind after 5 p.m. A good number of fine fish were caught out of the second pool. The first stinting was of fine-drawn gut; with this I fished until it became so frayed and thin that it would not keep straight, but incessantly curled on itself. One medium-sized fish showed good fight and doubled up the rod in fine style. The second cast employed was of hair. Black palmer, 7; red palmer, 2; grousefly, 13; whirling dun, 9; hawthorn fly, 4; this fly was then replaced by "The Francis," which took one. The second cast killed thus: golden dun, 3; iron blue, 4; peacock fly which was soon lost, 1; July dun, 6; black palmer, 1. There were 51 trout in all, which more than filled my pannier.

The third occasion, July 4, was in the river Doe. This time, two fish came from a short distance below the lower slate quarries. I then passed Baxen-gill full of stupendous falls, which lies above the quarry. The tumultuous career of the stream is comparatively calm half a mile higher up, but is still rapid and flexuous, and much more stony and varied than in Kingsdale. In the first pool I got two fish, and afterwards added 36. The wind was up-stream, and so strong as to spoil the fishing on some of the best dubs. However, by casting directly up-stream, I got a good many trout from close under the steep banks of the great sheep-dub, where the froth gathered together. The barometer was 29·79, and was rising. There was little or no rain, but it was very sunny at noon; afterwards cloudy. During the course of the day I lost the cast which had been used on previous occasions, after it had caught 114 fish. As on the first ramble, I caught a trout with another half-digested bulhead in its jaws. Three casts were employed, one of which took 36 of the 40 fish, the result of this day's sport. Black palmer, 5; red palmer, 2; grouse fly, 7; whirling dun, 15; Francis, 1; this fly was then replaced by the hawthorn fly, which secured 3; three other fish fell off the hook in landing.

The last of the four days found me again, on July 6, by the banks of the Greata. From the Creeping-stones to the quarry nine was the number encreeled. I then assaulted the hole at the foot of the great waterfall, when I deluded successfully six beautiful fish in the heavy rippling water. On this occasion only four more came to basket before reaching the ford. Nine were added between that point and Keldhead, where the river debouches from the innermost recesses of the mountain to see daylight after two miles of subterranean course. Before arriving at Thornton foss, on the homeward route, two more fish swelled the number, where, as a last resort, in the gloom of twilight the rebellowing pool was once more attacked and made to deliver five of its occupants. The tax I had levied upon it this day had been heavy, considering the splendid quality of the fish.

One of the 35 trout obtained was of remarkably burly proportions; for, although only measuring 12 inches long, it weighed 1 lb. 1 oz., and fought vigorously on hair tackle, though unavailingly. Four casts were employed; the July dun was the most deadly lure; one of the casts secured 18 fish. Golden dun, or iron blue, 5; peacock fly, 2; July dun, 7; black palmer, 4.; Besides the fish already mentioned, there was another amongst the number 11 inches long, weighing as much as 13 oz., and showing the remarkable condition of the trout of this stream. The water was now very low again; the breeze only slight, with the weather bright. The barometer was at 30·1, but falling, yet without rain. Though the creel contained the smallest number of fish on this day, yet the average size of the captives was much greater than that of those taken on the previous occasions.

So much for the streams of Yorkshire. Let the angler visit scenery unrivalled, with angling of a quality sufficient to impart to the fly-fisher, let loose from the trammels and exhaustive anxieties of the city,

> "A braw light of mountain and muirland"

to dissipate for many a long day the cares of a busy life. Such angling is to be found within easy and accessible distance of any of our great towns, and if the fly-fishers who live therein do not despoil the waters of their noblest and most wary denizens, the fault is no longer mine. Try, then, the Greata; fish when you will, it is impossible to "fish out" either this stream or its sister branch, the Doe. If you catch no fish the fault is yours. Fish the streams of my fatherland as you will, their trout defy the "fished out" theories. No other groundbait than practical craftsmanship will we allow amongst our silent hills and thundering glens. As much of this as you may possess, use unstintingly; and, if you prove the owners of a degree sufficient to render you happy amongst anglers on the days of trial, one other will not on that account be less blithe, for he knows there will always be a goodly residuum of trout welcoming

The Raven.

(*To be continued.*)

THE EAST ANGLIAN HANDBOOK,

THE present is the twenty-third annual issue of this most valuable handbook, published at the small price of 6d. by Mr. P. Soman, at the *Argus* Office, Norwich. The East Anglian is by far the best of all the publications of the kind, and this year every angler ought to buy it, and especially all who are interested in Fisheries Exhibitions, as it contains more than a hundred closely printed pages descriptive of the Norwich National Fisheries Exhibition, and all that was to be seen there. This article alone is worth the money, and in addition to it, the purchaser will find the other 200 pages full of most interesting reading. The article on cigars and tobacco is very cleverly done, and if our readers will try a pipe of the new "Barley White" tobacco over it, we feel sure they will thoroughly enjoy both. "Sport on the Wensum," will be found well worth another pipe. Then we have a tale by Cyril Hathway. "Fish Culture," by Charles C. Capel, &c., &c. In fact, the *East Anglian Handbook* is really worthy of the great success it has attained.

NOTICES OF BOOKS, &C.

A PLEASANT BOOK ON ANGLING.

ANGLERS' EVENINGS: PAPERS BY MEMBERS OF THE MANCHESTER ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION. Second series. Manchester: Abel Heywood and Son. London: Simpkin, Marshall and Co. 1882.

> "Whanne that April, with his showers sweet,
> The droughte of March hath perced to the root,
> And bathed every veine in such licour,
> Of whiche engendered is the flower;
> Whan Zephirus eke with his sweet brethe
> Enspired hath in every grove and hethe
> The tendre croppes, and the young sonne
> Hath in the Ram his halfe cours yronne,
> And smale foules maken melodie,
> That slepen alle night with open eye,
> So priketh hem nature in hir corages,
> Than longen folk to gon on pilgrimages."—CHAUCER.

THE "young sonne" has run his course through the Ram more than five hundred times since Chaucer penned his immortal "Canterbury Tales," and each time the "sweet brethe" of spring has made anglers long to go on pilgrimages after trout. It is to this longing that we are indebted for the charming literature of angling—a literature far surpassing in extent and interest that of any other field sport.

Two years ago, the members of the Manchester Anglers' Association gave the angling world a description of their pilgrimages, and very heartily was it welcomed—in fact, the whole edition was exhausted, and, as the preface to this new volume informs us, "a second edition might well have been issued, but as time went on, and the monthly meetings of the association supplied material that had at least the merit of novelty, it was resolved to bring out a second series, not perhaps so much instead of a reprint of the first as in anticipation of it. This resolution has now been carried out, and here is the result."

It is a result of which the Association may well be proud, and not they only, but the whole angling community. We devoutly hope the time is not far distant when every town in the kingdom will have an association founded on the same principles, and carried out in the same spirit, as the Manchester Anglers' Association; then we shall see what we trust has already commenced, the decadence of pegged-down matches, of gross-weight competitions, of prize-fishing, and pot-fishing generally.

This second series of "Anglers' Evenings," is in many respects an improvement on the first—good as that was. The *Field* of February 28, 1880, speaking of the constitution of the Association generally, said: "If they had two or three artists affiliated with them, their organisation would be complete." We are glad to see that this valuable hint has not been thrown away, for the volume before us is most charmingly illustrated by means of photographic reproductions, and wood engravings from sketches made by some of the members, who, if they can use the rod as well as they do the pencil, must be very clever anglers. Mr. George Sheffield's four carbon sketches are real gems, though we should imagine they are hardly done justice to by the autotype process—or rather by the great reduction they have evidently been subjected to. This is more especially noticeable in the illustration of Herrick's lines "Rockie are thy wayes all over;" which is not many degrees removed from that "utter indistinctiness," which requires the artistic perception of a Whistlerite to decipher. But the frontispiece, "The Salmon Pool," is a really exquisite bit of drawing.

The papers are all of them good, but those we like best are Mr. John O. Mackenzie's "Tweedside, with a few practical hints;" Mr. George Sumner's "The coach, the coached, and the coachman;" Mr. George Davies' "The meres of Shropshire;" Mr. George Sumner's "The Wye and the wherefore;" and Mr. Henry Vannan's "Fishing days on the Aberdeenshire Don." We must also mention specially the kindly lines on the late H. L. Rolfe, "In Memoriam" by Mr. Francis Francis. Every one who knew Rolfe will thank Mr. Francis for his graceful words, and acknowledge their truth and appropriatiness; here are a few extracts:—

> H. L. Rolfe, ætat 57, died on Monday, the 29th of August, 1881. Art loses a devoted follower, and the whole angling fraternity experiences a loss which cannot be replaced. We may have another fish artist, but another Rolfe we certainly shall not soon find.
>
> There was no pleasanter lounge, or place of gossip, than the little studio of "the scaly painter" (as his familiar friends pleasantly called him), in Nicholas Lane, City. . . . Peeping in at the open door, inside, beyond the *entresol*, you would see a small apartment, to which the window pertained, thronged with pictures of all sorts and sizes. If you were known and had the *entree*, or if you desired to transact business with the proprietor, you would enter and see, beyond a half-drawn curtain, the studio, a wee cozy nook, with "the Baron" himself (as he was called), seated at an easel, touching and re-touching, a noble salmon, which is bounding from the water with a fly in his mouth and a broken cast attached, and which is entitled "A Leap for Liberty," probably, for he was fond of apt titles for his pictures, and very clever in devising them. The glittering scales came out life-like and clear under his skilful touch, as he chats away pleasantly with some old friend the while, smoking the inseparable pipe, without which he never did anything, and on his head the almost equally inseperable fez, a striking figure, much over six feet in height, with very handsome features, which a grave kindly smile from time to time overspread, rarely deepening into anything approaching laughter. Let us listen to the conversation. His companion, probably some angling friend or fellow clubbist, or haply a customer from one of the great business centres adjacent, is speaking.
>
> "I tell you, Baron, he behaved shamefully, and I will never look over it."
>
> "Now, now, now, look here, old fellow. I know B—— well, and I have known you for years; you are two good fellows, and you two shouldn't quarrel and be ill-friends; I will not hear of it. If he said anything of the sort I'm sure he never meant it unkindly, or as you take it; I'm sure you're mistaken; why should he say a thing like that? You had not given him any reason?"
>
> "Not I, not a bit, and I never" ——
>
> "No, no, of course not, nor did he, you may depend on it; there is some misunderstanding. Don't fall out, you'll both be sorry for it afterwards, if you do. I shall see him at the club to-morrow, and I will talk to him," &c.; or ——
>
> "Well, if so and so did so and so, I am sorry for it; I don't want to remember it, and, if he speaks to me at the dinner, I shall take no notice of it. It is a pity there should be any ill-feeling."
>
> He hated scandal, and always put it aside. He could not abide quarrelling or ill-blood, and if two friends fell out he was quite unhappy until the breach had been healed again.

There was indeed, as Mr. Francis says, "a great deal of the simple, kindly, Waltonian feeling in the dear old painter, which made him beloved by all who came in contact with him." And it is a double pleasure to us to find this fitting tribute from Mr. Francis in this little volume, which is itself so full of true "Waltonian feeling." Every angler will find material for many a pleasant evening in this volume, and we venture to think a perusal of it would make a man who knows nothing about angling desire to equip himself with rod and tackle, and, with some master of our art as companion, explore our delightful haunts. It is impossible for one who is not an angler to fully understand the thousand and one delights which the sport affords. Every fly in our treasured fly book, every rod hanging in our fishing den, can conjure up memories which are the pleasantest and sweetest to look back upon;—the ordinary events of life are forgotten but that visit to "breezy Berwickshire," as Mr. Sumner so aptly cally the lovely county, those days on the glorious Eden in Cumberland, and a multitude of others like them, stand out fresh and green in memory. There is no pleasure like the angler's, and no holiday like the trout-fisher's; and we may truly say no anglers so keenly appreciate the pleasures of angling as we townsmen do. What, will you dwellers in rural districts, true lovers of the rod though you may be, dare to assert you can appreciate the art as we do! impossible. Come and live all but a week or two of every year of your lives in a town like London or Manchester, get "kippered" in our smoke and fog, get dazed with the noise and whirl of existence here—then, and then only, will you know what your country scenes, your gentle brooks, grand rivers, hamlets, hill-lands, mountains, valleys, moor-lands, are to us.

> "The green woods laugh with the voice of joy,
> And the dimpling stream runs laughing by."

So sings Mr. Sumner, as he passes through Lancashire and Yorkshire on his way to the Whitadder—loveliest of trout streams.

Then listen to others of these Manchester anglers describing their feelings when off to some favourite haunt. Mr. Abel Heywood, jun., in his too short description of "One way to the Tweed," says:—

"To attempt to describe your sensations as you emerge from the station, and climb on to the 'bus, must result in miserable failure. . . . It is a good long time since I was at school, but, as far as I remember, the feeling I have been speaking of is nearest to that of the schoolboy home for his holidays, who has just caught sight of the dear old walls that shelter mother and sisters. I am afraid that the dear old hills would, under circumstances such as I am writing about, appear to me dearer than the schoolboy's home. Were I not past skipping and jumping, I should dance; but it is only my heart now that can indulge in such antics, and may *it* never fail in its joyful performances in the presence of springtide and the loved mountain scenery. . . . As the 'bus rolls on, how delightful is every remembered object that comes in view. . . ."

Mr. George Davies' rattling angler's song, "We'll all go a-fishing to day" breathes the same spirit.

Mr. J. L. Wilson's views may be guessed from the closing lines of his "Week in Mid-Wales." . . ". . so ended our short holiday, and we went our monotonous business ways once more."

In his "Chronicles of Pen-y-Bont," (which, by the way, is illustrated by a capital sketch by Colonel Mawson), Mr. David Reid breaks out as follows :—

"What an inspiring thought—a first spring fishing day ! Is there an angler, worthy the name, whose heart does not leap responsive to the sound ? The 'Pleasures of Hope' he has been feeding upon for weeks. The 'Pleasures of Memory' he will feed upon for the weeks to come. Mark his eager steps, as he sees from the crest of the hill the river at his feet, and feels that he is to wave once more the favourite wand o'er pool and stream. . . ."

But we could go on quoting in this way from the whole book. We shall hope to refer to it again, especially to what we may call its scientific side, represented by a most careful and thoroughly sound paper on "The Conditions of Vision in Fishes," by the hon. sec., Mr. Abel Heywood ; and Mr. Estcourt's "Analysis of Fishing Waters." In conclusion, we most heartily thank the Manchester anglers for their pleasant and practical papers. Long may the association flourish. We can promise certain success and a warm welcome to all such handsome volumes as these "Angler's Evenings"* that they will delight us with.

THE "FISHING GAZETTE" BAIT NET.

We are glad to see that Messrs Cayless and Sons, of Loughborough, have adopted our suggestion, and brought out a bait-net similar to that recently described in the Gazette as in use in Germany ; they give it the above title, and inform us they have sent one for notice. We shall hope to speak well of it when we see it, as, if it is properly made, it will prove a grand boon to all anglers.

Since writing the above the net has come to hand, and we must congratulate Messrs. Cayless on the perfect manner in which they have carried out the idea. This net is so cheap, so simple, and so effective, that it must have a large sale.

A HISTORY OF FISHING TACKLE, WITH NOTES ON ITS AMATEUR MANUFACTURE,

By J. Harrington Keene.

No. II.—Tackle of the Middle Ages.

By the middle ages I, in this connection, refer to the period between the birth of Christ and the publication of the first treatise on fishing, which, as my readers are aware, was that published in the Boke of St. Albans, in 1496. This period of 1496 years is by no means fruitful of angling literature ; and, judging from the work just adverted to, the anglers of any period after the departure of the Romans, must have possessed execrable tackle. Of course, fish-culture was actively pursued, chiefly by the monastic institutions in the later days ; and, indeed, it is probable that until the Roman missionaries arrived in our land, at least angling was not, and even net-fishing unknown. Beda tells us that St. Wilfrid taught the people of these islands how to catch fish, before which time they could take only eels, which were vastly more plentiful in the early ages of the Christian era than they are now.

Of course, in other lands, a sort of reorganisation and disintegration was going on, and the palmy days of the seven-hilled city (Rome) were fast departing. Pliny, A.D. 20, in his "Historia Naturalis," treats of the nature, habits and localities of fishes, with his accustomed clearness. He speaks of the mode of catching eels, which in Lake Benacus, was by means of *leapneeles* and *weanets*, which were so cleverly made, as to entrap a thousand of fishes in one haul. The frequent mention of angling, fishing and tackle in the four Gospels, of course, also gives an insight into the sort of implements in use. In a comparative sense, however, the ages were veritably dark thereafter following, so far as my subject is concerned ; and the first burst of light comes when, in the fourth century, we find Ausonius writing his poem "Mosella," in which he speaks of perch, tench, &c., and salmon, under its present name.

> "Nec te punicio rutilantem viscere *salmo* transierum."

Of fishing-tackle, however, Ausonius has little to say, and though the fathers of the Church frequently refer to fish-catching, they furnish no enlightenment as to the actual apparatus in use.

So also, though the Welsh bards made fishing a theme until the year one thousand, no treatise describing baits, fish, and angling appeared. Even at that date, it is supposed that a MS. work found in the Abbey at St. Butin's, at St. Omer, was only written.

Du Cange, from what source I cannot say, has certainly described the various modes and instruments of fishing in the middle age. Says Mr. Blakey, "There was the *pirvene*, that round net, which he thinks had leaden globules on the lower part of it, the upper ending in a horn ; the *scortiare*, for taking sea-fish near the level shore, the trammel net of triple meshes of regulated sizes ; the *transferserium*, a net for the use of rivers ; another net called *alcipites*, a double kind of one to be used both for large and small fish, the *froncanezze*, a public net belonging to the community, and the *rivale*, the modern landing net . . . an instrument made of rushes was also used, and a *kedullus*, the beetle and weir; the *nasa foliaria*, a thing uncertain, but by which people fished on foot under sluices in the 12th century, the *precaptura*, a series of pales so disposed in the rivers that the fish might be readily taken and preserved in nets, the *poeta*, a method of fishing by a net fastened at one end to a stake with which the fishermen made a circuit . . . the *Romata* composed of branches of trees thrown into the water . . . by the *Vena*, an enclosure to intercept fish." It will be observed that no mention of the angle, or hook or line, is made in the foregoing, and the presumption naturally is that angling proper was little practised in the earlier period at least of the Christian era.

Mr. Blakey inserts in his "Angling Literature" a curious old tract, supposed to have been written about the year 1420—seventy-six before the appearance of the "Treatyse of Fysshynge with an Angle," in which the following passage occurs :—

> "But none other that use anglyng ten or twelff,
> Wyth water hookys and certaine bayt,
> * * * * * *
> But in rennyng ryvers that bee commone,
> There will I fisshe and taake my fortune,
> Wyth nettys and wyth angle hookys."

Hooks were certainly therefore known, and, as we have seen, written about. But the exact form we know not, and can only form an idea from the Dame Julyana Berners' "treatyse," where those in vogue in the then latter part of the fifteenth century are represented by rough, though amply detailed, woodcuts.

(*To be continued*).

CAPTURE OF A LARGE NET ON THE RIVER LEA.

At the Worship Street Police Court, before Mr. Bushby, Jacob Tyrrell and Frederick Hearne, were charged by the Lea Conservancy with illegally netting in the River Lea on Thursday morning, January 12, between 4 and 5 a.m. Constable Taylor, N.R., was on duty at Clapton, near Horseshoe Point, and he saw the defendants setting a net twenty-five yards long. After setting the net they proceeded towards Tottenham in a boat, during which time Taylor procured the assistance of two other constables, and on their return took them into custody, and secured the net with about 2 cwt. of fish, consisting of jack, barbel, bream, roach, dace, and chub. The net was produced in court. Hearne having been convicted for a similar offence in 1877, Mr. Bushby convicted them in a penalty of £5 each and costs. The net was destroyed.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

On Monday evening next, January 23rd, a West Central Association, No. 1 district visit, will be paid the Bostonian Angling Society, the Dalby Tavern, Dalby Street, Prince of Wales Road, Kentish Town, N.W. A large muster is anticipated.

A capital review of "Anglers' Evenings" appeared in Tuesday's issue of the *Daily News*. It treats principally of the Manchester anglers and their doings, but in such a vein as to prove interesting to anglers all round. With the exception of two-legged poachers, fresh-water fish have, perhaps, no greater foe than the otter. Two of these rapacious and wasteful beauties are at present terrorising finny ones in the neighbourhood of Pangbourne and Mapledurham. They have been shot at several times, and have left scraps of fur in the traps set for them. As the spawning season, when fish are not only most valuable but most helpless, is drawing near, let us hope a stop will shortly be put to their predatory career. Meanwhile, scarce a day passes but sundry unfortunate chub, roach, and even eels, fall victims to their wanton destructiveness. I say wanton, because in each case only a comparatively small portion of the fish is eaten. Mr. C. P. Wheatstone showed me, the other evening, scales as large as a shilling, from a carp which they had tackled and partly eaten. I should think the fish from which they were taken must have weighed 8 or 9 lb.

"The Thames Rights Defence Association is very quiet," said a friend to me the other day ; "has that body gone to sleep, or is it pulling itself together for a 'grand coup ?' "

On Friday evening last the monthly meeting of the Central and Third Association took place, Mr. Murray in the chair, faced in the vice by Mr. J. Fitch.

Among the correspondence read by the hon. secretary, Mr. R.

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*An index, giving names of rivers, places, &c., mentioned in the work would be a great boon.

Stebbings, was a letter from the secretary of the West Central Association, Mr. T. Hoole, inviting this association to send representatives to a joint committee meeting of the West and East Central Association, whose object was the consideration of many matters of serious importance to London club anglers. Among others, those of coarse fish culture, legislation for the better protection of coarse fish, renting and preserving waters.

Mr. R. B. Marston—whose kindly volunteered good offices in smoothing over any little difficulties in the way of an amicable junction between the West and Central Associations, had been most delicately and successfully exercised — Messrs. Geen and L. Bonvoisin, president and chairman respectively of the first-named body, and Mr. C. P. Wheatstone, president of the Stanley Anglers, formed the deputation, whose business it was to lay before the meeting the objects the joint committee would have to consider.

Mr. R. B. Marston, having spoken briefly *re* "Coarse Fish Culture," his remarks being listened to very attentively, and received with frequent "hear hears," the necessity for a thorough understanding was then strongly urged by Mr. P. Geen, in his usual earnest and forcible manner, who, speaking of the desirability of renting waters, observed:—"Gentlemen, there are unfortunately several clubs whose members take no interest in our doings; their only object in joining us is to obtain the privileges of travelling at reduced fares, by doing which they are able to save a considerable sum annually, and, in several cases, I could instance—What use is being made of the money so saved? Why, I will tell you. With it waters are being rented and preserved by these gentlemen for their exclusive use; so that, in practice, the boon of cheap travelling we tried for again and again, and only obtained after great loss of time and much anxiety, extending it freely to all, including those who, though repeatedly urged, have again and again refused us their assistance and ridiculed our efforts, is now being used as a weapon to deprive us (though in a strictly legal manner) of the privilege of angling in waters where many of us have followed our sport from boyhood. Now, gentlemen, whose is the fault? I answer, unhesitatingly, ours. We, who number several thousands, and boast of a most thorough organisation, should be prepared to take up every available yard of water worth having within get-at-able distance of London, and every day we delay doing so some fresh reach is lost to us—to-day a stretch of the Colne or Lea, to-morrow of the Ouse or Canal—the gain that of the few and generally well-to-do, the loss that of thousands, nearly all of the humbler classes. It rests entirely with you to decide whether this state of things is to continue or not." (Hear, hear.) After a remark from Messrs. Stebbings, Hatfield, Fitch, Murray, the proposition that the invitation to meet the representatives of the other two associations to confer with them on matters of general interest, be cordially accepted the best thanks of this meeting being tendered to Messrs. Marston, Geen, Bonvoisin and Wheatstone for their attendance here this evening being passed unanimously.

On Saturday last Mr. Cousins, at Staines, fishing for roach with a gentle, succeeded in capturing a handsome 3 lb. 2 oz. I am informed that the river Thames is now in prime order and of a beautiful colour.

On Tuesday evening, the 17th, the fourth annual supper of the Westbourne Park Piscatorial Society took place at their headquarters, the Pelican, all Saints' Road, Westbourne Park, about 50 members sitting down to do ample justice to host Millhouse's capital catering.

After the removal of the cloths, toasts, songs, and the distribution of a number of valuable prizes, made time pass merrily. Among the visitors were Messrs. Bonvoisin, Beckett, Osmon (W.C.A), Green (H.U.A.), and Godfrey (West Drayton). In reply to the toast of the West Central Association, Mr. Bonvoisin made a few remarks very much in the same sense as those made by Mr. Geen and quoted above. Mr. Beckett made a telling little speech, in which he pleaded with great earnestness and eloquence the cause of the Anglers' Benevolent, and I shall be disappointed if the result of that speech is not to make the members of Westbourne Park join that excellent institution *en masse.* Jolly Mr. George Evans presided, Mr. Pink, senr., making an excellent vice.

Next Friday, 20th, is the monthly meeting of the West Central Association, and a special one; it is expected business of the utmost importance will be brought on for discussion, and that all delegates will attend.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents*]

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY,

Sir,—It would be interesting to your readers if some gentleman connected with the Gresham Angling Society would kindly give a slight sketch of its origin and the names of the gentlemen who have the honour to be the founders, more especially since it has attained such marked success during the few months it has been established; and, judging from the reports of its proceedings we get in the Fishing Gazette week by week, I think it will be conceded that there is scarce another society that has done so much good in the cause of angling in so short a time.—I am, &c., Angler.

RARE FISH.

Sir,—On December 31, 1881, I found a specimen of the Gemmesus Dragonet—*Callionymus Lyra*—in a herring net, and this morning discovered another in the same boat.

As these fish are generally, even in summer, found in deep water, their capture in the winter near shore is, I think, worthy of notice. The master of the boat informs me that on neither occasion was he driving over a greater depth than eleven fathoms.

The mildness of the season may perhaps account for their presence.

A friend has just shown me a specimen of the Flying Squid, which he picked up from the deck of a vessel in the South Pacific. In appearance it much resembles the common squid—*Soligo vulgaris*—it is about 6 inches in length. Will some one give me the scientific name? It must have been possessed of considerable powers of flight to have landed itself on the deck of a large steamer. It is certainly of a different species to the small flying squid common in the Mediterranean.—I am, &c., E. Gosling.

Budleigh Salterton, Jan. 16, 1882.

BONVOISIN TESTIMONIAL FUND.

Sir,—Mr. Greville Fennell has painted a picture, as a contribution to the above fund. It has been decided that it shall be drawn for on the "Art Union principle." The picture, which represents a scene on the Lea, is one which, I am sure, anglers would wish to possess, and the tickets at 1s. each bring it within the "distance" of even the humblest. I have decided to show the picture for a week, and any gentleman who can make it convenient to call at my offices, 39, Liverpool Street, E.C., between 9 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. can see the picture and purchase a ticket.—I am, &c.,

Fred. C. Clench,
Treasurer Bonvoisin Testimonial Fund.

January 16th, 1882.

COOK'S WATER AT HODDESDON.

Sir,—Will you kindly inform me through your valuable paper whether Mr. Cook's Water, Hoddesdon, is to be fished by daily subscription.—I am, &c., Pike.

[This water is rented by a body of gentlemen from Messrs. Cook, who reserve the sole right of fishing to themselves and their friends. Day tickets have not been granted for some time.—I am, &c., R. Ghurney.]

CLUB REPORTS.

ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several members of this society were out on Sunday, the 15th inst., and although the takes were small the quality was exceedingly good. Mr. A. Shakel taking first honours with 3 lb. 1½ oz. of roach; Mr. B. C. Booth, roach, from the Lea; Mr. T. Bowling, roach, from the Stort: Mr. D. Liston, dace, from the Thames.—D. Davis, sec.

ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Since my last report I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of donations from W. H. Brougham, Thames Angling Preservation Society, 10s. 6d., and Izaak Walton Foster, of Caythorpe, Lowdham, Notts, 2s.

N.B.—Annual subscriptions are now due, and the smallest donations will be thankfully received and acknowledged by—R. Ghurney, gen. sec.

10, Baches Street, Charles Square, Hoxton, N.

Jan. 18.

BERMONDSEY BROTHERS.

We had a decent show of roach from old Father Thames. Messrs. Frost, Conn, Gaffney and Harry being best men. A complimentary visit will be paid to the above society on Tuesday, January 31.—W. Allen, sec.

Jan. 17.

BOSTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

The first return visit of the season, No. 1 district (W.C.A.), will be to the above society on Monday, January 23, when we shall be pleased to see all brother anglers as can make it convenient to attend.—H. Taylor.

January 16.

BRIGHTON ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, by a meeting of several of the members, it was decided to hold a competition in the Ouse, on January 21st, weather permitting. Mr. Anscombe went out on Monday last, and had two runs with jack, but unfortunately lost both. He reported the Ouse as fishable, which at once put the members on the move after a long rest. Conditions of the competition—All fish, bar eels; weather foggy; wind N.E. The Cuckmere is also settling down.—Ground Bait.

BURDETT ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above society went out on Sunday, Jan. 15, to Rye House to fish for a series of prizes. Nine members on their return weighed-in, six of whom were winners of prizes, viz., Mr. Lamb, roach; Mr. Elliss, jack; Mr. Weeks, roach; Mr. Hastings, roach: M. B. Smith, roach; and Mr. Britt, perch. The match was a pegged-down one.—T. G. Walker.

CAXTONIAN ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

At a large meeting of this society, held at the Falcon Tavern, Gough Square, on Friday—Mr. W. Cate, president, in the chair—Mr. Compton Reade read a paper on the pollution of our rivers from the deleterious materials now used in the making of paper. Several experiments were made with the water from certain polluted rivers. After the subject had been discussed by the members present, it was resolved, "That the matter be referred to the committee to take such steps as it thinks proper, and to avail itself of the services volunteered by Mr. Compton Reade, with power to communicate with the several angling societies throughout the kingdom, in order to obtain their aid and assistance in the movement for the suppression of the pollution of our rivers.—S. J. Field, hon. sec.

Jan. 14.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed-in on the 15th:—Mr. Mortimer 3 lb. 1 oz. of roach, from St. Margaret's, one fish over a pound; Messrs. Pratt and Warner, roach, from the same water; Mr. Castell, roach and chub, from the Thames, at Wraysbury, nearly 3 lb.; and Mr. Plumstead, sen., one roach, from Rickmansworth, 14 oz.—Cas.

EDMONTON TOTTENHAM ANGLING SOCIETY·

Nothing of any note since my last report, one or two who are fighting for the perch prize are about the only ones that are making a show. Messrs. Ames, Hasker, Whale and Cottam contributing some very nice shows of perch every Sunday evening, and very nice they look. On the 11th we were honoured with a complimentary visit from the Dalston Angling Society who came in strong force, with a contingent from the Norton Folgate and Never Frets. The business of the club was soon got over and harmony prevailed.—G. STEPHEN.

GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

We fished at Bourne End on Sunday last for eight prizes. Twenty-nine members competed. Mr. Theobald won the first, 5 lb.; Mr. J. S. Fitch, second, 4 lb. 4 oz.; Mr. J. Dingley, third, 3 lb. 13 oz.; Mr. Young, fourth, 3 lb. 12 oz.; Mr. R. Watling, fifth, 3 lb. 4 oz.; Mr. C. Watling, sen., sixth, 2 lb. 15 oz.; Mr. J. Watling, seventh, 2 lb. 15 oz.; Mr. J. K. Fitch, eighth, 1 lb. 9 oz. We have just completed our half year. Total weight of fish weighed-in, 608 lb. 13 oz.—J. S. FITCH, jun., sec.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The usual meeting of this society took place on Thursday evening—Edwin Frost, Esq., in the chair. Reports were read from Mr. Wood, of Walton; Mr. King, of the Royal Oak, Windsor; Bartholomew, the fisherman of Goring, and others, all stating that the Thames was now in good condition for all-round angling. The society's trays were well filled, Mr. Graham Bennett weighing-in 10 lb. 7 oz. of roach, from the Lea; and Mr. Field, 16lb. of roach, from the Thames; Messrs, G. Austin and T. Crumplen had also good perch, earlier in the week, from Goring, with Bartholomew. Dr. Lloyd, W. B. Adlington, Esq., and A. Paterson, Esq., have added several volumes to the society's library, and the purchase of others was also decided upon. The case of trout taken by Mr. Brookwell, with so much skill at Dobbs Weir (not Flanders Weir, as erroneously reported), were still on view. The next musical evening of the society will take place on Thursday, February 9th, when a large attendance is anticipated, and visitors from any angling society are welcome to attend. The annual banquet was fixed for Wednesday, March 22nd, when Lord George Hamilton presides. Several new members stand for ballot at the next meeting.

HAMPSTEAD ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Blatchley brought some fine roach, and Mr. G. Glowser, hon member, 3 lb. of fine roach and a 3 lb. jack from Chelmsford last week.—J. H. HAYWARD, sec.

IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Friday last, 13th inst., Mr. A. C. Critchfield had a tray of beautiful fish, the particulars of which are as follows, 14 roach which weighed 13 lb.; 3 chub, 5 lb. 5 oz.; 3 perch, 3 lb. 8 oz.; 2 dace, 14 oz., making a total of 22 lb. 11 oz. Mr. G. Wood had some roach on Sunday, 15th instant, Mr. H. Butt also had roach, Mr. G. Bliss had roach and dace.

JOVIAL ANGLERS.

At a special meeting of the above society, held at the Club House on Friday evening January 13, 1882, it was proposed, at the earnest desire of all the local members, that a weekly meeting should take place on Thursday evenings; carried unanimously. It was also carried that there should be certain prizes for punt as well as bank angling, and that two prizes should be offered, of equal value, for bank and punt angling for gross weight up to the end of the fishing season. Other rules were also altered and amended. On Sunday last we had a very thin attendance, but Mr. Koleman weighed in 4 lb. 14 oz. of very fine dace, and Mr. Steade 2 lb. 10 oz.—H. W. PLATT, sec.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our members were out in strong force on Sunday, and brought home a splendid show of fish; Mr. Letch heading the list with 9 lb. 10 oz. of roach. Mr. Pitrie also had roach and one dace which scaled $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; Mr. Harwood, roach and chub; Mr. Humphreys, roach, jack, and perch; Mr. Wightman, roach, chub, and gudgeon; Mr. Scott, perch; Mr. Raine, jack; Mr. Goodes, jack; Mr. Thomson, roach; Mr. Heelas, roach and dace; and Mr. Atkins, roach and chub. Our worthy host, Mr. Loomes, and Mr. Brown, Chalton Street, Euston Road, fished a friendly match last Monday, the 16th inst., at Cookham, for £5 a side. Mr. Loomes was the conqueror till half-past four p.m., with four roach, but Mr. Brown came in at the death by landing a jack about 2 lb., and so gained the victory.

THE ORIGINAL ALEXANDRA SOCIETY OF ANGLERS.

We had only two of our members weigh fish on Sunday last. Mr. W. High had a nice show of roach and bream, and Mr. C. Hewett had roach. We have seven prizes to go out for next Sunday, all fish weigh, go where they like. So I expect to see a good show of fish.—E. DYMOND, sec.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

We had a fair show of fish on Sunday last, several members being out. Mr. L. Gorsuch having perch, Mr. Obbard, roach, dace, and perch, both from the Thames. Mr. Neagus had a nice tray of roach from the Stort. On Sunday, January 30, the members fish a peg-down match at Burnt Mill for three valuable prizes. Quarterly night, Monday, January 30.—THOS. WM. LUCY, secretary.

PECKHAM BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

A benefit in behalf of Tom Woods, an old pal ef the "Generals," will take place under the auspices of the above club, on Friday, the 27th, when the chair will be taken by W. H. Page, faced by Charles Carter, an old member of the North-Western, when we shall be pleased to see any anglers who feel disposed to assist this truly deserving case, and I shall be pleased to acknowledge any sums sent to the club house from those who cannot attend.—W. H. PAGE, hon. sec.

QUEEN'S ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several members were out on Sunday, but with no great success. Mr. Cotsford had some pretty roach from Harefield, weighing about 5 lb., one scaling 1 lb.; Mr. Wallford had a show of roach from the same place, weighing 9 lb. $5\frac{1}{2}$ oz.—H. MUSGROVE.

SECOND SURREY.

This society is making rapid progress. On Sunday next, the 22nd, about 20 members will compete at St. Margaret's for a silver cup, given by Mr. G. Hockley, and several other useful articles given by members, consisting of rods, fire-irons, bait kettles, &c. At the meeting held on the 18th, it was arranged that a conveyance be in waiting at the Elephant and Castle at seven o'clock on Sunday morning to convey the members to Liverpool Street, and the same conveyance will be at Liverpool Street at an appointed time in the evening.—PIXIE.

January 19, 1881.

UNITED BROTHERS.

The members of the above society fished a pegged-down match on Sunday the 15th at St. Margaret's, with the following results:—First prize, handsome marble clock, given by Mr. G. Robinson, taken by W. Tyler; second, copper kettle, given by W. Bolton, taken by J. Payne; third, table lamp, given by T. Warren, taken by J. Currans; fourth, tackle book, given by G. May, taken by F. Watts; fifth, fancy basket, given by J. Freeman, taken by H. Tyler.—WILLIAM BELTON.

January 18.

WALTHAMSTOW ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Berry, on the 2nd inst., a nice show of roach, 11 lb. 7 oz., on the 6th 11 lb. 8 oz.; Mr. Casey being very close with 11 lb., two fish weighing 1 lb. each. The latter was out again on Monday and Tuesday, weighing-in last night 21 lb. 9 oz. of roach in fine condition.—H. HOWSE.

Jan. 13.

WALTONIANS.

Have had hardly anything to report lately. On the 4th Mr. Malcom had a show of roach from Pangbourne. It was only 4 lb., but the fish were very fine. A prize was fished for on Sunday last, and taken by Mr. Storr, with 5 lb. $10\frac{3}{4}$ oz. From Pangbourne Mr. Roland had 5 lb. $10\frac{1}{2}$ oz. From the Lea the other shows were very small. Hope to have something better to report before the season finishes.—A. J. MARRIOTT.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

The members of this society met on the 12th, at 9.30, for the purpose of business, which consisted in arranging prizes for the 20th, for which Mr. Bayley gives a guinea hat, Mr. Delehaye, a set of hair brushes, and Mr. Bansback, two brass winches—this having been got through, the rest of the evening was devoted to the harmony of a "round robin," which created much amusement. On the 15th, Mr. Bayley visited Twickenham for a few hours; he succeeded in getting some roach and dace. Members are requested to attend on the 26th, to decide as to how, where, and when the two pictures of the birds of Great Britain, and the salmon, perch and trout, after the late H. L. Rolfe, presented by Mr. Hart, sen., shall be competed for.—PIXIE.

Jan. 18.

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JOHN STONE, Secretary.

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Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., must be addressed to the Editor of THE FISHING GAZETTE, *No. 12, Fetter Lane, London, E.C* and should reach the office not later than Tuesday morning.

Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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Mr. R. Pearsall, 11, Great Western Arcade, Birmingham.
Mr. G. T. Gibbons, 10, Bridge Street, Salisbury.
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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 1882.

PERCH AND PERCH-FISHING.

By J. HARRINGTON KEENE.

(*Concluded from page 3.*)

YET another style of snare have I for the capture of Gossip Perch, when, perchance, he is a two-pounder haunting a particular spot in solitary autocracy, as does the large-grown trout or pike—and this is a modification of the so-called "Nottingham" live-bait method, which is so deadly in the pursuit of the great Thames *fario.* I remember me of the capture of a perch going slightly over 2 lb., by this means, from the Old Windsor Fleet, which afforded more gratification than a bag of fifty pounds' weight taken under any other circumstances would have done. But let me spin you the yarn, good reader.

Time: late summer in 1879; scene: the Old Windsor Fleet. On the right-hand bank going down stream, about thirty yards above the concrete overflow weir, the course of which passes round behind the lock, the osiers dip over from the bank, and beneath them are six or seven feet of water passing over as good a gravelly bottom as ever delighted the thick-headed wattle-mouthed barbel. Beneath this umbrageous shelter lie at certain parts—or did, perhaps I ought to say—great chub and some goodly shoals of barbel, not to speak of large dace, gudgeon, and roach. At the time of which I am speaking there also fed a trout of some six or seven pounds; and at morning, when taking up my eel lines, and at night, when setting them, I had seen his glorious vigorous form, roll over in the water with a resonant sound, making a music of peculiar charm to the fisherman's ear. Yet he would take no bait spinning, though I flogged the water with a perseverance worthy of better results; and, in brief, I may say I never so much as hooked the wily old rascal at any time.

One evening I sat smoking the tranquilising weed with the punt moored close in the bank, about twenty yards above his covert. I had geared my Nottingham dace-rod with its hundred yards of fine twist silk, a yard length of fine gut, and a single No. 2 hook, and baited the latter with a small brilliant bleak. Waiting was I, as erstwhile, for the first strike of the trout to lower the seductive bait down to where he would break the water. About ten minutes before I expected him—and your Thames trout is pretty punctual—I suddenly heard the peculiar rush and sucking noise of a perch feeding right under near the boughs; and, in a second, a splendid fellow, with back fin extended like an enraged porcupine, and back also entirely out of water, darted out streamward after a bait which, paralysed with fright, seemed to be also seeking the atmosphere of safety. Gobble! gobble! chuck! and the poor little beggar entered the jaws of Mr. Perch, whence no fishy traveller returns.

"Oh, ho!" said I, to the best of all companions—myself—"that proceeding of thine, friend of the horrent fin, suggests an idea; and he who cannot dine on trout or perch may very well fast, especially when such a one as thou art inflameth the ichthyophagous desires of the emperor of creation. By the beard of the prophet, thou diest."

The trout I had expected came not to divert my attention. So, carefully manipulating the bait and line, I suffered the former to wander at its own sweet will—under the governance of my own, of course—until it penetrated beneath the water-dipping branches. Then, fearing it might, with the known perversity of all live baits, catch something more wooden than a perch, I withdrew it with gentle haste, until, just as it emerged—roosh!—out rushed the fish, seizing the bait and retiring shorewards, right under the matted willows, before I could do anything, and snapping the fine line as if it were burnt thread. Hook, gut, bait, and three yards of line, were gone; and, if ever-well. The hook had pricked him, no doubt, for I could see nothing of him again that evening, nor, indeed, for several evenings afterwards.

After ineffectual endeavours to come to close quarters with Goodman Perch for several evenings I gave up the idea, and, instead, I busied myself with the barbel and chub in other parts of this delightful water. Slowly floating down one evening, however, I perceived the fish feeding again. The sun had disappeared behind the horizon, and the evening was fast verging into night. However, I decided to repeat my former tactics, and gently pushing my light little punt across, I secured it to the bank and quietly sat down to wait till the possible disturbance caused by the punt had subsided.

And while I am waiting, indulgent reader, let us indulge in a quiet fisherman's contemplation of the manifold charms of such an interval and its surroundings. The fragrant smoke from my pipe slowly ascends, and is wafted away by the ethereal summer breeze. The shadowed landscape, with its coronals of pearly haze, gives forth voices of the night to mingle with the glorious carol of the nightingale, whose every varying tumultuous cascade of melody is proceeding from the wood near Old Windsor churchyard. Near to me, as I sit, the pretty little sedge warbler raises its quaint chirrup. All these, and the hum of the beetle, lowing of cattle, and the weird cry of the heron travelling outward from the heronry of Windsor Great Park, have merged and mingled in a sort of lotos-eating dream of tranquillity and peace, which——

But we have waited long enough, and I fix the hook through the lip of a lively half-grown gudgeon, and fastening a mite of cork about three feet from him up the line—this to keep the little fellow from following his instincts and seeking the bottom. Down, down floats the cork, and, as it nears the spot where I have cause to believe *perca* dwells, I feel a silent tug! tug! and, with a smart strike, I know I am in a good fish who strives hard to get in shore, but, failing, sails out into the stream.

How shall I describe the struggle? Imagine it, oh! appreciative reader! Neither a fool at one end nor worm at the other, but an angler who can use fine tackle and a perch of a couple of pounds and over. Up and down, fins erect, with the pluck of a five-pound trout, and an almost equal strength, he struggled and fought, and at last succumbed. As he lay on the floor of the punt, gasping out his life, yet clothed in his magnificent dusky and vermilion beauty, to which the brightening moonlight added a silvern charm, I wonder if any monarch ever rejoiced in his supremacy as did I. Next morning, however, the glamour had vanished. I had him for breakfast

Thus endeth perch and perch-fishing. If any reader be amused or benefited by this short series I am more than rewarded. *Vale!*

TROUT AND GRAYLING-FISHING IN THE DOVE.

By R. B. Marston.

(Continued from page 3.)

". . . . . As to its poetical relations, angling carries us into the most wild and beautiful scenery of nature; amongst the mountain lakes, and the clear and lovely streams that gush from the higher ranges of elevated hills, or that make their way through the cavities of calcareous strata. How delightful, in the early spring, after the dull and tedious time of winter, when the frosts disappear and the sunshine warms the earth and waters, to wander forth by some clear stream, to see the leaf bursting from the purple bud, to scent the odours of the bank perfumed by the violet, and enamelled, as it were, with the primrose and the daisy; to wander upon the fresh turf below the shade of trees, whose bright blossoms are filled with the music of the bee; and on the surface of the waters to view the gaudy flies, sparkling like animated gems in the sunbeams, whilst the bright and beautiful trout is watching them from below; to hear the twittering birds; who, alarmed at your approach, rapidly hide themselves beneath the flowers and leaves of the water-lily; and as the season advances, to find all these objects changed for others of the same kind, but better and brighter; till the swallow and the trout contend, as it were, for the May-fly, and till, in pursuing your amusement in the calm and balmy evening, you are serenaded by the songs of the cheerful thrush, and melodious nightingale, performing the offices of paternal love in thickets ornamented with the rose and woodbine."

—From Sir Humphrey Davy's "Salmonia."

TO attempt to paint the glories of autumn after those of spring and summer have been so pleasantly described by Sir Humphrey Davy would be impertinent; but even the most matter-of-fact angler could not roam through Dove-dale in September without being struck with its surpassing beauties, and I trust I shall be excused if I attempt faintly to pourtray some few of these as I take my angling reader with me from the foot of Thorpe Cloud to Mill-dale—some five miles of most varied scenery.

In my last I left the river just below the footbridge; but before starting on our five miles of walking and wading, let us get a morning draught in Mr. Prince's cool retreat, and examine the new lot of flies which he brought over from Ashbourne last night.

"Good morning, gentlemen; you mean to try them again, I see," is Mr. Prince's cheery salutation, as we enter, our nether lengths clad in waterproof.

"Have you seen the river this morning, Mr. Prince; and what are those flies you brought from Ashbourne?"

"The river is right enough, and you ought to get some fish to-day. Mr. ———, will you just hand those flies this way?"

Mr. ——— is a little man, with a short, bushy, ginger beard, a frequent visitor at the hotel; he is the essence of good-nature, in fact the sole object of his life seems to be to make himself amusing. He pushes the packet of flies across the table, and then, taking a long clay from his mouth, stretches over and points with the stem of it to some grey palmers.

"That is the fly; I could kill a basketful of trout with that to-day if I wanted to, could not I, Mr. Prince?" He invariably appeals to Mr. Prince to substantiate any statement he makes, and Mr. Prince as invariably shakes his head with a dubious smile. "What time did I go to bed last night, Mr. Prince?" says our loquacious friend, for he is always flying off at a tangent, and then, as he lights his pipe for the third time in five minutes, we slip out, and in a few minutes are down at the water's edge.

There is a very fine deep pool right under the bridge, the best way to fish it is to cross the bridge, go down the left bank, keeping well away from it, and then get down into the water and wade up, throwing first, directly in front of you, near your own side, then into the middle, and then across right under the opposite edge, then advance a few steps and repeat the process. In this way you will cover all the best of the water, the high bank screening you from the fish. I should mention that as you near the head of the pool you will find the stream comes down very strongly, and when you throw over it to reach the quiet water under the opposite bushes you must lift your line the instant the flies touch the water, or the mid-current will cause it to bag and prevent you striking your fish.

Above the bridge the fishing is all open for a long distance; there is a carriage-drive along the left bank, looking up stream, and a foot-path along the right. Now, this footpath is the only way through the Dale that is open to the public, and all through the season swarms of tourists pass and repass close to the water's edge. I need not say that this alone is a sufficient reason for the bad sport this open fishing affords, as a rule. It is a lovely piece of water, one succession of streams. I fished this length many times, but had almost come to look upon it as fishless, until one raw, misty afternoon, when I was astonished to see the fish rising freely in every pool! I could hardly believe my eyes. The cold raw weather had kept the tourists at home, and the fish were out in the feeding places. Getting into the last stream but one above the bridge, I began fishing up with a long line; You must use a long line here, for there is not a bush, and the banks are almost level with the water. I got a fish at the first throw—a nice grayling, then another grayling, then a trout.

"What fly is that you are killing with?" shouts my companion, who is fishing on the opposite side.

"Honeydun bumble, friend; will you have one?"

He looks through his book, and in the meantime I get another fish (all these were taken within two feet of the bank, in shallow water).

"I think I will have one, if you don't mind," my friend cries.

I tell him to throw his line over—he can make a tremendous cast—and my cold fingers take off his tail fly, a little black midge, a great favourite of his, and tie on a honeydun. He soon finds the benefit of the change, for in the next pool he gets a fish, and then misses several rises from having too much line out, more than was necessary if he had waded instead of standing near the bank. Presently, after losing another fish, he announces his intention of "legging it" up to a favourite stream of his a couple of miles up the Dale. I wish him luck, and we part for the nonce. If I had had the whole of this bit of water between the foot bridge and the stepping-stones to myself that afternoon, I am certain I should have got seven or eight brace of good fish; but I can never fish with the fly properly with another angler within a hundred yards of me; in this case he was within twenty, and he seemed as anxious as I was to get ahead. It is perfectly wonderful what an irrepressible desire one fly-fisher has to get ahead of another! I have noticed it scores and scores of time, I remember once spending the best part of a day in trying to get ahead of a brother angler; I had flattered myself I was first in the water, but on turning a bend I noticed, on the sandy shelving beach, a recent footmark. Like Robinson Crusoe, I stood horrow struck; for a brief moment I thought it might have been some cowman's, but a closer inspection revealed the truth. There was no mistaking it, the big square brogue nails had left a perfect impression, and the disturbed sand had not yet had time to dry in the strong sun. It was useless to fish in water so recently waded through, so I decided to take a short cut across the hill; but the maker of the brogue mark must have seen me, for, when I descended the opposite slope, I saw a rod flash a field's length ahead, a figure in grey emerged from the bushes, looked in my direction, and then vanished into the depths of a wood. I was determined not to be beaten. I knew, for I had seen them drive up to our inn, that two anglers were following me; and I hoped in time I should tire my friend out; but though I often saw his brogue marks, and some hours later lunched in the pleasant spot he had evidently chosen—judging from an empty "Bass" bottle, and the broken egg shell he had left there—I never saw him again.

On another occasion, I was fishing on the Barle with a friend. We both wanted to fish up-stream, and arranged that I should commence at once, and he should religiously walk up for half a mile or so and put a paper sign on a stick to show me where he commenced. He declares he did nothing all day but walk and stick papers on the bushes. I confess it is quite probable, for he knew, from long experience, that, if once I got ahead, he would see no more of me till I got home at night to dine, at 11 p.m., or later. He has more than once sent half the village out with lanterns to hunt for my body. However, this belongs to my adventures on the Eden, and I shall never get through Dovedale at this rate. Writing about angling is like going for a day's fly-fishing. When you start, you announce your intention of "sticking to the main stream," but some tempting tributary lures you away before you have gone a mile, and in the end, you find yourself ten miles from where you had intended to go.

Below the Stepping Stones in Thorpe Dingles is a fine pool, which always contains very heavy grayling, one or two we saw there would weigh at least between three and four pounds. Everybody tried them, but it was useless; even Mr. John Bullock of "Derby Killer" fame, did not get hold of one, and he tells me he generally gets a few big grayling with his minnow when trout-fishing on the Dale. A. R. I. E. L., is of opinion that grayling might be frequently taken with the minnow if it is used under certain conditions. Grayling will strike at almost anything bright, and I think it is quite possible, if you fished for grayling with a gentle sink and draw motion of the minnow, you would often get them, but I cannot agree with A. R. I. E. L., that it is a method which ought to be adopted for the capture of the "lady of the stream."

I wished I had had the "red tag" fly with me to try over these big grayling. I used it ten years ago on the Teme, Onny, Clun, and Lugg, in the West of England, and found it a very killing fly. I almost forget the fly, but think it had a starling wing, orange body, and red or rather crimson tag—a bit of dyed wool. If some West of England angler will send me a sample to the GAZETTE Office, I shall be obliged.

Just above the Stepping Stones, there is a weir of no great height, but sufficient to bank back the water for a few hundred yards, and form what is known as Sedgy Pool, from the sedges which fringe its banks. If you are fortunate enough to get a good breeze on this pool you may be sure of fish, as it holds plenty of very fine ones. Get the wind on your back, and throw your fly on to the opposite bank, and then pull it gently on to the surface; the feeding fish are close to the edge, picking up the flies which get blown on to the water, and then are washed on by the wind and waves till stopped by the sedges or bank. Fish with a dry fly as much as you can, as you will then see the rise much more distinctly. It is impossible to strike too quickly in fishing for trout on still water. I generally got a fish or two out of Sedgy Pool when there was a breeze on it. It must be a splendid bit of water for evening fishing in the summer; in September the rise is over by six or seven o'clock, and there is no dusk fishing.

(*To be continued.*)

FLY-FISHING FOR DACE, CHUB, &c., NEAR LONDON.

WHILE the festivities of Christmas still linger around us, and the days are at their shortest, fly-fishing is a theme barely suitable for your columns. Bottom fishing, worms *versus* paste, and all the vexed questions as to the best baits for roach, dace, and other coarse fish, seem to afford greater interest. Yet, among the thousands of anglers in and around London, there are surely many who care for a graceful cast of the fly-rod, to whom hat subject is never out of season, and a gossip anent flies is ever welcome. Here, where I write, in "Sunny Devon," anglers are eagerly looking forward to the opening day in February, and are busily laying in the necessary stock of flies. The weather now is most promising, and so are the prospects of good sport. All winter the rivers have been high and the weather mild, affording every chance for the fish spawning well. The fields around are plentifully besprinkled with daisies, in sheltered spots the primrose is blooming luxuriantly, in the hedge-rows the song of hrush and blackbird may be heard in early morning; and last, but not least, in the nooks of the river where the water becomes low and quiet, trout may be seen occasionally rising to some tray specimen of the willow fly, or the February red, which the mild weather has prematurely enticed into winged activity.

I cannot now, however, descant on the pleasures offered in North Devon to anglers who reach its picturesque streams, which, unfortunately, distance has placed out of the reach of many a "good and true" brother angler. What I wish to speak about is the fly-fishing around London, a branch of the angling art that it is surprising to me is not more eagerly followed. Bottom fishing certainly offers many charms calculated to hold in bondage its devotee, particularly when he does not see any prospect of using the fly favourably, and scarcely any chance of access to streams stored with goodly trout; then, again, he will remember that in learning fly-fishing, even if he be the best of bottom-fishers, he has to commence a branch of the art where all his former knowledge and skill are of little avail. I remember well, many years ago, such was my own case. In one of the few well-preserved private trout streams near London I was granted a day's permission to fish; but, alas! when, after a night spent in dreaming of catching monsters, I reached the water with a complete equipment of bottom tackle, with cockspurs and wasp-grub to correspond, anticipating a red-letter day—one to be remembered in after years as the day of days—I was confronted by a sturdy man in velveteens, who stoutly told me that with artificial flies, and artificial flies only, would I be allowed to fish; one who was unmoved by my piteous tale of having forgotten my fly-book, and would like to try a worm; save that he lugged from the lining of his hat two feathered nondescripts—which I now suppose to have been March browns,"—and bade me try them. I did try them; and the man in velveteens grinned at the horrible attempts I made at casting, for sometimes the line, when it did not cling round me or him, would fall altogether in a heap immediately under the point of my rod, while the terrified trout sought safety among the reeds and snags. I do not think I remained long there, I rather imagine I took the first train home, with a firmly established resolution to return some day an Admirable Crichton of a fly-fisher and astonish the man in velveteens who had so unfeelingly jeered at my first attempts with the fly, and whom my allegation of having forgotten my fly-book had not imposed upon.

I will not tell a tedious tale of how I learned to throw a fly indifferently well, but merely remark that after a time I managed to get a line out fairly, getting some moderate sport—with dace and chub, of course—on the old Barge river, at Datchet, at Wraysbury, West Drayton and one or two other places. Still, with all my perseverance, I could never make up a heavy basket. Something seemed wrong with the flies, although I tried them from the hands of different makers.

One day, after obtaining from a shop in Crooked Lane a splendid book of flies dressed to Ronald's patterns, with each insect placed in a separate compartment, and having beneath it an entomological extract telling what the fly was, when it should be used, and what it might be expected to do, I started for Rye House, and there commenced to fish the New River towards Broxbourne.

But the result was the same—the fish cared no more for my new and choice articles than they had done for the old ones.

For nearly a mile of fishing I had risen only two fish, each too small to be retained, when I met a fisherman whipping the stream upwards. He was evidently of the class costermonger, for his greasy corduroys filled the air with an "ancient and fish-like smell," and his hoarseness of voice told a tale of persistently crying wares through street and suburb, where customers were few or reluctant. But his fishing gear! I have since fished on many a stream in the wildest parts of Scotland, and among the very poorest localities in Ireland, and never seen anything so wretched. Three pieces of roughly pared tapering ash sticks, whipped together with wax end, formed his rod; his line, ten yards of horse-hair in roughly twisted hanks, with a knot at intervals of a foot all through it; at the end of the line was a cast of the very commonest thick white gut, with two big flies dressed on a No. 9 hook; and, strange to say, he was hauling out fish nearly every cast.

One not unfrequently meets with a surly but successful angler, whose delight it is to conceal the nature of the flies fish are taking, and endeavours to lead astray the confiding individuals who listen to him. This humble piscator had no such despicable proclivities. He not only allowed me to examine his flies, but gave me a cast of them, refusing to accept as an equivalent any of the brilliant specimens, glittering in gold and silver tinsel, and bright floss silk, from my own book: they were all very well, he said, to look at and sell, but quite useless for chub and dace; and so I had found them.

The flies he gave me were:—

1. The Plover. Body, light yellow silk; legs and wings, a small feather from the back of the golden plover.

2. The Brown Snipe. Body, brown silk; legs and wings a small feather, dyed brown, from under portion of the snipe's wing.

The feathers with which these flies are dressed are extremely soft, and, when well wetted and in the water, their fibres wave about in a singular manner: the fabrications are evidently taken not for flies, but water spiders or something of that description.

I fished some years with fles of these patterns and had splendid sport. No. 1 I think the better of the two. I found it, however, more successful on the Colne and Iver than the Thames, where the dace run somewhat smaller. With it I one day killed a fine lot of perch at Twickenham, the only time I ever killed perch with the fly.

There is still another fly which will be found very useful for coarse fish, it is made with body peacock's herl, dressed rather full, gold tip, and hackled at top with inside feather from starling's wing. Hook No 14 or No. 2 Hutchinson's make.

This latter fly should be dressed on a strand of horse-hair, and with a drop fly of the same pattern (tip to be silver instead of gold), affixed to a single horse-hair cast, with a rod not too stiff, will, on a bright sunny day in summer, furnish capital sport, when used on the pools of the Colne. Fish are then lying in the sun well up towards the surface, waiting for what the stream may bring down. The horse-hair floats better than gut, and by simply letting your flies float down, you are generally rewarded by a lumbering rise. Gently raise the point of your rod, and the splash will tell you what you have hooked.

If a chub, he will make a fight of it under water at once, and, if there are weeds handy, probably smash you; but a dace splashes about on the surface for a few moments, as if he couldn't make out what the matter was, and then ends usually by coming quietly to bank. R. A.

Tiverton, Jan. 21st.

FISH-BREEDING IN CANADA.

GRAND results in fish-culture are being achieved in Canada, We have just received from S. Wilmot, Esq., Superintendent of Fish Culture for Canada, the "Report on Fish-Breeding in the Dominion for the year 1879." It bears the date 1880, and is printed "by order of Parliament," by Maclean, Roger and Company, Wellington Street, Ottawa. We trust that one of the results of the forthcoming Edinburgh and London Fisheries Exhibitions will be the establishment of similar fish-breeding establishments in Great Britain and Ireland under State support and direction. Such a department, if properly conducted. would increase the value of our sea and river fisheries by millions. It is a standing disgrace to this country that she alone, of all the great civilised nations, does next to nothing to increase that most important food for the people—fish.

It is a relief to turn from the contemplation of our own apathy to the energetic action of other countries. Let us glance at what is being done in Canada—a country so immense, so full of grand rivers, so sparsely populated, that one would have imagined fish-culture was unnecessary.

In the spring of 1879, the young fry planted in the waters of Canada, through the means of artificial propagation, numbered more than

Twenty-One and a Half Millions,

and the eggs laid down the same autumn, by the same process, amounted to

Twenty-eight Millions and Seventy-nine Thousand,

showing the successful manipulation of the several Government fish-breeding establishments in the Dominion, under Mr. S. Wilmot's superintendency, of a grand total of

Forty-nine Millions, Seven Hundred and Sixty-three Thousand

young fish and fish eggs of the salmon family during the year of 1879.

Mr. Wilmot may well be proud of such grand results as these. He was the pioneer of fish-culture in Canada. Its origin was a private enterprise of his own, commenced by him as an amateur for experiment and amusement, at his private residence at New castle, Ontario. From this little commencement there has sprung up, in Canada alone, since 1873, nine extensive Government fish-breeding establishments.

Mr. Edward Birkbeck, M.P., has done more than any other member of the legislature for the advancement and improvement of our fisheries. It is not too much to say that all who take any interest in the subject of our fisheries—inland or sea—look to him to forward their interests. If he will endeavour to move the Government to give State aid and direction to fish-breeding for the improvement of our fisheries of all kinds, he will have the hearty support of all classes. While we willingly acknowledge the able manner in which Her Majesty's Inspectors of Fisheries and their subordinates carry on the work appointed them, yet, when all is said, the result is ludicrously meagre, when compared with what is done in other countries. We have great hopes that the Great International Fisheries Exhibition of 1883 will show the nation and the Government the necessity of not only protecting fish and opening up rivers, but of breeding fish by millions for stocking our waters. It is more than probable that when the accounts of the 1883 Exhibition are made up, there will appear a splendid balance to the credit of the affair. The question will then arise, "What is to be done with it?" Let us hope it will be used as a nucleus for the establishment of national fish-breeding establishments on all our important streams. An acre of water properly cultivated will produce returns three times more valuable than an acre of cultivated land.

SPECIMEN FISH AT ANGLING CLUBS.

SUCCEEDING the splendid and unprecedented exhibition of ten specimen pike forming a portion of a united take by Messrs. Alfred Jardine and John Knechtli, which was made at the Gresham Angling Society about a fortnight ago, Mr. Pugh, a member of the Friendly Anglers brought up into the club-room of his Society, at the Albion Tavern, Albion Street, Hyde Park, last week, a beautiful show of specimen perch, as the result of his own fishing in the Kennett. Four of the best fish weighed together 6 lb. 12 oz., the largest 2 lb. 2 oz., sixteen others weighing over 1 lb. each, and altogether 26 lb. 9 oz. In addition to these he had some fine specimen dace up to 11½ oz. each. This old-established society, which is limited in its number of members, possesses many very fine preserved specimens of both perch and dace. Some few years ago, when fishing with Mr. Alfred Jardine in a portion of private water of the Colne, belonging to some friends of mine, that worthy and distinguished piscator succeeded in landing three remarkably good specimens of perch, one weighed 3 lb. 2 oz., another 2 lb. 13 oz., and another 2 lb. It was on the same day that the Union Jack, which is now under discussion, was taken; and on the following day Mr. Jardine took his perch to the studio of the late Mr. H. L. Rolfe, in Nicholas Lane, and there they were placed side by side with this Union Jack, and I remember the "scaley painter" remarking at the time "he would rather have been the captor of the three perch than the large pike." Mr. Jardine added three other specimens of perch he had taken out of the Thames, and had them all set up together in one case. When that case was shown to the late Mr. Frank Buckland, he declared "there was not another similar case in Europe." I may state here with an unbiassed opinion, in reference to one of the large pike belonging to Mr. Jardine, that he caught it in some private water, with an order of mine, to which he went overnight, and when I joined him the following morning about mid-day, he had, in some very rough water, taken that splendid pike. On our return to the hotel in the afternoon we called at the butcher's shop in the village to ascertain the weight of the fish, but the whole of the weights that could be collected were 30 lb., and it appeared to want 8 lb. more to bring the scale down. It was, however, weighed in the scales at the railway station, about twelve miles from the village, some six or eight hours after it had been caught, and if I remember rightly it then made over 36 lb. What I have been advocating for years in reference to specimen fish and the abolition of gross weights has now been practically realised by Messrs. Alfred Jardine and John Knechtli in the Gresham Angling Society, and there is necessarily more honour to be attached to the weighing-in of ten specimen fish scaling altogether 150 lb. than a gross take of over 300 lb. weight of all sizes, as it has, in my opinion, no comparison. In the case of Messrs. Jardine and Knechtli, if they had been desirous on this occasion of making a grand gross-weight exhibition, they would, without doubt, have surpassed that of any other club. They wanted rather to show specimen fish only, and the members of the Gresham Angling Society have every occasion to feel proud, and I am assured they are, at having amongst them such leviathans in pike-fishing, and who are such unmistakeable adepts in the science of angling. The presentation of three of the best fish to this important society, which are now at the taxidermist's for preservation in one case, will be a splendid addition to its museum, and perpetuate the captors' skill. Mr. Knechtli himself has a case of three pike, whose united weights I think will exceed those referred to, and, of course, fish of his own catching.

B.

INDIAN FISHING.

FOR the benefit of readers going to the East Indies, I send you a slight account of the fishing to be had in Calcutta. Having opened the subject, perhaps other correspondents may give further enlightenment on it. In my friend's garden was a tank, or, as we should call it, a pond, about thirty yards wide and fifty long. The native bearer told me there were fish in it that had not been fished for for years, as no one cared for sport. That evening he made some ground bait as follows: First he got some "haldee," being a cake made of crushed mustard seed, unclarified, which was used to feed cattle and fowls, and having worked it up with water, like paste, he next took two lemons and some leaves off their tree, growing beside the pond, and having put each lemon in the lumps of ground bait, put them in about 2 feet 6 inches from the bank, just opposite the lemon bush. He then told me to fish just off the ground or else one to two inches from it next morning or evening. Accordingly, about 7 p.m., with a mottled cane rod, running line and drawn gut stretch and bone-tipped swan quill float, I fished about a quarter of an inch off the ground. The lines were in not more than ten minutes before the float began to move like a perch takes it, and then went under with a rush. I struck, and, as there were no weeds, in two or three minutes landed a fish by playing round to the stone steps from which the servants bathe. The gardener brought a garden basket, and with this primitive landing-net, we secured a 3lb. fish. This fish was a laatah (pronounced lah-tah.) I went back quickly, and put in again, the bait being maida (Indian corn flour), worked up into paste and flavoured with broken lemon leaves, a piece on the hook about the size of a dried pea. The float hardly cocked, when it began to move; then shoot; next it went nearly half an inch out of water, and then down several times, much the same as half-pound carp bite. This time I had a "Rhuee" (pronounced "Roo-hee") about 4½ lb. I lost seven fish, for the gardener having taken away his basket, I had to ask another native to try and land the fish (and I hope the shades of Izaak Walton and Co. won't haunt me for it) with a two-edged dagger, by disabling them. One big fish managed to twist the gut line round the bare calf of the servant's leg (he having gone down to his knees in water), and cut it severely. In his attempts to stab the fish, however, he managed to cut my line, luckily near the hook, and that was how we lost the seven, Besides this we landed seven fish, weighing about 7½ lb., 6 lb., 5¼ lb., 4½ lb., 3 lb., 3¾ lb and 2½ lb., in a little over an hour. The average fish after that ran from 1 lb. to 5 lb. There were some very large—14 lb. to 20 lb.—in the tank, but the servants said they would only bite in the "rainy season." This was in the cold weather.

There are several large ponds on the Maudaan, or "plain," near Fort William, Calcutta, and very large fish, the names of which I do not know, running from 7 lb. to 25 lb. and 30 lb., I was told, but leave has to be obtained by orders.

In Simla, where the Government officers move in the hot season, there are plenty of mountain streams, but, as far as I know, not a fish in them. This is partly on account of the height of the mountains and partly on account of the ironstone and metallic rocks that form their beds. They are also made up of quartz. I have never noticed any Europeans fishing on the Hooghly (generally called the Ganges, in England) at Calcutta, but the native boatmen spear a fish dinner off the shallows. There are at Howrah, opposite Calcutta, some sacred tanks belonging to a rich Baboo proprietor, where the fish are fed by the Hindoo priests and devotees, and they are so tame that I am told they will take food out of one's hand, and even jump out of the water to reach it. Would not some of your readers like to have a quiet few minutes at those sacred tanks?

I hope to send other contributions from time to time.

In the Suez Canal, on the way out, the steamers anchor in the Bitter Lakes. Here, by moonlight, we caught one evening forty-eight salmon trout (?) with twine and some salmon-fly hooks, which we stripped of the feathers and baited with strips of bacon rind and fat pork. On the banks of the canal a ship's boat picked up mussels and cockles and other shellfish.

ONE WHO TRIED.

CONVICTION OF A NOTORIOUS RIVER POACHER.

AT the Norwich Guildhall this morning (before W. J. Utten-Browne, Esq., and other magistrates), William Barber and Henry Barber, father and son, described as wherrymen, of Runham, near Yarmouth, were summoned for using a dragnet, for the purpose of taking fish other than tench, smelts, bait and eels with a mesh of less dimensions, when wet, than three inches from knot to knot, or twelve inches all round, contrary to the Norfolk and Suffolk Fisheries Act. Mr. Chittock prosecuted on behalf of the Yare Preservation Society. Mr. I. Preston, of Yarmouth, defended. The evidence of Hewitt, the water bailiff, showed that on going on board the defendant's wherry in Rockland Dyke, near Coldham Hall, on the 11th inst., he discovered in the hold what appeared to be about two tons of fish, and also a wet net, which on measuring proved to have a mesh of the above unlawful size. Mr. Preston endeavoured to prove that the mesh was the, required size, but his witness failing to substantiate his contention, the magistrates convicted, and ordered the elder defendant to pay a fine of £10 and £2 9s. costs, and the net to be forfeited, and ordered the boy to pay a fine of £3; in the first case in default of payment two months' imprisonment, and in the second fourteen days. The magistrates declined to allow time for payment, on the ground that William Barber had been several times previously convicted of similar offences, and was known as a notorious poacher.—*Norwich Evening News.*

A NEW TOBACCO.

ANGLERS are such inveterate smokers, that it was with considerable pleasure we received from Messrs. Biggs and Son, some packets of their new "Barley White" tobacco, with a Polite request that we would make it known to the angling world. In order to be fortified in our opinion, we gave some of it to several angling friends—all great smokers—and asked for their opinions on it. These have been all so favourable, that we feel quite confident in saying that the "Barley White," is a genuinely pure tobacco, with a delicate and most pleasant flavour. We are informed by the proprietors—an old and well-established firm—that when this particular tobacco was brought to their notice, some time ago, they were so much pleased with it that they bought the market for it, and decided to place it before the public. It is a moderately mild tobacco, and therefore very suitable for continued smoking; it is entirely free from those injurious essential oils and flavourings which are so often present in "fancy" tobaccos, and which are so injurious to the liver. We have also found it very lasting in the pipe, and that it smokes right out, with a pearly-white ash. It will undoubtedly be popular with all smokers who prefer a tobacco not too strong, and which at the same time has a decided flavour. We may mention that, with the above, Messrs. Biggs sent samples of their "American Sun-dried Tobacco," also in packets: No. 1, "mild;" No. 2, "medium;" No. 3, "full." We prefer No. 2, which is more like the kind we are most accustomed to smoke, and habit goes a long way in prejudicing one for or against a new tobacco. We confess that had it not been for the unanimously favourable opinions given us by the anglers we asked to try it, we should not have felt justified in thus recommending the readers of the GAZETTE to clean their pipes out well, and give the "Barley White" a "fair, square smoke," as a trial. We like it; and any little diffidence we may have about recommending it, arises from what Mr. Blackmore has so truly described as the "fellow-feeling which a man has, a smoking man, for a fellow smoker's pipe—a feeling, whose depths is in nature's bowels, deep as the founts of calm volcanoes."

WITH THE GRAYLING.

ABOVE the hills the dawn of morning breaks,
  And sheds its flood of radiance o'er the lea;
  The clear-voiced brook makes laughing minstrelsy;
Deep in the bosky woods the pheasant wakes.

O'er moss and fell the frosty glory lies,
  The birch receives it on its silvern bark;
  The moorhen's eyes grow brighter still; and hark!
The heron's scream, as homeward now he flies.

To me the morn yet holds a greater charm—
  A pleasaunce sweeter, deeper, more serene
  Than e'en the jewelled glories of the scene;
A soul-salve rare as Gilead's gracious balm.

I "go a-fishing," for the Umber shy
  Whose iridescent sides shame Orient pearls;—
  See with what gentle, oily, dimpling swirls
The soft stream curls as Umber takes the fly!

Oh! panacea for all sub-lunar woes—
  The nerve-delighting fight a grayling makes!
  Be gentle and be calm, his lip oft breaks—
Good fisher, not so rough, or off he goes!

Triumphing do I stand, with gladsome brow.
  A quivering bar of silver gracefulness
  Upon the mossy bank, in death's distress,
As fragrant as the wild thyme, see him now.

Thence homeward through the brake, or o'er the lawn,
  With spirit cheered to greet the toil of day
  And heart as buoyant as the waving spray
That, all be-gemmed, sways in the breeze of morn.

CREON.

SEA FISHERIES.

A CONFERENCE of fishing-boat owners with Mr. Birkbeck, M.P., took place recently at Yarmouth. With regard to the depredations committed by Belgian trawlers, Mr. Birkbeck said he believed the result of the recent convention would be to entirely stop these proceedings. On the question of fishing vessels' lights, the meeting determined to appoint some practical men to represent Yarmouth and Lowestoft on the departmental committee, which will be nominated next session. Mr. Birkbeck said he had called the attention of the French Treaty Commissioners to the disadvantages under which English fishermen laboured in having to pay for taking herrings into French ports, while French vessels could enter our ports free, and hoped something might be done in the matter. Some discussion then took place with regard to Billingsgate Market, and the opinion was unanimous that Billingsgate must remain for seaborne fish, and that a central market might be made for railway-borne fish. It was resolved to send a deputation to the Board of Trade asking for the repeal of the Merchant Seamen's Wages Act, so far as related to the fishing trade.

WORMS IN DOGS.—Mr. James Doughty, Author of "Art of Breaking and Training Dogs," says: "I have used Maldire's Worm Powders for Dogs for many years, and they have always proved successful." Maldire's Worm Powders are sold by all chemists price 1s., 2s., 3s. 6d. and 5s. per packet, or sent post free (on receipt of Stamps) by Barclay and Sons 95, Farringdon Street, London.

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

By Telegraph.

River in grand trim for all-round winter work, jack feeding ravenously, chub and perch fairly on; weather frosty.

Thames (Kingston).

The water is in good order for perch, jack and chub fishing. I have not been out, but John has been getting some nice chub up to $3\frac{1}{2}$ lb., and a few fine dace. The bank fishers have been getting some fine dace, take them all together some of the best I have seen for some time. Another of my sons have been getting some nice roach from the bank. —John Johnson.

Thames (Twickenham).

The river is now in good condition, and tides suit well. We have had some splendid takes of roach and dacc. Mr. Beard took 100 fine fish in four hours, at Raking. Mr. Pitcher and friend took 12lb. of splendid dace one day with Pert Hammerton. Joe Dobbin and George Coxen have both been doing well. Those who want a good day's fishing now is the time to come; the river will never be in better condition.—Alfred Perrin.

Thames (Richmond).

Since my last report the river has been getting brighter every day, and this has caused the roach to go off the feed a little, but there is plenty of dace to be caught and they are very fine indeed. Takes of the past week are as follows:—G. Howard, one day 3 doz. dace; H. Mansell, 2 days, 9 dozen roach and dace; H. W. Reeler, one day, 2 dozen roach and dace; Job Brain, 2 days, 18 lb. roach and dace; C. Brown, 1 day, 9 lb. roach and dace; J. Bushnell, 4 days, $38\frac{1}{2}$ lb. roach and dace. Those who are fond of dace-fishing have got a splendid opportunity now.—J. Bushnell.

Thames (Walton).

The water has been falling rapidly since my last report, and is now but very little above summer level, and in capital order for fishing; in fact, nothing could be better. There is every prospect of some good takes for the next week or two, if the weather continues as it is, and there are no signs of a change. Beautiful and fine, with frost nights and mornings, and jack and perch well on the feed in the tail and along the banks. January 19, George Hone, with Messrs. Blamey and Wheeldon, had one jack, $4\frac{1}{2}$ lb., and another of 8 lb. (a picture), and lost a big one of 20 lb.; J. Hone, with Mr. Abbett, six perch; and Mr. Pace, from bank, two dozen roach. January 20 and 21, no fishing. January 22, George Hone, with Mr. Abbett, one jack, 3 lb. and six perch, average over $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. each; Mr. Higley, of the Highbury Anglers, one barbel, $3\frac{1}{2}$ lb., in good condition; Mr. Freeland, one jack, 3 lb.; from bank, one jack, $2\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; Mr. Rosewell, one jack, 4 lb. January 23, George Hone, with Mr. Mackriel, one bream, $4\frac{1}{2}$ lb. and one bream, $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. January 24, George Hone, with Mr. Trim, one bream, 3 lb.; one jack, 2 lb.; and two dozen perch. January 25, George Hone, with Mr. Abbett, one and a half dozen perch, and lost a big jack; Mr. Rosewell, with Mr. Bevell, one jack, 3 lb., and six perch.—Henry G. Wood.

Thames (Windsor).

It is as well, perhaps, that the great army of London enthusiasts are unable to look out of their bedroom window and see the grand trim water is in just now as I write; otherwise a good many would strike for a day and be off to one of the Thames stations; as it is, I expect in my rambles next Sunday to see a marked contrast over this time last year, and those who go in for punt-fishing, if up to the use of pike, brains or cheese, will find the chub well on, if there is no change in water and the fine and far off principle is adhered to. Please the fishes, I must make a call next weeks at some of those likely finds in the Water Oakley reach and below, though one of the best harbours we had about here for chub has been taken away. Those who are in the habit of using these waters know well the long rows of old pollard stumps and rows of thick bush that overhung the mill stream at Surley; all this has been cleared, and I fancy any one trying to fish will find it very foul from fallen rubbish, and, if not so, the chub have doubtless left it. Mr. King, of the Royal Oak, Windsor, who is a member of the Gresham Club, took three chub yesterday, going $3\frac{1}{2}$ lb., $2\frac{1}{2}$ lb., and $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb., besides a few others, which were returned. Mr. Parsons, of Windsor, had 5 lb. 10 oz. of chub, largest $3\frac{1}{4}$ lb., and two gentlemen staying at the Royal Oak, out with "Honest Joe," took a miscellaneous bag of roach, perch, and one jack of 4 lb. Corporal-Major Drake, of the Royal Horse Guards Blue, amongst a bag of perch from private waters, had a nice specimen going 2 lb. 14 oz., which I have placed in the hands of Cooper, being one more to my collection. Another good look over the bridge before I close assures me that jack and perch can hardiy refuse anything in the way of fish at the end of gut tackle. Not that many are going to be had of $15\frac{1}{2}$ lb. on a single fine gut perch hook, as taken a few weeks back by a customer of mine, who, by the bye, has kindly handed me the formidable weapon, which, with his autograph and account of the capture, now graces about 15in. by 10 of black and gold.—B. R. Bambridge.

Ancholme.

The continued prevalence of fine weather has been very favourable to visitors of the waterside. It has been more like May than January, and even the nights have hardly had a touch of frost. Despite these agreeable concomitants, anglers in this neighbourhood seem to have no relish for winter fishing, and we must give up all hopes of writing readable reports until such a time as the days are longer and the daisies and buttercups spangle the meadows. Let me advise those who, like myself, are awaiting the advent of the trout-fishing season, to give their tackle a thorough overhauling before the eventful time arrives. Let the lines be examined, and all rotten ones consigned to the fire, and see that all rusty hooks follow suit, Gut should likewise be tested, particularly at the knots. By-the-way, when tying knots always wet them to prevent breaking. This also should be looked to, as the gut often slips when they are badly tied, or when they have been kept too long. To those who make their own flies, I would say, get ready the needle brown early brown, February red, and March brown.—Thomas Ford.

Barnstaple (N. Devon.)

Our opening day for trout-fishing is the 1st of February, and anglers here are looking up their flies and tackle. I hope to have some good reports to send you as the season advances.—James Rowe.

Dove.

The trout season begins next Thursday, and I am glad we are so near, as I never knew the fish more forward than they are this year. Depend upon it, should the weather continue as mild next week as it is this, there will be great sport amongst the speckled ones. Already the fish are rising nearly as freely as grayling, and eels have been caught this last few days while grayling fishing. They have, of course, had to be thrown back again. After next Thursday anglers will be able to lay justifiable claim to them. The high temperature of the atmosphere has again brought out an immense quantity of fly on the river, and even since I last wrote there has been more or less of a good rise of fish. Plenty of piscators have been out daily trying their skill, and most of them have been successful in catching something. One rodster caught six and a-half brace near Clonnholme, and two separate dishes of five and a-half and five brace are reported from Uttoxeter. Sport has also been remunerative at Rocester, Mayfield, Ashbourne, Ilam, and other places. A few more barbel have been caught by the bottom fishers, and, as everybody knows, the rare circumstance of these fish being taken in winter is only to be accounted for by the excessively mild weather. The barbel were caught with the cockspur worm.—The Splodger.

Ilfracombe (N. Devon).

Our sea-fishing this week has been a little brisker, some boats having had good sport on Sunday. Seven cod were brought in, two weighing 13 lb. each, three 15 lb. each, two 40 lb. each; two ling, one 15 lb., one 20 lb.; two skate, 28 lb. each. Monday, four cod, two 20 lb. each, one 16 lb., one 15 lb., and two small conger. Tuesday, six cod, two weighing 40 lb., one 21 lb., one 16 lb., and two 15 lb. each; three ling, two 42 lb., one 15 lb., and two skate, one 24 lb., one 40 lb.; one conger 30 lb. Wednesday, one cod 20 lb., and a few tamlin, cod, and whiting. Weather at present moderate.—E. Comer.

Medway (Tonbridge).

With the river in such splendid condition it is a great wonder that more votaries of the gentle craft have not been out. Those who have tried it, as a rule, have been rewarded with jack. Mr. G. Hewitt caught above the town a female pike weighing 6 lb. 6 oz., and several others are reported. It is to be hoped as far as fishing is concerned the present fine weather will last.—Ye Medway Water Rat.

Ouse and Ivel (Blunham).

We are pleased to state these rivers are now in good condition. The pike have been freely on the feed this week and some fine fish have been taken by members of the association.—E. B.

Ouse (Littleport).

Water in splenid condition as far as appearances go, and almost down to summer level. But though everything looks favourable, we are quite out of it down here, for the fish will not feed at all well yet. I have had three short turns myself, and had four anglers down on speculation, with the following results—Thursday, fishing myself, got $4\frac{1}{2}$ lb. roach; Friday, 7 lb. roach and bream; Saturday, $4\frac{1}{2}$ lb. roach, nine fish, largest $1\frac{1}{4}$ lb., a very handsome roach; Monday, Mr. Crick, Newmarket, 2 doz. roach, bream, and dace; Tuesday, Mr. George, Bassingbourne, 9 lb. nice roach; Mr. F. J. Hulford, Ely, 4 lb. roach in one hour; Wednesday, Mr. C. S. Smelt, Elm, near Wisbeach, 7 lb. nice roach, largest going 1 lb.—Charles South.

Suir.

We are all most anxious for Wednesday next, 1st February, being the opening day of the fishing season for rods and nets, and we anticipate first-rate fishing, owing to the past heavy floods and unusually mild season. Nearly all the salmon have spawned, and numbers of spring fish are going up the river. The heavy floods during the winter have prevented poachers from doing much in that way. Last night, sub-constable Holmes seized at Clonmel railway station two splendid springers, weighing respectively 25 lb. and 19 lb. They were directed to an egg merchant in Dublin. Up to the present there is only a slight clue to the senders. The streams are all in grand order for trout-fishing, and the flies used will be gold wrens, hare's ears, rat's fur, and red hackles. Notwithstanding the state our country is in, we expect better sport this coming season than for the few past ones.—Dora.

Trent (Nottingham).

Sport during the week has been rather quiet in the Nottingham district. The river has been running at an unusually low ebb, and pike anglers have not been slow to avail themselves of its clearness. Still, from some cause or another, the takes have not been large. Half-a-dozen nice fish—largest 17 lb. 14 oz.—were brought up from Colwick on the 20th, and a large take was reported from one of the upper waters on Monday. On Wednesday, at the Wellington Association, Mr. Hardy weighed-in one of 15 lb. within a few ounces, and on Thursday several good fish came to hand from Stoke. Chub-fishing has attracted a large number of votaries, but although pith and brains and greaves were brought into plentiful requisition, I cannot hear of many fish having been persuaded to feed. On Wednesday a noted local angler tried the upper length at Fiskerton with both the baits named, but failed to spring more than one solitary specimen. Just before closing my notes I hear that a pike of 11 lb. has been caught at Barton, and that a few nice chub have been landed in the Sawley fishery.—The Man at the Clubs.

Trent (Newark).

The water is low and clear and in capital condition for pike and chub fishing. Some fair quantities of both of those fish have been taken this week; the former by both spinning and live baiting, and the latter with pith and brains. Sport among the roach, dace, bream, &c., this week has not been very good, a few odd fish, as far as I can learn, only rewarding the patient roach fisher. Last Monday Mr. Butler had five nice jack, four of his fish going 30 lb. I heard of another angler having a nice brace from this locality that weighed 20 lb. Last Sunday I saw three fish that would average 6 lb. apiece in an angler's basket, and when I saw him he was spinning with a Colorado spoon-bait; taking all things into consideration pike-fishing has been pretty good this week. 'Pike-fishing closes in the waters of the Newark and Muskham fishery on the 1st February, an example that I should like to see followed in other waters. Chub, as I have just remarked, have been biting very fairly at pith, with brains as ground bait; several catches, and good ones too. I have both seen and heard about; I won't trouble you with particulars, but only add that my last week's recommendation will do for this, viz., anglers should go after chub, and take a farewell spin for pike this season in some of their favourite places. The wind to-day has been veering about very queerly, to night it has got in the east.—THE TRENT OTTER.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

Both the above rivers are now in first-class condition for grayling fly fishing, also for pike and coarse fish; and I am pleased to say that some handsome baskets of good sized grayling have been killed off of both rivers, both on Saturday, Monday and Tuesday, with the artificial flies. Baskets from four to seven brace per angler have been made. The killing flies have been the rough dressed claret, bumble, furnace and the flat winged brown flies. The long flat-winged browns have been out very abundantly on both rivers during the past week. Some fine grayling have also been killed off of the Derwent on F. C. Arkwright's water, with fly, below Cromford. The bottom fishers have done very well in the deeps during the past week with brandling worms, killing a quantity of good size chub, perch and dace, a few pike have also been taken out of the deeps between Cromford and Ambergate, none of the fish exceeding 6 lb. each; they have been killed both by trolling with the spoon bait and by using the natural small dace and roach for baits. I am exceedingly sorry to say that there has been several, both trout and grayling, picked up dead or dying of that fearful fish disease again, both on the Wye and on the Derwent, between Rowsley and Matlock Bridges.—GEORGE JAMES EATON.

SCOTCH REPORTS.

(From the *Scotsman.*)

LOCHLEVEN.—THE FIRST KILL OF THE SEASON.—Mr. Thompson, Cowdenbeath, and another gentleman were out with the rod for a few hours yesterday. The wind was light and from the south-west. Mr. Thompson succeeded in capturing two trout. This was not only the first kill of the season, but the earliest capture of the rod on record on Lochleven. The spawning season, it may be noted, was also early, and remarkably favourable, and has undoubtedly been the best experienced for many years. The trout beds were numerous, and never were disturbed by any of the heavy spates which subsequently overflowed the streams with such violence from south-west winds; and this season's fry have some weeks ago been seen in large numbers, which is rather unusual so early in the season. The streams have been under an energetic staff of watchers, and very little poaching has been heard of—only one conviction having been recorded.

SPAWNING IN THE TAY AND LYON.—Now that the spawning is nearly completed in the upper reaches of the Tay and the lower portions of the River Lyon, we are enabled to report as to the general results. The openness of the season and the absence of frost has been beneficial. This, combined with the full state of the river at the close of the fishing, enabled the salmon to have free access to the various spawning beds, which were all fully occupied. The fungoid disease, which was reported as prevalent in these waters before the close of the rod-fishing, has happily not proved so virulent as was anticipated. This favourable result is supposed to be mainly owing to the flooded state of the river which had advantageous effects in preventing its spread. Mr. Lumsden the superintendent of the fisheries, in his recent report to the Tay Fishery Board, states that only nine diseased dead fish (five male and four female) were reported by the bailiff, and four from the Lyon and Tay above the mouth of the Lyon. A considerable proportion of those seen were only slightly affected about the head. In the Grantully, Strathtay, and lower waters diseased fish are more numerous. In one pool eleven salmon were counted, all suffering from a malignant attack of this disease, and numerous instances of a similar nature are reported from the Strathtay waters. At Kenmore and Loch Tay several were also observed, but in most instances the disease was apparently of a milder type than in the lower waters. Notwithstanding the prevalence of disease, the spawning may be considered as having been, upon the whole, highly satisfactory. Experienced salmon fishers are of opinion that the prospects of anglers upon Loch Tay are quite as encouraging as of late years. The following table, compiled from an authentic source, shows the result of the fishing upon the loch for the last ten years—viz., 1870 to 1880 inclusive:—

Year.	Number of Fish.	Weight in lb.
1870	460	9,118
1871	114	2,270
1872	293	5,972
1873	779	17,770
1874	253	5,295
1875	913	20,106
1876	476	9,786
1877	869	17,703
1878	851	18,419
1879	356	8,117
1880	331	7,026
	5,695	121,382

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

THE LARGE DORSAL FIN OF THE GRAYLING.

MR. J. H. KEENE asks, in the FISHING GAZETTE of December 3rd, "For what purpose is the dorsal fin of the "grayling so large?" which was duly responded to in the issue of the FISHING GAZETTE for December 10, by H. M. P. Finding the subject has called forth no farther comment, I would now wish to add a few words upon the subject, which although not treating directly with our "English grayling" (*Thymallus umber*), it does with that magnificent example "Back's grayling" *Thymallus signifer*), whose dorsal fin is something grand, and the use of which is so clearly spoken of in the Naturalist's Library, "Ichthyology," Vol. II. The beautiful dorsal fin of this handsome species is so conspicuous, that it has been noticed by the natives dwelling upon the banks of its stream, and in their language signifies "wiry-like fin." It inhabits the rocky streams that flow through the primitive country lying between "Mackenzie's River" and the "Welcome." It is found only in the clear waters; and, Richardson says, delights in the strongest streams, taking eagerly at the artificial fly, and, when hooked, tugging strongly, and requiring as much dexterity to land safely as a trout six times the size. We do not see clearly the organs from which this great power arises, except in the large size of the dorsal fin. There is, however, no other organ to which to refer it; and if it is referable to it in those other fishes which have it so much, and often so curiously, developed, the power, when known, may probably be in ratio of its size.

The colours of this grayling are beautiful, but chaste; above of a lavender purple, beneath greyish with white spots; but the chief ornament or adornment is the large "dorsal" fin, of a graceful curving form. It is of a blackish-grey, but is relieved by tranverse rows of Berlin-blue spots.

The principal uses of the dorsal and anal fins of fishes, regarded merely as ministering to locomotion, appears to be that of poising those animals, and preventing them from continually reeling over to one side during either their station or progression in the water. The air-bladder, it is true, in most fishes, running as it does along the spine, tends to keep this part uppermost under ordinary circumstances; but this provision would have been insufficient to counteract the influence of the waves and conflicting currents, without the additional security afforded by the dorsal and anal fins, which, by the salient angle which they form with the body, throughout a great part of the length, and the broad area which they present laterally to the water, must obviously oppose a much greater resistance to any rotatory motion of the animal on its own axis, than any which it experiences in its motion either upwards or downwards, forwards or backwards. They thus operate in the same manner as the keel of a ship, and serve to keep the animal steady in its course; and for the same reason that a flat-bottomed boat rolls with every wave, and can keep its course at all only in very quiet waters, so a fish from which these fins have been removed reels continually to the right and left, and is able to preserve anything like an equilibrium only by keeping its other fins in constant motion, as a man does his arms when balancing himself upon a tight rope. But the dorsal and anal fins of fishes have an advantage which the best constructed keel can never possess; and that is, that their area and tension can be increased, within certain limits, in exact proportions to the necessity for greater security, the spines on which they are built being raised by muscles which are under the control of the animal; so that it has but to call these muscles into a greater or less degree of action, to expand or relax the fins to the precise point that is required. It is thus that we may imitate nature in our contrivances, but we can never approach her except at one or two removes.

I should esteem it a great favour if J. Harrington Keene, would kindly forward me the article upon "Brain Ivory," by our late friend F. Buckland, written some year or two since in *Land and Water*, and which J. H. K. so thoughtfully promised to look up and send in the FISHING GAZETTE, December 3rd, as I have either overlooked or lost my copy.

Exeter. FRANK GOSDEN.

SERIOUS ILLNESS OF MR. F. G. PEARCE.

WE very much regret to hear that Mr. F. G. Pearce the venerable and universally respected father of the Piscatorial Society has recently had a paralytic stroke. By desire of the committee of the club, Mr. T. R. Sachs has undertaken the office of treasurer, during the absence of Mr. F. G. Pearce who we sincerely hope will speedily recover.

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

VERY little fishing news, club or otherwise, to report this week.

Among the North-Westerns, all things considered, some fair sport has been met with. Mr. J. H. Stead, of "Cure" celebrity, being credited with 12 lb. of jack and 8 lb. of roach and chub, the result of two days' angling in the river Ouse. Mr. Packman, 6 lb. of roach; Messrs. Harding and Halse, fishing with Davidson at Pangbourne, 6 lb. and 6½ lb. respectively, of roach and dace; Mr. Patching, 3½lb, of roach and chub; Messrs. Holmes, Billings, North, Underwood. Smith, Turner, Aldis, Marshall, also having some good roach and dace.

The West Central Association, No. 1 district, visit to the Bostonian Angling Society on Monday evening last was a perfect success, twelve societies being numerously represented.

From the Thames the report that comes to hand this week is a little more cheerful. Haslett, the well-known Chertsey pro., writes me this day (Wednesday). "I am glad to say old Father Thames is again right for fishing. I have been out part of two days with Mr. Allan, got two jack 5 lb. and 6 lb. respectively, and some perch, some fine roach and a trout about 1 lb., this last, being so wee, and, moreover, out of season, was of course let off; fishing with another gentleman on the 22nd, one jack and some perch; again on 24th, some perch (five). Hope to have better news next week." Say Haslett, what of those chub; ought not this bit of sharp weather to whet their appetites, and would not pith and brains fetch them? It would be quite a treat to hear of the capture of a few loggerheads.

A capital article that by "Chub Chavender" in last week's FISHING GAZETTE. I know the water referred to well, and have fished the Grand Junction Canal at West Drayton, Uxbridge, Rickmansworth, Watford, King's Langley, Boxmoor and beyond, more than any other water. Still, while agreeing with him on nearly everything, there are one or two of his statements which I would point out to him are somewhat at variance with the received notions of the most experienced canal fishemen. The system of ground baiting he recommends for instance, at all events for the main cut, is far too generous, and the barges he speaks of disparagingly are really a boon to the angler. With regard to ground bait the Cut fisherman is, if anything, more sparing than his brother rodster on the Lea. Eight or ten balls of bread and bran, about the size of an orange, will last him the whole day, though, if he is an old hand, he will rarely remain in one swim more than a quarter of an hour or twenty minutes. In the Thames or Lea a man will stick to a swim a whole day, well knowing it is a good swim, and that the fish may come on at any moment, and in an hour or two will reward him for his weary waiting. In the main canal, with a very few exceptions, there are no particular swims; granting a good bottom, and it is pretty generally so in winter, the depth is nearly everywhere uniform. The fish, too, are the most arrant rovers I know of. The keel of almost every loaded barge touches the bottom, and very frequently grates upon it in a most audible manner. Now, the instant the barge has passed, the fisherman should cast in, and he will find that if he is sharp he will secure two or three fish before the well defined cloudy track left in the centre of the clear water by the lumbering old craft has subsided; moreover, the opening and closing of locks necessitated by the passage of the barges, by giving a movement to the water where there are no mills, certainly makes the fish feed more freely.

The 3 lb. and some odd ounces fish (I have not a copy of the GAZETTE before me where I now am writing) taken at Staines, and referred to in my "Jottings" last week, was a "Perch" and the omission of the word was the printers mistake not mine.

[The mistake was not the printer's. Mr. B. left out the word, and of course it would have been dangerous to guess as to what the fish was.—THE PRINTER.]

Two new clubs, "The Kingfisher" and the "Brentford Piscatorials," were enrolled at the last meeting of the West Central Association of London and Provincial Angling Societies, on Friday evening last. Every true angler will rejoice at the starting of an angling society in Brentford, the very head-centre of Thames poachers.

A 19 lb. SALMON CAUGHT WHILE SPINNING FOR PIKE

AT the Piscatorial Society on Monday evening last, the following remarks were make by Mr. Thos. Huggett in reply to his name being associated with the successful anglers.

Mr. President and Gentlemen,—I thank you very heartily for the kind manner in which you have proposed my health as one of the successful anglers this evening, the more so as I have an anecdote to relate which I hope will amuse you. On Friday morning last, with the birds singing as in spring and a beautiful blue sky, I started off full of great hopes for a day's good pike-fishing; but in that I was somewhat disappointed, as I had rather an indifferent day's sport, but an event occurred early in the day which gave me entire and unqualified satisfaction. Having arrived nearly at the top of the water that I was to fish we came to a place where it was necessary to change boats, there being a weir but no lock. The attendant then commenced changing the rods and tackle and getting the other boat ready, so I thought while he was doing it, it would be a good opportunity for me to spin the weir pool over. I put on a medium-sized very bright roach, and, as the water curled or rather swirled heavily at the place where I commenced, I did not throw out the line but stood back some distance and gently dropped in my spinning bait. Ha! what was that; I thought I felt a touch, I struck instantly, and then raised the bait to have a look at it. I must have been mistaken; and yet the bait had been shifted on the hooks, no marks of teeth, No matter, don't bully him, as John Hammond, of Winchester, says, when you are trout-fishing. Wait a minute or so, for Mr. Esox Lucius, if he it be, will be reassured. I waited, re-arranged the bait, stood well back and again cast it lightly into the swirl; it was only for an instant, another strike and I was into something. Off went about thirty yards of my line at a terrific rate, and with a whirr of the winch which all true anglers so dearly love, and then out in the heaviest of the foaming weirpool sprang a lovely salmon bright as a bar of silver; and then out again and again. He then rushed over to another side of the weir near some piles and I had to run back and wind my reel at the same time so as to have some control over him, also a moderate strain upon my line; he then commenced to tug-tug, with as much breaking or tearing movement as possible but the steel was too well in and the tackle too sound for that to avail him. I then had an opportunity of beckoning over the attendant, who had now the other boat ready. He came over and I told him I was into a salmon, "Nonsense," said he, "on jack tackle; most likely it is a budge trout." "Budge trout be hanged" said I, "it's a salmon; he is as bright as a salmon and weighs twelve or fifteen pounds at least." There was no more time for conversation, for at that moment off he went, or rather tried to go, up on to some shallows all covered with long weeds called cow weed, but poor Tom thought he had better give him plenty of butt than allow such a dangerous proceeding to take place. After he had shaken the line somewhat as a dog shakes a rat, I turned him, and he came again into the pool and again rushed for the piles. The attendant then began to talk about the landing. As per usual, he had no landing net, and to gaff the salmon out of season would be most unsportsmanlike, or perhaps, what is worse, illegal, so he inquired of me what was to be done. I replied, "Never mind about the landing at present; he is not to be landed so quickly as you think. He is no chicken I can tell you; look at the rod." There he was round and round the weir pool and every now and then his tail showed out of the water as he turned and made his heavy plunges; but after a time he became more tractable and the question of landing him had to be decided. We thought of running him up a ditch which lay on the right of us and then blocking up the ditch with some of the weir paddles but this was found impracticable as the ditch was too wide and too deep. At last the attendant found a small drain, about 12 inches wide, running out of the ditch, so I determined to run him up the ditch and turn him into the drain. By this time about three-quarters of an hour had elapsed since he was first hooked, and when I put on a strain he came towards me without all that rushing and tugging he had exhibited in the early part of the struggle. I sailed him up the wide ditch; he raised several objections *en route*, but I kept the strain on, turned him into the little drain and ran him up some distance on to the shallow—the place was so narrow he could not turn. The attendant knelt down and put his arms under him and landed him gently on the grass; what a lovely fish, bright as silver and fat as a mole, worth perhaps 5s. per lb. At once I measured him. He was exactly the length of the butt of my rod, 3 feet, measuring over all, and the girth was 2 feet 10½ inches. The fisherman's store was close by. We weighed him, when down bumped the scales at nineteen pounds. The rest from the strain of the line during the minutes we were weighing him seemed to have revived him. We took him to the running water near the weir pool and dropped him gently in. The moment he was free he sailed off into the weir pool a sadder, though, I trust, a wiser fish for his visit to green fields and pastures new. The river keeper has been there nearly ten years and this is the first salmon he has ever seen taken with jack tackle, although very many anglers have fished there. Gentlemen, I again thank you for having associated my name with the successful anglers.

[Did not this pretty little adventure occur on the Avon?—ED.]

DESTROYING FISH BY DYNAMITE.

JAMES AND JOHN BENNETT and John Grocock, labourers, were brought up and charged with having, on the 17th inst., at Egginton, unlawfully used certain dynamite to catch or destroy fish in certain water belonging to Sir Hy. Flower Every, Bart. Mr. H. T. George (from the office of Mr. Eddowes, Clerk to the Trent Fishery Board), who appeared for the prosecution, stated that the charge was laid under 41 and 42 Vic., and it was fortunate for the prisoners that they were not charged under the Malicious Injuries to Property Act, as, if they had then been convicted, they might have been sent to penal servitude for seven years. He was afraid that this was an offence which had been considerably on the increase in this district lately, and if their Worships considered the case proved he should ask them to inflict a heavy penalty, and thus to assist the Trent Fishery Board to put down these occurrences. James Haynes said that on the day in question he saw the prisoners near the brook. One of them threw something into the water, and immediately afterwards he heard a report. He saw the water rise and also give off steam. He went to the prisoners, after having got assistance, and detained them until he gave them into the custody of the police. When he had the prisoners in custody he saw a dead fish in the water. Wm. Meakin and Wm. Hayes deposed to having helped the last witness, and P.C. Twigg to having received the prisoners into custody. He searched them, and found upon James Bennett four dead fish, and upon John Bennett two, but none upon Grocock. James Bennett also had in his possession a ferret and two nets, and Grocock one net. James Bennett denied that either he or the other prisoners threw dynamite into the water, though they certainly did take some fish out of the brook. He had never seen dynamite. The other prisoners made no defence. The

Chairman said that the Bench believed prisoners had been convicted of the offence—one of the most serious offences a man could be convicted of. If fish, the food of the people, was to be destroyed in this way a famine might occur in the land. They might just as well set to work to destroy every beast and sheep in the kingdom. It was absolutely necessary these proceedings should be stopped. Unfortunately the law gave the magistrates only a limited power of repression, but that power they were bound to exercise to the utmost of their ability, and prisoners now would have to pay £20 each and costs, or go to gaol with two months' hard labour.

THE FRIENDLY ANGLERS.

On Wednesday last, the 25th inst., this well-named angling society held its usual annual dinner at the Albion Tavern, and members and visitors turning up in strong force, the recently enlarged room, handsemely adorned with no fewer than seventy-six cases of stuffed fish, was quite filled. The members present were—Messrs. Newson (chairman), Victor Emanuel (vice-chairman), Paine (treasurer), Lee Good (hon. sec.), and F. and R. Hoblyn, Woodall, Cragga, Grant, T. and W. Barwell, Taylor, Brewer, Calcutt, Korner, Garrett, Bloxham, Batson, Howard, Blockley, Henderson, Brown, Bayfield, Palmer, Hughes, Mitchell, Hook, Pinnick, Marriott, Pugh, Hawkins, Nickerson, G. Gillatt, Meakin, Hodgkinson, Freeman, and Page, and Wheeldon, hon. member. The visitors comprised Messrs. J. Lander and T. R. Sachs (Piscatorial Society), Parkins (the Waltonians), H. Barwell, Slait, G. Hook, C. Hoblyn, Evans, Turner, Lister, and Mobbs. Besides the usual speeches, in the course of which the chairman complimented the visitors, and referred to the liberality of one of them in the matter of prize-giving, an important part of the evening's proceedings was the distribution of prizes, which, amongst the Friendly Anglers, are all private ones. The following is a list of the prize-winners, with the nature of the prizes attached:—Mr. F. Hoblyn, greatest weight with the fly and spinning bait, £14 14s.; Mr. Victor Emanuel, largest pike, perch and grayling, £14 14s.; Mr. Palmer, greatest weight of trout, a trout pin (£5 5s.), and £3 13s. 6d.; Mr. Woodall, largest chub (5 lb. 6 oz.), £6 6s.; Mr. Allard, greatest weight of chub, £6 6s.; Mr. Hunt, greatest weight of bream, £6 6s.; Mr. Brown, largest roach and greatest weight of same, £3 13s. 6d.; Mr. Hawkins, greatest weight of dace, £3 13s. 6d.; Mr. C. Calcutt, greatest weight of gudgeon, £3 3s.; Mr. Craggs, largest chub with the fly and greatest weight of tench, £3 3s.; Mr. Garratt, largest dace, £1 1s., and pair of ottomans, £3 3s.; Mr. Batson, second largest dace, £1 11s. 6d.; Mr. Henderson, second greatest weight of dace, £1 11s. 6d.; Mr. T. Barwell, largest trout from the Thames, £1 11s. 6d.; Mr. Grant, greatest weight on three specified days in the week, £1 11s. 6d.; Mr. Newson, greatest weight of pike, £1 1s.; Mr. Blockley, largest bream, £1 1s.; Mr. Mitchell, consolation prize for greatest number of shows without gaining a prize, £1 1s.; Mr. Berry, second largest perch, 10s. 6d. The total amount won amounted to over £80. But during the evening prizes were offered for 1882 amounting to nearly £100, including a pair of enamelled trout-pins, from Mr. T. R. Sachs, for fly-fishing and spinning, and £1 1s. from Mr. Lander. Mr. R. L. Pugh made a good show of fish, consisting of 31¼ lb. of Thames pike (the largest 12½ lb.), and 4¼ lb. of roach (largest 1 lb. 2 oz.), and 10¼ lb. of perch (largest 2 lb. ½ oz.), from the Kennett, in all, 45¾ lb. Some excellent songs were given by Messrs. Wheeldon, Berry, Brewer, T. Barwell, F. S. Hoblyn, and Victor Emanuel (in French), and Mr. Korner recited some Hans Breitmann ballads in the true vernacular.

HISTORY OF THE GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The Gresham Angling Society has now attained a position when some slight sketch of its origin and progress may be useful as well as interesting to our readers, and in response to a suggestion made last week by a correspondent, we have much pleasure in placing before them a few particulars derived from authentic sources.

The society owes its origin to a suggestion made by its honorary secretary to an old friend, Mr. George Austin, and these gentlemen jointly are the founders of the society, as officially recorded in its minute book. Both are the sons of good anglers, long since gone to rest, one of whom was a member of an angling society more than fifty years ago. The objects of the society being carefully thought out and defined, a committee formed, and some thirty or forty members obtained, the project was formally announced in the press, after which a public meeting was called. The room in which it was held was crowded, and at the close a large number of names were handed in to Mr. Crumplen, who was in the chair. The objects of the society as stated at this meeting held on the 25th of March last, were to promote congenial social intercourse, to disseminate information, to travel cheaper, to rent water for the use of its members, to abolish the system of gross-weight competitions, to form a museum of specimen fish, and as far as possible to aid all movements having for their object the interests of the angling community—objects which have since been kept steadily in view. The society has been represented on every deputation of importance, and has invarialy thrown in its lot with the central bodies, feeling certain that it is only by united efforts that any useful reforms, or improvement in sport generally, can be successfully accomplished.

The original committee were: Messrs. George Austin, C. E. Aveling, F. W. Backhouse, C. G. Bennett, C. S. Bentley, E. Child, T. P. Cooper, T. Crumplen, S. C. Harding, J. W. Haye and J. G. Thompson. These gentlemen retain office until June next, when the committee will doubtless be re-constituted, and new members and officers introduced. They have, however, worked well together, and although differences of opinion have at times arisen, a question once discussed and settled becomes part of the policy of the society, which all endeavour to carry out. Mr. Bentley deserves a special word of praise. He has made several valuable suggestions, and the library, which is becoming an important feature with the society, is largely indebted to him. The books and the museum have so far grown that a librarian and curator have been lately appointed, and in Mr. R. Bryant and Captain Alfred the society has two valuable officials.

Mr. Alfred Jardine, who joined the society at its first open meeting, has brought in many good angling friends, besides aiding in every possible way, and the late take of pike by himself and Mr. Knechtli has enabled the society to boast of having had a finer display on its trays (when individual weights and numbers are considered) than have been shown before any other society. The honorary secretary it will be recollected suggested and compiled the first paper read before the society, and also presided at the inaugural dinner, which was so great a success in May last. The papers read and discussed before the society have been greatly attractive; they have since been published, and many other societies now read similar essays, so, that although the reading of papers at angling meetings is not new in itself, the Gresham has certainly done much to make them popular. Besides these literary evenings the society has those musical nights, which have always been more or less inseparable from angling, and to these it has imparted new interest by the revival of some of those sweet old angling ditties, now so rarely heard. On other occasions members bring their rods or tackle for inspection, and many novelties or inventions have from time to time been shown. Members of other societies are always welcome as visitors at these meetings, which take place every Thursday. The society has at present the right of fishing without payment in Godfrey's Water, Thorney Broad; also at Ford's, and they rent exclusively the small Lea at Waltham (this has always been private water), which they contemplate stocking, as time goes on. The society gives its prizes for specimen fish only. When we add that Lord George Hamilton, M.P., is president, taking a real interest in its welfare, presiding at the annual banquet in March next; and that Major the Hon. E. R. Burke, and Mr. Alderman Fowler, M.P., vice-presidents of the society, the first chapter in its history is complete. We have thought this little sketch of its origin and working might be of service to our readers. Enough has been said to show the importance of having such a powerful body numbering over two hundred members, ready to throw its weight unselfishly into any movement having for its object the advancement of the art of angling, the furtherance of union among anglers and angling societies, and the increase of our common sport.

THAMES *v.* ISIS.

The question which is the river Isis is one which is often cropping up amongst anglers; and by those who are unacquainted with the matter, it is frequently asserted that the Isis is a branch or tributary of the Thames, which river it joins at Dorchester; others assert that it is a "continuation of the Thames," and that at this place the Isis ends and the Thames begins. It is beyond doubt that considerable confusion prevails in the minds of many anglers on this point, and it is to endeavour to clear this up that I put to paper the following notes and extracts:—

Anyone who will examine a good map of the Thames from its source to the sea will at once note the fallacy of the idea of there being two rivers; they will see that the Thames commences near the village of Tarlton, near Cirencester, and proceeds in one continuous course to the sea. That a certain portion of this river was, and still is, occasionally called the Isis, there can be no doubt; the inhabitants of many villages on its banks call it so, and it was but lately I noticed in one of the daily papers these words:—"The curious phenomenon of the water of the Isis freezing at the bottom of the river." This portion was also called the Ouse, as will be seen from the following extracts from Stow:—"The Thames beginneth a little above a village called Winchcomb, in Oxfordshire, and still increasing, passeth first by the University of Oxford, &c., to London;" and in his next chapter that the Isis "goeth into Thame in Oxfordshire (which is more than fifteen miles below Oxford), where, joining with a river of the same denomination, it loseth the name of Isis or Ouse, and from thence is called Thamesis all along as it passeth." This description of Stow's appears somewhat contradictory, and is therefore of little value; but the authority of Camden is no doubt to be relied upon as stated in the following extract, in which he says "it plainly appears that the river was always called Thames or Tems before it came near the Thame," "and that in several ancient charters granted to the Abbey of Malmesbury, as well as to that of Eynsham,* and from old deeds relating to Cricklade it is never considered under any other name than that of Thames." In proof of this assertion he instances that in an ancient charter granted to Abbot Adhelm, there is mention made of certain lands upon the east part of the river "cujus vocabulum Temis, juxta vadum qui appellatur Summerford (whose name is Thames and near a ford which is named Summerford), and this ford is in Wiltshire." He likewise says it nowhere occurs under the name of Isis. It is likewise called the Thames by those ancient historians who chronicled the invasions of Ethelwold into

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* Eynsham: this Abbey was founded about the year 1005, and was of considerable extent and magnificence, but at this time there is no sign of there having been an abbey here.

Wiltshire in A.D. 905, and of Canute in 1016, who all concur in this by declaring that "they passed over the Thames at Cricklade."

The source of the Thames is acknowledged as the Thames Head, and it is hardly probable that this source should give birth to a river called the Isis, which having run about half its course should then re-assume the name of Thames. It is much more likely that the name of Isis was of poetical origin, and that we should take the advice of Mr. Dickens, in his Dictionary, and agree that "the Isis legend should be abandoned and the river be called throughout its course the Thames."

As to the origin of the name of Thames, it was suggested by Mr. Ireland, in his work on this river, that it might be derived from the Saxon, Temere, or from the British word Tavuys which implies a gentle stream, and from which many rivers in the island derive their appellation.

R. W. Hobden.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

C. Beale.—The fence months on the Ouse and Ivel are from March 15 to June 15.

E. Abdey, Redland.—Trout-fishing begins February 1 on most of the North Devon and West Somerset streams. We cannot say if this rule holds good on all the preserved waters, but should say not, as it is too early unless the season is exceptionally forward.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

SILKWORM GUT.

Sir,—I did not think, when I replied to a letter which appeared in "Forest and Stream" on this subject, that my letter would be published in your paper and come under the notice of an amateur "gut manufacturer," or should have gone more fully into the question of manufacture of gut; yet, I suppose, not so fully as your correspondent "Creel" would have been satisfied with: it is not wise for a manufacturer to say too much in these days of keen competition.

During the many years my firm have been importers only of gut, I have been most careful to keep it in a room not too damp, or of too great a heat, and have always cautioned tackle makers and dealers not to expose it in their windows in the blazing sun.

I must confess that, although my firm has imported large quantities and I have had the purchasing of it, I was ignorant as to how the Spaniards made it—excepting the slight information I could gain from them, that the silkworm was put into vinegar, afterwards drawn out to as great a length as possible, then well rubbed with wash leather by women and girls, before being tied up in bundles of 100 each—until my first visit to Spain, in September last, therefore my experience has not been long.

No wonder "Creel" is so much astonished that our firm should be as many years in the trade, and purchasing to the extent of several thousands of pounds' worth every year, that we had not visited the seat of its manufacture. I have for many years had a great desire to visit Spain, to see the manufacturing of gut, which is one of the most important articles in our trade; but my time has always been so much occupied in the manufacturing of hooks, swivels, floats, rods, lines, &c., that I found it difficult to leave a large business for any length of time; also, the distance to Murcia being so great, and not knowing their language, I have put it off year after year.

The arrangement my firm had entered into, to mannfacture on their own account, made it a necessity that I should go there.

The person we have engaged as our manager, I have known for several years' and bought gut from him when manufacturing on his own account; it was certainly the best gut we purchased from any house.

With reference to the manufacture of silkworm gut—how the Spaniards made it years ago, I cannot tell, but certainly it used to be made stronger than of late years.

"Creel" is quite correct as to the boiling, &c., which process I have altered somewhat.

As to bleaching, I consider that also a mistake; yet, unless we can produce white gut, tackle makers and dealers will not purchase it. It must be a good white, or will not take the dye so well. Tackle makers must produce the right shade, or they cannot sell the lines, &c. More attention is paid to the colour than the strength; there is a prejudice, and how to get over it is the difficulty.

As to regulating the heat of the bleaching oven, as I am a countryman, and, as the Americans say, a greenhorn, it is not likely that I should know the use of a thermometer.

At our works we have to study the question of heat very much, and, having used them for years, it was a wonder it did not strike me, or that I had never seen a bleaching oven before.

A great deal has been said lately about dyeing gut and a great many make the same mistake as the Spaniards, viz.—putting the gut into boiling water. If the water is boiling when the dye is put in, or rather the boiling water poured on the dye, the gut should not be put into it until a few minutes after, then it will not reduce the strength, providing the right sort of dye is used.

I contend it injures gut to expose it to the glaring heat of the sun. "Creel" must consider that in Spain at the "gut season," the heat is intense and will dry up anything exposed to it. If "Creel" will put gut before a good fire for several hours, he knows what the effect will be.

The same in making hooks: once over heat them, let them remain one minute too long in the fire, the nature of the steel is taken out, and the hooks will become brittle, and no process you can apply will ever make them strong again.

I enclose for "Creel" a few strands of gut in the raw state, also a few strands in the manufactured or finished state; he will be able to form an opinion if our present system makes the gut brittle.

Apologising for trespassing upon your space.—I am, &c.

S. Allcock.

RED PASTE FOR ROACH AND BREAM.

Sir,—I think you will agree with me that those roach and bream fishermen who use paste for a bait, tinted red with vermilion, make a mistake by doing so.

Though the quantity of the pigment necessary may be very small, yet I have found it imparts a distinctly metallic taste to the bait, which must act rather as a repellant than a lure to such fastidious feeding fish as they seek to capture.

Of course everybody knows that vermilion is also very poisonous; though this could hardly affect a human being injuriously, supposing he ate his fish, for in most, if not all cases, the pellet is rejected immediately, the steel strikes home, leaving none to find its way into the stomach, and thence into the blood, supposing the process of digestion to be still going on during the short time the life of the fish is ebbing away.

If I may be allowed to give a hint to correct this oversight, I should advise that a grain or two of carmine, which is the colouring principle of cochineal, and is perfectly harmless—being used in a liquid form in the culinary art for tinting blanc manges, jellies, &c.—be used instead, when the required colour can be obtained without tending in any degree to militate against the end the angler had in view.—I am, &c.,

William King.

1, New Road, Commercial Road, E., January 23rd, 1882.

[This is a good suggestion. Red paste is much used by Norfolk anglers, and at times it is the most killing bait to use.—Ed.]

A FEW QUERIES.

Sir,—I should take it as a favour if you will permit me to put a few questions, which may be answered through the columns of the Fishing Gazette.

1st. Where can I obtain, or, better still, how can I breed large large bloodworms?

2nd. Can fishing be had at Tottenham in quantity sufficient to give encouragement, more especially with regard to roach and perch; and is it necessary or advantageous to use hair tackle for roach, and what are the best baits for the season.

Hoping you or some correspondent may be able to answer the above.—I am, &c.

John J. Harris.

52, Andover Road, Hornsey Road, N., January 23rd, 1882.

[The best bait for roach is paste. You may get a few fish at Tottenham, especially as their best season is from now until the middle or end of April. Drawn gut is better than hair, though hair will last much longer.—Ed.]

MALICIOUS DESTRUCTION OF A PUNT.

Sir,—James Gray, our principal water bailiff, had his punt sent adrift just above Boveney Weir on Sunday last by some malicious person, probably one of the numerous poachers who are thwarted and checked by his vigilance. The punt was utterly smashed, and I have authorised him to use my name in asking for help towards replacing it from those who value, as I do, his services in the cause of law and fair fishing. If any of your readers will send me any donation for this purpose I shall have great pleasure in handing them to him. We have offered a reward of £2 2s. for the conviction of the offenders.—I am, &c.,

Charles Caldecott James.

Chairman of the Windsor and Eton Angling Preservation Association.

Jan. 20, 1882.

SPAWNING OUT OF SEASON.

Sir,—In reference to the letter which appeared in your issue of January 7th, where your correspondent says dace spawn twice in one season, I wish to state I have caught both dace, roach, and perch full of spawn so late in the autumn that many anglers would be under the impression they were about spawning a second time, as asserted by your correspondent. But, as far as my observation has gone, in a great number of cases there is not the slightest doubt they were simply spawn-bound, and, in all probability, would sooner or later die from this cause. Hens, we know, constantly die in a similar manner from being egg-bound, when the application of a little oil would have saved them. From some cause or other, after many fruitless attempts, they find it impossible to shed their spawn, and I have no hesitation in saying, in many cases, by a very simple operation with the lancet, they would be enabled to relieve themselves and survive. About ten or twelve years ago an immense pike, weighing 22½ lb., was found dead on the shore of the reservoir at Stoke Newington. It was picked up by one of the workmen, and, on telling his companions, many singular opinions were advanced as to the cause of its death; but on showing it to Mr. Storr, an old pike-fisher, he soon proved to them they were all wrong, by taking out his penknife and widening the vent, when, to their astonishment, the spawn at once began to flow out, and there is no doubt that the helpless condition in which many fish are picked up from time to time is attributable to this cause.

I may mention that one day last September I caught over two dozen perch in the reservoir at Sunbury, and one contained a considerable quantity of spawn; but I am of opinion that in this case it would retain it until the following spring, because the vent was not in the least distended and the fish perfectly healthy and strong, but I may be mistaken. It was taken with a minnow.

In conclusion, Mr. Editor, I am of your opinion that dace do not spawn twice in the same season. Hoping these few remarks may be the means of elucidating something more definite on this interesting subject.—I am, &c., MARK ANTONY.

[Since our note appeared we have had some discussion with Messrs. Geen and Bonvoisin, and they affirm that they never asserted, or dreamed of asserting, that the *same* dace spawn twice; they merely contend that there are certain dace—the majority, which spawn in the spring; and other dace—the minority—which spawn months later. And they affirm this is the case every year, and they have for years past known it to be a fact. We should like to hear more on this interesting matter.—ED.]

MR. W. BAILEY, SENIOR, OF NOTTINGHAM.

SIR,—Seeing an advertisement in the FISHING GAZETTE that Mr. W. Bailey, of 170, Kirke White Street, Nottingham, would on receipt of 2s. 9d. forward one of his "Angler's Instructor," I wrote for one on the 8th December and I enclosed 2s. 9d. in stamps; and, although I have written twice since, I have not received the book or a reply to my order, and, as it was for the society, I thought a communication to you was not out of place.

I have commnnicated with the Post Office authorities and I received a lettter to the effect that they cannot trace any communication for me from Mr. Bailey.—I am, &c., JAMES B. UDALE.

23, Bayley Street, Staleybridge, Jan. 23, 1882.

[We regret to say we have received other complaints of a similar nature, and Mr. Bailey informs us in reply to our remonstrance that he has had so many orders for the book he has not had time to send them off. We trust he will return the money in all cases were he is too busy to send goods.—ED.]

THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

SIR,—I have been favoured by an angling friend with a sketch rather artistically drawn of a number of pigs in various attitudes on the bank of a river, which appear to be jubilant at one of their number having been pushed into the stream by *a pig*, initialed T.R.S., and which, by-the-bye, is a capital caricature of the person whose initials it bears. In the background is another waving a banner inscribed "Piscatorial Society," this animal being marked J. L., the initials of the respected secretary of that angling club. Now, no one disputes that a pig is a useful animal, but is it, sir, a compliment to the Piscatorial Society for the artist to have represented their committee as a "parcel of pigs"? Surely he might have chosen animals less unsavoury, and more intelligent.—I am, &c.

THE PIG ON HIS BACK.

NAME OF GOOD SUBSCRIPTION WATER WANTED.

SIR,—Could you or any readers of the FISHING GAZETTE inform me of a good subscription water where I could become a member, anywhere within 70 or 80 miles from London, amount of subscription no object. If you could advise me of anything good you will greatly oblige—Yours, &c. H. J. P.

Jan. 24.

[You do not say what kind of fishing you want—whether trout or general. We should say the Cambridge and Ely Association or the Bedford Club would suit you for general fishing.—ED.]

THE RIGHT OF ANGLING IN THE THAMES.

(To the Editor of the *Daily News.*)

SIR,—In your able leader on Friday you write as if the above ques- had only been mooted of late years. No doubt the matter is more serious now than formerly, owing to the crowds who during the fishing season avail themselves of the metropolitan trains. The titles, however, of the following pamphlets (recorded in Daniel's "Book of Sports") would seem to indicate that the question is far from new, and that the rights and privileges of riparian owners exercised the Waltons of a past generation as well as our own:—"An Essay on the Right of Angling in the River Thames and in all other public navigable rivers. (Reading.)" "A letter to the proprietor of a fishery on the River Thames; in which an attempt is made to show in whom the right of fishing in public streams now resides. (Reading), 1787." The date of the former pamphlet does not appear, but probably it was earlier than 1787, as Daniel mentions it before the other.—Yours, &c., W. J. G.

Temple, Jan. 14.

ON Saturday a magnificent carp, measuring between two and three feet in length, and weighing 18 lb., was caught in a pool near Birmingham. It will be on view in about three weeks' time, at the fishing tackle establishment of Messrs. Nutting and Co., Edgbaston Street, where it has been sent for preservation.

CLUB REPORTS.

ACTON AND EALING ANGLING SOCIETY.

During the past fortnight, some of our members have taken some good fish from Twickenham downwards. Mr. Slatter, 12 lb. 7 oz. roach and dace; Mr. Cook, 13 lb. 10½ oz. roach and dace; Mr. Howell, 18 lb. 10 oz. roach and dace; Mr. Simpson, 4 lb. 10½ oz. jack; Dr. Dean, 3 lb. 1 oz. chub; and Messrs. Clayton, E. Eydman and A. Eydman also weighed-in fish.—BLACK BAG.

AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

Since the last report, Mr. Medcalf, jack, 10 lb. 13 oz.; Mr. S. Partrick, roach, 5 lb. 14 oz., dace, 1 lb. 3½ oz., perch, 7½ oz.; Mr. Pedley, roach, 8 oz., dace, 1 lb. 3½ oz. Mr. Ghurney, jack, 5 lb. 11½ oz.; Mr. Say, jack, 1½ lb.—T. WORLEDGE, sec.

January 22.

ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Wednesday, the 18th inst., Mr. W. Streeton weighed-in 3 lb. of very nice roach from the Lea, this being quite a change, as we very rarely get any fish weighed-in on a week night. Sunday, the 22nd inst., some of our members were out, and succeeded in filling our trays with some very good fish; Mr. A. Glass taking two very pretty jack, weighing 16 lb. 15½ oz., also a few roach; Mr. R. Smith three jack, weighing 10 lb. 14¾ oz.; Mr. A. Shakle roach, 2 lb. 11 oz., from the Lea.—D. DAVIS, sec.

ANGLERS' PRIDE.

We had a very fair show of fish on Sunday, the following members weighing in—W. Hayes, jack from the Grand Junction; H. Haines, 5½ lb. of roach from Pangbourne; D. Dodson, 2 lb. of roach from ditto (these fish were in splendid condition); T. Fiddes, 2½ lb. of roach from the Stort; T. Wall, 1½ lb. of roach from the Stort; J. Deeley, jun., roach from the Thames.—T. MARSHALL, secretary.

Jan. 24.

CHICHESTER ANGLING SOCIETY.

Although Chichester has long been noted as an angling resort, it was not until September last that a few brothers of the rod succeeded in establishing the above society. So rapid has been its growth, in December close upon one hundred members had been enrolled. His Grace the Duke of Richmond and Gordon, K.G., is patron; W. W. Baker, Esq., president; W. Kerwood, Esq., vice-president; Mr. A. Purchase, treasurer; and Mr. W. Cooke, jun., secretary. Head quarters are at the Globe Hotel. A splendid reach of water is within a few minutes' walk of the station, yielding pike, carp, perch, bream and roach, some excellent takes in past seasons being chronicled. One great feature is the water is seldom out of condition. Within easy distance is the Rother and the Arun, where some excellent fish have been taken by the members, while in the close season smelt and eel fishing prove remunerative. The first annual dinner is arranged to take place on the 21st of March, host Purchase being the caterer. During the past week Ned Weir has, as usual, been busy among the small bream in the canal, but the majority of rodsters selected Selham as the *venue*; Mr. Summers securing a handsome tray of dace, sixteen fish scaling 4 lb. 10 oz,, while Mr. Young landed a roach of 1 lb. 2 oz., some heavy fish breaking away; but, as a rule, fish were not on the feed. Weather dull and cold, wind northerly.

Jan. 26.

CLAPHAM JUNCTION ANGLING SOCIETY.

Since my last report several of our members have been out and met with some good sport. Mr. J. Innes headed the list on Sunday with a handsome take of perch from Shepperton, weighing 16 lb. 10½ oz. The weighing of them was successfully accomplished by Messrs. Hamilton and Wakeford. Mr. W. Maslin, E. Wakeford, E. Wilson, Hutchins, Valentine, Turner and Sutton, roach and perch. Messrs. E. Brewer, Wellman, and T. Wright, jack and perch, weight in all, 27 lb. 8½ oz. Notice to members: The club room being under new decorations at present, there will be no meeting on Thursday next, February 2nd.—E. WILSON.

Jan. 23.

FRIENDLY ANGLERS.

At the weekly meeting of this old society, at the Albion Tavern, Albion Street, Hyde Park, Mr. R. L. Pugh weighed-in, from the Thames, as the result of one day's fishing, 46 lb. of jack. This capture, in addition to the splendid show of perch in the previous week, has made him a successful contributor to his excellent society, the members of which have worthily congratulated him.—B.

GOOD INTENT.

Forty-six of the members of this club fished at Boxmoor, on the 15th inst., a pegged-down match for twelve prizes. All the prizes were taken. No member took more than one fish, and only fourteen took fish. The winners of the chief prizes were—Agambar, Bell, Hall, Baker, Philpott, Christie, &c. On the 22nd inst. Mr. Brookwell brought up a nice lot of perch, Mr. Maybury roach, Mr. Wyland dace, Mr. Philpot roach. Fish were very scarce. No good takes.—R. MURPHY.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The meeting of this society on Thursday evening was largely attended, Dr. Lloyd in the chair. Reports as to the state of the Thames were read from Mr. King, of Windsor, Mr. Wood, of Walton, and Bartholomew, of Goring. The fish shown during the week include eight pike by Mr. Jardine, weighing 45 lb. 8 oz., and three perch, weighing 2 lb. 11 oz.; Mr. White, one chub, 2 lb. 11 oz.; Mr. King, of the Royal Oak, Windsor, three chub, 7 lb. 10 oz.; Mr. A. Paterson, 7 lb. 7 oz. of good roach from Cookham; and sundry other takes. Mr. A. W. Parker brought forward a motion in favour of the admission of junior members, and on which a lively discussion took place, the leading speakers being Mr. Parker, Mr. Bentley (who seconded), Mr. Clarke, Mr. Jardine, Mr. Miller, Mr. Austin, Captain Alfred, and Mr. Crumplen. In the end the question was adjourned for considerarion at the annual meeting in June next, but in principle the motion was affirmed, the main contention being as to the terms on which a kind of cadet corps should be admitted. It was generally agreed that the idea not having previously been adopted by other societies was no reason why the Gresham should not lead the way; and as the proposition was limited exclusively to sons or brothers of members, not all of whom would have a bent for angling, the suggestion would add an extremely limited number to their ranks. Mr. Jardine spoke rather against, Mr. Crumplen in support, the latter expressing a strong hope that the personal character which had been given to sundry topics in some other societies would never prevail at the Greshnm; but that, having spoken candidly, each and all would be friendly as ever, and still go on as they had done to promote the common interest of all—sentiments which were very heartily applauded. Mr. Parker subsequently introduced Mr. Sowerbutts, with one of his well-known roach rods, the manufacture of which he has given up, being unable at present to procure the Carolina cane. The rod was well handled and appreciated, as indeed is all useful work or any novelty shown to members. The meeting closed with a hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Lloyd, who had very ably presided.

HAMPSTEAD ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. C. Messenger brought home 3 lb. of nice perch and roach, and Mr. W. Messenger 5 lb. of very fine perch one weighing over 2 lb. and two others over 1 lb. each.—T. H. Hayward, sec.

Jan. 23.

IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Three prizes were fished for on Wednesday, 25th inst. Only one of them was taken, that was by Mr. G. Manning, who had a tray of very nice roach. Mr. A. C. Critchfield had another show of beautiful fish. The following are the particulars:—Three perch, 3 lb. 8½ oz.; the heaviest one weighed 2 lb.; two chub, one 2lb. 7 oz., one 2 lb. 5¼ oz.; three dace, 1 lb. 7½ oz.: one roach, 8¼ oz. Three special prizes will be fished for on Sunday next, 29th inst. The two special prizes not taken on the 25th inst., will be fished for on Wednesday, February 8th, 1882, same conditions.

LARKHALL ANGLING SOCIETY.

The president's prize of two guineas for the heaviest weight of jack taken on the last Wednesday in January, in the Thames, was competed for by about a dozen members, of whom only one was successful in getting jack, viz., Mr. G. Watkins, who weighed-in three fish from Egham; total, 11 lb. 7 oz. Mr. T. H. Deane, a few days ago, fishing at Hampton for roach, with a fine drawn gut line, and one of Gees' drawn hooks, and baiting with a gentle, hooked, and after some good play, successfully landed a jack which weighed 5 lb. 1 oz. The next musical evening is fixed for Wednesday, 15th February.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

The majority of our members were out on Sunday and weighed-in fish, but our trays looked empty to what they have been for the past few weeks. Mr. Brown, Charlton Street, Euston Road, has given three prizes for the months of December and January. 1st, A suit of clothes not to exceed £3 10s.; 2nd, A pair of watertight boots; and 3rd., a bottle of brandy. This is the cause of our members going out in such strong force. The contest is now exciting, as each has only one more day to go out and there are several members who are only a few ounces of fish behind each other.—H. Moore, sec.

THE ORIGINAL ALEXANDRA ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had a fine show of fish on Sunday last. Mr. C. Hewett had a fine show of roach from the Lea, going 1lb. 5oz.; Mr. E. Brockett, sen., roach; Mr. W. High, roach; Mr. J. Blackledge, roach: Mr. C. Newton, jack. Several other members were out, but failed to score.—E. Dymond, sec.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Several members were out on Sunday last and met with very good sport, Mr. T. Longman weighing in roach, several of them over 1 lb. each, and Mr. Obbard, perch, both from the Thames. Mr. Neagus had a fair take of roach from the Stort.—T. W. Lucy, sec.

THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Some signs of the improvement that is taking place in anglers' prospects were shown at this society's rooms on Monday last, when the following fish were weighed in:—Mr. Faulkner, one chub from the Thames, 4 lb. 4½ oz.; Mr. Huggett, seven pike from the Avon, weighing 44 lb. 12 oz., the largest 11 lb. 14 oz.; Mr. Robinson, 41 lb. of pike, largest 17 lb. 4 oz. and one perch (1 lb. 13 oz., from the Avon. On the following Monday there was also a good show of pike and perch.

THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

There was a large attendance of members in the club-rooms at Ashley's Hotel, Covent Garden, on Monday evening last, Mr. J. Ross-Faulkner presiding on the occasion. The Good Intent Angling Society was represented by several of its members as visitors, including Mr. Brookwell, who brought up his splendid case of fine trout, which Mr. John Cooper has so beautifully preserved. They were much admired, and Mr. Brookwell complimented on possessing such good specimens of his own capture. The worthy chairman, Mr. Faulkner, weighed-in a brace of chub from the Thames weighing 5 lb. 7½ oz., the largest fish 4 lb. 4½ oz. Mr. G. Robinson showed six pike weighing 40 lb. 14 oz., the largest 17 lb. 4 oz., and one jack of 1 lb. 13 oz. from the Avon. On the previous Monday, Mr. Robinson weighed-in from the Avon 72 lb. 15 oz. of pike, the five largest scaling 45 lb. 13 oz., making a gross weight in the two nights of 113 lb. 13 oz. of pike. On Monday evening last, Mr. Thos. Huggett weighed in from the Avon seven pike weighing 44 lb. 12 oz., the largest fish being 11 lb. 14 oz. Mr. Huggett hooked and landed, after one hour's good play, a clean-run salmon, in which he displayed the "the science of angling" by landing it without the aid of either net or gaff. It may be fairly designated as "the work of an artist," as the fish led him into a little channel from whence the attendant got him out, and when the salmon was weighed it made 19 lb., and was afterwards carefully returned to the water little the worse for its exertions and visit to terra firma. Mr. Huggett's account of the exploit was listened to with great interest and attention. In consequence of the regretful indisposition of Mr. F. G. Pearce, who had arranged to take the vice-chair at the annual dinner at the Holborn Restaurant on February 15th. Dr. Brunton has kindly consented to occupy that position. The usual votes of thanks to "successful competitors," "the visitors," and "the chairman" having been given, a very pleasant and social evening terminated.

ROYAL PISCATORIALS.

The members of this society have been very successful among the roach this week. On the 18th about 60 lb. was weighed-in by Mr. G. Hockley, and Mr. T. Hughes, and on the 22nd nearly 140 lb. of roach, jack, and other fish, was exhibited by Messrs. Hughes, Hockley, Frith, and others; all the fish were in splendid condition, and the manner in which they were arranged delighted all beholders. Samples of the fish can be seen at Mr. Needham's, he having received orders to preserve several of them.—Pixie.

January 25th.

SECOND SURREY.

The members of this society visited St. Margaret's on the 22nd for a pegged-down competition, but like nearly all pegged-down affairs there was a lot of angling but very little fish, and at the close Mr. Gerald had one perch and Mr. France two roach; as these two gentlemen considered that the amount of fish taken was not sufficient in comparison to the value of the prizes that they were competing for, they decided that all prizes should be competed for on another occasion, at which all members shall have a roving commission. Members are requested to attend next meeting night to hear the result of the meeting at the Central Association.—Pixie.

SOUTH LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Boorman on Sunday had 3½ lb. roach from the Colne, and Mr. Mitchell, a nice jack, of 4½ lb., from the Mole. To-day (Thursday), Mr. Price, two jack, from Guildford. I went to Cookham, and got 8 lb. roach with Godden.—G. H. Field.

Jan. 26.

STALYBRIDGE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the Q Inn Angling Society met on the 21st January for a friendly contest in the society's reserve, when a very pleasant afternoon was spent. The members then returned to the meeting house, Mr. David Shaw's Q. Inn, back Grosvenor-street. The president, Mr. Henry Abrams, distributed the prizes as follows:—1st, Samuel Greenwood; 2nd, Joseph Warhurst; 3rd, Jas. B. Udale and John Tasker divide. The following also weighed-in:—David Shaw, Henry Abrams, J. T. Abrams, William Abrams, William Wardle, William Jackson.—J. B. Udale.

STANLEY ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

Several of our members have been out this week, and some nice fish shown at the club room. Our secretary had eleven roach weighing 5 lb. 1 oz. Mr. U. Pistrucci, amongst other fish, a fine conditioned perch of 1 lb., other members also weighing in fish on the 22nd inst. Mr. C. P. Wheatstone captured a few jack of 7 lb. on Monday last, at Rickmansworth. The same gentleman has presented the society with a very handsome chairman's hammer, consisting of the head of a 4 lb. perch, mounted with rosewood and solid silver fittings.

STOKE NEWINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The above club has removed to the Middleton Arms, Mansfield Street, Kingland Road. The proprietor, Mr. E. Tomkins, is an angler, and will doubtless endeavour to promote the interests of the society. The meeting nights will be the first and third Wednesday in the month. Members are requested to attend next meeting night to decide time and place of competition for three prizes, given by Messrs. Harris, Brooks, and Webb.—Thos. Gretton, sec.

January 24.

WALTHAMSTOW ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday last Mr. Latham had a very good show of jack from the Ouse, weighing 32 lb. 9 oz. Heaviest fish, scaling 10 lb., in first rate condition; no one out roach-fishing.—H. Howse, hon. sec.

WALTONIANS.

On the 22nd full trays were the order of the day. Mr. Malcolm, roach, 13 lb. 11 oz., a very handsome show. Mr. Phillips, roach, 6 lb. 15 oz.; chub, one fish, 2 lb. 2¼ oz. Mr. Roland, roach, 3 lb. 5¼ oz. Mr. Brady, dace, 2 lb. 5½ oz. Messrs. Togwell, Good, jun., Starr, and Packman also weighed in, and I weighed 3lb. of roach from Moulsford.—A. J. Marriott.

Jan. 24.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

On the 15th, Mr. Fox had a nice lot of roach and Dace from Teddington. On the 19th at the weekly meeting, Mr. Bayley, presided. The circular issued by the Thames Right Preservation Society was read. Mr. Weatherhead in a few remarks on the subject, said:—"We cannot expect to maintain these rights, against riparian owners, unless we employ gentlemen who will devote their interest and time to the cause, and in order to do that we must place in the hands of those gentlemen sufficient funds to enable them to examine into the rights of those riparian owners who would deny to us the right of fishing in the river. In order to raise that fund, let each angler forward the amount that it would cost him for one day's fishing, be it blank or red-letter day, whichever might suit him, to the society once a year it would soon form a sufficient fund to test a public right to the river." Several other members having spoken, it was decided that a box be had in the society, for the purpose of collecting funds to support the afore-mentioned society. On the 20th, Mr. Boalch and Mr. Russell were out with C. Brown, they managed to get about 14 lb. of roach and dace, Mr. Boalch winning thereby Mr. Bayley's guinea hat, and Mr. Russell won Mr. Beckett's half ton of coals; the other prizes were not taken.—Pixie.

WEST CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF LONDON AND PROVINCIAL ANGLING CLUBS.

A long report of the meeting on the 20th reaches us just as we are going to press, so that we regret to have to hold it over for next week.

Capture of a Large Pike.—Mr. F. Johnson, of Wicken, when fishing last Monday in the lake at Chippenham Park, the seat of W. M. Tharp, Esq., caught a large pike (male), the length being 42 inches and girth 24 inches. It was not in first rate condition; had it been so it would have weighed considerably more than 30 lb. It has been preserved by Mr. W. Howlett, the eminent naturalist, Newmarket, in his best style. About five years ago a fine pike (female) weighing 23 lb. was taken from the same water by the Rev. Carwarden, of Cavenham, and was preserved by Mr. Howlett, and now forms a very interesting addition to the collection at Chippenham Hall.

A very fine pike, in splendid condition, was caught on Saturday in a pool in the neighbourhood of Birmingham. It turned the scale at twenty-five pounds.

NOTICE.

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., must be addressed to the Editor of The Fishing Gazette, *No.* 12, *Fetter Lane, London, E.C* and should reach the office not later than Tuesday morning.

Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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Mr. John Heywood, Manchester.
Mr. John Cocks, Baker Street, Weybridge, Surrey.
Mr. Wm. Reid, Northgate, Darlington.
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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1882.

ONE DAY IN MY LIFE.

"I SEE you'm thinner than you used to be, Mr. John." It is Susan, my uncle's old housekeeper, who is speaking, as she stands at the side of the breakfast table, and every now and then edges some dish towards me, as a gentle suggestion that its contents are worthy of my consideration.

At half-past four yesterday afternoon I had cast off, for one whole delicious month, all the bother and routine of Lincoln's Inn, jumped into a cab, caught the 5 p.m. train from Paddington, and here I am now at my uncle's house at Torborough sitting down to an early breakfast by myself—too early for my good uncle—for I have before me a glorious day's fishing in the dear old river, every post, every stickle of which I know so well, and have so often thought of during the past eleven months of toil in busy London.

William, the driver of the fly that brought me from the station last night, in reply to my eager enquiries as to the state of the river, had told me: "There was a lot of water come down day before yesterday, sure enough," and then his story of the capture of a mighty salmon by "Passon Greenheart" in the higher waters, and the doughty doings of a "gentleman from Lunnon, staying into the George," had set me all of a glow.

Is it to be wondered at, then, that I had been up betimes, and had hastened out to the end of the lawn, from whence I can see down at the bottom of the valley the dear old river.

But alas! the early autumn morning haze was rising thick, no vestige of a river could be seen; but I found myself standing on an island, with all around and below me a cold mysterious sea of heavy mist, whilst the little village on the crest of the hill on the other side of the valley, shining in rays of the morning sun, rose like a sweet islet from out of this deep mysterious sea.

No chance of a view of the river; so I leave this cold scene, hurry indoors, put on my waders and brogues, bustle the servants up to get breakfast ready, with the result that here I am just finishing that very necessary meal in a hurried manner that seems to irritate the worthy Susan, "who never could abide fishing"—but whose acquaintance with the sport, I fear, has been confined to drying wet clothes, turning waders inside out, and other such like interesting details; so that she has not seen much of the "sport," and is consequently not a very good judge of its merits.

Breakfast over, I throw over my shoulder my Freke fishing bag, from the strap of which hangs my trusty gaff, pick up my three-joint "greenheart;" and with a "Well, Susan, I'm off now; shall be back soon after six," I cross the hall, and, opening the door, turn and find Susan regarding me with a smile, in which affection amusement, and a spice of contempt are well mingled, but which gives way to a hearty laugh, as she hurries away, when she finds that she is observed; so, joining in the good old soul's merriment, I make my exit, and find myself—started.

Oh! what a delicious smell of mignonette and roses greets me as I get out into the open air, and I instantly reflect how different is the sensation which I experience as I daily sally forth from my house in Kensington, to catch the 9.20 train. But as I light my pipe I resolve to abolish all thoughts of business and smoky, dusty London; and so away to the garden wall to see the river.

Ah! it is plain enough now. There is the old rock showing his nose above the water, and the little green island too quite exposed! Ancient landmarks, or rather watermarks, these, which tell me that the river is fishable. And what a splendid colour that dark, slatey look, which our Devonshire rivers assume as they fine down after the flood! Hurrah! and in the buoyancy of my spirits I shout, Hurrah! in a way too that startles an old pensioner who is calmly smoking his pipe beneath the garden wall. So I step back, ashamed of my boyish glee, and, after waiting a moment or two, look out again, and find my old friend quietly smoking away again, so I gaze once more at the dear old scene spread out before me. Far away to the left stands out, blue and indistinct, old Cawsand Beacon, that brave Dartmoor Tor. What a wilderness of hill and valley lies between us, amid which I think I can even here and there follow the course of the old river. Now I have hit it, without a doubt, as it enters between the dark, wooded heights of Woodleigh. It is lost again now in those sombre woods, but then it glides out bright and sparkling again, as if glad to be in the sunshine once more. I can follow it clearly now, as it sweeps by the old town mill, under Woodleigh bridge; and then, as if to bid me welcome, comes towards me with a bold curve, right under the hill on which I stand, then winding away through the town meadows, under the old bridge of the lower town, dancing and sparkling over the shingle, where, in the summer draughts, they dig for sand and gravel, until at last, with one more graceful bend, it enters the gloomy woods of Copsewell, and is lost.

On the opposite side of the valley, beyond the meadows, rises Littleham Hill, crowned with its little village and quaint old church, and I watch for a moment a farmer collecting his sheep on the meadows, far down below me, and the barking of his restless sheep dog sounds mellow and sweet as it is borne upwards to me on the morning breeze.

Have I been dreaming? I think I must have been. Fishing is the order of the day, and I must not loiter. So, hurrying down the steps and out at the garden door, I find myself on the open hill, and really started now. All loitering is past now. Rapidly running down the zig-zag path that leads to the river, now cutting a corner acoss the steep turf, now jumping a furze bush that lies in my way, I am soon half way down the hill. "Hullo! what's that?" 'Tis a needless question. There is no mistaking what I see. 'Tis a salmon rod, swaying gently backwards and forwards, catching every now and then the glint of the sun, as its bearer hurries along on the lower path, and going in the same direction as myself. My feelings are not charitable toward the bearer of that rod at the moment. However, I determine to know the worst at once. It is not likely that he is going to fish above the mill, where I propose to begin. At any rate, I will make certain. So, increasing my pace, in a moment or two I am in full view of my enemy, who turns out to be no enemy at all, but old Jim Burrowes, a well known fisherman of the town. Jim has seen better days, but too great a love of the rod has rendered him almost a beggar, But Jim, in spite of his troubles, is a merry fellow, with an original mind. A most companionable man.

"Hulloh Jim, 'ow be ye then?" I shout. I wonder what it is that prompts me to speak in the very broadest Devonshire dialect for the first few days of my visits to the West? The temptation is irresistible, and I invariably yield to it. Jim turns round with a bewildered air, evidently not recognising me, as I rapidly scramble down the path to where he stands. Ah! he has recognised me now, and turns back to meet me with a pleased smile, for past experience has told him I will never spoil his sport. Poor fellow! well do I know that a good dish of fish is almost a necessity to him.

We shake hands, and then walk on together. Jim is going to begin at the mill and fish down, so our plans do not clash.

Then he tells me how last evening the water had fined down a bit, so he had ventured out, and at the tail of the pool by which we are now walking, he had twice raised a good salmon, and meant to have another shy at him to-day. "And where might you be going, sir?"

"Well I thought of trying up through Woodleigh to the head weir."

"I wouldn't sir. Tain't bad water, but the fish ain't there, they're gone up. I was up to the head weir when the flood came down, and saw a sight of fish go up sure enough. They're up under Monkworthy Chase; that's where I should go, if I had the liberty."

I know Jim's advice is good, but we are at the mill now, and it seems hard to give up all my plans at the last moment, particularly as Monkworthy Chase means a walk of three miles or more.

A moment of indecision, and the Monkworthy water is abandoned until to-morrow. I wish Jim good sport as he scrambles down to the water edge, and I hurry on through the miller's yard, where the person of each duck and hen seem familiar to me; and, as I cross the little bridge over the mill-tail, and look down for a moment into the cold churning water, it seems to me that I have gone back a year in my life; for did I not do the very same thing did I not have the same thoughts as I passed this way one whole year ago, on slaughter bent?

A quarter of a mile and I shall be at the first pool on my beat. I walk that last quarter of a mile in splendid style, and I am not ashamed to confess that during the last fifty yards or so I break into a run.

At last! I never had much faith in this pool, but yet how nice and tempting it looks. It is not a deep pool, but a good-looking one.

A broad pool with a rapid "run in," the course of which I can detect right away to the thin water at the tail, when it breaks away into a rapid shallow stickle.

In a moment or two my cast is taken off my float, and lies soaking in the shallow water. Eagerly and nervously my rod is put together, the cast tied on, the "butcher" smoothed out and admired, and I am wading knee-deep into the slack water by the side of the "run."

I must confess that I am decidedly excited as I make my first few casts. How carefully I fish how ridiculously long I stay at that first pool, throwing again and again over there in the slack water on the other side of the run, under the steep bank, where I felt sure there must be a peal! But no; I have at last fished it right down to the thin water at the tail of the pit, and the conviction is forced upon me that I have drawn a blank in pool No. 1.

However, "Excelsior" is my motto to-day, so, leaving the ungrateful pool on which I have lavished my youngest and best feelings and attentions, I wind up and get on to pool No. 2. How ovely is this Woodleigh covert! I can't help admiring it as I wend my way up to pool No. 2. And yet I anathematise it pretty freely, as I have to dodge my way under a big oak tree, or find my line caught in a confounded briar. On my side of the river the ground is level, and through the wood, close to the water's edge, there is an open glade, across and along which many a startled rabbit scuttles, and then, as if ashamed of its weakness, suddenly sits up on its haunches to reconnoitre me, until I approach too close, and then off again.

How gloriously rich the Osmunda fern looks as it hangs over the rapid river, which here is rushing over and between the huge boulders of rock, making music far sweeter than any I have ever heard in smokey London. On the other side, the trees grow close down to the water's edge, clothing the whole of the steep hillside, which here is so steep as almost to shut out from where I walk the blue sky, over which the white fleecy clouds are rapidly chasing one another. A wood pigeon, startled by my approach, scrambles out of the old oak tree just above me, with noise enough for an albatross, and making for the dark wood opposite, brings me back to piscatorial themes, and I find myself at pool No. 2.

But pool No. 2 requires some consideration. Though one of the safest "finds" on the river, for both salmon and peal, it is one of the most difficult places to fish that I know. The river which, both above and below, has been rushing and boiling over boulders of rock, here finds a large deep basin for a momentary rest, and its very depth is its chief difficulty—for, thickly wooded as it is on both sides, it must be waded; but I have fished this pool for trout in the dry summer weather, and well I know that about three yards out from my side there runs a considerable way down the pool a narrow ledge of rock, and, if I can only hit on this, the water will not probably be over my waders. The difficulty is that I must hit off the root of the ridge in the very heart of the "run," where the water is decidedly lively; and now, unfortunately, the flood has not run out enough to make the water clear enough to see distinctly. But it is a glorious hover for fish, On the other side, just at the head of the pool, there runs out towards me a sharp ridge of rock, throwing the brunt of the current on my side; but behind that ledge of rock the water is, I know, very deep, and it looks deeper than it is, being in the shadow of a vast overhanging ash. Ah! many a time in my boyish days have I almost shed tears of vexation as I have seen a great salmon come lumbering up over there, whilst I have been powerless to reach him, try as frantically as I might, with my small trout rod. A few moments of indecision, and I have resolved not to be beaten. So giving a precautionary haul-up to my waders, gingerly and carefully I wade out into the torrent. For the first few moments it is ticklish work, and I get almost giddy with the rapid rush of water by me. But I have hit the ridge now, and it is easier work; for, walking a few feet down the ridge, I am out of the worst of the current, and, if you please, ready for business.

It is difficult work thinning a fly here with, so much wood behind me, but at last I manage to deposit the "butcher" within a foot or so of the still water over on the other side. Very carefully I work my fly round into my own quarters, and, just as I am about to prepare for another cast, my fly being close in to the bank on my own side of the river, I see something silvery turn over in the water, an electric thrill runs down the rod, and the next moment a peal of about three pounds springs clear out of the water. I am immensely relieved when I find that I still hold him in spite of his leap. But I am in bad quarters for fighting; the stream is heavy here, and if I am to get him at all I must bring him up against it, for move down I cannot. The result is that my friend begins that manœuvre which of all others worries me most, I mean the splashing head-and-tail business on the top of the water. I ease the strain on him, and, thank goodness, this splashing performance soon stops. Now the fish is bearing down deep, sailing down the pool, and aided by the current, there is no stopping him yet, but I have to give him line. Down he goes, the line still running out, and he feels quite heavy. I begin to think I ought to have held him in a bit, for he is still taking line, and I feel the movement of the current on the line much more than the movement of the fish, so I put on the brake a little; when, "Hulloh! another fish!" I exclaim, as a fish, very like mine, springs out of water just opposite me in the middle of the pool; and yet I could have sworn that I saw a gut-cast hanging from him. There he goes again, and a little higher up. I am reeling up fast now in spite of the strain on the line; for in a moment it becomes clear to me that this is my fish, that masterfish has doubled, and is making up stream, whilst I have weakly allowed myself to undergo the process known to fishermen as "drowning." Again he is out of water and still higher up, but I am beginning to have him a little better in hand, for I am fast recovering my sunken line. I am getting on better terms with the fish now, and the strain is almost nil, for he is above me. Suddenly I almost lose my equilibrium as the fish skies diagonally along the surface of the water coursing above me, close in under the bank—the movement being like nothing so much as the children's "duck and drake" performance with a stone. I have him up short now, and begin to think of bagging him. Master peal is docile enough at last, I can keep his head above water and in this the elasticity of my "greenheart," elps me much. Gently floating him down to where I stand, olding my rod high with my right hand, and still keeping his ead and shoulders well up, as he slowly sails by me down the urrent, I grab him hard round the shoulders with my left hand. y grasp seems to give him new energy—what a splashing there is; ut I have a good hold of him, and nip on like grim death. A rap n the head with the handle of my pocket-knife, and my fish is cure.

I can examine him now. He must be close upon 4 lb.—a enuine peal—bright as a bar of silver, with that delicate blue nge over him, when looked at sideways, that tells he is fresh om the sea; evidently an arrival by the last flood.

Well, I have scored something, at any rate, and am more reckss now, and determined to reach across into that still water on e other side, so "hang the trees!"

I have done it now, and the butcher has called for orders at st, over there in the still water. "Nothing to-day, thank you!" ut the butcher is importunate, and calls again. Just as my fly is eing drawn off by the stream into the rapid water, my line raightens for a moment, there is the least perceptible pull, and e head and shoulders of a salmon show up. "Missed it, by ove!" My fly sails on for a yard or two, then I pull up and wait. fter a decent interval, I try again. I change my fly; in fact, I ake myself a perfect slave to that fish, but he won't stir a fin. have not half fished the pool. As I am at the end of my ridge I annot move down; so I pay out line, working my fly considerably keep it up.

I have not more than thirty yards of line when down goes the oint of my rod, and I feel that I have struck oil. Steadily and lowly the fish, whatever it is, bears right across the stream, the ne ploughing the water up, for the fish is working deep. Now e has turned, and is running down stream, not rapidly, but derminedly, and still keeping down, confound him! Ah! he has topped now, There is a continued jagging movement going on, s the fish, near the bottom, works his head from side to side. I islike this almost as much as the head-and-tail business, It ust be a salmon, I feel sure, and I have no chance of killing im here, against this stream. Rapidly my mind is made up, Vorking my way backwards up the ridge against the stream, I ake a dash for the bank, ship some water; but what matters that? or I still hold my fish. I feel that I have a better chance now spite of the bushes, and as the fish is lying well out in the iddle of the stream, sulking, I can, with my long rod, keep the ne clear of the bushes. Reeling up as hard as I can, lifting my od, and occasionally dodging under some overhanging boughs, rapidly work down below the fish, and begin to take the game to my own hands. I have stirred my friend up now, and he is orking up stream, and I am doing my best to keep up with him. t is queer work. Frequently, owing to the thick growth of the ushes, I cannot see where the fish is, still deep down. For a oment or two my heart sinks, for the fish has come in close under he bank, hidden out of sight by a large alder bush, and—oh, isery! the top of my rod is entangled in some of the twigs f that bush! But I am soon free again, and able to el my fish once more. So I take him down stream, nd coming upon a gap between two bushes, where the water oes not look deep, I drop in, and fortunately find that it is not bove my waders, I have a freer field now to fight in, and feeling hat I have been humbugged by this fish, I determine to see him. try and raise him; but no! I am too nervous yet to press him nduly, but still, the pressure I have put upon him turns him, and e comes in slowly, and now that the ball is once set rolling in ny direction, I mean to try and keep it in that course. So windng up rapidly, and finding that the fish is still coming towards e, I whip out my gaff, for I may get a chance of using it resently. Eagerly peering into the water just beyond where my ine enters it, I presently catch sight of a dull silvery side—and ot so big as I thought. This makes me more than ever deternined to make short work of it. I have the fish up short now, ny gaff is quietly dipped into the water, and I am ready; so raisng my rod high in my left hand, I bring the fish close up, and, s he turns, I lean forward, get the gaff well out beyond him and trike. There is a tremendous splashing, which I add to, for I lip and take in some more water, but I feel I am well pleased; o dragging my victim ashore, I scramble up to the bank, and hrow down on the bracken a fine pug-peal, or sea-trout, of from to 6 pounds. I despatch him quickly, throw the peal down by is side—for I like to admire my fish—look at my watch and find t half-past twelve, and then feel that the time has come when I ay fairly indulge myself in a pipe.

"I wonder how Burrowes is getting on, he was rather out of it s to the fish not being here." Time flies, so I pick up the fish, or I have a good half-a-mile to go through the wood before I lear water again

I have not proceeded far when I run across the miller, who, with an old sheep-dog at his heels, has been up superintending the harvesting in the fields above the woods. A cheery "How d'ye do, sir; what manner of sport?" and we are chatting away merrily in a moment. I make the old man's eyes sparkle as I ask after Juno, a famous old setter which he lent me for last season, and he goes away "chortling" over the peal, which he has, after many objections, accepted "for the missus."

I am quite glad when I emerge at last from the wood, and find myself in a large field, where the harvesters are busy, for my piscatorial blood is roused, and I am anxious to be at it again. It is a very large field, and I walk half way up it so as to get off the top of a long deep run, and so fish it down. I am very much attached to this run, with its deep and steady flow, studded with sunken rocks, over which the water swirls and boils, and behind which many a fine trout has his feeding grounds—trout which I hope are now displaced by peal, though I hardly expect to find a salmon here. It is too deep to wade, but with my powerful rod I can just command the water, and if there is a taking fish, well—I stand a fair chance of him. After fishing down about 50 yards, I come to a place where the stream narrows-in considerably, owing to a huge ridge of rock which runs out high and dry from my side of the river. The water is lively here, and if there is a fish anywhere it is here, I feel sure. "There he is, then," and the next moment I am into a lively peal, who at once bolts down stream. I am a little careless with him, and before I quite realise my danger, he has shot out round a deep sunken rock and I am in a fix.

But my suspense is not of long duration. Master peal's mouth is tender, something gives way, I fancy I am clear, when, the next moment, I feel myself hard and fast into some very dead subject indeed. 'Tis the sunken rock itself. Try as I may, I cannot free myself, upstream and downstream I go, and at last, in desperation, I break, and lost my faithful "butcher," and about a yard of my cast. The damage is soon repaired. A little lower down I raise and miss another peal, and when I have fished to the end, I find I have added to my score a brown trout of close upon a pound and a half.

How strange it is that, in the ordinary trout season, such a trout would refuse all my legitimate trout blandishments, but now yields himself a victim to a salmon-fly that must be to him a veritable montrosity. But trout are curious creatures, and this little weakness is, I have noticed, peculiar to them.

(*To be continued.*)

SILKWORM GUT.

IT is said that when Crochford, the ex-fishmonger, who stood high as a cook, heard that Ude had imparted the secret of an especial *rechérche* dish to Francatelli, he asked Ude whether such were true: "Yes," replied Ude, "I told him all but de eggs."

In a similar way, Mr. Allcock appears to have enlightened our American cousins respecting the manufacture of silkworm gut, through the pages of the *Forest and Stream*; as he frankly tells us, "it is not wise for a manufacturer to say too much in these days of keen competition." It may be doubtful, with some, whether it is "wise," but is it quite *English* to send out an incomplete receipt across the Atlantic endorsed with the authority of so well-known a British firm as Allcock and Co., of Redditch?

When the zealous angler gives the particulars of a preparation to poachers, stating that it will render their nets impervious to rot, and those diabolical (if illegally used) engines fall to pieces after a few contacts with the waters, he does so under the conviction that he is helping the cause of legitimate sport; but were he to recommend the same mixture to the net-maker, he would, we must allow, commit an unjustifiable act. It appears that the formula, given with such apparent fairness of detail to the readers of the *Forest and Stream*, was in answer to a correspondent, and gratuitous, but it does not seem that it was intended for English readers: the latter revelation being due to one of those retributive accidents which will occur in an universal newspaper age. However, as the FISHING GAZETTE, is now widely read in the States, the antidote may yet go out in time to check the too weening confidence in the British nostrum. Will Mr. Allcock, for the sake of science and the credit of mercantile morality, tell the world, what, in his "wisdom," he has suppressed? If he has omitted the eggs, *à la* Ude, let us have all the ingredients of how to cook the gut, if such be necessary, otherwise the rest of his suggestions are simply worthless.

At the first blush, Mr. Allcock's reply seems a marvel of candour. He "confesses," "admits," and "agrees" almost throughout; but if read by the light of the transatlantic paragraph, I must confess there is the same flavour of ambiguity which characterised that *canurd*. What can be made of the following complicated entanglement of words in your last issue ? —

" As to regulating the heat of the bleaching oven, as I am a countryman, and, as the Americans say, a greenhorn, it is not likely I should know the use of a thermometer."

I have nowhere said that Mr. Allcock did not know the use of a thermometer. That gentleman spoke of overheated ovens, and I merely suggested that overheating ought not to occur while a thermometer was within reach. But the following sentence is still more involved : " At our works we have to study the question of heat very much, and, having used them for years," [the bleaching ovens or the thermometers ?] "it was a wonder it did not strike me that I had never seen a bleaching oven before." " I contend," Mr. Allcock adds, " it injures gut to expose it to the glaring heat of the sun. In Spain, at the gut season, the heat is intense."

And I still contend, that as the sun in years past contributed to produce good gut, it can do so now. As for "the intense heat of the sun drying up anything exposed to it," surely are we so backward in this age of invention and discovery, as not to be able to provide against an admitted evil, the character of which is known ? Would not sheets of tissue paper, or certain coloured glass, placed between the ardent rays of the sun and the gut, remedy this objection ? May we presume that the process Mr. Allcock speaks of, in which he has thought fit to instruct his Spanish consignees, is that of the manager he has recently engaged, and (from whom he has bought gut of his own manufacture for several years, and which was certainly the best he purchased from any house), is the peculiar process of that individual, and not the result of Mr. Allcock's experience gained by his visit to Spain ? If so, anglers will assuredly have the more confidence in the future, which would scarcely have been the case had it been only the theoretical inspiration of recent days, untried by time, and therefore not entitled to that unchallenged reception which long usage alone can justify. I have to thank Mr. Allcock for his kindness in sending me the samples of raw—that is unboiled, unbleached, unbaked, but not unbarked—gut, and clear, transparent prepared gut.

Here is the result of my tests for strength of six strands of each, taken at random after two hours' soaking in filtered cold rainwater. The gut was looped to hank of cord, and in no case did the gut break at these junctions but fairly some distance from them.

	Yellow.		White.	
1	at 4¼ lb.	deadweight.	3¾ lb.	deadweight.
2	,, 6½ ,,	,,	4½ ,,	,,
3	,, 5½ ,,	,,	5 ,,	,,
4	,, 4 ,,	,,	5¾ ,,	,,
5	,, 5¼ ,,	,,	3½ ,,	,,
6	,, 4¾ ,,	,,	4¾ ,,	,,
	30¼ lb.		27¼ lb.	

Thus, so far, the yellow unprepared gut is stronger than the white, and both were very satisfactory as compared with gut I had procured from several quarters. I likewise tested a gut roach line, as fine at the shot end as hair, which lifted 4lb. before it parted. This was purchased more than thirty years ago at a shop now occupied, if not then, by Messrs. Little, at 14, Fetter Lane ; and, if I recollect right, a Mr. Reynolds was at that time the manager. The preservation of this line is extraordinary.

Creel, and " Amateur Gut Manufacturer."

P.S.—I send some of the cords to show how the strands were looped at both ends.

[We have elsewhere referred to these strands of gut.—Ed.]

THE COCKSPUR WORM.

A CORRESPONDENT asks for some particulars respecting this worm. Here is what Mr. Bailey says about it in that capital book of his, "The Angler's Instructor" (new edition). "The 'cockspur worm' is found in old rotten manure, or in decayed vegetable matter, such as the warm stuff at the bottom of cucumber frames, which, by the bye, is a capital place for keeping them during the cold winter months, as exposure to frost kills them at once. Even when gathered and kept for use they must be kept in a moderate temperature. This worm, when well scoured, is of a bright pink colour, with a small knot half an inch from the head, and a gilt tail. They are sometimes confounded with the brandling and other red worms, but the brandling is striped, and, when pierced by the hook, emits a very strong smell, which the cockspur is quite free from. In most fishing towns they are called 'red worms.' A No. 8 or 9 is the proper size hook for the cockspur worm." This worm is called the blood worm in Cheetham's "Angler's Vade-Mecum." He says : " We must not deceive ourselves into the opinion that the worm is so designated on account of any quality or abundance of blood, but merely from its flesh being thus richly coloured ; the blood of all worms is white." By " white " is meant water-colour. R. Brookes, in his "Art of Angling" (1740), says the best brandlings, gilt-tails, and red worms are found "in tanners' yards, under the heaps of bark which they throw out after they have done with it."

Mr. Greville Fennell, in his admirable little "Book of the Roach," says : "Roach will frequently take red worms, the tail more particularly, when they will not touch paste or gentles. A most successful roach-fisher of our acquaintance, Mr. Johnson, Egham, never fished for roach with any other bait."

Mr. Francis Francis, in his " Book of Angling," has the following note on the "cockspur." The " Red Worm : This is a very general favourite with fishermen. In the Nottingham district it it is called the cockspur. It will kill almost any freshwater fish, but is used chiefly for roach, gudgeon, dace, tench, and carp. It is found in heaps of dead or decaying leaves, or vegetable matter, in rotten dung or dead wood. The best way to procure and keep a stock of them is to put a little manure, some leaf-mould, a few cabbage stumps, or mowed grass, with a bit of rotten matting or old carpet over, and water it well now and then. This will breed and keep them. To scour them, put them in a pan with a bit of refuse, damp netting, or old cheese-cloth."

In "The Practical Fisherman," Mr. J. H. Keene says : " The red-worm, or cockspur, is a delightful little fellow, and is found in rotten manure heaps."

THE EEL-SETS ON THE NORFOLK RIVERS.

AT a meeting of the sub-committee appointed by the Joint Committee of the Yare, Bure, Waveney, and Ant Preservation Societies to enquire into the question of Eel-sets, held at the Bell Hotel, Norwich, on Tuesday, December 6th, 1881, R. E. Burroughes, Esq., in the chair, the report by Messrs. Chamberlain, Davies, and Greene was read :—

We have not space for the full report, but the following extracts embody the results of the investigation, and need no comment of ours :—

(*b.*) An eel net is constructed and set as follows :—A wall of close meshed and stout network is stretched across the river, the lower side weighted and resting on the bottom and the upper side floated by means of pieces of wood. In the bed of the river are three stakes, one in the middle, and one near each bank—to each of these stakes blocks are attached, through these blocks pass separate ropes, one end of each rope being attached to the top of the net above each stake, the other ends of the rope leading to the eel-boat moored by the bank. By hauling on these ropes the net can be pulled to the bottom of the river. In the wall of netting there are (say) four apertures at equal distance apart ; to each aperture a narrow network pipe or tube, about six yards long, and kept distended by wooden hoops, is attached. At equal distances in the interior of each tube, funnel-shaped circles of net are fastened (the shape of these can be undersood by reference to the bownet or to one of those ink bottles out of which the ink cannot flow when turned upside down). These "pokes" are stretched down the river and attached to stakes fixed in the bed of the river by ropes which lead from buoys on the surface of the water, through blocks on the stakes, and fastened on shore, two on either side. The eels passing down the river make their way into the long "pokes" through the narrow necks or apertures of the stops, and cannot find their way back again.

The nets are only set during ebb tide and at night. While they are set the men must be constantly on the watch. On the approach of a wherry one or two of the three ropes is hauled upon, so that the net is pulled down to admit of the wherry passing over. When the tide flows it is useless to keep the net set, as the eels do not run. It is, therefore, pulled down, and the men go to sleep. In the morning the three ropes are slackened, and the floats of the nets bring it to the top. The floats are then taken off the warp of the net in order that the latter may not be injured by a passing wherry whilst the men are attending to the "pokes." The guy ropes attached to the " pokes " are next cast off, when the buoys can be hauled in. The pokes are hauled into the boat and detached from the main net, and their contents emptied into a tub.

(*c*) The eels chiefly taken in these nets are the sharp-nosed or silver-bellied eels, which migrate to the sea in large numbers from July to November. These eels will not take a bait, and are rarely caught by babbing or picking. A good catch would be from twenty to thirty stone-weight. In the spring the grigs, another species of eel, move about and the sets are sometimes set for the purpose of catching them.

(*d*) We have obtained a great mass of interesting information respecting eels and eel-sets, but for present purposes it is sufficient for us to say that we are convinced that the eel-sets very rarely entangle other fish than eels, and then only in trifling numbers. And that the eel-sets are not in any way detrimental to the interests of the angler.

(*e*) We also find that on the occasion of the late October gale and the subsequent incursion of the salts, the ebb tide on the Friday night was so swift and strong and carried such masses of weeds and rubbish with it that all the eel-nets that were set were carried away even as far up as Hickling, and the promise of a rich haul of eels was destroyed. Only two of these nets were replaced when the salt tide came up, and these two were not "swum" or set during the flow of the tide. We therefore find that the destruction of fish on this occasion was not heightened by the nets, and that the passage of the fish up stream was not obstructed by the nets.

(*f*) Under the last-named circumstances we feel that there is no necessity to call the attention of the landlords to the matter, and we recommend that no further steps be taken.

(*g*) We may add that we find that the eel is especially a destroyer of fish-spawn. When the fish are spawning, the eels follow them in vast numbers and greedily devour the spawn. Without entering into details of this destruction of spawn, we may say that we are convinced that it is a serious matter, and we think that the capture of eels should be encouraged by anglers in their own interests.

A. J. N. CHAMBERLIN,
G. CHRIS. DAVIES,
C. J. GREENE.

YOUTHFUL ANGLERS.

By "B."

It must have been for some time apparent to all who are interested in angling pursuits that in the present day there exists, in addition to what may be termed the general army of anglers, a considerable body of youthful piscators preparing for the common rank; and, as in many other important matters, I am glad to find the great City club, the Gresham Angling Society, has taken up the question, and has left for consideration at the annual meeting what steps can be taken to compact them together in union with the society as a kind of cadet corps. The move is certainly one, in my humble opinion, in the right direction. We all know the value of early education in matters of everyday life, and it is not a whit too soon to begin to teach the junior anglers the principles and practice of true and legitimate sport. I can hardly yet imagine, for the question requires much thought, that they can rank in the society of adults. The Gresham is peculiarly and exceptionally adapted for the addition of junior members, inasmuch as the hour of meeting is not only early, but is particularly prompt in commencement, which I take is one grand principle in the success of the club. Many of the members of that society, to my knowledge, have sons that already belong to the rank of "youthful anglers." The worthy scions of such well-known famous names as Jardine, Knechtli, and Alfred are known to me for their love of sport, and there are doubtless many more parents enrolled on the emblazoned scroll of the Gresham Angling Society who possess similar desires to those to whom I have referred. It is true they will be properly brought up and taught by their parents what is right in angling—there is not much fear about that—but it still leans to the idea of an organised troop of "youthful anglers." I do not mean of actual children, that have scarcely entered their teens, but of periods between fifteen and seventeen; and there are many bright-headed juniors who, at that age, have all the ideas of manliness and manly society about them, and are capable of attending meetings of early commencement and receiving instruction and information from their seniors in life. All honour to the Gresham Angling Society for leading out this new idea—an idea which, it is true, has never been broached to my knowledge by any other club. It is a grand subject for discussion at the annual meeting, and, if I am permitted to attend, I shall certainly give my hearty support to it. I get wrong sometimes in some of my actions, but with no desire to offend; a feeling prompts me to do certain things, whilst the motive for doing it is occasionally wrongly construed. It is, however, more to the subject of "youthful anglers" that I am now occupying my thoughts, and I would rob no one of the glory of initiating it. The presence of "youthful anglers" is not limited to the Thames, or any other particular river. Wherever there are fish to be caught, and the right to practise angling, there are shoals of junior disciples of the rod always to be seen busily engaged in the sport. They must be cared for and encouraged in the pastime their choice has led them to pursue; and I maintain if a cadet corps can be established we should give it a good trial, and that I am convinced the Gresham will do, if it decides—and I am certain it will—to adopt it. The junior anglers of the present day are not content with the common tackle I used to angle with forty years ago. A cheap hazel rod is a venerable relic of the past—an inexpensive line, fastened to the top of the rod, has become almost obsolete. The aspirants to the angling art now invest in hickory or cane rods, fitted up with rings, winch and running line, and all the new appliances. Our great anglers of the present time are improving on rods and spinning tackle, and bringing their inventions within the reach of all, for the benefit of those who are to follow them in piscatorial fame. The "youthful anglers" now have great advantages over those of days gone by in the science of fishing. They have examples in the art of what can be done; and if the idea is carried out of raising cadet corps in connection with angling societies, we shall raise up an army of anglers which, for skill and fame, will never have been equalled. It is as well to ventilate the subject raised by the Gresham Angling Club on the latter question, only bearing in mind that the idea has originated with that Society.

[We cannot quite agree with B. on this occasion. We ask him whether he really thinks that young anglers are going to learn much practical fishing by attending angling club meetings? They will learn to smoke, drink whiskey, and play cards, for it is not likely their elders will leave these good things to turn to dry nursing their youngsters again. Let the youngsters keep clear of the club until they are no longer youngsters.—Ed.]

GILLETT'S GUDGEON.

Mr. Gillett, of Fetter Lane, whose business of fishing-tackle making has been established more than a century, has sent us his artificial gudgeon for notice. Having given it a good trial when pike-fishing, we are able to speak very highly of its killing qualities; in our opinion it is one of the best and cheapest baits in the market. The spin is imparted by a curved metal tail; if this tail is properly curved the bait spins superbly, and as it spins on the gimp—which is passed through a tube in the bait—there is no fear of kinking, even though no lead is used; this is no slight advantage when spinning in a shallow, weedy water. It spins so easily that the gentlest pull is sufficient; now this is another good feature, because all spinners agree that you cannot spin too slowly. We cannot too strongly impress upon anglers the fact that it is not a bit of good to merely bend the tail round equally, the bend must be done in one particular way, or else there can be no good spin. It is a difficult matter to describe this way, but we endeavoured to do so in an article on artificial spinning baits which appeared recently. The top part of the tail must be bent round more decidedly than than the lower part. It can be done with the fingers, or with a pair of pliers, in an instant. Mr. Gillett mounts the gudgeon very neatly on gimp, with two triangles at the tail, and a loose flying-triangle at the head. We prefer to dispense with the latter, as it hinders the spin occasionally. The gudgeon-shape of this bait is by far the best shape to give an artificial bait—it offers much less resistance to the water than a roach or dace-shaped bait.

GUT.

The other day Messrs. Allcock and Company sent us, for "Creel," some strands of gut, just in the state it comes over from Spain, and others after it has undergone the bleaching process.

The gut, as imported, seems to be perfect, and gets spoilt in the process of bleaching, simply because the trade will have a white gut. As imported, the gut appears a strong yellow colour, but this arises simply from the presence of a thin, brittle yellow skin which is most easily removed. We removed some, and found that the strand of gut was then simply perfect—transparent as spring water, and colourless. Such gut as this does not want dyeing at all! It is only after it has undergone the weakening bleaching process which makes it an opaque, dull white, that it wants dyeing. Take a strand of gut as imported, remove the brittle skin, and then place it alongside a strand of bleached gut. One will be as clear as glass, the other as opaque as milky water.

It seems to us, then, that if the trade feel prejudices in favour of white opaque gut is one which ought to be removed. We will answer for it that any angler who has his choice will prefer transparent to opaque gut.

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

> " Oft expectation fails, and most oft there,
> Where most it promises; and oft it hits
> Where hope is coldest, and despair most fits."
> —SHAKESPEARE.

EXPECTATION has certainly failed during the early part of the present week, for when I wired the GAZETTE (better do that than a jack), I thought I had never seen old Father Thames in such grand fishing fettle for twenty years at this season of the year. On Sunday, however, the presence of snow was indicated in the water by my personal knowledge of its icy coldness and the greenness of its tint. On Monday morning, an excellent amateur angler and myself ventured out into some first-rate Thames water, rigged up with all the best of tackle, three quarts of well-scoured lobworms about our clothes, buoyant with hope, and buoyant with spirits in the shape of half a pint of the "state of Ireland." In the evening, we returned, sadder and wiser men, *sans* fish, *sans* lobworms, and *sans* spirits. We put it down to snow, but the village Bell "put it down to me." At Bray and Monkey Island, some fair catches of roach and perch have been had, and from that snug hostelry at Ray Mead, presided over by W. Deacon, I have the following:—"Dear Buzz,—W. B. Clarke, fishing this day (Wednesday) with Mr. Ramsey Couper and Mr. Morgan, killed two pike, in excellent condition, the largest going 13¼ lb., and being, by Mr. Alderman Mackie's measurement, 36 inches long and 17 inches girth. The fish was weighed by Host Councillor Deacon, in the presence of admiring visitors and envious piscators." From Cookham I glean that the Little Independent Angling Society visited lately these waters, but in consequence of the unfavourable state of the angling element, took little away independently but themselves and some good grub from host Cocking of the White Hart. E. Godden, out with Mr. Field, has had some 16 lb. of excellent roach, some of them going over 1½ lb. each. Mr. Grazebrook, of Cookham, writes:—"The water is at last in fine order. On Sunday last, in two hours and a half, I killed three pike. going respectively 6½ lb., 4½ lb. and 2¾ lb., and on Monday one jack of 5 lb. and had bad luck with a beauty of about 10 lb., for in striking it I broke my rod and had naturally some trouble in playing such a fish with barely 4 feet of rod and a gut trace on. However, I brought the beastie up at last to the net, but in lifting him up triumphantly the bottom of the net gave way and the fish escaped, leaving me alone in my punt lamenting." I know Mr. G. will, and would under the circumstances detailed, have given a quart of precious lobs to have had a photo of him "left alone in his punt lamenting." Mr. A. Louch, in the Cookham waters lately, had four jack in less than three hours, gross weight 18 lb., best fish 6 lb., and in the Strand (a pretty bit of water near Cookham), pike of 2½ lb., 3½ lb., 6 lb., 8½ lb. and 9 lb. have recently been taken. At Hurley, Messrs. Harrison, sen. and jun., have been on to the chub and roach, one brace of chub giving 7 lb. Mr. Hawkins, in the Hurley waters, has been busy after the chub, piloted by young Coster, of Temple, and has done fairly. Mr. Brooksbank has taken from those good all-round waters one tench 2 lb., besides roach and chub, and Townsend a tench of 4 lb., besides miscellaneous bags of roach, chub, and perch. The Black Boy, at Medmenham, seems more intersected lately with highways and bad-ways than tide-ways, so the news from that quarter is no-ways interesting. At Hambledon a bankman, in legering, has taken, amongst other fish, two trout, the largest going 4 lb., and being so badly hooked as to be past redemption—the other fish was, however, returned to the mother element, with a wish whispered into its gill to bite again in season. At Henley, Messrs. Alcumb, Budd, Bradley, and others, have been doing well with jack, the chicken having just turned into its teens, and another close on to "sweet seventeen." At Wargrave and Sonning good work has been done amongst perch and chub, and, at Maple Durham, a Mr. Wilton, in three days' fishing with pith and brain as attraction, has nobbled some 42 lb. of chub. Weather foggy and cold. The river is still suffering from a plethoric affection of snow and coldness of interior regions, but favourable symptoms are hourly developing, and a happy issue may be anticipated by Saturday or Sunday next.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Thames (Goring).

Water in good order for jack, perch and chub. Two days last week, four jack, largest 8 lb., and 16 lb. of good roach; Monday, two jack, largest 12 lb. —JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Halliford).

The river is now in excellent order for seasonable fishing. Mr. Innes, of the Clapham Junction Angling Society, fishing with me on Sunday, January 22, caught over fifty perch, several of which we returned to the river, and took away 17 lb. of the best. Mr. Withers, fishing with me the next day, took 25 lb. of perch, besides returning the smaller ones. Messrs. Palmer and Nickenson, fishing with me on Tuesday afternoon, the 31st ult., took two nice barbel, one weighing 4lb. 12 oz., and the other 5 lb. 14 oz., and lost a fine one, from what we saw of him about 9 lb. Mr. T. Abbott, of the Richmond Piscatorials, fishing with me on the 1st inst., caught one barbel about 2 lb., and a jack of 5¾ lb. Messrs. Palmer and Nickenson, fishing with me on Wednesday, caught one jack, between 3 lb. and 4 lb., and lost a large one, he having bitten the gimp clean in two, after having him on some time.—GEORGE ROSEWELL.

Thames (Kingston).

As I expected, some nice chub-fishing has been had. John has had four nice takes of chub, three and four each time for a few hours' fishing, the fish going from 2 lb. to 4½ lb., a brace of jack 3 lb. each, and about two dozen in about one hour-and-a-half's fishing. Not much done from the banks. The water fine. A private boat got one of the nicest jack for shape I have seen for some time, weight 8½ lb. I have not been able to step into a boat for some time.—JOHN JOHNSON.

Thames (Richmond).

The river is now in splendid order for fishing, and the dace are feeding well but the roach are not feeding so well and are running small in size. There was every punt out here on Sunday last, and there has been a fair lot of people down since. The water, getting bright and low, has quite put a stop to the bank angler as they cannot find water enough close to the shore now, so they find their way above the locks. The sport of the past week: G. Howard, one day, three dozen dace; H. Mansell, two days, eight and a half dozen dace; Job Brain, three days, 29 lb. roach and dace; H. Howard, two days, eleven dozen dace; C. Brown, one day, 7 lb. roach and dace; H. Wheeler, two days, 20 lb. roach and chub; J. Bushnell, four days, thirty-nine roach and dace.—JOHN BUSHNELL.

Thames (Walton).

Water in first-rate condition for anything, but nobody down fishing. It seems strange that after the reports given lately as to the state of the water, &c., that there are so few anglers about; I suppose they are waiting for another flood. Prospects good in every respect. A slight frost this morning, but warm enough in the middle of the day. Jack and perch well on the feed and plenty of bream in the bream hole, in fact we only want the anglers. Sport during the past week:—Jan. 25, George Hone, with Mr. Abbett, one and a half dozen per, and lost a big jack; John Rosewell, with Mr. Bevell, one jack, 3 lb., and six perch. Jan. 26, J. Rosewell, with two gentlemen, one jack, 17 lb.; Mr. Pace, from the bank, one dozen roach. Jan. 27, George Hone, with Mr. Abbett, four bream (largest 4 lb.) in two hours. Jan 28, John Hone (trying for bream), one bream, 4½ lb., and one bream, 3½ lb. Jan. 29, from bank, one jack, 2 lb. Jan. 30, Messrs. Wood and Tuker, one bream, 1¼ lb and one bream, 14 lb., and one bream, 4 lb. Jan. 31, George Hone, with Mr. Mackriel, one carp, 6½ lb., taken in Bream Hole, with fine drawn gut and lob worm, fishing for bream.—HENRY G. WOOD.

Ancholme.

During the early part of the present week we were visited with very heavy rains, which have made the water of the colour of that celebrated man Simpson, which Londoners know so well. However, it is toning down very nicely again, and the fine weather has returned, but with a slightly lower temperature. By the end of the week the water will be in nice order again, and fishing operations will be resumed with considerable zest. Some fine catches have recently been made, one roach of nearly 2 lb. fell to the rod of a local angler, whilst eels and bream have fed more or less all through the winter.—THOMAS FORD.

Chichester.

Matters piscatorial have greatly improved during the past week, fish being well on the feed. On January 29, with a falling barometer, Selham was shunted by the majority of rodsters, but those who braved the heavy pluvial visitation were well rewarded, Mr. Young weighing-in 2 lb. of dace and 3 lb. 5 oz. of roach, some good fish among them. Mr. T. Wood scaling roach 5 lb. 6 oz., six fish weighing 4 lb. 2 oz. At the canal, in a miniature sea, Mr. Summers took four dozen and ten roach. Ned Weir, on the 30th, landed nineteen bream from the basin, losing a heavy fish. With tight tackle, Mr. Young, at Selham, in three hours taking 6 lb. 12 oz. of fine roach. Pike seem off the feed; but at the basin early on Thursday morning, Mr. G. F. Salter killed a fish of 4 lb. 10½ oz. with live bait. Three fine perch of over 1 lb. each were also shown by Mr. W. L. Coombes, taken with brandling. For bream and roach paste has decidedly proved most killing. Taken altogether the past few days have afforded better sport than has been shown for months past. Weather fine, wind northerly.

Dove.

This river has been in flood and is now full of snow broth. It was all right up to Sunday, when we had such a fall of snow and rain in the district as must have astonished the very oldest of our rodsters. Talking of coming down in flakes, why it fell in heaps, and the weight of the heavy masses broke boughs from the trees in every direction. Of course, it came too suddenly to last long, and it is now nearly all gone, but the thaw caused the stream to rise to an immense height, and fishing has been practically stopped all the week. Trout operations should have been commenced on several of our lengths to-day, (Thursday) but though no information is yet to hand, I fancy those who ventured out would have very small prospect of success. There were a good number of anglers on the water last Friday, and several more buckets of grayling came to to hand averaging five brace each. The reds and browns proved the best lures on the top, and the cockspur on the bottom. When the snow broth goes out of the river, I fancy chub will bite freely at either worm or maggot. Trout are in grand condition, even thus early, and I believe a favourable season is in store.—THE SPLODGER.

Exe (Exeter).

The weather still continues beautifully spring-like, and in the window of our excellent local paper the *Exeter and Plymouth Gazette*, may be seen one of several spikes of the Windsor bean in full blossom, such as might be expected to be seen in a couple or three months' time. Wild flowers, such as primroses snowdrops and violets, are really common, and wild strawberries are brought in daily, and ere my next will reach you no doubt many "daisies" with the dorsal fin will have been plucked from their silvery stream, and the disciples of old Isaac Walton will once more repeat his words—viz., "Oh, the brave fisher's life is the best of any. 'Tis full of pleasure, void of strife, and 'tis belov'd of many. Other joys are but toyes, only this lawful is, for our skill breeds no ill, but content and pleasure, &c." Trout are very fine and plentiful, and salmon (which we shall have but little to do with for a short time longer, excepting in one or two isolated places), are running up splendidly; in fact in places they are as plentiful almost as roach, at any rate, to use the river watcher's words, they are like flocks of sheep, and, as our dear lamented friend, F. Buckland, observed upon many occasions, that the time was not far distant when the conservators would be relieved of their onerous duties, and certain rivers would be once more thrown open, but that we can hardly expect yet of the river Exe; in fact, the system is in such working order and in such hands that it will, no doubt, be many years ere they consent to do this, but at the same time it is decidedly too much to ask one guinea for the season for a single rod, who by dint of exertion might manage to secure, say, twelve or fifteen fish during the season, and those only taken by those that can well afford the time and money. The net licenses are but £3 12s., the returns for which cannot be named; but suffice to say in most instances it is over four figures. Therefore, I consider that the net licence should be raised; at any rate, the rod licence should be brought to the original 7s. 6d., or at the most 10s., which would enable many to enjoy the sport. And surely rod fishing fairly will never deteriorate any river, leave alone such a stream as the Exe, which during the past twelve years has been gradually improving. But more on this subject in my next. Roach are very fine, and many over 1 lb. weight have been taken. Pike are numerous, but not very large. Fishing in the estuary very indifferent; the herring are leaving fast.—Frank Gosden.

Exe. (Tiverton).

To-day (Thursday) has been opening day on the association water. A good many rods were out and a fair number of fish were killed in the upper portion of the water, but down stream very little was done. Thirty is the largest number taken by any one rod, and two gentlemen were fortunate enough to reach those figures. Taking into consideration the low state of the river, and its transparent clearness, it was considered very fair sport. Fish are not in such good condition as they were expected to be with the very mild winter we have had. There will not be any real good sport until we have had rain. Flies killing best to-day were the old favourite, viz., blue upright, half stone, silver twist, and February red; wind E, and barometer rising. I may mention there are no alterations to the rules this season. The fishing is restricted to the artificial fly only, and season tickets only are issued; non-residents, 2 guineas.—Wm. Mudford.

Lee (Cork).

Angling and netting on the river Lee opened yesterday. The water was in fine condition for angling and the weather was also conducive to a good day's sport. The result of the first day's operations gives hope that the season will be above the average. The winter floods saved the river to enable spring fish to reach the upper streams. On the lower section of the river Captain Young, son of Mr. H. L. Young, was the first to land a springer. Captain Ducutt had a fine fish in play but lost it. The fishing in the upper sections of the river was somewhat better. Mr. Augustus Warren and party landed four springers. Mr. R. Bowen also killed a fine fish and Lord Bandon took one. Captain Abbott and party killed one springer, and landed some old fish which were returned. The Blackwell nets were out from 12 o'clock last night. About sixty springers were sent into market during the day and they were retailed for 2s. per lb. at first and subsequently at 1s. 6d. Demand was rather slack.—Angler.

Medway (Tonbridge).

As I anticipated last week, anglers have been busy, and have made some good catches. On Saturday there were several parties out. Mr. W. Mills, below the town, caught a brace of pike; on weighing, one 5 lb. and other 2 lb. Mr. R. A. Dallas has made some good baskets of perch, paternostering. Mr. T. Elliott, of Tonbridge Wells, fishing with a friend near Leigh, caught three pike, weighing 11 lb. On Tuesday Mr. E. Greenwood and Mr. C. Payne caught two brace of good pike. The water is a little cloudy, but is fining down nicely, and just the thing for all kinds of fishing.—Ye Medway Water Rat.

Ouse and Ivel (Blunham).

Pike have been freely on the feed, some fine takes have been had, during the past week by members of the association.—E. B.

Suir.

The season opened here on Tuesday, and it promises to be the best on record. Although the river was too flooded for rod fishing, the nets did splendidly. Clonmel got eight salmon, Carey's five, Derrinlaur seven, Gurteen four, Kilshulan six, and Coolnamuck twenty-seven. The trout fishing was extra good on both river and stream; young chaps about the town got from two to three dozen each (some more) on the Suir. Master Fennel got two dozen and one very fair-sized trout on the Tar; Mr. Frank Wayland got five on the Clashawby, averaging ¾ lb., in half an hour; the killing fly was the hare's ear.—Dora.

Taw, &c., (N. Devon.)

The waters are in good condition, trout are plentiful, salmon and grayling are gone back to sea. I have some alive with my trout in a large pond in the town, caught a month ago. Wind still east, too cold to attempt any fishing. Gents should now put aside their guns and look after their rods, reels, lines, and flies. I have found that the North Devon streams require their own style of rod, and Rowe, at Barnstaple, can supply you with your wants, and the flies sure to kill in north Devon (fox and hare's flax mixed, silver twist, and hackle to match), blue upright, with tag, hackle to be rusty. Pinkelts fancy (brown hackle, claret body, with straw tag) will do for some time. Otters are plentiful, and, although hated by anglers, I feel sure they need not fear, for having opened thirty I never found any kind of fish, excepting on one occasion, and that was full of eels. I got one Monday trapped, and his stomach was empty. —Rusty Game.

Trent (Newark).

During the latter part of last week the water was in capital condition, and some very nice catches of fish were had, chiefly jack and chub, the only drawback to good sport being the lot of nasty slime or refuse, from, I believe, the Burton Brewery, that was in the water, both bait and tackle being covered with it in a very few minutes. But, notwithstanding this, some very nice chub were taken with pith and brains from various reaches in this locality. I and a friend were out chubbing an hour or two last Saturday, best fish nearly 3 lb., pith being the bait. On Sunday it rained very heavily all day, and in the higher reaches of the Trent I suppose a lot of snow fell. This combination of rain and snow quickly got into the river, and by Monday morning the river was running bank full, and nearly the colour of mustard. By Tuesday it was a very heavy flood, the low lying meadows being covered; but it soon began to subside, and it is now running down nearly as fast as it came up, although it is still very much discoloured. The water has got well within the banks, and in the course of a few more days, if no more rain falls, it will be again in fishing trim. In the meantime anglers wanting sport had better bring their worms with them, for there are no prospects of anything else for a few days.—The Trent Otter.

Trent (Nottingham).

On Sunday rain fell heavily throughout the day, and as the upper reaches had been subjected to a "deluge," the river here on Monday was bank full. The river rose with amazing rapidity, and was on the following day standing a few inches deep on the banks. Angling pursuits were therefore out of the question. On Wednesday and Thursday a subsidence took place, but very few anglers were out, and reports generally go to prove that no fish were killed. The clubs also are quiet, although in a few days it is proposed to submit to the association a circular letter received from Mr. Eddowes, clerk to the Trent Fishery Board, in reference to the more strict preservation of fish in the river. Pecuniary support is asked for, and seeing that we have nearly 3000 enrolled members, a very small grant per member would certainly not be missed. Just before closing this report information reaches me that Mr. John Tomlinson, a well-known member of the Wellington Association, has weighed-in a pike, caught in a private lake, of 15 lb. 9 oz.—The Man at the Clubs.

Trent (Alrewas.)

Heavy rains visited the midland district on Saturday and Sunday, which quickly brought on a rise and discoloured the water to such an extent that angling has been at a standstill and no news worth reporting is to hand. The river to-night is rapidly going down, and will be fishable about Saturday with no more rain. Last Saturday, with Messrs. John Allday and Sam Basnett, I had an excellent day's pike fishing. As the pool is strictly private, the spot must be unmentionable. The day turned out a regular soaker. On the conclusion of the day's sport we counted to our joint rods 24 fish, from 3 lb. to 5 lb. each, and which were principally taken spinning a roach on Gregory's Archimedean pike tackle. The day, barring the wet, was a thorough enjoyable one in every sense of the word. The kind hospitality of our host and hostess, with all the surroundings tending to make it one of the reddest of red. letter days in our angling career. May their shadows never grow less.—James Gregory,

Tweed and Teviot.

Since my last notes a great many diseased salmon have been taken from both rivers, and it would seem as if nearly all the fish in the rivers was affected with the fungoid disease, and there can be no mistake that both rivers will suffer severely next season from the depopulation they are receiving from this epidemic. Salmon angling on both Tweed and Teviot opened on Wednesday, and a good many anglers were out, but not a single clean fish was got, although any amount of kelts and unclean ones were run, and, of course, returned to the river again. The Sprouston water, which has always yielded the first fish of the season on the opening day, was fished clean, and the same remark applies to the Hendersyde and Ednam House "casts." On the Duke of Roxburghe's water at Floors Castle, there is no report of anything having been done, and the "casts" at Makerstown were not fished on Saturday last, we had a flood of 1½ feet, but one of 6 feet is sadly wanted to clear away the dead and diseased fish, and also clean the bed of the rivers which are now getting very bad indeed. To-day (Thursday) many anglers have been out, but not a clean fish was got up to the time of sending off this report.—Maxwheel, Kelso.

Yore (Yorkshire).

Up to last Sunday we had somo delightful weather in this district, and some nice dishes of grayling were taken with the worm, but on that day snow fell; as it thawed the next day, the fishing is spoiled for some time to come, that is, untill all the snow-water is cleared out of the river. It has been colder to-day (Wednesday) than for some time past.—Francis M. Walbran.

TO OUR READERS.

Some time ago many of our readers were kind enough to send us the names and addresses of such of their angling friends as did not know the Gazette.

We shall be extremely obliged if other readers will do the same, as it helps very greatly in increasing the circulation of the paper

We take this opportunity of thanking hundreds of our readers who have been to the trouble of writing merely to say how much they liked the Gazette, and how useful they find it; this is encouraging. Any suggestions for the improvement of the paper in ny way will be carefully considered.

THE "FISHING GAZETTE" VOLUME FOR 1881.

The above is now ready, handsomely bound in cloth, price 12s. 6d. A few copies still remain of the previous volumes, and the cloth cover for binding can also be had separately, price 2s. 6d.

DINNER OF THE RICHMOND PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

On Thursday evening about fifty members of the above flourishing Society, dined together in the Society's room, at the Station Hotel, Richmond. The Chairman of the evening was Major Bull, Vice-President of the Society. Among the visitors were Mr. W. H. Brougham, Mr. R. B. Marston, of the Fishing Gazette, and Mr. J. Groves. The dinner was a most decided success in every way, and we shall give a report next week.

THE "RED TAG" FLY.

In response to our request that some West of England reader would send us a sample of this killing grayling fly, Mr. Earp, of Kidderminster, has very kindly sent one. It is not dressed in the same way as the "Red Tag" we used some years ago; but it is a killing fly, made thus hackle: red hackle from cock's neck, body of peacock herl, pretty full, and bit of crimson wool for tail or tag. It is identical with the bracken clock, as made by Mr. Cummings, of Bishop Auckland, only the bracken clock is minus the red tag. The bracken clock is the Devonshire "fern web."

Have any of our readers got any real dotteril feathers to sell? We do not want dyed imitations.

THE "FISHING GAZETTE" WINCH AND HARDY'S WINCH FITTING.

It is with pleasure we learn from Messrs. Allcock and Company, that the trade orders for the above are coming in fast. They will be able to make deliveries in the course of next week probably.

More than one tackle maker has written to complain of our statement that the winch-fitting can be put on a cane rod. They suggest we ought to know there is nothing inside a can rod for the screws to hold to. Just so. But why, in the name of all that is cane, do you not put something inside? Plug up the butt with a bit of light deal, a few inches long, and then put your screws into it. We give you this hin gratis.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

Messrs. Geen, Hobden, and Pitts have been among the chub, the first-named gentleman securing some heavy fish. An otter has taken up his quarters not a hundred miles from Penton Hook, and is being vigilantly sought for by several good shots in the neighbourhood. It is pleasant to learn that Mr. George Oram, one of the most energetic of our Lea bailiffs, is rapidly recovering from a long and serious illness. We can ill spare good men from the river, particularly during the now fast-approaching fence months. It is curious to note how among our brother rodsters in the East of London (who are mostly Lea men) pegged-down matches continue to be patronised, while among brother bobs at the West, who are principally Thames men, they are almost a thing of the past.

Things are looking-up a bit in the neighbourhood of Pangbourne; and on Sunday last Mr. Malcolm, of the Waltonians, succeeded in getting a good take of roach, over 20 lb., I am informed. Mr. Philips, of the same society, has also been having some very good chub.

Things continue very quiet at the Welsh Harp. Pray tell us, friend Sawyer, how is it those big jack won't feed?

Not many, but a few really heavy and handsome jack are generally picked up at this time of the year by those who, undeterred by the horrors of mud-lane, patronise Dagenham Lake.

Re the 3 lb. 2 oz. perch—I humbly beg the printer's pardon, the omission of the word perch was mine; but a contemporary is a bit too hard when it assumes the omitted word was "roach," going on to state that "one at Staines is said to have weighed 3 lb. 2 oz., but while we know there are 12 oz. to 1 lb. troy, and 16 oz. to 1 lb. avoirdupois, 'Fisherman's weight' is somewhat of a delusion and a snare." I don't wish to be hypercritical, but if the writer of the above charitable paragraph will glance down his own lines in the same issue, January 29th, he will wonder how he came to announce that "a complimentary visit will be paid the Bermondsey Brothers on Tuesday, January 21st."

Among the golden barbel some very good shows continue to be had. Mr. Goodge's take of 25 lb. of roach from the Chelmer, on the 29th, being among the best. I also saw a nice little dish of roach and dace from old Father Thames, at Taplow, yesterday, and Mr. Joseph Green, by whom they were taken, says the water is in the pink of condition.

At the recent meeting of the committee from the three London associations of angling clubs, certain important recommendations were adopted. They are to be made the subject of a circular issued to all societies enrolled, so that the said recommendation may be discussed by the delegates at the next monthly meeting of each association, after which a joint meeting of the committee of the Amalgamated Associations will take place, which no doubt will be duly empowered to take early active measures to promote the important questions of coarse-fish culture and renting waters.

The monthly meeting of the United London Anglers' Central Committee will be held on Monday evening next, at the Bald Faced Stag, Worship Square, Finsbury—Mr. Samuel Morgan in the chair. It is hoped there will be a good attendance of members to carefully consider the important subjects above referred to.

I have been favoured with a circular containing full particulars of the forthcoming International Fisheries Exhibition, to be held in Edinburgh in April next, The prizes are both numerous and valuable, and varying from £50 to £5. and the coarse-fish anglers have a little corner, though, of course, and rightly, sea fish, sea-fish culture, and the salmonidæ—the first of which may be deemed a source of national wealth, and the second of permanent interest to our Scotch friends—occupy the place of honour. I sincerely hope some of our London friends who have goodly specimens of defunct freshwater fish, will exhibit them just to keep up the credit of the metropolis.

The annual supper of the Good Intent Angling Club takes place on Wednesday evening, 13th inst., St. Valentine's Eve.

Haslett writes me from Chertsey to-day (Wednesday), that the river is a capital colour, and that, fishing with Mr. Allan and another gentleman, he has been getting a few good perch. Mr. Stanley Isaac and myself had a day with him on Sunday, and though we tried very hard could not induce the roach to bite. We managed, however, to get four jack out of our roach swim; heaviest a little over 4 lb., which may perhaps account for the red-eyed innocents being right off the feed. Strange to say, the swims we fished had been carefully fished with a gut paternoster the previous day with no result; yet though we were using gimp snaps, and, for want of others, very large baits, the fish bit quite boldly.

FISHING SEASONS IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

Several changes having been made in the "open time" for salmon, trout, and coarse-fish fishing in England and Wales, we have compiled the following list, showing all the variations from the statutory fishing seasons which exist in different rivers. The statutory open season for Salmon is as follows:—

For rods, from February 2nd to November 1st, both days inclusive.

For putts and putchers, from May 2nd to August 31st, both days inclusive.

For all other instruments, from February 2nd to August 31st, both days inclusive.

The open season for Trout and Char is, for all kinds of instruments, from February 2nd to October 1st, both days inclusive.

The open season for Freshwater Fish is from June 16 to March 14.

The following is a list of the English and Welsh fishery districts in which the above close seasons have been *varied*. Where a blank is left the close time given above remains in force:—

District.	Angling Season for Salmon.	Season for Other Instruments for Salmon.*	Angling Season for Trout and Char.	Season for Other Instruments for Trout and Char.
Avon and Erme (Devon) ..	Feb 1 to Sep 30	Ap 1 to Sept 20	—	—
Avon and Stour (Hants) ..	Feb 2 to Oct 1	Feb 2 to Aug 14	—	—
Axe	May 1 to Nov 19	May 1 to Sep 19	—	—
Camel ..	May 1 to Nov 14	May 1 to Sep 30	—	—
Cleddy ..	Feb 2 to Oct 31	Mar 16 to Sep 14	Trout, Mar 2 to Sep 28	Trout, Mar 2 to Sep 28
Clwyd and Elwy ..	May 16 to Nov 14	May 16 to Sep 14	—	—
Conway ..	May 1 to Nov 14	May 1 to Sep 14	—	—
Coquet ..	Mar 26 to Nov 14	Mar 26 to Sep 14	—	—
Dart	Mar 2 to Nov 1	Mar 2 to Aug 31	Trout, Mar 1 to Oct 1	Trout, Mar 1 to Oct 1
Dee	—	—	Trout, Feb 15 to Oct 13	
Derwent (Cumberland) ..	Mar 11 to Nov 1	Mar 11 to Aug 31	Mar 10 to Sep 30	Mar 10 to Sep 30
Dovey, Mawddach, and Glaslyn ..	May 1 to Nov 29	May 1 to Sep 13	—	—
Dwyfach and Dwyfawr ..	Mar 2 to Nov 14	Mar 2 to Sep 14	—	—
Ehen, Esk, Mite, Irt, and Calder ..	Mar 11 to Oct 31	Ap 1 to Sep 14	Trout, Mar 11 to Sep 30	Trout, Ap 1 to Sep 30
Exe	Mar 2 to Nov 1	Mar 2 to Aug 31	—	—
Fowey	—	Below Lostwithiel, Ap 1 to Aug 31	—	—
Kent, Leven, Winster, Bela and Duddon ..	Mar 2 to Oct 31	Mar 2 to Sep 14	Trout, Mar 2 to Oct 1	Trout, Mar 2 to Oct 1
Ogmore and Ewenny ..	May 1 to Nov 14	May 1 to Sep 14	Trout, Feb 15 to Sep 1	Trout, Feb 15 to Sep 1
Ouse (Sussex) .	Ap 2 to Oct 31	Ap 2 to Aug 31	—	—
Rhymney ..	Ap 2 to Nov 1	Ap 2 to Aug 31	—	—
Seiont, Llyfni, and Ogmore	Mar 2 to Nov 14	Mar 2 to Sep 14	Trout, Mar 2 to Oct 1; Char, Mar 15 to Oct 14	Trout, Mar 2 to Oct 1; Char, Mar 15 to Oct 14
Stour (Kent) ..	May 2 to Nov 1	May 2 to Aug 31		
Taff and Ely ..	May 1 to Nov 14	May 1 to Aug 30	Trout, Feb 2 to Sep 19	Trout, Feb 2 to Sep 19
Taw and Torridge ..	Ap 1 to Nov 15	May 1 to Sep 20	—	—
Teify and Aeron	Feb 15 to Nov 14			
Teign	Mar 3 to Nov 20	Mar 3 to Aug 31	Trout, Mar 3 to Sep 30	Trout, Mar 3 to Sep 30
Towy, Longhor, and Taf ..	Mar 16 to Nov 1	Mar 16 to Aug 31	—	—
Usk and Ebbw	Ap 2 to Nov 1	Ap 2 to Aug 31	Trout, Feb 15 to Oct 1	Trout, Feb 15 to Oct 1
Wye	Mar 15 to Nov 1	—	—	—
Yorkshire ..	Mar 1 to Nov 15	—	—	—

* Except putts and putchers.

In the following districts the close season for freshwater fish ha been abolished:—Avon and Erme, Avon and Stour, Eden, Towy Wye.

In the Kent and Severn fishery districts the close season for pike only has been abolished, and in the Severn district (except the Severn itself below the mouth of the Verniew and so much of the Avon as flows through Worcestershire and Gloucestershire) the close season for all kinds of freshwater fish, except grayling, has been also abolished.

WORMS IN DOGS.—Mr. James Doughty, Author of "Art of Breaking and Training Dogs," says: "I have used Maldire's Worm Powders for Dogs for many years, and they have always proved successful." Maldire's Worm Powders are sotd by all chemists price 1s., 2s., 3s. 6d. and 5s. per packet, or sent post free (on receipt of Stamps) by Barclay and Sons 95, Farringdon Street, London.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

SPECIMEN FISH AT ANGLING CLUBS.

Sir,—The perusal of your correspondent B.'s paper, "Specimen Fish at Angling Clubs," has induced me to jot down some of my own ideas on the subject, and I trust, as those of a working-man angler, you will be able to find space for them.

Our friend B., after giving particulars of a splendid catch of perch from the Kennett by a member of the Friendly Anglers, and of ten pike, weighing together 150 lb., by those well-known sportsmen, Messrs. Jardine and Knetchli, says: "What I have been advocating for years, with regard to specimen fish and the abolition of gross weights, has now been practically realised by Messrs. Jardine and Knetchli," &c., &c. Let me at once tell you that I agree entirely with the theory of weighing-in the "big 'uns" only, but at the same time I despair of its being put into practice, under present circumstances, by any appreciable number of our London angling clubs, for reasons which I will endeavour to make plain. In the first place, the members of those clubs—being for the most part men whose means are in inverse proportion to their angling capacities, and whose visits to the Kennett, or similarly good waters, are necessarily very few in number—are obliged to rely for the greater number of their outings upon those near-at-home waters the denizens of which, although fairly numerous, are very shy and difficult to capture, in consequence, as I believe, of the continual pestering and worrying with groundbait, sight of rods, &c., they are subjected to. Now, from my point of view, if B.'s scheme is to be of any practical value, anglers should abstain not only from weighing-in, but from retaining, when caught, any but specimen fish—that is, fish of much greater size and weight than the minimum sizes allowed to be taken from our rivers, the Lea and the Thames. And here arises the difficulty. Let us see how this alteration would work if applied to the open portions of the Lea, for instance, which are so largely frequented by the class in whose name I take the liberty of writing. A man may sit roach-fishing there for a whole day, and although master of all that "delicate finesse" so pleasantly referred to by Mr. Wheeldon, will be fortunate beyond the average if, when darkness compels him to desist from his pleasant toil, he has 5 lb. of roach in his basket, after having returned to the water, as he took them, all under seven inches in length, the limit in use at my own club. Can it be expected that such a man will hail with delight a raising of the standard which would reduce such a day's take probably to 3 lb.? Another phase of the question is, that his day's take may—and I am sorry to say often does—consist of only two or three sizeable fish. Imagine the chagrin of such a "sticker" to find, on arrival at his club-house, his take beaten by one fish (a specimen weighing rather more than either of his two or three), the result of a ledger thrown in and left to shift for itself by a careless angler or novice, who probably preferred the liquid and solid attractions of the nearest inn to a cold seat by the waterside.

I could give further examples of the present inapplicability of the specimen system to most of our clubs, but will content myself by assuring B. that London anglers generally will be only too glad to adopt it, when they can obtain, as the result of a fair day's work within reasonable distance of their homes, even a much smaller take of good fish than either of those referred to by him as triumphant vindications of his principle.

When anglers of all grades make common cause in the propagation of coarse fish and the restoration to the general body of those portions of the Thames and other rivers which have been unlawfully filched from them; when the water companies, deriving their supply from public waters, annually return to those waters all the fish which accumulate in their reservoirs; when we hear no more of the exclusive use, by individual societies, of waters which have been from time immemorial open to all for at least a small daily charge; when steam-launches have been banished from our fisheries, and trailers and illegal netters are classed and punished with burglars; when, in fact, the fish in our waters have been largely increased, commensurate with the enormous increase of those who wish to capture them—then will arrive, as a matter of course, what I will call "the specimen fish era," which none will welcome more heartily than B.'s at present unconvinced admirer, J. M. D.

MR. W. BAILEY, SENIOR.

Sir,—I have to inform you that I received "The Angler's Instructor" from Mr. W. Bailey, senior, on January 27. I am sure it would be better, when Mr. Bailey was so busy with orders, if he could send a reply—if only a postcard—stating that he had received the order. It would give more satisfaction. With reference to "The Angler's Instructor," I can recommend it to all anglers as a first-class work on the art of angling.—I am, &c.,

23, Bayley Street, Staleybridge. James B. Udale.

"THE ANGLER'S INSTRUCTOR" BY BAILEY.

Sir,—This book is published by Longmans and Co., of London, and T. Foreman and Sons, of Nottingham; and your correspondent, Mr. J. B. Udale, can get a copy through any bookseller. I obtained my copy in this manner.—I am, &c., W. T. Boydell, Jun.

REWARDS TO COUNTY POLICE FOR THE DETECTION OF POACHERS.

Sir,—It will be in the memory of your readers that some time ago Mr. Thomas Hoole sent Captain Etheridge fifty copies of their reward bill offering one guinea to any one who should give information as to lead to the conviction for illegal fishing. The captain then distributed them—especially among the Oxford City Police—if possible to counteract the machinations of the noted Beasley gang. This was effected to a certain extent, which, Mr. Hoole hearing of, after a meeting of the West Central Committee of the London Anglers held on the 20th ult., sent the captain three guineas to distribute between Sergeant Keen and Police-constables Castle and Barrett, one guinea each—that gentleman's letter conveying a wish it should be presented with some little ceremony. Therefore last Friday week the captain attended upon the bench of magistrates and made the sum over to the mayor, being introduced by Alderman Carr, chairman of the Oxford City Police Committee. It was then determined by the Board to apply to the Conservancy for twelve deputations for the police to enable them to enter punts and search, what they could not do before, and they could only catch them on their landing. This will be a great and important movement as the police may then go afloat and act with vigour at the time of the commission of the offence. The Oxford anglers and the Press of that city are not unmindful of the seasonable aid offered by the London anglers who have gone so far from home to do good to the general cause.—I am, &c., Creel.

FLY-FISHING FOR DACE, CHUB, &c., NEAR LONDON.

Sir,—I read R. A's. interesting article on this subject with great pleasure. I am one of the many who are fond of fly-fishing, and who fish streams where dace and chub are more numerous than trout. I have often cast over shoals of dace, &c., on bright days but have seldom been rewarded with a rise, although my casting line has been of the finest gut, and I have tried fly after fly, and sometimes tipped it with a gentle,

I have read most of the modern angling books, but beyond the fact that dace will rise at a fly little is said in them. I shall certainly have some flies made up as described by your correspondent and hope to get good sport with them.

Perhaps R. A. will, with your permission, favour your readers with further notes of his experience on this subject, and give the name and address of the tackle maker who dressed his flies.

I should much like to see Mr. Balderston's table of flies for dace and other white fish. He referred to them when he gave his table of flies for trout. I studied the latter with great interest and have looked for those for dace, but either I have missed them or they have not been inserted.—I am, &c., W. T. Boydell, Jun.

Jan. 31, 1882.

[They are coming.—Ed.]

SALMON OVA FOR NEW ZEALAND.

Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that, in accordance with instructions from the Acclimatization Society of Otago, I have shipped two boxes, containing 130,000 salmon, for Dunedin.

They go, through the courtesy of the Orient Line Managers, Messrs. Anderson, Anderson, and Co., and Messrs. F. Green and Co., direct to Melbourne, freight free; also by the kindness of the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand, no charge is made for the conveyance from Melbourne to Dunedin.

I had instructions to secure Tay ova if possible, but was told, unofficially, as early as July last, that it would be a hopeless task to proffer any request to the Tay Board of Conservators. However, I wanted the ova from Tay salmon, so had made up my mind, by hook or by crook to get them. I talked the matter over with my friend, Mr. Francis Francis, of the *Field*. He said it was perfectly hopeless. That just made me feel madder to get them. I happened to recollect a valued friend on Tay side, who had written to me on this subject before. So I wrote him again, and fortunately he did what was needed, so I had all ready to start. Many thanks to him! But the elements were adverse. The floods descended, and the salmon disease was so prevalent that I was advised to give up the expedition.

Backed by the Inspectors of Fisheries, I had also applied to Tyne Fishery Board. The Chairman, Mr. J. M. Ridley, wrote me a most courteous reply, to the effect that, had I only applied earlier, the Board would have been very happy to meet my wants, but that the season would probably close before the needful permission of landowners could be obtained in time. So I gave it up with a very heavy heart, wrote to New Zealand to say it was impossible for me to fill their orders this season, put things away, and resigned myself to ill-fortune.

"A telegram for you, sir!" was the next phase of the matter. "Ridley to Capel, Foot's Cray,—Very heavy run of fish. Come at once. Wire Harbottle," &c. Very thankful to hear such good news I held a council with my manager, and settled that he should start next night for Tyneside. Well, he got there safely, was most kindly received, ably assisted by Mr. Harbottle, the Inspector of Tyne Fisheries, and his staff. Mr. Ridley and Mr. Taylor Smith were there to see that all went well. Two days' fishing settled the busisiness; so he tackled up and returned to meet me at Cannon Street Station, leaving the eggs in good care at King's Cross.

I was sending off hatching apparatus for South Africa, and after its despatch we fetched the boxes of eggs from the Great Northern Railway to the office of the Wenham Lake Ice Company, who had very kindly consented to take charge of these, as they had of so many more for Mr. Buckland, until wanted, to stow them in the ice-house. So to 125, Strand, we drove, and met with every courtesy.

I desire here publicly to thank sll those who have had any part in this business for their kindly assistance; more especially all those, who, meeting a perfect stranger in Mr. Cross, my manager, did all that mortal man could do to make him both successful and comfortable.

The Steamship Companies and the Wenham Lake Ice Company also deserve warm thanks for their kind courtesy and generous aid, and I thank them with all my heart.

Mr. Cross informs me that these eggs were taken and packed exactly as I should have wished. Knowing his skill and experience, I had every faith and hope that this shipment will turn out as good as good as my first—a little box of trout eggs that was sent out in 1878 with Mr. Frank Buckland's last consignment. They were received by Mr. Howard, of Wallacetown, and pronounced the best sample of fish ever received from Europe. I cannot see any reason why the present shipment should not prove equally good. I know that they were properly impregnated and packed, and have been carefully handled; so wish them and their recipients all success.

The reason why I did not accompany Mr. Cross was that I had my hands full of business. Apparatus had to be sent to South Africa, and shipping arrangements had to be concluded for goods going to India. Besides this, I had to arrange for a new rearing-house capable of holding a large number of feeding trout-fly, as well as to see to the welfare of a house full of ova, and other matters, so that I was fully occupied.

I may add that the Gillaroo trout of Ireland is now firmly established here, and that there will be a copious supply of the eggs of this, the finest of all British trout, during the coming winter.

Apologising for taking up so much of your valuable space.—I am &c. CHAS. C. CAPEL.

Cray Fishery, Foot's Cray, Kent.

BLOOD-WORMS.

SIR,—Your correspondent, J. Harris, Esq., will find the largest blood-worms in their native element, *i.e.*, in the mud of old ponds, those from 18 inches to 3 feet deep are the best. Naturally they are insignificant, and so tender and fragile, they require the most careful handling when baiting the hook; under these circumstances the greatest attention he might bestow upon them in the hope of increasing their bulk would only be thrown away, as the fatter and larger he makes them the more soft, juicy, and tender they will become, and if required for angling purposes this procedure will entirely spoil them for such an object.

To compensate them for this insignificance and weakness, Mr. Harris may not be aware that the blood-worm, like the star-fish, possesses the wonderful faculty of forming perfect worms from pieces cut off from the original; and when we consider what a number of animals must necessarily live on these creatures, not forgetting those two savage and voracious specimens, the stickle-back and water devil, we cannot help being struck with the wisdom displayed in an arrangement so admirable.

If your correspondent has an idea he can enlarge them beyond their natural size by some extraordinary process, later on, he can get any number from the places alluded to; but he must take them and let them remain in the mud, wherever he puts them, or they will soon die. I do not think they are strong enough to undergo the trying process of scouring, or the cockney anglers would not keep them in the mud from which they are taken, as they do. If he confounds the red-headed garden worm, he wants to breed in length about 1½ inches, with that midget bait for bream, perch, flounders, dace, and roach, and by many people called the blood worm, let him procure (the sooner the better) a solid piece of hen-dung about the size of his hat. This may be obtained from any hen roost in a neglected state. Let him take this splendid piece of guano and bury it about 2 feet deep in a rich leafy loamy soil, and take it up about the end of July or beginning of August, and he will see such a mass of worms, thousands upon thousands of apparently little short threads of dirty cotton that will astonish him. I expect they acquire sufficient nourishment from the dung until they are strong enough to take to mother earth in earnest. I can compare them to nothing but a bullock's liver when perforated by ten thousand half-grown gentles. Hoping these few remarks will not be lost, on Mr. Harris in particular, nor your readers in general,—I am, &c, MARK ANTONY.

FISH-CULTURE IN AMERICA.—The great and rapid advance which fish-culture has made in the United States, the stimulus it has given to one of our greatest industries, that wise policy which, through the medium of a Fish Commission, directs attention to the best and most economical method of producing, capturing, or preserving fish—these have all contributed to our national progress. If the work done in the last 15 years in the United States has been accepted with hardly more than a passing word of laudation, abroad our labours have received the fullest recognition, for our methods are sanctioned and adopted, and on subjects having to do with the rearing or capture of fish the demand for information is constant. To sum up as succintly as possible the whole subject, we have invented the most perfect engines for the capture of fish, and, to make up for the loss of life in fresh and salt water, we have set about in a scientific way to replenish the water as fast as we deplete it."—*New York Times.*

WEST CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF LONDON AND PROVINCIAL ANGLING SOCIETIES.

THE first meeting of the year of this Association, was held on the 20th inst. Mr. Bonvoisin in the chair, faced by Mr. Beckett.

Notwithstanding the unfavourable weather of the past week, there were a goodly number of delegates in attendance, thirty-eight societies being represented. The business of the evening was commenced by the hon. sec. reading the minutes of the meeting, held on 16th December last, which, on the proposition of Mr. Dodge, seconded by Mr. Ghurney, were confirmed as read. Letters from the secretaries of the Brentford Piscatorials, and the Kingfisher Angling Society, requesting to be enrolled with the Association were next read. Representatives from both societies being present, and answering satisfactorily to the usual inquiries of the hon. sec., as to their respective codes of rules, &c., Mr. Murphy proposed, and Mr. Field seconded "That the Brentford Piscatorials be enrolled with the association." Mr. Adean proposed, Mr. Starr seconding, a similar resolution on behalf of the Kingfisher Angling Society, both of which, on being put to the meeting were carried unanimously.

After a few words from the Chairman to the gentlemen representing the above societies, as to the objects of the association, and urging their guarding the great privileges conceded to its members, the business of the evening was proceeded with.

Amongst the correspondence received by the hon. sec., was a letter from Captain Etheridge of the Thames Conservancy, Reading, calling the attention of the association to the conviction of one Beazley, at Oxford, obtained through the vigilance and energy of Sergeant Keen of the local police, also the capture of nets by Police-constables Carr and Barrett. The committee recommending the payment of the sum of £1 1s. to these three men, some discussion took place as to the payment of the full reward of £1 1s. each to Police-constables Carr and Barrett. A conviction was not really obtained by them, owing to the delinquents leaving the neighbourhood; their nets, gear, &c., were however, seized and destroyed, and a conviction would have undoubtedly have followed had the rascals not decamped. A proposition by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Reynolds, "That the sum of £1 1s. each to paid to Sergeant Keen and Police-constables Carr and Barrett," on being put to the meeting, being carried by a large majority. An amendment by Mr. Adean, "that the sum of £1 1s. only, be paid to, and divided between, Police-constable's Carr and Barrett," being lost on the vote.

The sum of £1 1s. was also voted to the annual dinner of the Thames Fishermen on the committee's recommendation. The usual seasonable gratuities to the waiter and postman were also voted.

On the question of the annual vote to E.C. committee, the Chairman, in opening the discussion, stated that the sum voted to that committee, last year was £10 10s. and in previous years £5 5s. only.

Mr. Murphy, who continued the discussion, urged that a like sum of £10 10s. be again voted to the E.C. committee. In his opinion, he thought it was not, however, a question of amount, as one of good feeling, one association to the other, and, in support of his views, stated shortly the great good done by the E.C. committee in the preservation of the Lea. The vice-chairman, Mr. Ghurney, secretary of the E.C. C., Messrs. Townsend, Gardner and Humby continued the discussion at some length when the following proposition and amendment were put to the meeting. Proposition by Mr. Welch, seconded by Mr. Murphy "that a like sum of £10 10s. be again voted to the E.C. C." Amendment by Mr. Gardner, seconded by Mr. Humby "that the sum of £5 5s. only be voted to the E.C. C." On the vote being taken the amendment was carried by a majority of 5.

Monetary matters being disposed of, the result of the interview by Messrs. Marston (of the FISHING GAZETTE), Geen, and Bonvoisin with the third association was laid before the meeting by the chairman. These gentlemen waited on the third association on the 18th instant, and were most cordially received, and requested to state the views of the W.C.A., on the question of fish cultivation, and on matters generally of importance to anglers, to which Messrs. Marston and Geen suitably replied, the latter gentleman requesting the third association to send delegates to the W.C.A. meetings. The hon. sec. then read the minutes passed by the third association on the 18th instant.

A misunderstanding having arisen between the Gresham Angling Society, and the association, the chairman, and Mr. Murphy, tendered full explanations to the hon. sec. of the Gresham. Mr. Crumplen, in a few words, gracefully accepted such explanations, stating he hoped nothing would again arise to mar the good fellowship existing between them.

Business being at last disposed of, the hon. sec called the roll, the following societies being represented: Amicable Brothers, Amicable Waltonians, Acton aud Ealing, Bostonian, City of London, Cambridge Friendly, Cobden, Duke of Norfolk, Golden Barbel, Good Intent, Gresham, Hammersmith United Junior Piscatorials, King's Cross United, Larkhall, Marylebone, Norfolk, North Western, Prince of Wales, Princess of Wales, Portsmouth Waltonians, Peckham, Perseverance, Queen's, Royal George. St. John's, Savoy Brothers, Silver Trout, South London, Stanley Anglers, South Belgravia, Trafalgar, United Brothers, United Marlboro' Brothers, Waltonians, Westbourne Park Piscatorials, Brunswick Piscatorials, Brentford Piscatorials, and the Kingfisher. Mr. Ghurney representing the Ea- Central Committee. GABRIEL TREADWELL.

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

NORFOLK.

THE extreme mildness of the weather, coupled with the splendid condition of the water, has resulted in many fine fish being brought to grass in various parts of the country, but I think I may venture to say, not more so than in Norfolk. Pike are in abundance, roach are plentiful, and bream have been showing up well. Although not wishing to "blow my own trumpet," I have myself experienced two as good days' pike-fishing as ever I should wish to enjoy, landing in the two days no fewer than twenty-four fish, weighing 159 lb. I have also seen some exceptionally fine roach, taken at Tasburgh, near Norwich, averaging 1lb. per roach, and taken with white paste. Some splendid bream have also been taken at Thorpe, one gentleman succeeding in landing a couple weighing 7¼ lb.; and many others were taken the same week, although not quite up to this weight. A great many more would undoubtedly have been landed, but, unfortunately for the anglers of Norwich, they are blessed with a not over scrupulous Corporation, who, by way of amusement, will at times let all the sewage matter of the city into the river, thereby destroying all angling prospects and endangering the lives of her Majesty's subjects who may happen to live in the vicinity of the river,

This is certainly a crying shame, and I think it is time for the anglers of Norwich to begin to move in the matter. Otherwise, when the season comes round they will find they will be rewarded after their day's exertion with an empty creel. The river from Norwich to Cantley is just now in a most disgraceful state, and for miles it is completely covered with a foul, dirty white substance resembling snow mixed with soot. At Thorpe the westerly winds have carried it out of the Hythe into the old river, and, having no particular chance of getting away, it has completely blocked the stream, and is now at least half a foot in thickness. When it gets completely saturated with water it will sink to the bottom, fermentation will then set in, and so soon as the hot weather comes it will rise again to the surface—spread itself much in the same way as tar does when dropped into the water—and then give off its deadly poison to be inhaled by those who live near, and also to occupiers of yachts and other craft which ply on the river, the result of which may only be too easily guessed at. I therefore trust that the secretaries of the various angling societies will do something among their members, and so form a deputation, or else memorialise the Corporation, in order that the affair may be thoroughly investigated, for they (the Corporation) are the body who alone are responsible, and not the Yare Preservation Society as many persons suppose.

Down the river towards Yarmouth the inhabitants on either side of the river have to drink the water from the river; but at the present time rather them than me, for it cannot be a pleasing occupation to have to skim a heap of dirty sewage matter off a pail of water before using it.

As reported in our last week's issue of the FISHING GAZETTE, the conviction of that notorious poacher, Barber, shows that the Yare Preservation Society made a happy selection when they appointed the present Water-bailiff, William Hewitt. I believe this is about the fourth conviction which he has been the means of bringing about since his appointment, and certainly great credit is due to him for his last "clever capture." I think this case may lead to show that at present the bye-laws of the Yare Preservation Society are not yet perfect, for it brought to light that which many people were in total ignorance of, and that is, "that with a net, having the legal 3-inch mesh (when wet) they may between the hours of sunrise and sunset, use it with impunity, and thus destroy all our best sport. I should hops that when the time comes to amend the laws this clause in the Act, should be carefully done away with, and the only nets which should be used are those for the purpose of taking bait and smelts. As to the "Barbers" it is a pity the laws with respect to their crime were not more stringent, for although to some persons their fine and costs, amounting to about £16, seemed a heavy sum, it was next to nothing compared with the proceeds of the fish they have destroyed. A gentleman friend of mine informed me, the other day, that he was prepared to prove that since Christmas he could show where they had consigned no less than 50 tons of fish to one firm.

Therefore, my brother anglers, be not surprised this next season if you have to content yourselves with the small fry of the river, instead of your two and three pounders as hitherto. I should imagine the greater part of these fish were taken from the North River, as there, I believe, he has not been so closely watched as he has on the Yare.

I hope our metropolitan friends will interest themselves in this matter, and when they see the trouble and expense which the society has taken, in order to protect sport, they certainly will not forget the subscription boxes when next they pay our old river a visit.—ANGLER.

SEA-FISH CULTURE.

FEW sea fishes have been hatched. Professor Baird, however, the grand head of fish-culture in America, has successfully treated the eggs of the codfish, and the fish planted in the harbour of Gloucester, Mass., have been taken about the wharves, where they were never seen so far in shore before. His assistants, Messrs. Earll and McDonald, had Spanish macketel hatched in the Chesapeake Bay last year and discovered their breeding grounds. The sea bass was hatched in 1874, at Noank, Conn., under the superintendence of Mr. Mather, and the fish commissioners of New Jersey have been successful with the smelt. The eggs of the striped bass have been hatched in many instances, but the place where they spawn in numbers sufficient to make it profitable to seek them on their breeding grounds, has never yet been discovered. There are many problems in fish-culture yet unsolved and which need the close attention of men who are both practical fish-culturists and men of science. If the new hatchery at Coldspring be placed in charge of such a man there is hardly a limit to the benefit which might be derived from it, both directly and indirectly. It might be made a place of instruction in fish-culture, which has grown to be an important branch of our political economy, and a model institution within easy reach of New York city, where visiting scientists would find a laboratory with microscopes and other instruments for pursuing investigations into the life and history of our fluviatile and marine fauna at their hand.

The site of the new hatchery is eminently adapted for a fresh and salt water landing place. A large spring bursts from a broad hillside, at an elevation of twenty feet from the bay, which is only 200 yards distant at low tide. In addition to this the outlets of three good sized ponds traverse the property, all emptying into the bay.

The New York Fishery Commission, while it has done some excellent work in the stocking of our streams and lakes, has not taken a position in the line of advanced fish-culture, being rather conservative and wedded to methods of the past. It has done and is still doing grand work, but it should not confine its methods to the inland waters, as it has done, and should follow the lead of Professor Baird in his broad work of bringing the sea within the domain of fish-culture and replenishing our exhausted marine fisheries, as well as the trout brooks.

The importance of the establishment of the new hatchery cannot be over-estimated, and the work at hand is interesting to all. The first fish on the list to claim attention will be the smelt. It is taken in nets when seeking the spawning grounds, and the spawn and milt are taken in the usual manner. The spawn of the smelt is glutinous, adhering to the first object it touches after extrusion from the female. Its eggs are caught on twigs by the fish-culturist, and the twigs are then placed in a floating box which has perforations at each end to admit a circulation of water. Fine screens covering the perforations retain the young fish until ready for release in the stream or for transportation to other waters. Following smelt, another delicious fish, the Spanish mackerel is next in order. The eggs of this fish require a different treatment. They are non-adhesive and require to be suspended in currents of water the same as the eggs of the shad. The striped bass and the sheepshead will no doubt also receive attention this spring.—*N. Y. Herald.*

CLUB REPORTS.

ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several of our members were out on Sunday the 29th inst., and met with poor sport, Mr. A Shakel saving the club from a blank with 1 lb. 10 oz. of roach and dace from the Lea. One of the jack taken by Mr. A. Glass on the 22nd inst., weighing 10 lb. has been sent to Mr. Miller, 257, East Street, Walworth to be preserved. A peg-down match will take place on Sunday, February 5th, at St. Margaret's for three valuable prizes.—D. DAVIS, sec.

BERMONDSEY BROTHERS.

The members received a complimentary visit on Tuesday, the 31st ult. Eighteen clubs were represented. Mr. Ghurney was present, and advised the foundation of a south-eastern district visiting list for clubs on the south side of the Thames.—W. ALLEN.

BRIGHTON ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

After the long and continued floods the members have again wet their lines, but with little success, only one prize taken at the competition of the 21st, Mr. G. Saunders being the winner with jack. On last Sunday, Messrs. Ash, Batehelor, Hassell, Anscombe, and A. Cardy went to the Ouse, the latter gentleman taking five jack from there; Mr. Anscombe, three; and Mr. Cardy, two; Mr. Batchelor, one small chub; the other scoring a blank. The water is in fine condition. Wind S.E., shows for hard frost. Second competition on this day.—GROUNDBAIT.

Feb. 2.

BRUNSWICK PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Last Sunday, Mr. Keeble weighed-in roach; Mr. W. Booth, roach and perch; Mr. E. Booth, perch. Next Sunday a pegged-down match for several valuable prizes will take place, and on the following Sunday other series of prizes will be competed for.—ESOX LUCIUS.

BURDETT ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above went to St. Margaret's to fish for a series of six prizes on Sunday last, five of which were taken by the following gentlemen:—Mr. Hastings, dace; Mr. Taylor, chub; Mr. Eaton, roach; Mr. Creffield, roach; Mr. B. Smith, roach. Two other members weighed-in, but the take altogether was small.—T. G. WALKER.

Feb. 2nd.

CAMBRIDGE FRIENDLY ANGLING SOCIETY.

The next return visit, West Central Association (No. 1 district), will take take place to the above society on Thursday next, the 9th inst., when we shall be very pleased to see all anglers and friends who can make it convenient to attend. Last night one of our most successful members had a really splendid show of roach, filling the two largest trays we have, the gross weight being over 30 lb.—WM. SUTTON. sec.

Feb. 2.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING CLUB.

On the 22nd ult., Mr. Castell weighed-in 3 lb. 2 oz. roach and perch from Wraysbury; on the 29th, Mr. Plumstead, sen., 2 lb. roach from St. Margaret's, winning Mr. Hale's prize; and Mr. Castell, roach, dace and chub from Broxbourne.—CAS.

DUKE OF NORFOLK ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above thriving club sat down to their annual dinner on Monday evening, the chair being taken by Mr. Adeane, faced by Mr. Selman. The worthy host, Mr. Brady, placed a capital dinner on the table, which was thoroughly enjoyed, and a most delightful evening spent. After the usual toasts, success to the Fishing Gazttte was proposed, and after some excellent remarks from Mr. Barnet, fishing tackle maker, of Chapel Street, it was decided that it be regularly supplied to the club. Mr. Lallam showed a nice barbel 2 lb. 14 oz. from Maidenhead on the 22nd inst.—H. Adeane.

Feb. 3

EUSTONIANS.

The next return visit will be held on Monday, February 13.—R. Neall, sec.

Feb. 2.

GOOD INTENT.

There was a fair show of fish on Sunday last, brought in by Messrs. Maybury, Donovan and Philpott, who had some good class roach. Mr. Thos. Bates brought in jack. Mr. H. Brookwell had some good perch. On Tuesday Mr. Edward Sanders brought in two handsome tench weighing 7 lb., and five perch, one weighing 3 lb., one ditto 2 lb. 3 oz., the next 1 lb. 12 oz., one ditto 1 lb., half the other 1¼ lb., they are all to be preserved and to be in one case. The annual supper of this club takes place on the 14th inst., at our club house; chairman, Mr. H. J. Tibbatts; vice, Mr. H. Brookwell.—R. Murphy.

GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had a very fine show of fish on Sunday last. Mr. Stammer, three pretty jack from the Welsh Harp, 9 lb. 8 oz.; Mr. Hutchings, 2 lb. 2 oz. roach, from the Colne Mr. J. Watling, 10 lb. 14 oz., from the Thames, including a barbel, 4 lb. 5½ oz., taken on a tight line; Mr. J. A. Fitch, jack, 2 lb. 6 oz.; Mr. Armstrong, 2lb. roach. Thames; Messrs. Warner, Kirk, and Parrett, roach, from Grand Junction Canal; Mr. Ivher, one chub, 1 lb. 9 oz.; Mr. Theobald, chub and roach from the Wey; one chub, 3 lb. 5 oz., taken on a single hair line.—J. A. Fitch, jun., sec.

Jan. 31.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The meeting of this society on Thursday evening was largely attended—Mr. Edwin Frost in the chair. The hon. secretary announced that the committee had made arrangements to hold the annual banquet on Wednesday, March 22, at the Holborn Restaurant (Prince's Salon). Next Thursday the society will have an exceptionally interesting evening, the Rev. H. Cummings, of Dartford, having promised to describe his system of trout breeding, after which there will be a selection of music by members and friends. The Fishing Gazette float, and sundry novelties from Mr. Gee, were shown to the society, and the usual reports as to condition of rivers were read.

HAMMERSMITH UNITED.

On the 19th, roach and dace by Messrs. Mackness and Alebridge; 20th, jack and chub by Mr. Hobden; 22nd, chub, dace and roach by Mr. Pitts, Mr. Penny, one jack, 4¼ lb.; from Black Day Water, perch and roach by Mr. Arnold. Last Thursday we had a grand show of chub from the Thames, taken by Messrs. Geen and Hobden, gross weight 54 lb. On Sunday, Mr. Penny had two jack weighing together 6 lb. 10½ oz., and Mr. Lewis, fishing between Putney and Kew Bridge, roach and dace.—Hammersmith Argus.

On the 26th we had our trays pretty well filled, Mr. Bachus having a good show of roach and dace from Richmond, Messrs. Geen and Hobden some nice chub from Eynsham weighing 54 lb., Messrs. Robert Dean and Hitchcock also had some roach and perch from Wraysbury. On Sunday Messrs. Penny and Rackstraw succeeded in landing some jack from private water. On the 26th ult., Mr. Forbes of the Coleherul Hotel, West Brompton, fishing with Shepherd at Pangbourne caught upwards of 50 lb. of chub.—Vortex.

THE JUNIOR PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The first annual supper of the above club takes place on Tuesday next at the club house. Since my last report the fish have not been on very much. Messrs. Woodman and Palmer caught jack, 16 lb. 8 oz.; Mr. A. Hubbard, at Shepperton, four jack, 15 lb.; Mr. Palmer, at Newbury, two perch, 1 lb. 12 oz.; Mr. Woodman, at Newbury, four jack, 8 lb. 11 oz.—A. H. Bisley.

LARKHALL ANGLING SOCIETY.

The competition for jack took place on Wednesday, Jan. 25, there being altogether seven competitors. Most of them went to Weybridge, where they found the waters in fine condition, and thought to have a good day's sport, but the weather was so foggy that they found difficulty in seeing the floats. Mr. G. Watkins managed to win the prize after a hard tussle with a jack, 5½ lb., none of the other members succeeded in getting a run.—Veritas.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our members that were out on Sunday had excellent sport, producing, on their arrival home, a most splendid show of fish of all kinds, which well filled our trays, a wonderful difference to the previous Sunday, and although they are but little anglers they managed to catch big fish. The contest for Mr. Brown's prizes, of which we gave a report last week, is now at an end. Mr. Humphreys managing to win the first prize, the suit of clothes, rather easily in the last day's outing, killing a splendid brace of chub, about 6 lb., 1 jack and some perch. Mr. Letch the second, the pair of water-tight boots, and Mr. Blenham the third, the bottle of brandy; some other members were very close up. Mr. Letch, by winning Mr. Brown's second prize, also takes a handsome workbox, given by Mr. Humphreys, and Mr. Blenham a set of vases, given by the same gentleman. - This contest has been very exciting to our members, and the prizes won are all worth having.—H. Moore, sec.

Feb. 2.

NORTH-WESTERN ANGLING CLUB.

The shows of the above are gradually improving since the rivers have been in anything like condition. During the past week Mr. Bonvoisin had three nice jack from the Thames, taken paternostering. Mr. Isaac had one which turned the scale of 4 lb., taken in the same manner. Mr. Harding, from Pangbourne, 5 lb. nice roach, Mr. Marshall 4 lb. ditto. Messrs. Weaver, Billings, Turner, Mott, Gunsley, Holmes, Stead, and Hillier also had fish consisting of roach, dace, and chub.—F. Hill, sec.

THE ORIGINAL ALEXANDRA SOCIETY OF ANGLERS.

We had a very good show of fish on Sunday last. Mr. H. Hussey headed the list with roach from the Roden; Mr. Morton, jack from the Colne; Mr. C. Hewitt, roach from the Lea; Mr. W. High, roach from the Lea; Mr. Blackbridge, roach from the Lea. There was a mistake in last week's Gazette in reference to Mr. C. Hewitt's roach; it should have read, "the largest fish, 1 lb. 5 oz.," which was sent to Mr. Brock, of the Stepney Angling Society, to be put up.—E. Dymond, sec.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The major portion of the members fished a peg-down match on Sunday last at Burnt Mill, for three prizes, and, after a well-contested affair, Mr. H. Marles took first honours, Mr. W. Gorsuch, sen., second, and Mr. Neagus third, the takes being very small. Several of the other members were out, and met with fair success, including Mr. Obbard with roach and bream, one of the latter weighing 3½ lb. Mr. T. W. Lucy had also a small jack scaling 4¼ lb. On Monday next, February 6th, a special meeting will be held to take into consideration the resolutions passed at the association meetings on January 18th and 25th.—T. W. Lucy.

PECKHAM BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The shows of fish have been very small lately, J. Stidolph, weighed-in 3 lb. of roach from the Colne, and W. Mathews, two jack from the Lea, the other members doing nothing. The benefit for T. Woods was a success, and a very pleasant evening was spent. Among those gentlemen who contributed to the harmony we noticed Messrs. Duke, Gendle, Fell, Hall, Fryer, Stidolph, Reed, Comerford, Page and Carter. The handiwork of Mr. Williams on the trays of the above club still form a a centre of attraction to visitors at the Prince Albert. --W. H. Page, hon. sec.

PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

There was a goodly attendance of members at the club room, Ashley's Hotel, Covent Garden, on Monday last presided over by Mr. W. B. Adlington. The following fish were weighed-in and with one exception from the Thames. Mr. Robinson, one jack 4 lb. 12 oz. and 6 lb. 9 oz. of perch; Mr. J. Ross Faulkner, five chub weighing 9 lb. 5½ oz., the largest 4 lb. 11 oz.; Mr. MaLachlan, two chub weighing 4 lb. 1 oz. and a perch of 14 oz.; Mr. H. B. Brown, 4 lb. 6½ oz. of chub and two tench 3 lb. 11½ oz.; and Mr. Foreman, two chub 3 lb. 9½ oz. and four perch 2 lb. 11 oz. There is a good demand for tickets for the annual dinner on the 15th of February and some of the stewards have already filled up their tables.

PRINCESS OF WALES ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 29th ult., our members had their pleasure in competing for several prizes, and altough the weather was so unpropitious, they were rewarded for the brave manner in which "stuck it." Mr. Glaister, with a fine show of roach, won the first prize, a handsome cup (presented by Mr. Bubb of the Waltonians), and two money prizes, one for the largest roach. Mr. Porter won the second prize with a nice show of dace and roach, one dace weighing 8½ oz. Mr. Allport won the third prize with a fine show of perch. Messrs. C. Severn, H. Robson and E. Percy also weighed-in fine shows of roach and perch. There are yet two prizes to be fished for, and those gentlemen who were not fortunate enough to win one on the 29th must think of the old motto: *ne cede malis*; and try and win one on the next occasion.—F. Robson, sec.

QUEEN'S ANGLING SOCIETY.

Not much done on Sunday last, and very few members were out. Mr. Walford, 4 lb. 2½ oz.; Mr. Cotsford, 2 lb. 4½ oz.; Mr. Morgan, 1 lb. 2 oz.; Mr. Pratt, 15 oz., all from Harefield. Had a better show on the Sunday previous, but neglected to post the report till too late for insertion.—H. Musgrove.

Feb. 1.

RICHMOND PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The winter dinner of the above society took place at the Station Hotel, Richmond, on Thursday evening, Major Bull occupied the chair, and Mr. A. J. Little and Mr. H. Dickenson. A report of the dinner will appear in the Fishing Gazette next week.

WALTONIANS.

On the 29th ult., Fortune was rather uneven in her favours, Mr. Phillips had chub 18 lb. 10 oz. roach, 6 lb. 1½ lb.: Mr. Malcom, a grand show of roach from Pangbourne, 24 lb.; Mr. Roland, roach and one dace, 6 lb. 5¾ oz.; Messrs. Togwell, Good, jun., Greenfield, Morris, and your humble servant, weighed-in fish.—A. J. Marriott.

Jan. 31.

WEST LONDON ANGLING CLUB.

The members of this club have been successful in taking the following jack from the river Ouse, viz:—January 2, Mr. Barnard, one specimen pike, 10 lb. 3½ oz.; Mr. M. J. Butler, 3 jack 7 lb. 1 oz.; January 29, Mr. W. H. Tremaine, one specimen pike, 21 lb.; Mr. M. J. Butler, 5 jack, 10 lb. 4 oz.—R.C. Stock, hon. sec.

(THE DEVONSHIRE RIVERS.)

FISHING TACKLE, &c.

DEVONSHIRE FLIES (GOOD in ANY STREAM), 1s. 6d. per dozen. Flies made to pattern. A large stock of Rods and Tackle of all kinds. Some choice SPLIT CANE RODS by "Copham;" bargains. The Devon and other artificial Baits, Reels, Lines, Gut Casting Lines, Fly Books, Wading Stockings and Trousers, Baskets, and every other requisite. Address, WILLIAM MUDFORD, Fore Street, Tiverton, Devonshire Ticket depôt for the Tiverton Fishing Association.

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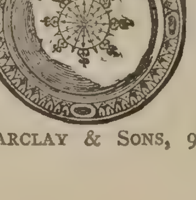

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ontributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

orrespondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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he Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1882.

THE THAMES RIGHTS DEFENCE ASSOCIATION.

S the Thames to become a preserve in the hands of a few wealthy landowners, or is it to be what it ostensibly has been om time immemorial, a free river? This question is one of the ost important now before the anglers of the metropolis and the wns and villages on the banks of our national river. The orts now being made to assert the rights of anglers must end in failure unless they are more warmly and generally supported. Power, money and influence are at the command of our opponents, and unless we can employ similar weapons there can be but one end to the struggle—disastrous defeat for us.

We hold it to be the duty of every angler who fishes in the Thames to come forward and help to the utmost of his power, to subscribe to the funds of the Defence Association, and to use his influence in inducing others to help. To show we are not preaching what we do not practise, we mention that we have already given five pounds towards the fund, and shall hope to give more. If the ten thousand anglers of the London clubs would each give as much as he can afford, the hands of the Committee of Defence would be so strengthened that immediate action could be taken. Unfounded claims to stretches of water now closed to anglers would be challenged, and, if necessary, contested. At present, in consequence of lack of funds, the chief result of the establishment of the T.R.D.A. has been to put riparian owners on the alert, and it is whispered that they talk of concerted action in defence of their presumed rights. The motto of the society is "Defence, not Defiance"; we do not wish to attack those who can prove unquestionable right to preserve certain waters; and we believe there are such on the Thames. On the other hand, it is perfectly certain that anglers are now warned off certain stretches of the river where they have an undoubted right to fish. Not only is this the case, but the evil is growing; every successful assertion of riparian rights is followed by another, and it is indeed high time for anglers to throw off their apathy and make a strong and bold stand.

It is of insufficient encouragement that the T.R.D.A. has to complain. When Mr. Francis Francis started the movement, great promises were made, but we regret to say the makers of them do not, in many cases, fulfil them. The London angling clubs have not yet taken the matter in hand to any extent. We ask them if this is not a case in which they should lend their great aid willingly, liberally, and at once? If they are not concerned in the defence of angling rights, who, we ask, are?

There is not a club in London which does not contain Thames anglers; but we cannot think that any London angler, whether he fishes the Thames or not, will refuse his help to this association.

Every year the free water within reach of Londoners is being curtailed. We could mention many fine fisheries on the Lea which once were open to all at a small charge, but which now are in the hands of a few; the rest will go in the same way—there is no help for it; they are all at the mercy of the first club which can afford to pay a little more than the owner is now getting. It is absurd to talk about selfishness; we blame no men for renting a fishery, we only blame the apathy of the London clubs, which permits fisheries being closed to them when they might have secured them for their own members. What is the advantage of association amongst London clubs if it lets outsiders do what *it* should do?

Happily the Thames is not open to legal encroachments of this kind; but the fact that they are legal elsewhere makes it all the more necessary to keep what we have of the Thames, and, if possible, get back what is ours by right.

THE WINDSOR AND ETON ANGLING PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION.

WILLIAM DOWNES was summoned on Monday, Feb. 6th, at the Beaconsfield Petty Sessions, for having attempted to take, on Sunday, Jan. 23, and taken on Sunday, Jan. 30, fish in an illegal manner. J. Gray, the bailiff of this association, caught him on both occasions; on the first, he was using a large landing net in Boveney ditch; on the second he had recently wired four small jack, which were found upon him. The charges were fully proved, and he was fined for each offence 18s., including costs, or fourteen days' imprisonment.

WAVERLEY ANGLING CLUB EDINBURGH.

THE annual dinner of the club took place a few evenings ago in the London Hotel, the president Mr. John Gillespie, in the chair. After the presentation of prizes value £15, to the successful winners of last year, the Rev. Dr. Taylor proposed the toast of the evening, "Success to the Club," the president replying. The secretary Mr. McDougal mentioned that the club was the largest in the city. It was agreed to give a prize of £10 to the International Fishing Exhibition, for any essay on the Natural History and Habits of the Freshwater Trout, with special reference to the institution of an annual close time in Scotland, and the expediency of adopting a rod license.

TO BE SOLD.—A reel and line (formerly in the possession of a Nobleman and celebrated Salmon fisher), upon which is a line of pure stallion twisted hair 62 yards in length; price two guineas.—Apply W.D., 17, Albion Gardens, Dalling Road, Hammersmith, W.

TABLE OF THE COMPARATIVE DEADLINESS OF ARTIFICIAL TROUT FLIES.

GROUP I.

	Seductivity.	Times used.	Numbers caught.	Months in which most were caught on one occasion, &c.
1 Light grey mallard wing; body, bright green peacock's harl; legs, orange or blood-red hackle	100	109	532	General
2 March brown ..	99	21	109	April; also later
3 Grey mallard wing; body, peacock's harl; legs, furnace hackle ..	97	12	54	October; gen.
4 Quill blue dun ..	96	8	47	July
5 Water-cricket ..	96	20	36	September and March, &c.
6 Double red and furnace palmers.	90	11	20	September
7 Ronald's whirling dun	88	72	307	June and after, to September
8 Broughton point ..	88	18	43	June
9 Orange-red hackle. Pennell's form .	87	50	239	From middle March to Aug.
10 Black palmer ..	87	149	426	General
11 Grouse hackle ..	87	19	73	September and April
12 Wings, double, partridge and grey; legs, black transparent hackle ..	86	18	29	September
13 Light grey mallard wing; body, ostrich harl; legs, black hackle	84	7	56	August, March, &c.
14 Francis	84	15	35	October and September
15 Orange blue dun ..	83	14	70	From April
16 Blue dun	82	55	262	April; gen.
17 Dark mackerel ..	82	14	31	September from July
18 Hawthorn fly ..	81	41	133	July
19 Cowdung	80	15	90	May, &c,
20 Little pale blue dun	78	21	41	October
21 Cochybonddu ..	77	154	474	May; gen.
22 Landrail hackle ..	76	21	41	March, &c.
23 Orange fly	75	38	165	End May; gen.
24 Black gnat	73	64	253	April; gen.
25 Iron blue dun ..	72	19	81	End May and after
26 Dotterel fly	68	10	13	September
27 Red palmer ..	66	82	151	September and gen.
28 Fern fly; yellow silk body ..	63	16	41	September
29 July dun	59	12	24	July
30 Stone fly	59	10	25	April to June, July in Norway
31 Fern fly; ribbed with gold twist.	58	19	52	Sept. from June and May
32 Blue bottle	58	16	26	June to September
33 Oak fly	58	11	29	End of April
34 Yellow dun	56	11	37	May and after
35 Jenny spinner ..	55	33	52	July and August
36 Black ant	52	27	63	August and September
37 Peacock fly	47	13	24	September from June
38 Brown palmer ..	47	11	6	August
39 Snipe, light hackle	46	11	18	August, &c.
40 Mallard wing, orange body, red hackle ..	40	11	72	End May
GROUP II.				
41 Sand fly	241	6	18	End of April
42 Gravel bed	148	9	39	End of April and after
43 Red ant	128	37	118	Middle of Aug. to end Sept.
44 Governor	125	5	14	October, November and Feb.
45 Hofland's red spinner	116	6	43	June
46 Red spinner ..	103	5	15	From end June
GROUP III.				
47 Pale evening dun .	170	3	4	July
48 Yellow Sally ..	121	3	9	Sept. and end May and Aug.
49 Iron blue hackle ..	118	3	7	End July
50 Plover fly	108	3	10	August
51 Wings, light starling; tail, two mottled whisks, &c.	104	2	4	September
52 Marlow buzz, ribbed with tinsel, with long thin body	104	2	6	September
53 February red ..	98	3	7	March
54 Greendrake	98	7	13	June, Wales
55 Large grey mallard	98	7	13	September and April
56 Greenwell's glory .	97	3	6	September
57 Cinnamon	92	5	10	October
58 A kind of blue dun	88	2	6	July
59 Barm fly	85	6	18	July
60 Pennell's green ..	84	5	21	September
61 Grouse fly	84	3	20	July
62 Partridge hackle ..	82	4	11	March
	Seductivity.	Times used.	Numbers caught.	Months in which most were caught on one occasion.
63 Legs, transparent fiery brown; wings, light red; body, light grey silk	81	7	19	September
64 Wasp fly	80	5	10	End of May
65 Grey palmer ..	78	5	19	September
66 Bracken clock ..	78	5	17	September
67 Turkey brown ..	71	4	9	May
68 Pennell's brown ..	67	5	19	September
69 Grey dun	66	4	9	September
70 Dark drone	64	5	12	February to March
71 Light mallard wing, red worsted body, and red hackle ..	58	6	15	May
72 Needle brown ..	57	6	32	August and July
74 August dun ..	53	5	9	August
73 Alder fly	55	2	11	April
75 Dark starling hackle	50	6	18	August
76 A kind of large red spinner	44	3	2	September, early
77 Dotterel blue hackle	43	4	3	July, August
78 Wrentail	43	6	3	End August to September
79 Starling fly	40	7	12	August
80 Sky blues	39	6	6	May, &c.
81 Light starling hackle	38	4	7	August
82 Golden dun midge.	24	6	4	July
83 Little chap	23	2	2	September
84 Shamrock willow fly	21	6	7	June to July
85 Great whirling blue dun	17	4	3	End June to September
GROUP IV.				
86 Black silver horns .	403	1	1	September
87 Peacock fly with pale brown-marbled wings.	242	1	1	June
88 Caperer	121	1	1	August
89 Black gnat hackle.	115	1	2	February
90 Ginger wing and hackle	104	1	4	September
91 Pennell's yellow ..	74	1	4	April
92 Gold eyed gauze wings	67	1	1	July
93 Small gaudy mixed winged fly ..	57	1	1	September
94 Woodcock hackle .	24	1	5	September
95 Coachman	10	1	2	September
96 Grey winged fly ..	0	1	0	
97 Wings, starling; orange body ..	0	1	0	
98 A hare's ear dun ..	0	1	0	
99 A grizzled furnace hackle	0	1	0	

Standard of unity in this scale 80
Fell off the hook 191
Average of seductivity (the test number) 78
Times used 1534
Numbers caught on the flies .. .. .. 4962 = 5·53 total.

In answer to your request, Mr. Editor, I enclose a second set of tables of flies, supplementary to the first. The results in the former list were averages taken from gross totals, irrespective of conditions. The numbers now given are the results of the reduction to one uniform standard of the proceeds of each "fly-cast's" fishing. Every cast, when in use, has been supposed to catch as many fish as there were flies on the collar, so that a bad day's sport is, as far as practical results are concerned, in every respect equivalent to a day yielding an abundance of fish. This is only fair, for whilst on a day of great deeds trout will take almost any fly presented, we find that the bad occasions are most probably the better periods for testing the qualities of flies. The columns, however, which are given in these second tables, are only the results of the system of averaging just named, which system represented each fly as doing its duty if catching one fish. The representative number of any fly when found to be above one, denoted good work; whilst figures less than unity pointed to inferiority. The labour in this part of the work was indeed simply immense, for as there were 4962 fish caught by a similar number of flies, so there was at first a number of vulgar fractions corresponding to the total of the figures in the second column. These in the case of each fly had to be reduced to decimals, then added up, and finally divided by the number of occasions on which the lure, the subject of attention, had been used; the result being one (unity) if the fly had just done the work required. After the 99 flies had thus been treated, the quantity to two places of decimals, representing the best fly of the number, and the one which had caught by far the most fish, was taken as the standard of percentage merit. This fly, my own favourite pattern of the grey mallard, had been found to have a personal value of 1·24, which quantity was then considered to be equivalent to 100; after which all ther lures were reduced to the same comparative standard. hus, Mr. Editor, at your own particular request, I have eliminated ll fractions from my results, giving only one decimal, so that the ork may be understood as having a certain substantial basis.

And now, on returning to the subject of the tables themselves, must state my reasons for the division into four groups which ere appear. Group I. consists of flies which have, at least, een used more than ten times; or, if not, have caught one-twelfth f the number of fish taken by the standard fly.

Group II. consists of good flies, all above the standard, which, owever, except in the case of the red ant, do not conform to the equirements for entry in the preceding division. The red ant is case of exceedingly high merit, but one which it is believed ould have been much lower had the record in an old part of the iary been not defective on two occasions, giving in these isolated nstances only the successful fly of the cast, whilst omitting the ed ant and other flies that had not caught fish. All the flies in his division are wholly exceptional cases, as being used on only a imited number of very propitious occasions, and each, with the mission of the single instance named, though not used on ten lays, had been brought into requisition five times or more, at east.

The third group consists of flies employed more than once, but ot on ten occasions, which do not attain the standard; or of those hich, if exceeding that amount, have not been employed five times o as to qualify them for the second group.

The last division is formed of flies used only once, and the uncommonly high figures of some of these is owing to the fish having ll been caught by one fly. The column of months simply indicates he periods in which my diary shows that I have personally been most successful with flies opposite which the name of any month is placed. If more than one month is named, that which is first is the period in which the greatest number of fish were taken, by the fly indicated, on one occasion. The abbreviation "gen." implies deadly at all seasons. I express no opinion on the results of practical ly-fishing. The tables are for the readers of the FISHING GAZETTE to compare with the tables of their own memories, so as to ascertain if, having tried conclusions with trout, these conclusions are he same as my own.

ROBERT BALDERSTON.

NORTH DEVON NOTES.

ONE of the most provoking things that can happen to a tradesman is to have people continually coming into his shop and taking him away from his work to ask questions, and, for a stranger, it is almost (when merely to gain information and not to benefit the tradesmen) an impudent thing to do. I remember being told by a fishing-tackle maker in Devon, it is the more provoking, because, he says, they ask all the information they can with the hope of getting their fishing for nothing; and the fact was crowned when he told me, after getting all information that was possible, the Cockneys have the impudence to produce their tackle, &c., and ask to be shown which fly, &c., would do, as they had had a new outfit before leaving town and did not know which to use, and then coolly add, if I want anything I shall know where to call; he added, ninety-nine times out of one hundred they never come back. I was told also that one gentleman had done all this, and the informer told the gentleman he had fishing to let, and he had the impudence to go and fish the water without thinking of thanking him, much less paying for the ticket. After this, I do not wonder when gentlemen go into a strange town that all information is withheld, but when I go into a town I make it my business when entering a tackle shop first to buy and then ask for correct information and I can get it. So some of my readers will now know how it is they are treated coolly when seeking a day's fishing, especially in Devon. I have fished the rapid streams of Devon many a season, and am therefore able to give my experience of the northern part, where for many years I have settled. The capital of North Devon is Barnstaple, the putting-up place for the district; trains run conveniently through the district and close to the rivers, where at any time a decent day's fishing can be had. The salmon rivers are the Taw and a branch stream called the Mole, with the Torridge at Torrington ten miles away by rail. There are many trout streams come-at-able, viz., the Bray, nine miles; the Ockman, running into the Torridge; the Higher Mole, the Higher Taw, the Yeo, and many streams which are free by asking for. All are fished by the fly, and, although the minnow, for trout only, is forbidden, yet many a basket is filled by means of it. Salmon and peal fishing is only practised by means of the minnow; and with a greenheart rod of 10 feet, an assortment of minnows all bright, a salmon fisherman is rigged, but in his pocket must be a 10s. 6d. licence, or the water bailiffs may require his name and address, with the penalty of £1, or seven days in service of her Majesty, with low diet. I have long detested the minnow-fishing, because it is dreadfully provoking being out for many hours without sport, and after toiling on up stream fishing (which is the most successful in rapid streams) to find a brother-Zebedee in the water scraping his minnow one side to the other, and, although a fly-fisher, I have generally, taking the average, had more and larger fish to show. Often, when meeting with such a one, on comparing fish, I have had the most fish, although I use but three or four flies from February to September; silver blue, varying in size for high or low water; cow-hair varied in colour, light and darker, with the never-failing blue upright, which Devonshire is noted for, especially as the ginger-blue hackle from the old-fashioned game bird is still to be had here and there. My rod is an 8 feet greenheart, a medium size waterproof line with 1½ yards of gut casting line—in all my experience I never wanted a longer rod, except for peal or salmon, which I do not care much for. The rivers of North Devon are generally very low after May until September, when a noted pack of otter hounds meet in easy distances and rare good sport is always had, and a thorough knowledge of the streams is obtainable. Many a gentleman comes down to Devon and, running with the hounds, has made the acquaintance of Mr. Connop, who has generally, with his liberal heart, given a day or two's peal fishing on the Mole—he being owner of the best portion of that river. A day is well spent upon any of the streams which North Devon is noted for, away in the river Bray running between miles of wood with hills on both sides which shelters the wild stags of Exmoor, many an hour have I gazed at the deer in their unfettered state feeding by the heath or lying between the ferns with only the water's trickling noise to be heard. Here on these waters fished Cutcliffe who wrote his book on "Rapid Stream Fishing," the best book of the kind ever written, and containing the most reliable information; and, although some years have passed since then, the fishing in the streams has not improved. Twenty years ago ten or twelve dozen fish was the average number for a day's sport, fish running from 3 oz. to 6 oz. (the fish in Devon do not run large, but on another stream, which I leave for another day, fish from 4 oz. to 10 oz. may be had). The neighbourhood in which the Bray is situated has been noted for the breed of "fishing colour" fowls, although now very scarce. I now must leave off and promise my readers a continuation at an early date, when I have wet my line, and will give my experience day by day, stream by stream. I will not terminate my remarks without adding that should any one require any of the feathers—"reds" and black reds—which Devon is noted for, through the editor, I could get any quantities of hackles, but I fear the blues are all bought by the tackle shops.

RUSTY GAME.

[We can quite endorse "Rusty Game's" remarks on the impertinence of some town anglers, who seem to think the country tacklemaker only exists to furnish information to them gratis. Our own practice invariably is to give a fair order for flies, which generally prove the best to use, and then ask for what information we may want.—ED.]

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

THE monthly meeting of the United London Anglers' Central Committee took place at the Bald-faced Stag, Worship Square, Finsbury, on Monday evening last, Mr. S. Morgan presiding. There was a very good muster of delegates and Lea bailiffs, including Messrs. Philips, High, Bagley and our friend Mr. George Oram, who, though not quite his old self yet, is nevertheless making rapid strides towards complete recovery. From the West Central Association were Messrs. Beckett, Field and Bonvoisin.

After the reading and confirming of the minutes of the previous evening, the secretary, Mr. R. Ghurney, explained that in accordance with the circular he held in his hand, the most important item of business down for discussion that evening were the recommendations of the joint committee of the three associations in the matters of coarse-fish breeding and the renting waters. The speaker said these were matters of such importance, and upon which it was desirable there should be, if possible, unanimity of opinion, that having in view the fact that there had not been sufficient time given the members of angling societies to discuss these questions, he would strongly recommend that the discussion should stand over till the next monthly meeting night in March, every society on the East Central Committee's books meanwhile to receive a circular containing particulars of joint committee's recommendations. This very excellent and practical resolution was unanimously adopted. A somewhat desultory but, so far as I could follow it, very interesting conversation then took place, in which Messrs. Becket, Field, Murphy, Manning, Philips Ghurney, Bonvoisin and others, as members of the joint committees, gave several important explanations of the aims and anticipated results of the printed recommendations, all of which gave great satisfaction and cleared away a number of misapprehensions. The sum of £6 (£2 each) was then voted as a reward to the three police constables who recently captured a huge net in the neighbourhood of Clapton, well known by the significant name of the "Clapton Monster," convictions being obtained against the persons using it, and the magistrate making an order for the destruction of the "sweet little thing," *vide* recent number of the FISHING GAZETTE. Afterwards attention was called by bailiff Phillips to the destruction of small fish in one of the Lea ditches by a barge discharging what I understood to be "blue billy." Mr. P. explained that the dead fish, as witness the sample he had brought up, consisted entirely of roach, dace, bleak and a minnow or two, but not a single "tidler." Ah me! the same old tale, 'tis the good that die, the good-for-nothing that live and thrive. Never mind, Phil, let's hope for better things when the amended Rivers Pollution Bill is passed, and, if anglers as a body, can be of any use in getting it pushed on they should certainly not hang fire.

As far as sewage is concerned, recent experiments seem to clearly prove that its purification can be made fairly remunerative, and the following cutting from the pages of a contemporary on Saturday last, may prove interesting :—

" THE PURIFICATION OF THE THAMES.

(Telegram to the *Echo.*)

"This morning a deputation from Plumstead, consisting of the Rev. John M'Callister, Mr. Edmund Kimber, and an engineer, inspected the sewage works at Aylesbury, and took samples of the sewage, both purified and unpurified, the purified being perfectly clear water. Fishes were swimming in one of the conduits of purified sewage, which, as it entered the brook, was seen to be much clearer than the water of the brook itself. The manure obtained from the works sells for £3 10s. per ton, and the subsidy given by the town to the works is £200 a year. The secretary of the works expressed himself perfectly confident that in future they could work more economically and profitably from the experience of the past, and that the purification of the Thames was now well within their grasp."

Some routine business was then transacted, and the roll called, a vote of thanks to the chairman terminating the proceedings.

I was glad to notice the other evening that among the prizes at a certain club for competition, during the present half-year was a pretty little framed oil painting by our old friend, Mr. J. Greville Fennell. Strangely constituted indeed must the man be who does not feel greater and purer pleasure in winning a pretty lasting trophy of this kind—one that will brighten the home for many a long year, and please the missus, to boot—than in securing a couple of bottles of "cream of the valley" gin, or a box of British "smokes."

This (Friday) evening, the monthly meeting of the Central Association takes place at the Star and Garter, St. Martin's Lane, W.C.

Anglers desirous of having some good jack-fishing, might go farther and fare worse than by paying the Ouse, about Huntingdon and Hartford, a visit.

The next monthly meeting of the West Central Association of London and Provincial Angling Societies, takes place on Friday evening, 17th inst. Special notices have been issued to all members (of which I forward copy), and Mr. Hoole writes me he anticipates a big muster.

The Good Intent Angling Society's annual supper takes place on Tuesday evening, 14th February, not on the 13th, as announced in my jotting last week. Mr. H. J. Tibbatts in the chair; vice, Mr. Harry Brookwell. Among the invited guests who have promised to be present are Messrs. J. P. Wheeldon, *Bell's Life*; Crumplen, hon. sec., Gresham Angling Society; and L. Bonvoisin, chairman, West Central Association.

Mr. Hoole, the secretary of the West Central Association, has been confined to his bed for over a week. He has been ordered a week or ten days' rest in the country, and purposes spending it with Mr. and Mrs. Geen, at Chertsey.

When I saw Mr. Geen last week he was contemplating—nay, making—active preparation for a day at a certain good jack-water, rods being looked up, orders for a nice little lot of big lively dace given, and Mrs. Geen taking directions for the manufacture of a huge haversack Say, P. G., did it come off; or is the capture of that brace of 20-pounders you spoke about as "very probable" still in store, with those other good things, all of which are said to come to those who can afford to wait?

From Chertsey, Haslett, the fisherman, writes me to-day (Wednesday): —"I was out on Saturday with a gentleman. Got two jack and lost four. At the old place they are wide-awake. We floated a nice dace several times by the place, but it was no go. Then we tried a fine gut paternoster, and I told the gentleman that by the time he had lit his pipe he would have a bite, but he had not time, for in a second away went Master Jack with the hook. We tried again, with the same result. Then we got two and left the swim till dusk, when we lost two more hooks with fish. I cannot help thinking the gentleman made a great mistake leaving off too soon. One hour just at dusk is, in my opinion, equal to several during the earlier part of the day. Another time with Mr. Allen, four jack and one perch."

THE WEST CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF LONDON AND PROVINCIAL ANGLING SOCIETIES.

BY A DELEGATE WHO HAS NEVER MISSED A MEETING.

IN 1877, a few gentlemen, members of the Hammersmith United Angling Society, met a few of the Silver Trout Angling Society to discuss the best means of forming an association to protect the interests of the London anglers; the result of this meeting was the birth of the above powerful association. To one who has watched its rapid progress, as I have done, it must appear wonderful how such grand results have been obtained, even with such hardworking, indefatigable, never-to-be-denied men at the helm as Messrs. Geen, Hoole, Bonvoisin, Becket, Murphy, Welch, Hatfield, &c.

Let us just take a retrospective glance. First they gained concessions upon the Great Western Railway, then followed in rapid succession concessions upon the London and South-Western, Midland, Great Eastern, London and North-Western, and Great Northern Railways Secondly, they took the lead, in conjunction with the United London Central Committee and anglers of Sheffield, in getting the "Mundella" Freshwater Fish Protection Act passed. Thirdly, they gained reductions to members holding the Association's card of membership in price of fishing tackle from certain manufacturers, also in mackintoshes, Messrs. Woolgar and Co. allowing them a discount of 25 per cent.; and many more are the privileges enjoyed by the London anglers for which they have to thank this association. Look at the work they have in hand now, going to follow out our worthy editor's idea in respect to the propagation of coarse fish, but, not content to attempt this alone, they are going to rent water for the exclusive use of the London anglers, and also provincials, if enrolled with them. I say, "going to" do so, because I am convinced they will succeed. They have the right men in the right place; and now, having the assistance of the other two associations, success is doubly sure. I can only say, put as much faith as possible in your association, and be sure they will do all they can to deserve your trust in the future as they have done in the past. In April next this association will be five years old. When it was inaugurated, in April 1877, there were fifty-two angling societies in London and suburbs, now there are nearly 150, out of which number eighty-six have enrolled themselves upon its books.

It has often struck me, while listening to a discussion, that we must have a lot of clubs who do not care one jot how the concessions are obtained for them, provided they reap the benefit when gained. Two delegates are allowed to attend from each society enrolled, and take part in all the business, but, strange to say, there are seldom more than forty out of eighty-six societies represented; and when the secretary sends out a special appeal for attendance it is seldom responded to by more than forty-five or forty-six. I have noticed that certain well-to-do clubs are never represented more than once or twice in a year, and I have thought how very selfish to let these delegates, the majority of whom are hard-working, respectable tradesmen and mechanics, come night after night and work for the general good, without receiving a helping hand from those who can so much better afford the time and the attendant expenses. I am pleased and proud to say, we have lately enrolled a society which is a credit to the whole fraternity; they have only been formed a few months and have now 200 members, all well-to-do in this world's goods, but true good-hearted anglers who are always to the front in assisting in the work for the general good. I am always delighted to see a gentleman (I am beginning to look upon him as an old friend) representing that society at our meetings, enter the room; it tells me that all our aristocratic clubs do not desert us to fight our own and their battles too; I am cheered when I can shake hands with Mr. T. Crumplen and say, Thanks for your attendance. Come, come, ye clubs of the first water, wake up, and let your poorer brethren see that you are willing to take a share in the work as well as a good slice of the pleasure.

It appears to me impossible, let the club be ever so small, that a gentleman cannot be found to represent his society once a month, surely one out of the number will volunteer if requested. It is no good acting the high and mighty; we have a lot of work to do before we can school some anglers to do the proper thing, and the sooner we have the assistance of every society the better the chance of our success. We can soon weed out the black sheep, supposing there are any, and I expect, amongst our thousands, we are not without a few.

Let me beg of those societies, who are so lukewarm with regard to the welfare of their poorer brothers, to come to the front and help their associations in the good work of providing cheap and innocent sport, which keeps them from public-houses and betting dens.

ROACH.

READING AND DISTRICT ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING AND DINNER.

THE annual meeting of this useful and prosperous association was held on Monday afternoon, at the headquarters of the society, the Great Western Hotel, Reading, Mr. James Simonds (president) occupying the chair.

The Hon. Sec. (Mr. Arthur C. Butler), having read the notice convening the meeting, and the minutes of the last annual meeting,

Mr. Walford Ridley proposed that the president, hon. treasurer, committee, and hon. secretary be re-elected, with thanks for their past services; and the motion, having been seconded by Mr. James Bedding (Pangbourne), was carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. Goodhind, seconded by Mr. Creed, Mr. Walford Ridley was added to the committee.

The report and cash account for the past year were then read by the hon. sec.

THE DINNER.

The annual dinner followed, at the Great Western Hotel, and was a great success. Over forty gentlemen sat down to a capital dinner, which was admirably served under the direction of the proprietor, Mr. W. G. Flanagan.

The President (Mr. J. Simonds) took the chair, and Mr. Henry Creed (one of the vice-presidents) the vice-chair.

Among the company were the Mayor of Reading (Mr. J. Messer), Major Simpson Carson (Marlow Association), Messrs. C. P. Wheatstone (president of the Stanley Anglers), R. L. Pugh (of the Friendly Anglers), J. P. Wheeldon (*Bell's Life*), J. Spreckley, and A. C. Butler (hon. sec.).

The President gave the toast of "The present and future Sovereign and other members of the Royal Family," after which the Vice-Chairman proposed "The Army, Navy and Auxiliary Forces," which Major Carson suitably acknowledged.

Mr. Goodhind next submitted "The Mayor and Corporation of Reading," and expressed a hope that the important works which they had before them in the present year would not result in the levying of another threepenny rate. (Hear, hear.)

The Mayor responded in a pleasant speech.

The President, in proposing the toast of the evening, "Success to he Reading and District Angling Association," observed that they ere told by archæologists that in the days when Reading Abbey was the zenith of its importance, the Kennet was well stocked with fish, nd so many used to be caught, that fish ponds or reservoirs were ade, with which to stock them in readiness to meet the large demands pon the hospitality of the Abbey, occasioned by the frequent visits f Royalty and its trains. He feared they could not hope to get the out to tumble over one another in the Kennet and Thames in that ay again. (Laughter.) As the population of the town increased, in e same ratio had the fish decreased. Where they saw one rod ten r twelve years ago, they could see perhaps twenty now, and it was me that societies like their own were formed when they were. Hear, hear.) That association had two main objects—first, to com-el all anglers to fish in a sportsmanlike way; secondly, to preserve nd provide fish as a means for that sport. (Hear, hear.) They were oing their utmost to prevent undersized fish being taken. He had ot fished since he was young, but looking back through the mists, s it were, as it were, of many ages—(a laugh), he remembered that was then much easier to take small fish with a little hook than big sh with a large hook; hence they got a lot of little boys taking large umbers of small fish. They must also put a stop to setting of night nes, and by the experienced aid of their honorary solicitor they oped to find in time that river poaching would be given up. Having eferred to the transference of fish from the ditches, and the turning f older trout into the Thames—as alluded to in the report—Mr. imonds said he was averse to the practice of the association in illing otters, which he thought did not do much harm, but which he eared would soon be an extinct creature in our district. With refer-nce to a movement which he understood had been aiming to secure e right to take coarse fish all the year round, he believed their ssociation with others had done their best to resist it, and up to the resent had been successful. It was coarse fish which the poor ostly fished for, and it was well that there should be as many as ossible of this class of fish in the river. He concluded by remarking at the balance to the credit of the association was gradually declin-g, not because the number of members decreased, but because any did not pay their subscriptions.

Mr. A. C. Butler, whose name was associated with the toast, after xpressing his continued earnest interest as hon. secretary in behalf f the association, referred to the combined action of the four up-iver associations in regard to the artificial culture of Thames trout, emarking that they could almost see their way through the under-aking, in which case they hoped to be able to put into the Thames 000 lb. or 3000 lb. weight of Thames trout every year. (Applause). Having referred to the unanimity of the Thames Association in regard o suggested amendments of the Thames bye-laws, and expressed is opinion that they were not in a position at present to take any ction in the matter of coarse-fish culture, Mr. Butler said he re-retted as much as the president the necessity to destroy otters, bserving that as it was not possible to pursue the sport of hunting hem, there was no alternative but to get rid of them. They had illed eight this year, and forwarded three baby otters to the Zoo-gical Society for their collection.

Mr. Ferguson gave the toast of "The Visitors," and spoke of the reat interest which Major Carson (who with Mr. Wilson was coupled ith the toast) was taking in the important matter of trout culture.

Major Carson, in responding, urged the desirability of the angling ssociations of the Thames combining together for various purposes, specially for the breeding of trout. He also strongly desired to see similar society formed at Henley to join hands with Marlow at edmenham and with Reading at Shiplake, in which case the river ould be covered up to Goring. (Hear, hear.) Their societies had one much to stop illegal fishing, but he did not think they met with e encouragement they ought, not only from many gentlemen in their espective neighbourhoods, but also from anglers from London and lsewhere, for whom the association provided sport. (Hear, hear.) ith regard to their trout-breeding scheme, they had selected a esirable site, and he was willing to see that some difficulty which ad arisen as regards rent was rectified, though he hoped the members f the association would provide a sufficient fund to carry out the ecessary measures for the propagation of a very large number of out, which, when they reached a proper size, could be turned into eir waters. (Applause.) He hoped that on the Thames a spirit of utual forbearance would prevail, that on the one hand the riparian wners would not be too positive in asserting what they considered eir rights, whether legal or otherwise; and that on the other side, entlemen who went fishing and who were anxious for fair sport ould not take liberties, as by so doing they excited the hostilite of parian owners towards the associations, and thereby deprived them f support. (Applause.)

Mr. Wilson also responded.

Mr. F. Hurley proposed "The Press."

Mr. Wheeldon, one of the editors of *Bell's Life*, in acknowledging he compliment, said that, while hoping that riparian owners would eprive all anglers who abused a privilege of their rights, he would trongly urge the English public not to allow any riparian owner to ssert a right unless he could prove it to be just, for he believed that he claims of many riparian owners would not stand the test of legal nvestigation. (Hear, hear).

Mr. Walford Ridley gave the toast of "The Chairman," to which r. Simonds responded, and said that any member wishing to fish in piece of water over which he had a private right, he would be elcome to do so, provided he adhered to the rules of that asso-iation. (Applause.)

The health of "The Vice-Chairman," proposed by Mr. Jesse, con-luded the toast list.

During the evening some capital songs were sung.

Several gentlemen who had been invited were regretfully unable to attend, including Mr. Francis of the *Field*, and Mr. Marston of the Fishing Gazette.

PRIZES AT THE INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION.

The committee of the International Fisheries Exhibition, to be held in Edinburgh, April, 1882, announce that special prizes will be awarded for essays as follows: On harbour accommodation for fishing boats on the east and north coasts of Scotland, pointing out the localities where harbours are most required, and distinguishing between natural coves or bays which may be converted into good harbours by artificial assistance, and places where the harbours must be entirely artificial, £25. On the various modes of fish-culture practised in the different countries of the world, £15. On the various methods of oyster culture, £15. On oyster culture in Scotland, including Orkney and Shetland, specifying the localities and the species or varieties of oysters most suitable, and discussing the effects of the laws at present in force, £20. On the legislation at present applicable to the salmon fisheries in Scotland, and the best means of improving it, £10. On the best means of increasing the supply of mussels for bait, indicating the most suitable localities for mussel-beds, £20. On the natural history of the herring, with special reference to its migrations, £10. On the various means of curing and preserving fish at home and abroad, £15. For the best description of the means used for curing and preserving the various kinds of fish caught on the coasts of Scotland, the Hebrides, and the Orkney and Shetland Islands, £15. On the pollution of rivers, indicating specially the kinds of pollution injurious to fish life, £20. On the salmon disease £10. On the migration of the salmonidæ, as affected by meteorological and other influences, £10. Should there be a mesh fixed by law for herring nets, and, if so, of what size; or should fishermen be at liberty to use any size of mesh they please? £5. On the best method of preserving fish alive for markets, £15. wn the artificial propagation of sea fishes suitable for food, £10. On the breeding and rearing of freshwater fish, £10. On the species of foreign fish most suitable for introduction into British rivers and waters, £15. On the utilisation of fish offal, £10. On the fish supply of great cities, with special reference to the best methods of packing and distribution and other means calculated to facilitate the delivery of the fish in good condition for market £20. On the herring-brand, £10. On the food of fishes, both in fresh and salt water, accompanied by illustrations and preparations, £15. On the natural history and habits of the fresh water trout, with special reference to the institution of an annual close time in Scotland, and the expediency of adopting a rod license, £10. On the migrations and spawning of sea-fish suitable for food, £10. On angling associations, with code of rules for their management, £10. On the relations existing between the annual migrations of sea birds and the migrations of fishes, £10. n the best m odes of preserving ice, £10.

Persons desiring to compete will obtain particulars on application to the acting secretary Mr. Henry Cook, W.S., Edinburgh. Special prizes will also be awarded for the following exhibits: Specimens of tinned fish of all kinds, £25. Specimens of dried, salted, and smoked fish of all kinds, £50. Models or plans of fishermen's dwellings, £10. Models and drawings of fish passes and ladders, £20. Model of the safest and handiest sailing fishing-boat—hull, spars, sails, and rigging, £20. Models and plans of piscicultural establishments, £10. Models and plans of fish-curing yards, £5. Models and plans of apparatus for transporting live fish long distances in safety. £10. Models and drawings of a handier and safer rig, for the boats now in use on the east coast of Scotland, than the lug sail, which requires to be dipped at every tack in beating to windward, £20. Specimens of models and plans of trawl nets, £10. Specimens or models and plans of bag, stake, and fly nets, £10. Collections of inland fishing tackle, £20. Fish hatching apparatus, full size, with appliances and implements, £25. Models or drawings illustrating the best system of rendering streams polluted by sewage and manufacturing refuse innocuous to fish life, £25. Model of a fishing trawler—sail or steam, £20. Eel trap for river not to interfere with other fisheries, £5. Apparatus for catching crabs and lobsters, £5. Systems or signalling at night for fishing fleets and vessels, £25. Model of machine, worked by hand or steam power, for taking in trawl, coble or herring nets, £15. Improved salmon net, cotton or hemp, for use with coble, £5. Improved herring net, £5. Models of whale boats, and of all kinds of apparatus and tackle used in the seal and whale fisheries, £20.

[At the Norwich Fisheries Exhibition prizes were, at our suggestion, given for essays on the Salmon Disease and on Angling Associations, we are glad to see our Scotch friends will also give prizes for essays on these subjects.—Ed.]

Pike and Carp in the Serpentine.—In 1796 a pike was taken in the Serpentine in a most curious manner. As a footman was walking by the side of the water early one morning, he saw something struggling in the weeds near the shore; thinking it was some one drowning, he rushed into the water and found it was an immense fish, nearly powerless. The man got beyond the fish and gradually lifted him nearer the shore, and at last threw him out. It proved to be a pike of more than 30 lb. in weight, which had been suffocated by attempting to swallow a carp of nearly 7 lb. in weight, which was stuck in his throat.

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

> " They say most men are moulded out of faults ;
> And, for the most, became much more the better
> For living a little bad."
>
> —Shekespeare.

The condition of the river at the present moment has been moulded out of recent faults, and is probably all the better for having been a great deal bad. The snow broth has disappeared, and as I write the water is simply perfection for roach, chub, perch and jack angling, so I need not pen any further encomiums so as to induce my brother piscators to at once take a breather on the " banks and braes " of bonny Thames, and strike while the iron, or, rather the water's hot. At Henley, during the past week, Mr. A. W. Johnson has had three jack going 11 lb., 8 lb. and 4 lb. respectively, and a fine chub taken spinning ; Mr. Towsey, one jack of 8 lb. and one of 4½ lb. ; Messrs. Foulger and Pitchey some good baskets of chub, with pith and brains as bait ; Mr. Day, jack from Marsh Pool, best scaling 7lb. ; Mr. A Smith, from near Bolney, three jack, largest 7½ lb. At Hambledon, Mr. Askew, in one day, five good jack, and another day, three jack. In the Hurley waters, Messrs. Frost and Christy, fishing with R. Plummer, jun., from the East Arms, on the 8th inst., had 30 lb. of chub, and on the 9th a few good chub and six small jack. At Marlow and Cookham nothing much has transpired, but at Maidenhead and Bray on Tuesday, Messrs. Thomas and Littlewood, with Plummer, jun., got a jack of 8 lb., and some decent roach and perch. Weather mild and pleasant, with breeze steadily N.W.—Marlow Buzz.

Thames (Goring).

Water in first-rate order for all-round fishing. Fishing two days in private water, 100 lb. of jack, largest 20 lb., also 20 lb. of good perch, largest perch, 3 lb.—John Rush.

Thames (Richmond).

The river is now in splendid order for fishing, and the dace are feeding well but the roach are not feeding at all kindly. The punts that have been out here have been getting from five to eight dozen fine dace each day; all the punts were out here on Sunday, and I think all their occupants went home with a good basket of fish; the bank anglers have not been doing much during the past week as the water is too low in the tide-way for them; on Sunday last I, with a gent, had a day's perch fishing but came home minus the perch but managed to get a well-fed jack of 3¾ lb. The sport of the past week is as follows: G. Howard, two days, 8½ dozen dace; C. Brown, two days, 19 lb. roach and dace; Job Brain, three days, 31 lb. roach and dace; H. Howard, two days, 11 dozen dace; H. Mansell, two days, 13 dozen dace; J. Bushnell, three days, 23 lb. dace, one jack, 3¾ lb.—John Bushnell.

Thames (Shepperton).

The water is in very good order for jack and perch fishing. Not very good prospects for fishing. W. House, fishing five days with a gentleman, caught one small perch; Mr. King, fishing four days, never touched a fish; Dr. Smith, fishing six weeks, caught one jack of 9 lb. ; A. Trodd, fishing with a gentleman on Saturday, caught three jack, largest 4 lb., next day one of 3 lb. The bank fishers have been doing better with the roach.—W. Rogerson.

Thames (Teddington).

The water is in good order for all-round fishing. Weather fine, wind south-west. Opposite the lock a little boy baited his hook with a worm and caught a jack of 5 lb. Mr. Keen caught a nice little jack about 3 lb. Mr. Bull, out fishing with Frank Femp, one 5 lb. and the other 4 lb. ; and Mr. Bull, out on Sunday, caught fifteen nice perch. Charles Baldwin, out on Sunday, caught three dozen of roach and dace. In the middle of January Mr. Edwards and his friend Rubin caught twenty nice jack in a week in the bream hole.—J. Baldwin.

Thames (Twickenham).

River in splendid condition; dace are now well on the feed. I had several punts out during the week. Mr. Johnson, of the R. P. S., has been out four days with Pert Hammerton, and have weighed-in at Richmond 80 lb. 4 oz. of fine dace.—A. Perrin.

Thames (Walton).

Water clear and in every respect in first-rate state for fishing, falling fast, and within 3 inches of summer level (last summer level). The weather has slightly changed to-day, but throughout the week has been cold and foggy and dull. The wind now has freshened from the east, and either rain or a continuation of dull weather is probable. With such variations it is really problematical as to prospects of fishing. Sport during the past week: February 1: No fishing. February 2: J. Stone, one bream, 4½ lb. ; J. Rosewell, seven jack, total weight 32 lb., largest 6 lb. (reported). February 3: J. Hone with Mr. Prim, one bream, 4 lb. ; one ditto, 3 lb. ; and three ditto, 2 lb. each. February 4: George Hone, with a gentleman, one jack, 1½ lb., put back again; Messrs. Pace and Luker, from bank, one and half dozen roach. February 5: Plenty of bank anglers, but no reports of takes; Messrs. Pace and Luker one and a half dozen roach from bank. February 6: No fishing. February 7: George Hone, with Mr. Mackriell, nine bream, total weight 25 lb. (four 4 pounders). February 8: No report.—Henry Edward Wood.

Thames (Windsor).

Water to-day is looking A 1, and considering the recent mildness of the eason one would think a great many anglers would avail themselves of it, but in this neighbourhood such is not the case. I have been prevented, for one, but hope before this water changes to manage a day. Perch, chub and jack ought to come well; a few of the latter have been had, a member of the Richmond Piscatorials had one from the old river going 11 lb. ; Mr. Brian, of the Jolly Miller, Eton, one of 5 lb. ; Mr. Way, of Windsor, three small ones, taken whilst paternostering for perch. Chub have been had, but as a rule small. Mr. Carey, of Windsor, had a nice bag on the 2nd inst., but nothing over 3½ lb. Messrs. Parsons and Way, of Windsor, on the 4th inst., out with James Gray, took about 16 lb. of roach, perch and jack. A barbel was taken on Wednesday by a customer of mine, which shows the mildness of the season—it was a small one, being only a little over 1 lb., but in good order. A pretty trout of 1½ lb. was taken last week with worm by a friend of mine whilst roach-fishing. The thanks of anglers are due this week to the Windsor and Eton Preservation Society, who have prosecuted one of our riverside celebrities, with the very satisfactory result that he is now enjoying a month's hard labour. The offences were committed on January 21 and 29; in the first case a net was used on the system well known about here as " poking " ; in the second case, the instrument used was the wire, with which he was caught red-handed, fish being in his possession bearing marks of its use. As the property on which this took place belongs to Mr. White, farmer, of Dorney, we have to thank him for his kindness in allowing the officers of the society to watch it and prosecute, as he will do all cases coming under his notice. Would that every other gentleman along the Thames would do the same. I was nearly omitting to mention by whom these captures were made: I need hardly say James Gray, the well-known fisherman here, was one, and his brother, Richard Gray, the other.—B. R. Bambridge.

Ancholme.

The water did not clear down quite so fast as we expected, consequently little has been done since my last report; but I hope to send a better account next week. On Saturday last, after reading your weekly reports, and finding that they had begun trout-fishing in the west, I could not resist the temptation to wet a line against the trout in the east, so I made up my mind to limit myself to half-a-dozen for the opening afternoon. The first I took was a *fontinalis* of two years old, and weighing quite ½ lb. I returned this to the water. I had no difficulty in securing the six, the largest of which weighed a little over 1 lb., and that in a beck where there were none six years ago. The March brown has not yet appeared, but the following flies are on the water: needle brown, early brown, little early brown, and gravel spinner. For ways of manufacture I refer the reader to my shilling manual on trout-fishing.—Thomas Ford.

Chichester.

Water is now in splendid condition both at the Canal and Selham. The result of a day on the Rother was but meagre. Mr. G. F. Salter, a brace of small jack and a brace of handsome perch; Mr. Young, a few good roach, and Mr. E. Wood, a small jack and a few roach,—fish evidently coming on towards the evening. A couple of enthusiasts, on their return, strolled down the canal, and, selecting a likely spot, were soon busy. Mr. Young, from midnight until 3 o'clock in the morning, taking 10¼ lb. of fish, one handsome carp of 4 lb. and a bream of 2¼ lb., with paste. Mr. G. F. Salter, on Saturday night, landed a couple of good bream, weighing together 4 lb. 5 oz. With a continuance of cold weather, pike will soon be on. Some good fish were heard in the early morning of Monday. Weather fine, wind westerly.

Eden, Carlisle.

The water is rather low and clear. The weather is very fine and mild for the time of the year. The season opened more successfully than it has done for the past thirty years. On the 2nd inst. the nets at Armathwaite got fifteen salmon. At Warwick twenty-four salmon were taken. At Rickerby they took ten salmon, and at Cargo, in Mr. Bone's water eleven salmon were taken. The rod-fishing also has been something extraordinary, a lad at Appleby having got three trout, and a gentleman at the same place got nine trout, weighing 3 lb. Mr. Silby Wetheral got four trout and one float whiting. At Carlisle, on the 4th inst., a youth got three trout. On the 2nd inst., Mr. J. B. Slater got a salmon about 8 lb. weight. On the 4th inst., Mr. Waters killed a salmon weighing 21 lb. ; Mr. Barlow killed a salmon weighing 19 lb. On the 6th inst., Mr. Jackson Potter killed a salmon weighing 11 lb. The same day Dr. Lamb, of the Castle, Carlisle, killed a salmon weighing about 12 lb. I am sorry to report that the disease is very bad amongst the salmon, hundreds having died.

Exe (Exeter).

Very little news up to the present in the way of trout-fishing, a few brace of small ones have come to grass, the river being rather low and as clear as glass. The up-Exe folk have been doing remarkably well, considering the earliness of the season. Salmon have fallen back during the past week, which, no doubt, is owing to the lowness of the river; a few hours' rain would be very acceptable. Fishing in the estuary very poor, excepting for herrings, which were reported as leaving; a few heavy takes have been secured, but, strange to say, the success has been merely for the few, and to the disappointment of many, numerous boats have done nothing, whilst three boats brought in 150,000 between them for one night's catch, the boats' crews sharing from £15 to £18 a man, and on Thursday there were but a few boats at sea that met with any success; but one boat, a Mr. Pym's brought in about 19,000, which sold at 47s. per thousand. These fish were very mixed, the greater portion being spent or shotten, the others being full-roed and apparently not in spawning season, the ova and milt being hard to exude.—Frank Gosden, Exeter.

Ilfracombe (N. Devon).

There has not been much doing in sea-fishing this last fortnight, fishermen not being able to get bait for their spillers nor for hooking. When they have been able to secure a little bait they have caught some fine cod, averaging about 25 lb. each; also a few ling weighing about 17 lb. each. On Wednesday one of the little trawling skiffs went down in Barnstaple Bay, being the first voyage for the season, and returned this morning with about two dozen thornbacks, and a few pairs of soles and some plaice. Three large skate have been caught this week with ground lines, and some good sport has been had off the jetty with hand lines for small whiting, pout, pollack, and dabs. Weather at present very mild.—E. Comer.

Lea (Rye House).

The water is in good order now, the wind south-west, and very mild. Mr. Moss took some very nice perch on Sunday, and I hear there were some very fine roach taken by other gentlemen.—Wm. Cowell.

Medway (Tonbridge).

The water is as clear as gin, and fit for any kind of angling. There has been a good deal of execution done amongst the pike during the week. The following fish have been reported:—Saturday, above the town, Mr. G. Hewitt a pike, 6 lb. 7 oz.; Monday, an angler, while trying for roach with a worm at Barden Park, a pike, $4\frac{1}{4}$ lb., and a perch, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Tuesday, James Stanley a pike, 4 lb. 15 oz.; Wednesday an angler above the town three pike, 12 lb. The same day Stanley, fishing at the Powder Mill point, was broken away by a large pike, which was afterwards caught by Mr. G. West with Stanley's hook in it, and part of his line attached. It weighed 15 lb. 14 oz., was 37 inches long, and 18 inches in girth. It is now in the hands of Cooper, of Radnor Street, for preservation. Wind rather cold, but prospects of sport good.—YE MEDWAY WATER-RAT.

Norfolk.

The long-continued fine weather has been a source of joy to many an angler's heart. Rods and lines that would otherwise have been snugly stowed away for the winter haue been in full play, and many good catches of roach have been exhibited at the various clubs. Mr. Wilson of the N.P.S., has again been successful in securing some good bream at Thorpe, and a good take of perch has been shown at the club-house of the E.A.P.S, taken near Wortwell Mills on the Waveney. Through the kindness of a gentleman residing near Norwich, and through whose estate flows a small rivulet, I had a splendid day's pike-fishing on Monday last, and was fortunate enough to land out of one small hole six splendid fellows. The day was gloriously fine and had the appearance of a June more than a February day. The Norwich Angling Club have had their annual pike-fishing contest on Barton Broad, and I have just seen a magnificent female fish weighing 18 lb., and caught by Mr. Gunn, the celebrated animal and bird preserver of St. Giles Street, Norwich, and which fish I believe it is the intention of the society to preserve. The E.A.P.S. will also hold their pike-fishing match shortly, a magnificent piece of private water having been secured for that purpose, when it is expected that some good sport will be the result. I am pleased to have to report that the river is again free from filth, and that some good fishing may again be indulged in without fear of having one's nasal organs polluted. I trust this is the last we shall see of that kind of thing and that the authorities will endeavour to purify, instead of pollute, our old river.—ANGLER.

Ouse (Littleport.)

With the water down to summer level and plenty of fish, it seems strange that we cannot get them on well enough to make it worth while for anglers to pay the river a visit yet. As soon as a piece of ground bait is thrown into a swim they will come on well for five or ten minutes, but if the swim is fished for an hour afterwards we can hardly get a bite; the only chances for making anything like a bag is to shift from swim to swim. Pike are moving a bit now. On Saturday an Ely gentleman got five nice ones, and on Tuesday another Ely gentleman got two of 4 and 5 lb. I got one myself to-day of 3 lb. I have also taken for the last fortnight small bags of good roach, from 5 to 8 or 9 lb. each bag.—CHAS. SOUTH.

Ouse and Ivel (Blunham).

Fine pike have been taken this week, varying from 4 lb. to 10 lb. Mr. Thompson, one of our members, had a fine take of roach on Wednesday, varying from $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. to $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb.—E. B.

South of Ireland.

Good average sport continues on the Lee, and with the change which has occurred in the weather better results may be soon expected. Rain commenced on Wednesday, and the weather continues wet and murky. The barometer is falling steadily, and if the American forecast bears out correct, we may have some wild and stormy weather before the week closes. A good freshet is required before any real good sport can be experienced during the week. Mr. Augustus Warren and party added to the death roll of the previous week something like six springers. The other catches during the week may be summed up thus: Sir Oriel Forster three $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. each, Col. Hawkes, three; John Manning, four; Mr. Dale, two; Mr. Haynes, one: Mr. M. Manning, one; T. Osborne, one; Mr. James Lawlkin, one; Lord Bandon, one; Capt. Abbott, one; Mr. Bowen, two. During the week there has been some hot work in pursuing poachers. The bailiffs were attacked one night, and the police fired upon the assailants. Several nets have been seized, but this does not deter poaching operations, which are carried on in the most audacious manner. The injury done to legitimate fishing by these depredators can scarcely be imagined. During the entire winter drift-net fishing has been carried on in the lower harbour. On the 28th January, a parcel containing seven large salmon were seized at Passage on their way to market. The offender was only fined 10s., on the ground that he was only a messenger. With such leniency, it is no wonder poaching should be carried out.—ANGLER.

Suir (Clomnel).

The Clonmel cot men are doing very well; from Wednesday to Friday last they got twenty-seven fine fish, and are doing even better this week. The fish are running small, which is a good sign they are numerous. They got a few very large fish this week, weighing about 30 lb. each, the rest running about 12 lb. each. The river is now in nice order for the fly. Mr. R. F. Hutchings got a beauty of 12 lb. at Banard. Dr. Campbell at Hilcommon demesne got a splendid fish of 28 lb. and another one smaller; John Curry one at Cahir Abbey. Peter Carey got a fine fish of $25\frac{1}{2}$ lb. on Mr. Higgins' preserves at Lackan, which took him a few hours to land. The trout-fishing is very good, but fish in very bad condition. The favourite flies are hares' ears, red hackles, gold wrens, &c.—DORA.

Torridge (Woodford Bridge), North Devon.

This communication arrived too late to forward on last week, but thinking it of interest, I enclose the same with my usual notes. Salmon have not been known, at any rate for many years, to be so plentiful as at the present, in this portion of the river. "Otters" are also very numerous, and numerous salmon have been found on the banks bitten and partaken of by these vermin; independent of this, a great number of salmon have been found upon the banks dead, showing no signs of otter bites or ill-usage whatever. I am afraid these must be ketts or slats returning seawards, and have been either scared by these otters in their selection of a fresh run fish; or can it be the fungus (saprolegia ferax) that has attacked them? I expect further information shortly. One of these fish so found was over twenty-five pounds weight. Trout are as plentiful as ever, and those gentlemen who visited and have since spoken so highly of the surrounding scenery, combined with the fishing will find the Woodford Bridge hostelry, still in the same old hands (C. Blake), where they will find their welcome as of yore.—FRANK GOSDEN, Exeter.

Trent (Newark).

The water has been in fairish condition most of the week, it having very rapidly gone down from the last flood, but sport, somehow or other, has not been very grand, although some few very nice fish have been taken, but good bags have been the exception not the rule, the snow broth in the river probably having something to do with this but in spite of this the water has not been a bad colour, and, as I have just said, some few very nice individual fish have been had by various anglers, notably, a chub of 4 lb. 2 oz.; roach of 1 lb. $5\frac{1}{2}$ oz, 1 lb. 5 oz. and 1 lb. $2\frac{3}{4}$ oz. respectively, being weighed in at the clubs. I have been out one day and took a few very nice roach, biggest fish 1 lb. 5 oz., a fish in only middling condition, it was 14 inches in length and 10 inches in girth; had it been in good condition it should have gone 1 lb. 12 oz. at least, the little cockspur worm being the fatal lure, which bait, I might say, has been the most successful this week. It has been raining rather smartly to-day, so probably we shall have a slight rise in the river, but to-night it is still clear and in fairish condition; should it continue so a friend and I are going chubbing with pith and brains, if it rises and a little colour comes down we shall have to content ourselves with a little roach fishing with cockspur worms as bait. In the meantime anglers should be prepared for anything, for the water may come down high and thick, and it may not, for under the present circumstances a little rain soon causes a rise.—THE TRENT OTTER.

Trent (Nottingham).

The river in this district, is low and comparatively clear, but anglers are still pestered with the refuse which is poured into the stream, by the Burton-on-Trent breweries, whenever this nuisance will be abated it is impossible to say. Sport during the week has been rather meagre, chub and pike have claimed attention but very few fish appear to have been killed. The proprietor of the Beeston fishery was busy spinning for pike on Wednesday, but from what I learn, he failed to get a run although there must be plenty of fish in the water. Failing pike, a few perch and a couple of tench were landed. There are no reports to hand from Weston, but at Shardlow odd chub have been caught with Greaves. —THE MAN AT THE CLUBS.

Wye and Derwent.

Since my last report the weather has been very foggy and misty, which has been all against fly-fishing; but still there have been some nice dishes of both trout and grayling killed with the artificial flies. Trout-fishing commences on the Darley Dale Club's waters on March 25. On the Derwent, Chatsworth fishery, the opening day for trout-fishing is April 1; so is the Wye on that date, according to the Freshwater Fisheries Act. Trout can now be taken both in the free water, and also where club rules are not in force. Spinning or trolling with the "well-known Derby trout-killer," has killed a few nice sized trout in the Derwent, between Darley and Matlock Bath station bridge. The groundbait fishers have done fairly well both amongst trout, roach, dace, and a few small-sized perch, all taken with brandling worms for baits. The coarse fish have fed the best in the deepest water, and trout have fed the best close to the rough streams, in the eddies, and curls, and have taken a swimming bait the best. Several anglers have been out pike-fishing between Matlock and Ambergate during the week, but I cannot hear of a single capture, as they seem dead off the feed. A good number of natural flies have been out on both rivers during the week, viz.:—cockwing duns or hare's-ear, bed-fly, and long, flat-winged browns. The best killing flies have been the claret-body, bumble, red-fly, and furnace flies. Both rivers are now in capital order for fly-fishing. Only few anglers out.—G. J. EATON.

SCOTCH NOTES.

(From the *Scotsman*.)

THE TWEED.—The prospects of the salmon angler, the close-time for whom on Tweed terminated on Wednesday last, are certainly not of the brightest character. The mysterious fungoid disease still prevails to a pitiful extent. In every pool and shallow where the fish may rest without exertion large numbers of salmon, many of them of large size, are to be seen in all stages of the disease. Some of them show only show a few spots of the fungoid growth, and others are completely covered. In the end of last week, consequent on rains and snow in the upper districts, there was a rise in the waters of about a foot and a half, and a considerable movement was observable among the fish, many spawned and diseased ones making their way seawards. It is remarked that the disease almost invariably attacks the fish on the snout, tail, or fins, and as those parts are the most liable to suffer from abrasion during the spawning operation, it is taken as a proof that the disease—at least in the majority of cases—is communicated by floating germs, especially as the fish, when the disease is still in its earliest stages, are usually found to be quite healthy. Indeed, on Wednesday last, a large salmon, well spotted with the fungus, rose to the fly and made a very good run before it was landed and returned to the river. The anglers' prospects would be greatly improved by a good heavy flood, which would carry off to sea the spawned and diseased fish, admit of the ascent of clean ones, and cleanse the beds of the rivers, which are becoming very foul. A few rod-fishers, taking the first chance after the termination of the close-time, were out on Wednesday, but their only success was the running and returning a number of unclean fish. On Thursday they had much the same success; but at Sprouston Mr. Kerss scored the first capture of a clean fish for the season—namely, a fresh-run salmon of about 15 lb.

LOCHLEVEN.—The weather has been much colder during the past two days, with a wild, boisterous, west wind. Mr. Townsend, of Glasgow, was out with the rod for a few hours on Friday and Saturday, and captured six trout weighing about 8 lb. With the exception of one, which was rather lanky, the trout were in capital condition. As this is the second, it is also the best basket of the season.

TWEED AND TEVIOT.—Sport on these rivers since the opening of the salmon fishing has been as good as expectation warranted; in fact, much better, according to the ideas of some anglers. That very indifferent sport was anticipated at the beginning of the season just opened was the opinion of one and all of us anglers, and that for various causes, viz., disease, lowness of water, want of floods, &c. That these fears were groundless, so far as things have as yet gone, is now a well-known fact, and happy are we disciples of old Izaak that things are so. Within the last ten days the number of salmonidæ affected with the fungoid epidemic have apparently decreased very rapidly, and whether this is in a measure due to the small flood we had a fortnight ago—which must, I should consider, have taken away a great quantity of the dead and diseased fish to the mouth of the river or whether it is due to the much colder weather—we are now experiencing, is a circumstance beyond my powers of knowing. That there are a very considerable less number of affected salmon seen now than there were fourteen days ago is a verified fact, and one much to be thankful for. What we really want now is a good heavy flood, of nothing less than from six to eight feet, and that before the net-fishing season commences, on the 14th of the present month, so as to do any good to the spring rod angling fishing; for, once the nets are on, few and far between are the salmon that escape the meshes of the crafty netsman. To hark back, however, to the doings on the opening week of the salmon fishing, I may mention that all the waters here on the first day were fished blank, but on the following day (Thursday) the Hendersyde water (which has for years yielded the first salmon of the season) again had the coveted honour, as Mr. James Kerrs, fisherman, killed a beautiful clean-run salmon of 15 lb., and Mr. Murray, of the Weigh House, Kelso, killed one of 7 lb., and also run several other unclean fish on the same water. On Friday nothing was done, however, bus on Saturday Mr. Kerrs again killed six fish, two of them being beautiful clean salmon, and weighed about 12 lb. each. Thus ended the first week of the season on the Hendersyde water. On the Ednam House water Mr. Drummond landed one baggot on Thursday, one on Friday, and three baggots and two kelts on Saturday. On the Duke of Roxburghe's water at Floors Castle there has been no fishing, and the same can be said on the Sprouston and Makerstown waters. On Monday (February 6) Mr. Drummond, at the junction of the Tweed and Teviot, landed one baggot and one kelt, and Mr. Johnston, wine and spirit merchant, Kelso, angling on the Hendersyde water, Kelso, landed four kelts and lost a nice clean salmon after running him for about a quarter of an hour. On Tuesday very good sport was got, as on the Ednam House water Mr. Archibald Steel killed one very nice clean salmon, which turned the scale at 8 lb., and the same gentleman ran and landed a very good kelt, which, however, had to be returned again to the river; this, in my opinion being one of the absurdities of our present salmon Acts. Why return to the river a fish that will rise to the fly? and more especially after it has been run, for it is just about twenty chances to one that after the fish has been returned to the river again, after having had the exertion of the run, and the fly cut from its mouth, that it sickens and dies, consequent on the strength it had to exercise during its running (while in a very weak state), and the loss of blood that was sure to ensue on the hook being cut from its mouth, even if said fly got no further than the jaw. On the Hendersyde waters also, very fair form was shown, as Mr. James Kerss killed a brace of very nice clean salmon, each weighing nearly 8 lb., while several kets were also landed on the same "casts." On Wednesday little or nothing was done on the Ednam House water, not a single fish being landed, but on the Hendersyde lower water Mr. Johnston, wine and spirit merchent, Kelso, killed a pair of clean salmon, which would weigh about 8 lb. respectively, and he also ran several unclean fish; nothing being done on the Sprouston water. On the Nisbet water, one clean fish of 6 lb. was killed by Mr. W. Michie; and on the Pavilion water, on Saturday, Mr. Bain, Galashiels Burgh School, killed a couple of sea-trout, and ran a kipper grilse for some time, but lost it; he also ran an unclean baggot. On the same water Mr. Hall, Galashiels, got a brace of sea-trout. Good sport was also got in the Peebles district. In the Lanton district of the Blackadder, several sea-trout were got. Angling on the Teviot has not yet begun, fishing on this river usually starting about the 20th of this month.—MAXWEEL, Kelso.

THE SPORTSMAN'S EXHIBITION AT THE AGRICULTURAL HALL.

WE beg to draw the attention of our readers to the advertisements of this fine exhibititon which appear in our columns this week. Every sportsman should pay a visit to this exhibition, it is unique of its kind.

SCOTCH FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION.

THE following gentlemen appeared before Lord Rosebery and the Lord Advocate, as a deputation from the Scotch Fisheries Improvement Association:—Mr. D. Milne Home of Milne-Graden, Sir James R. Gibson Maitland, Bart. of Sauchie; Admiral Maitland Dougall of Scotscraig, Mr. J. Maxtone-Grahame of Cultoquhey, Sir Molyneux Hyde Nepean, Bart.; Professor Douglas Maclagan, Mr. Archibald Butter of Faskally, Mr. T. G. Murray, W.S.; Mr. Charles Morton, W.S.; Mr. J. Barker Duncan, W.S. (secretary); Mr. John Anderson, Denham Green; and Mr. Alexander Fraser, of Canonmills Lodge.

The object of the deputation was to obtain, if possible, government assistance in removing many drawbacks under which the Scotch Salmon Fisheries are labouring, amongst them being the want of fishery-boards and the want of official inspectors. However, we regret to say our Scotch friends got nothing but somewhat sarcastic politeness from Lord Rosebery and the Lord Advocate. The latter suggested they could perhaps have inspectors but would certainly have to pay for them; Lord Rosebery said that though they might not think it, their interests were well looked after in London; as evidence of this, he mentioned that the Admiralty had refused to lend a gunboat for the protection of the Scotch Fisheries.

The deputation then thanked their lordships—for nothing—and withdrew.

RICHMOND PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

THE winter dinner of the Richmond Piscatorial Society took place at the Station Hotel, Richmond, on Thursday evening, when there was a large attendance of the members and their friends. Major Bull presided, and the vice-chairs were occupied by Messrs. Alfred Little and Henry Dickinson. Amongst others who were present were Messrs. T. Abbott, W. Abbott, Bond, Brougham (secretary of the Thames Angling Preservation Society), F. C. Clench (chairman of the society), Crew, Eydemann, Field, Ford, Fricker, Gaynor (curator), Giles, Goodale, Griffiths, Groves, Heasler, Houghton (treasurer), Johnson, Keyes, R. B. Marston (editor of the FISHING GAZETTE), Plant, E. V. Powell, Taman, Tyrrell, &c. Mr. Munro placed an excellent dinner on the table, and the whole of his arrangements were of the most satisfactory character. Musical matters were under the direction of Mr. Crew, Mr. Johnson presiding at the piano. Songs were given by Messrs. Everill, Griffiths, Turner, Plant, Crew, W. Abbott, and Tyrrell, and a recitation by Mr. Powell.—The loyal toasts were duly honoured, the health of "The President of the Richmond Piscatorial Society, H.S.H. the Duke of Teck," being proposed as a separate toast, after which the health of the vice-presidents was proposed by Mr. Dickinson and responded to by Mr. T. Abbott.—In proposing "Success to the Richmond Piscatorial Society," the Chairman said that the society was started by a few earnest and energetic men in 1879. It had had its vicissitudes, and it had fallen rather low in numbers when they were fortunate enough to secure their excellent friend, Mr. Clench (applause). They now had 130 members, and the number was likely to increase. After referring to the presence amongst the visitors on that occasion of Mr. Marston and Mr. Brougham, the Chairman went on to speak of the work of the year, alluding to the fishing of the members, the pleasant evenings spent in the club room, the encouragement given by the society to the river keepers, the nefarious practices of the poachers, and the damage done by steam launches. He remarked that as the owners of the steam launches had formed an association for the protection of their interests, it would be necessary for them to do all they could to put a stop to the injury the launches inflicted. He was asked the other night whether he could not do something as a member of the Joint Sewerage Board to take the sewage out of the Thames. This was a subject of amazing difficulty, for whether they took the sewage to Barking Creek or the mouth of the Darent, the people had the bad taste not to like it (laughter). However, the Joint Board were doing all they could, although they had great difficulties to contend with.—Mr. Clench, whose name was associated with the toast, said they now compared well financially, socially, and numerically, with any similar society in London. The steam launches to which the chairman had referred inflicted great injury upon the immature fish. In the spawning season they washed up the immature fish on the banks of the river, and there they were left to perish by thousands. Another important matter was the claims which the riparian owners were making to every inch of water up the river. The Thames Rights Defence Association were doing all they could in this matter, and they hoped to be able to hand down to their children unimpaired the rights which had existed on the Thames for generations (applause). He was very pleased that they had with them on that occasion Mr. Marston, the author of the scheme for the culture of coarse fish, which he hoped would be the means of restoring a great deal of fish to the river. He had to congratulate them that two of their members, Messrs. Little and Powell, had carried away prizes from the fishing tournament inaugurated by Mr. Marston at the Welch Harp. They were doing all they could to prevent poaching, and hoped to be able to stop netting down to Kew Bridge. They were now going to devote the whole of their funds to the cultivation of coarse fish and the acquiring of private waters, in which their members and their friends might fish.—Mr. Houghton proposed "The Thames Angling Preservation Society," and Mr. W. H. Brougham responded, referring to the early history of that society, and some recent efforts to trap the poachers.—Mr. A. Little proposed "The Treasurer, Secretary, and Officers of the Society," and this was responded to by Mr. Houghton, who expressed the regret they all felt at the unavoidable absence of Mr. J. H. Gaunt, their able secretary.—Mr. Clench proposed the health of the chairman, a toast which was most heartily received.—Major Bull, in returning thanks, said that the Vestry (his presidency over which had been referred to by Mr. Clench) used to be very much abused, but it was now doing a great deal of work in a quiet way. First of all there was the waterworks, and then the Free Library, a noble institution, which had attained a success beyond their most sanguine expectations. It was a source of pleasure to hundreds of their fellow parishioners, and now other parishes were enthusiastically following their example. All honour to those who originated it. About the end of April or the beginning of May they hoped to open two fine swimming baths, than which he thought there would be no better in London. Then there were people who were anxious to bring a tramway here, and another water company, and in fact they were almost oppressing them with the number of benefits they intended to confer upon them.—The remaining toasts were "The Vice-chairman," proposed by Mr. Brougham and acknowledged by Mr. Dickinson and Mr. Little (who referred to the necessity for a lock and weir below Richmond); "The Visitors," proposed by Mr. Clench and responded to by Mr. Marston, who explained his scheme for the cultivation of coarse fish, and urged the club to lend cases of stuffed fish to the Edinburgh Exhibition, a suggestion which was well received; and "The Press," proposed by Mr. Taman and coupled with the name of Mr. Dimbleby.—*Richmond and Twickenham Times.*

WOODLANDS ESTATE.

WE have pleasure in bringing before the notice of our readers an estate situated within the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Board of Works, called the Woodlands Estate, at Streatham, one of the outlying villages on the south side of London. This estate is charmingly situated, and is picturesquely studded with villas erected in the Queen Anne style of architecture. All true lovers of nature and intending housekeepers would do well to give Streatham Hill a visit, and afterwards call at the rooms of the Streatham Hill and General Estates Development Company, Limited, 5, Queen Victoria Street, E.C., where every attention will be paid to inquirers. We are informed that the rental of these unique villas average from £66 to £130 per annnm.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents*]

DOTTEREL FEATHERS.

Sir,—I notice your note in Fishing Gazette this week respecting some dotterel feathers. You will find a few in the paper enclosed, your acceptation of which will gratify me.

I scarcely know which feathers you prefer, here we like the "necks" best, and, so far as I am concerned, I consider there is no feather equal to some dozen or so found at the setting-on of the tail. Dotterels have been very scarce of late years with us, but last season I heard of four being shot and managed to purchase the lot, chiefly for Atkinson the tackle-maker here. He tells me he has a skin to sell, quite perfect and good one, some half-dozen feathers or so in one wing spoiled with the shot. He asks 15s. for it, much too dear; but he says he can make more out of it by converting each feather into a fly. You can seldom purchase a skin here, even from the men who shoot the birds, for less than 7s., and even then you have to consider yourself favoured.—I am, &c., Sprint.

Kendal, Feb. 4, 1882.

[We are much obliged to "Sprint," the feathers are first-rate. We also are indebted to Mr. W. H. Aldam, of Winchester, for some very fine samples, and also some honey-duns.—Ed.]

NOTES FROM YARMOUTH.

Sir,—I can't get over that lie about the big perch, $10\frac{1}{4}$ lb.! If a younger man, I would go and see this, which is no doubt a "sea perch." Many years since I offered a reward for a big perch, of a sovereign, *i.e.*, for a five-pounder; at least thirty-five years have passed by, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ lb. is the largest brought me.

Some years ago the late Colonel Duff ordered his keepers to drag Hickling Broad for our Yarmouth Aquarium. They got thirteen perch weighing just over 40 lb., the largest about $3\frac{1}{4}$lb.; we got them into the Aquarium tanks, but they soon died; the fact being they will not live long in the filtered water. I am well known amongst the Norfolk and Suffolk fishermen, and almost all the large fish are brought to me. The largest specimen of a perch I ever heard of was caught on a night line, and, according to the statement, weighed 7 lb.; but I don't believe this—perhaps it was troy weight, *i.e.*, 12 oz. to the pound. My sovereign was afterwards heard of, and the man came over here about it. Dear old Frank Buckland was for many years my most intimate friend, and he never saw a larger perch than one I have in a case in my dining room, this weighed $4\frac{1}{2}$ lb. I have another grand case of three, caught with the worm within an hour by my eldest boy, they weighed $8\frac{1}{2}$ lb. several hours after capture. Buckland said they were worth a thousand-mile journey, and beat anything in England, the largest fish of these three being $3\frac{1}{4}$ lb., and I sent Buckland up two others, which weighed when caught over 6 lb. There were no big fish in the Serpentine, and in Whittlesea the largest perch was under 3 lb. I know this well, as a friend of mine held the appointment of engineer when it was drained, but they found a monstrous eel, which was exhibited at Wisbech, and the largest pike weighed 34 lb. This piece of water covered nearly 2000 acres, and the villagers called it the Great White Sea. I bought an old painting on oak of a pike, as large as life, painted by a village artist 150 years ago. A gentleman at Brighton gave me forty times what it was knocked down for and I let it go to him. This fish was about 52 lb. in weight, and over five feet long, it had an old inscription upon it of the weight, &c. There are very large pike and perch in the Fritton lake, which is very deep and nearly three miles long, I have a large pike in a case which took a 1 lb. bait, and gave me forty-five minutes' hard work—this was in the upper water. Mem.: there are three lakes there, besides a small pool which my friend Colonel Leathes most kindly keeps for my recreation; I have driven over, just eight miles, and taken a pike within an hour; this is a lovely little piece of water but would soon be spoiled, and I only fish it when an old London friend comes to stay with me once or twice a year.—I am, &c., R. R. B. Norman.

P.S.—I saw a perch at Mr. Holroyd's, fishing-tackle maker, Gracechurch Street, many years since. This fish was the largest I have ever seen, and weighed $5\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Mr. Holroyd is a very worthy man, and his statement was, I have no doubt, correct. I called to see it again, but could not.

Feb. 3, 1882.

EARTH-WORMS.

Sir,—With regard to several letters that have appeared in your paper as to the subdivision of worms, perhaps the following may be of some interest.

Taking the description of the earth-worm from Darwin. "On Vegetable Mould and Earth-worms," and dividing the worm roughly into fourths, the upper fourth contains the mouth, a strong pharynx and the æsophagus, with three pair of large glands which secrete a surprising amount of carbonate of lime. Darwin says that nothing like them is known in any other animal, and they are useful in dealing with the humus acid of decaying vegetable matter.

In the second fourth the æsophagus is enlarged into a crop in front of a gizzard, which has powerful muscles for the trituration of food, and contains grains of sand and small stones.

And the third and fourth fourths contain an intestine with an extensive absorbent surface.

If the worm were cut in two, one half would have all the means of preparing food by digestion without the means of absorbing it, and the other half would have all the means of assimilating food without the means of digesting it, and it is difficult to believe that such important organs as the missing ones could be reproduced.

The following facts are worth noticing: that a dry atmosphere will kill a worm very quickly, while it will live under water many weeks; and that, although it struggles so violently, it is very insensible of pain.

It may be observed that the same author in his "Naturalist's Voyage Round the World," speaks of a South American worm of simple structure, a division of the genus planaria, and found beneath rotten wood; it resembles a little slug, but narrower, and having near the middle of the under or crawling surface two small transverse slits, from the anterior one of which a funnel-shaped mouth could be protruded.

One of these was cut transversely into two equal parts. In the course of a fortnight both had the shape of perfect animals. The body was so divided that one of the halves contained both the inferior orifices, and the other, in consequence, none. Twenty-five days from the operation the more perfect half could not be distinguished from any other specimen. The other had increased much in size, and a rudimentary cup-shaped mouth could be distinguished. Then an accident killed all the specimens.

"Mark Antony," in your paper, speaks of pieces of the blood-worm producing perfect blood-worms. Is the blood-worm thus spoken of the brilliant crimson larva of the golden dun? H. M. P.

FRESH AND SALT WATER FISH—HOW TO FISH A BREAM HOLE.

Sir,—Can any of your numerous readers answer the following queries?

How is it that mackerel, cod, plaice, and more particularly the herring, are considered best for the table when full of spawn—many people, in fact, only caring for them when in this condition—whilst freshwater fish, such as roach, dace, pike, chub and barbel, are in such an emaciated state they are only fit for the pigs?

The magnificent hard-roed bloater I had at breakfast this morning suggested this idea.

A very learned friend of mine says this is "bosh," and would try and make me believe that freshwater fish are just as good for eating purposes when about to spawn as saltwater fish. All I know is I once partook of some roasted spawn from a barbel, and not long afterwards it cost me a considerable sum for sundry goes of brandy. But, as Puny Moore said of the hen, perhaps that barbel "was not healthy."

Can any practical angler inform me the best and most efficient way to fish a bream hole 35 feet deep, in a gentle current, *with a float*, my rod being only 14 feet long. I find the float business an intolerable nuisance, and ledgering for bream at such a depth is dead against my usual practice, as I prefer a moving bait?—I am, &c.,

Mark Antony.

N.B.—May not the taking of such vast numbers of sea-fish full of spawn account for their scarcity? This reminds me, not long ago a noble restaurateur in Fleet Street wanted to charge me 1s. for a sole about the size of my hand. I take size No. 7. On objecting to the swindle, he replied, his face livid with rage, "There was none larger in de market." Grand fried sole of my boyhood! shall I ever gaze upon thee again? I am afraid not.

[Some freshwater fish are as good to eat when full of spawn as they are at any other time. It is after spawning that they are emaciated and poor. The roe of some freshwater fish is unwholesome food according to old writers—see Walton. We do not see how you are going to fish that 35-foot deep bream hole with a 14-foot rod *if you use a float*, unless you get up a tree; of course you can do it, but, as you observe, it must be a difficult matter to get your line in and out each swim. Your can rove with the ledger—work it very gently over the hole in any direction you please—letting it rest, of course, a long time between each move.—Ed.]

SILKWORM GUT.

Sir,—There is one peculiarity about silkworm gut which has not been referred to in the recent correspondence on the subject, and which may not be generally known, although it is of considerable interest to anglers. This is, that on once being strained to its utmost or breaking tension, it loses the greater part of its original strength. The experiment may be easily tried. Take a length of new gut—an ordinary hook length will answer the purpose admirably, and placing the loop over the hook of an ordinary spring balance, pull steadily from the other end until it breaks. If the gut be good this will take place (according to stoutness) at between 4 and 5 lb. of strain; but if the broken pieces be subjected to the same test it will be found that they will give way with a very much lighter pull, frequently, indeed, hardly bearing the strain of knotting a fresh loop.

The moral of this is, never trust to a gut cast which has once been fairly broken either by a heavy fish, or by entanglement among weeds; a cast which on commencing has been found a good one, may, by catching a branch or other obstacle, and having to be broken away, be rendered altogether untrustworthy, although but a short piece be broken off, and a good fish may regain his liberty in consequence.—I am, &c., W. B.

[Was the gut dry or wet when W. B. tried this useful test?—Ed.]

TROUT LICENSES.

Sir,—Can any of the numerous correspondents of the Fishing Gazette impart to me the following information:—

First, where can I procure in book-form the Salmon·Fisheries Acts up to the present time.

Secondly, the trout-fishers in the river Wannsbeck are rather embarrassed at the following action of the Tyne Board of Conservancy, who have made a bye-law, and got it endorsed by the Home Secretary, to this effect—that every trout-fisher pay two and sixpence for a season ticket, a shilling for a month or a day. Now the Wannsbeck being within their jurisdiction, they are this season putting this law in force. But they have no water-bailiffs or watchers of any kind on the river, and the trout-fishing being strictly preserved by the owners of the land through which the river flows, and who are not connected with the Tyne Board at all, but give permission to fish to whom they think proper. And from the above circumstances we think that they have no jurisdiction or right to tax trout-fishers who may have the good fortune to obtain leave to fish for trout in these private waters.

Any information on the above subjects will be gladly received by yours, &c., John Tweddle.

Choppington Fishing Club.

[Write to Messrs. Spottiswoode and Co., The Acts Office, West Harding Street, London, E.C., for Parliamentary papers. You must pay for the trout license, even the owner of the water must pay; but, as you observe, it is most unjust (unless watchers *are* employed) to impose this tax, and it has caused great complaint in the Severn and other fishery districts.—Ed.]

THE TRIANGULAR BONE IN THE CARP.

Sir,—Upon reading Mr. J. H. Keene's excellent work, "The Practical Fisherman," respecting the triangular *stone* found in the jaws of the carp, brings to my mind a few lines which were written by Robert Dick, of Thursoe, in the song of a "Geologist," and, if I remember rightly, they were thus quoted:—

> "It is gude to be breaking a stone,
> The work now is lucky and braw;
> It is grand to be finding a bone,
> A fish-bone the grandest o' a'."

Mr. J. H. K. states, in the above work, the following:—"A small triangular *stone*, said to be found in the jaws of carp (I have never seen it), on being ground to powder and applied to a bleeding nose was said to act as a styptic." Having had occasion to preserve one of this species of fish lately, I beg to forward to you, for him, the triangular stone (bone) he is anxious no doubt to see. These bones are not taken from the jaws, as spoken of, but from the gullet behind the gills, where the teeth are very large even in the small sized fish; and, from the example forwarded, you will perceive that it is not a *stone*, but simply a *bone*, which acts as a preventitive against foreign substances passing too quickly into the stomach.—I am, &c.,

Frank Gosden, Exeter.

[We have sent the peculiar shield-shaped bone to Mr. Keene.—Ed.]

YOUTHFUL ANGLERS.

Sir,—After reading the article on "Youthful Anglers" in your last week's issue, I must confess that I quite agreed with your editorial remarks, and beg to differ from my worthy old friend, B. So far from joining in his views on the subject, I know that both Messrs. Jardine and Alfred did *not* agree to the proposition when it was mooted at the Gresham Angling Society, but expressed their opinion very much *au contraire*. If it is considered necessary to establish a club for young anglers, by all means let them start one themselves, like other youthful clubs for cricket, football, &c.; or, at any rate, do not start one at a public house, whether it bears the title of hotel, tavern, or restaurant, and whether cards are admitted, as at the Piscatorials, &c., or prohibited, as in the case of the Gresham. If these worthy sires determine on founding a junior angling club, let it be an independent club, established in the ancestral hall of one of its founders, where the juvenile members may, when they get tired of smoking, drinking, and playing at men, go up to the nursery until bed-time arrives. This only will effectually prevent their becoming too early, as you wisely suggest, lovers of the "black bottle," with pipes and whist. The charm with boys and girls lies chiefly in their retaining their youthful *naiveté*, which, once deprived of, they become old-fashioned or precocious; and this is mostly caused by their would-be friends giving them ideas, and letting them be the hearers, of things far too deep for their understanding—one cannot always keep a guard upon one's tongue.—I am, &c., Piscator.

GREENHEART WOOD.

Sir,—What is the correct name of the wood from which "Greenheart" salmon-rods are made, and where can it be obtained in London?—I am, &c., Amateur.

[Greenheart is its correct name, it is imported from the West Indies in logs. Any tackle-maker will supply it.—Ed.]

RECLAIMING STRAYED FISH.

Sir,—I take the liberty of sending you an account of a day's netting in the ditches in the district of the Maidenhead, Cookham and Bray Angling Association on Tuesday, January 7:—Jack, 5; perch, 106; roach, 262; chub, 6. All returned to the river in good order, some were very good fish.—I am, &c., Harry Wilder.

Maidenhead, Wednesday.

A GOOD TESTIMONIAL.

Sir,—To show you how I like your Gazette I may tell you I have frequently bought up all I could get at the Nottingham station, merely to give away.

For many years I have read the *Field*, often when coming home by rail from Nottingham, and never missed my station; but in the short time I have taken in the Gazette I have missed my station, and had a few miles' walk from being so interested in it. I should, all the same, like it better if it were more "fishy."—I am, &c.,

Caythorpe, Notts. John Foster.

A FEW QUERIES.

Sir,—I have to thank you for inserting my letter, which you headed "A Few Queries," and for your footnote to same, also to "Mark Antony" for his directions respecting blood-worms. These I required as a bait for Prussian carp, the habits and haunts of which I enquired for some time since. I have hitherto successfully taken the Prussian carp with gentles, using a fine gut line, hair hooks, and light quill float, and soaked bread as groundbait. I am speaking of the early part of the season, since when I have had several turns at them, but on each occasion failed to score, so I thought it well to try a change of bait.

I must apologise for having troubled you so much, but I am unfortunately without any angling friends to whom I could go for advice.

I hope you and other gentlemen who are taking such an active part in the coarse-fish culture scheme, will use your best endeavours to prevent the question falling through. I only regret my want of means prevents my doing much, but if a fund should be formed with this object in view I and a friend would like to do our little best towards it.

Maybe I weary you; but, in conclusion, allow me to express the hope that some more articles by Mr. Keene, after the same style as "Perch and Perch-fishing," may make their appearance from time to time in the Fishing Gazette.—I am, &c.,

John J. Harris.

Feb. 8th.

FLY-FISHING FOR DACE, &c., NEAR LONDON.

Sir,—If Mr. Boydell will kindly send me his address I shall have much pleasure in forwarding him a copy of my shilling "Manual on Trout-Fishing," and marking therein a list of the flies which I have found very useful when fishing for dace, &c., both in northern and southern rivers.

When the waters are very fine and low the flies should be smaller than ordinary, and I have found those of the blue tinge invariably to kill the best. One of the finest is made very small indeed. Hook, No. 0. or 00.; body, yellow silk; and wings and legs hackled with small dotterel's feathers; but it is too early for this fly as yet. It takes best in hot, sunny weather.—I am, &c.,

Thomas Ford.

CLUB REPORTS.

ACT-ON-THE-SQUARE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this society held their inaugural dinner on Thursday evening Feb. 2, at the club-house, the Ferry-Boat, Tottenham, Messrs. Day providing in their usual capital manner. Mr. W. Mead occupied the chair, and was ably assisted by Mr. Thompson as vice-chairman. The first toast given was, of course, that of the "Act-on-the-Square Angling Society," which was received with hearty cheers, and to which Mr. Mead, in a very able manner, replied, stating that, although the society was still in its infancy, it was prospering to a remarkable extent, particularly as this society do not have any meeting on Sunday, or weigh-in fish on that day, as other clubs, particularly in this end of London do; but confine themselves to club matters, and weighing-in on Thursdays, and prize fishing on Saturday. The health of the secretary, Mr. A. George, the late chairman, Mr. Chapman, the "Messrs. Day," and the "Visitors," were duly drank and responded to, after which the company settled down to harmony for the remainder of the evening. The distribution of prizes will take place at the end of the season. On Saturday the members sat down to fish for another of their prizes, a teapot given by Mr. J. Stone, and although the wind blew with great force, the prize, which was roach only and pegged-down, was eventually won by Mr. W. Mead, Mr. Money being only three quarters of an ounce behind.—A. George, hon. sec.

AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The fog on Saturday deterred many members from going out; several ventured, but the result was nil, with the exception of Mr. Partrick, who weighed-in roach from the river Lea to the extent of 7 lb. 10 oz. Next Sunday's pegged-down match is from Burnt Mill to Roydon; ten prizes.—T. Worledge.

ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Seventeen of our members fished a peg-down match at St. Margaret's on on Sunday, the 5th inst., for three prizes. The first, a handsome timepiece, given by Mr. H. Scott, was taken by Mr. W. Streeton. The second, a very nice fishing box, given by Mr. T. Bowling, was taken by Mr. R. Smith. The third, a plated teapot, given by Mr. R. Smith, was taken by Mr. B. C. Booth. —D. Davis, sec.

Feb. 7.

ANGLERS' PRIDE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above club contested for a series of prizes at Burnt Mill on the 5th inst., with the following result;—G. Watkins, first; H. Scutt, second; and W. Nash, third. Messrs. Mallett and Fiddes also weighed-in. Mr. Taylor, of the Friendly Citizens, weighed-in 3 lb. 13 oz. of roach from the Lea. Also Mr. Frost, of the Bermondsey Brothers', weighed-in a splendid chub of 2 lb. 9 oz.—T. Marshall, sec.

Feb. 7.

BERMONDSEY BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday last, Mr. Frost caught one chub, 2 lb. 9 oz.—Wm. Allen, sec.

Feb. 7.

BRENTFORD PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

We had a very good show on Thursday the 2nd. Mr. Mount-Stephen and friend 70 lb. of jack; and yesterday, the 3rd, Mr. T. Waight weighed-in 15 lb. of jack. Mr. W. Turner, on Thursday, a 15.-oz. roach; also, Mr. T. Taylor, 1 lb. 8 oz. of dace.—J. H. White, sec.

Feb. 4.

THE BRUNSWICK PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

This society met at the Brunswick Arms, Brunswick Street Stamford Street. Host Keeble, on Wednesday, caught some jack and bream. Several valuable prizes will be competed for on Sunday, pegged-down.—Esox Lucius.

CLAPHAM JUNCTION ANGLING SOCIETY.

The only members that weighed-in last week were Mr. E. Wilson, with some very nice roach and dace from Reading, Mr. E. Wakeford, from same place, Mr. E. Brewer, roach and dace, and Mr. R. Wellman, perch. Members are requested to attend on Thursday next.—E. Wilson, sec.

GOLDEN BARBEL.

On 29th ult., Mr. T. Lee had 4 lb. 10 oz. of roach from the Thames; E. Harrison, roach and dace; G. Hall, from the Colne, roach. J. Green had some fine roach from Windsor; C. Lumby, roach, and Mr. Goudge roach and dace from the Chelmer. On the 5th inst., Mr. T. Lee had 4½ lb. of roach; Mr. J. Green, 5½ lb. roach; G. Hall, 2 lb. roach; J. Day, 5¾ lb. roach; Mr. Goudge visited the Chelmer. He says it is one of the most uncertain rivers he ever fished. One time you might get 20 lb., and the next time you go you will have a hard matter to get a few ounces. On the 7th inst., Mr. J. Green paid Father Thames a visit, and got nearly 7 lb. of fine roach.—Pixie.

Feb. 6.

GOOD INTENT.

There was a good show of fish shown in the club on Sunday last. Mr. G. Bates brought in four pretty jack, Mr. Philpott roach from the Lea, Mr. Maybury roach from Wraysbury, Mr. Murphy roach, Mr. Donovan roach from the Lea. There are prizes given for the best specimens of roach, dace, jack, perch, and chub from any waters on next Sunday. Our annual supper takes place next Tuesday, the 14th inst., and not as L. B. reported in your last issue, on the 13th, Valentine's Eve. Mr. H. Brookwell has gone on the war path, and no doubt will render a good account of himself on return.—R. Murphy.

Feb. 9th.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The meeting of this society on Thursday evening was of exceptional interest and their large room was crowded to excess by an appreciative audience, anxious to hear the Rev. Hayman Cummings on "Trout Culture," and the evening proved a notable success. Mr. Crumplen was unanimously voted to the chair, Mr. Bryant, librarian, kindly undertaking the office of secretary, *pro tem.* In introducing the subject, the rev. gentleman stated that he should not have recourse to notes, feeling sure that the society would prefer a plain statement of facts and experience, which he at once gave in very clear and eloquent terms. Among other circumstances, it was incidentally mentioned that on the occasion of the Norwich Exhibition he himself carried 25,000 trout about the size of minnows from Norwich to London, and then to Dartford, not changing the water and not losing a single fish, adding that he would almost safely, on the same system, undertake to land 20,000 in Australia, without losing probably more than ten. The whole ground of pisciculture, as regards trout and salmon, was ably gone over, the enemies of the ova and fry in the shape of pike, trout, floods, swans, aquatic insects, rats, mice, &c., being thoroughly dealt with, and the opinion finally expressed that the propagation of fish, coarse or delicate, might be best secured by following nature, without many of the fanciful artificial aids often thought so necessary. At the conclusion of Mr. Cumming's address several questions were asked and ably replied to, and an extremely hearty vote of thanks was passed, coupled with the suggestion that the reverend gentleman should put his thoughts in writing, that they might be printed in the society's transactions for the year. Dr. Brunton, Captain Alfred, Mr. Bentley, Mr. Parker (who had introduced Mr. Cummings), the chairman, and others took part in the discussion. At the conclusion of the discussion, the musical entertainment was proceeded with, and a very enjoyable evening passed. Mr. T. P. Cooper, who had occupied the vice chair, superintended this part of the programme, and many members gave some of their favourite songs. Mr. Parker, jun., gave a pretty pianoforte solo with bell accompaniment, Dr. Brunton, Mr. Aveling, Mr. Callaghan, Mr. Cartwright, Mr. Jaques, Mr. Oscar Benndorf, Mr. Marshall, Mr. Miller, Mr. Bentley, and others assisted, and Mr. Crumplen gave a humorous angling reading of his own composition. At the close of the proceedings a very hearty and special vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Woods, who had presided with great efficiency at the piano, and also sang, coupled with the names of Mr. Crumplen, and Mr. Cooper, who had occupied the chair and vice-chair on the occasion. Several distinguished visitors were present, including Mr. T. R. Sachs (Piscatorial Society), and Dr. McLarin, who were warmly received A pike of about 8 lb. was weighed-in by Mr. White, and some 15 lb. of chub by Mr. Frost, the latter in fine condition (taken with Plummer), at Hurley. The evening closed with "Auld lang syne" and the National Anthem, in true Gresham style.

HAMMERSMITH UNITED.

Our members seem waking up at the fag-end of the season, as on February 2, Messrs. Pitts and Hobden had a first-class take of roach from Henley; on the 4th Mr. Geen was again to the fore with 36 lb. of chub from Shepperton. Our host, Mr. Green, has tried some fishing in the Ouse, but his capture was very small, and was taken in a peculiar manner. He left his rod unattended, and found, upon his return, that something besides a worm was on the hook. It turned out to be that a small perch had swallowed the worm, and one of the same species had swallowed it, and was unable to disgorge it, and this led to the event of landing the lot; the "gorger" weighed 1 lb. 2 oz. Several of our members are anxious to learn of some more swims from the "Thames Fisherman"—shall I say at Shepperton?—Vortex.

ISAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members competed for two special prizes on the 8th inst., Mr. G. P. Rolt securing first honours with 12 lb. 1 oz. of jack, the heaviest one weighed 6 lb. 7¼ oz, thus winning Mr. T. Dennison's prize (one gallon of old tom); Mr. T. Ward was second, with 1 lb. 14¼ oz. of roach. Messrs. Barnes and Bliss also weighed-in for these prizes. Several other members were out, but were not successful.

Feb. 9.

JUNIOR PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The first dinner of this society was held at the Duke of Cornwall, South Island Place, Clapham Road, on the 7th inst., Mr. F. Palmer (president), presiding. There were about thirty members present, besides friends, and an exceedingly pleasant evening was spent. The usual toasts were followed by some excellent singing. The society, though but a comparatively young one, is in a flourishing condition.—W. Osborne.

LIVERPOOL ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting was held on the 29th Dec. last, at which there was a strong muster of members. The hon. sec. read the statement of receipts and payments, showing a balance of £25 16s. 7d. to the credit of the association. On the motion of Mr. Sergeneson, seconded by Mr. T. Hood, the balance-sheet as read was unanimously adopted. The election of officers was then proceeded with, resulting as follows:—President, T. W. Haigh, Esq.; vice-president, Mr. R. Woolfall; chairman, Mr. G. Pratchett; vice-chairman, Mr. W. Pearson; treasurer, Mr. W. Jones; hon. sec. Mr. R. Woolfall; hon. cash steward, Mr. J. Evans; committee, Messrs. J. Travis, H. Wood, J. Fearnett, T. Bloomfield, J. Lofthouse, E. W. Boulding, and W. G. Langley. The following prizes were then presented:—R. Woolfall, fly rod and fishing brogues, £1 11s. 6d.; R. Eelinger, fishing boots, £1 1s.; E. W. Boulding, fishing boots, £1 1s.; H. Wood, fishing boots and rods, £3 5s.; W. Davies, creel, &c., £1 1s.; W. Pearson, landing net, &c., 10s. 6d.; W. Francis, salmon, grilse and trout flies, 10s. 6d.; E. Chandler, creel, &c., 10s. 6d.; J. Evans, rod, 10s. 6d.; R. Smith, 10s. 6d.; and J. Mercer, fly rod, £1 1s. After which the meeting, which throughout had been a thoroughly cordial one, was closed amid a chorus of kindly feeling and brotherly good friendship. A fully attended committee meeting was held on the 31st January, at which the following business was disposed of:—That the opening match of the season be fished in the river Vyrnwy, at Llanymynech, on Tuesday, Feb. 28th, the prizes to be 12s. 6d. and 7s. 6d. for the heaviest and second heaviest creel of trout and graying, and 12s. 6d. and 7s. 6d. for the heaviest and next heaviest creel of coarse fish; and an additional prize, by Mr. J. Evans, of 5s. for the heaviest fish. All prizes given by the association to be in cash. That the scale of weights for weighing-in be as follows:—Pike, 3 lb.; perch, roach, rudd, trout and grayling, 4 oz.; bream, chub, carp and tench, 6 oz.; dace and graining, 3 oz; and barbel, 1 lb. That the lowest weights for preserving be, pike, 8 lb.; perch, roach, rudd and grayling, 1 lb.; dace and graining, ¼ lb.; trout, chub and tench, 2 lb.; barbel, 3 lb.; bream and carp, 4 lb.; salmon, any weight. That the premium for specimen fish be, salmon, 10s. 6d.; trout, 21s.; sea trout, 10s. 6d.; pike, carp, tench, perch, bream, grayling, roach, rudd, dace, graining and chub, 10s. 6d. each; and for gross weights, 1st, £1 1s.; 2nd, 10s. 6d.; 3rd, 5s. Pike, eels and salmon barred. The following special prizes were announced:—By Mr. Pratchett, fly-rod and reel and line, one for the heaviest trout or grayling, and the other for the heaviest coarse fish taken by members who do not win a prize this season. By Messrs. Eelinger and Boulding, a silver challenge cup for the three best trout and grayling taken in the club contests; to be won twice before it becomes the absolute property of any member; to remain the property of the association until finally won, and to have each winner's name engraved thereon. By Mr. Pearson, a prize of £1 1s., the disposal of which to be left to the absolute discretion of the association. No member to take more than three prizes in the club contests this season. Several other valuable prizes remain in abeyance, particulars of which will be duly announced when settled upon.—Rd. Woolfall, hon. sec.

Liverpool, February 5th.

ORIGINAL ALEXANDRA SOCIETY OF ANGLERS.

We had a very good show of fish on Sunday last. Mr. C. Hewett, roach, the largest going 1 lb. 1½ oz.; Mr. W. High, roach, from Ponder's End; Mr. M. Dymond, jack; Mr. Morton, perch; Mr. Stanton, roach, from Richmond. On Sunday next, we go down to St. Margaret's, to fish for thirteen prizes, peg-down, roach and dace only to weigh; and the swims will be pegged out by Mr. Blackledge and Mr. Atchinson. The draw will take place at Mr. Lindred's, the Pied Bull, Stansted.—E. Dymond, sec.

PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

There was a satisfactory attendance of members and visitors in the club-room at Ashley's Hotel, Covent Garden, on Monday evening last. It was reported, to the great satisfaction of all present, that Mr. F. G. Pearce is better, but he has not yet recovered the use of his left side; but Dr. Coates, a member of the Piscatorial Society, who is his medical attendant, has strong hopes that he will do so. Mr. J. Ross Faulkner weighed, from the Thames, four chub, 11 lb. 8 oz., the largest 4 lb. 1½ oz.; Mr. Andrew, one jack of 6 lb. 4 oz. and 3 lb. 6 oz. of roach; and Mr. H. B. Brown, one chub, 2 lb. 2 oz. Mr. G. Robinson, from the Avon, 12 lb. 9½ oz. of jack, tbe largest 6 lb. 5 oz, and Mr. M. H. Blamey, seven jack, scaling 30 lb. 14 oz., from private water.

QUEEN'S ANGLING SOCIETY.

Very few members out on Sunday, but the fish weighed-in were in splendid condition. C. Wallford had 4 lb. of roach; Cotsford, 2 lb. 4¾ oz.; Smith, 1 lb. 8 oz.; Chick, 10¼ oz. from Uxbridge; Morgan, 1 lb. 3½ oz. from Richmond. These weights will not compare favourably with other societies, but as we do not allow the use of punts or boats, it is hardly to be expected that we can have such splendid takes as are chronicled in the Fishing Gazette, but which, by-the-bye, we are very glad to hear of, as it knocks the fished-out theory all aside.—H. Musgrave.

Feb. 6.

ROYAL PISCATORIALS.

The members of this society visited St, Margaret's on the 2nd, to compete for some valuable prizes one among them, being a dressing case valued at £10 10s. Like all limited place competitions, the amount of fish taken was small; Mr. F. Dale had the best lot, but, unfortunately for him, in his eagerness to get some fish, he wandered over the limit, before he was aware of it, and fished "the Black Pool" for which he got disqualified. The shades of evening brought the affair to a close, and the gentlemen adjourned to the Pied Bull where they had made arrangements to stop, and restore the "inner man." This having been done to the satisfaction of all present, a gentleman, well known by his amusing and interesting fishing adventures, addressed the members in a few words on behalf of the Thames Rights Association. He pointed out what riparian owners would do if they could, and also what they are doing at the present time in various parts of the Thames. He asked all anglers to support the Thames Rights Association, and on this occasion, I am happy to say, that this appeal was not made in vain, the funds of the Association increased between seven and eight pounds. In consequence of the small amount of fish taken on this occasion at St. Margaret's, it was purposed that the prizes be competed for another day.—Pixie.

Feb. 7.

SURREY PISCATORIALS.

At the fortnightly meeting held at the headquarters of the above society en the 8th, Mr. Meadway presided. Among the members present were Messrs. Bansback, Beckett, Boalch, Linstead, Hamlyn, &c. The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, the report received from the West Central was read, discussed and met with approval. A question as to the financial condition of the society was responded to in a very able manner by Mr. Hamlyn, the hon. secretary. A vote of thanks to the president and the secretary brought the business of the society to a close. The following gentlemen weighed-in fish this day from Richmond:—Mr. Beckett, 12 lb. 8½ oz. of roach; Mr. Bansback, 8 lb. 1 oz. of roach and dace; Mr. Boalch, 4 lb. 3½ oz. of roach and dace and Mr. Meadway, 3 lb. 8 oz. roach and dace. Several other gentlemen did not arrive in time to weigh.—Pixie.

Feb. 9.

STANLEY ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

Since our last report we have been favoured with several shows of fish by various members. On January 28, Mr. Rose, from Elstree, a brace of jack weighing 8 lb.; Mr. Wheatstone, a good tray of jack and perch, largest jack 6½ lb; on the 31st, Mr. Paramor, 10 lb. of jack, largest fish 5½ lb.; on the 4th inst., our treasurer, Mr. W. Jarvis, 17½ lb. jack and 5½ lb. of roach; on the same date, Mr. Wheatstone, 7½ lb. of jack, and about 5 lb. roach. We regret that through a combination of unlooked for circumstances we have been compelled to forego our annual ball this year.

STOKE NEWINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

A competition for three prizes, given by Messrs. Webb, Harris, and Brooks, will take place in the river Lea on the 12th inst., the boundary being between Ryehouse Bridge and St. Margaret's Lock House. All fish to weigh at the new club house, the Middleton Arms, Mansfield Street, Kingsland Road, between 9 and 11 o'clock p.m.—Thos. Gretton, sec.

Feb. 6.

WALTONIANS.

On the 5th inst., Mr. Togwell had chub, 12 lb. 6¾ oz. (one fish going 3 lb. 5¾ oz.); Mr. Phillips had chub, 9 lb. 1 oz. (one fish 3 lb. 8½ oz.), and roach, 1 lb. 9 oz.; Mr. Brady had dace, 3 lb. 15 oz., and roach, 4½ oz.; Mr. Malcom, roach, 2 lb. 10¼ oz. Mr. Roland also weighed-in.—A. J. Marriott.

Feb. 7.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

On Sunday last the members of the above competed for four prizes, given by Messrs. Caine, Butt and others. The first was taken by Mr. Bayley, second by Mr. Fox, with roach and dace; and the third by Mr. Boalch, with jack and perch from Windsor. Seven members have given in their names to accept the challenge from the South London, the time and condition to be decided on February 9th. The next competition will take place on the 25th, for one guinea, given by Mr. White, and two rods, given by Mr. Howard, senr.—Pixie.

Feb. 7.

WEST LONDON ANGLING CLUB.

During the present year the members of the above club have been taking some remarkable specimen fish. Mr. J. Butler has had pike of 13 lb. 4 oz., 17 lb. 15 oz., 13 lb. 15 oz., &c.; Mr. F. S. Barnard, pike, 10 lb. 3½ oz.; Mr. Tremaine, pike of 21 lb. and 13 lb. 5½ oz.; Mr. E. Matthews, Colne, a roach from Uxbridge of 3 lb. 15½ oz. and 2 lb. 5¼ oz.; and Mr. G. Buxton, a dace, 1 lb. 5¼ oz. The total weight of fish during the month of January was 107 lb. 4¾ oz., and since then 24 lb. 12 oz., making a grand total of 132 lb. ¾ oz. Creel.

WEST LONDON ANGLING CLUB—A CORRECTION.

Allow me to correct an error made in forwarding you doings of the West London Angling Club, viz.. Mr. M. J. Butler's weighs should be 13 lb. 3 oz., instead of 10 lb. 4 oz. I would also inform you that the total weight for the month of January amounts to 107 lb. 4¾ oz. by the members.—C. R. Stocks, hon. sec.

Feb. 3.

ERRATA.

Page 50, line 64, for "float" read "hat."
Page 50, line 80, for "ovely" read "lovely."
Page 50, second col., line 7, for "smokey" read "smoky."
Page 50, second col., line 46, for "thinning" read "throwing."
Page 53, second col., in last paragraph, read "that the trade prejudice" instead of "that if the trade feels prejudices."
Page 54, second col., line 69, for "buckets" read "baskets."
Page 56, line 9, for "can" read "cane."
Page 56, line 13, for "hin" read "hint."

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Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1882.

ANNUAL DINNER OF THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

UNDER the very pleasant presidency of Mr. Edward Birkbeck, the Conservative member for North Norfolk, the forty-second annual dinner of the Piscatorial Society, took place last Wednesday evening, in the Prince's Salon of the Holborn Restaurant. The affair was a complete success in every respect; in fact, the 1882 annual dinner of this Society will long be remembered with pleasure by all, and there must have been nearly 200 members and visitors present; amongst the latter were:—Mr. Spencer Walpole, the Senior Inspector of Fisheries; Mr. Carrington, of the Westminster Aquarium; Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Towse, Mr. R. Clemow, &c. We imagine it to be utterly impossible for any body of anglers to meet together in this convivial spirit without smoking being almost general, and Mr. Birkbeck—who we are glad to say is becoming quite an old friend amongst us London anglers—is well aware of this; he gave the signal at as early a moment as possible, and in a very few seconds the consumption of tobacco in all forms commenced. Then came the toasts. That of the Queen and Royal Family headed the list, and was proposed by Mr. Birkbeck, who drew attention particularly to the great interest the Royal Family is taking in Fisheries Exhibitions. The toast, we need hardly say, was received with the utmost enthusiasm. Mr. Lander, the hon. secretary of the society, to whose efforts the success of the dinner was so largely due, then read extracts from the Report, showing that the Piscatorial Society, although nearly fifty years of age, is even more flourishing than ever. (Applause.) Mr. Lander referred the members to the report itself for full particulars. A song then followed, and next was *the* toast of the evening—that of the Piscatorial Society—given by Mr. Birkbeck, and given in such a pleasant, kindly, and sincere manner, as made every member of the club feel prouder of belonging to it. Mr. Birkbeck said it gave him the greatest pleasure to fill the honourable office they had conferred upon him—that of chairman at the great dinner of the year of the best piscatorial club in London. He was extremely glad to see his friend Mr. pencer Walpole present. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Walpole, as they all knew, took the deepest interest in our fisheries, and he trusted the time was coming when the Government would place funds to a large annual amount at the service of the fisheries department for the purpose of stocking our rivers with suitable fish. (Great applause). If the Governments of England and the United States could change places for a short time he could answer for it we should see our rivers attended to at once, money would be spent in stocking every river as far as possible. He hoped that this country would not be content with the present state of affairs as regards fish-culture, and he should impress upon all his friends in the House the great importance of the subject. (Hear, hear). Mr. Birkbeck next turned to the question of the Thames, and spoke strongly against the claims of the riparian owners. He thought anglers should make a strong stand for a free Thames. (Hear, hear). In this connection he would mention that, in his own case, where this very matter of angling rights, on the river Bure, in Norfolk, had come before him, and when he had purchased title deeds, giving him unquestionably the exclusive right to fish, he had said to himself that it would not be fair to preserve it merely for himself and his friends, and he had unreservedly thrown it open to all fair anglers. (Great applause). He sincerely hoped the riparian owners would reconsider their views. Mr. Birkbeck then briefly touched on the forthcoming Scotch and English Fisheries Exhibitions. He was glad to say the committees of the two exhibitions were on a very friendly footing together, and it was only that morning that H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, who was president of the Scotch exhibition, had told him (Mr. Birkbeck) that he should help the 1883 exhibition in every way in his power, and expressed the wish that his name should be added to the general committee of the 1883 exhibition. (Applause). He need not remind them that Her Majesty was patron, that the Prince of Wales was president; in fact, that all the royal family had promised to support the affair. They already knew it, and most highly valued such distinction shown the fisheries interests. (Applause). But he wished to remind them that the approaching public meeting at Willis's Rooms was also to be presided over by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, that it would be one of the most influential meetings ever held—ministers, ambassadors, noblemen, and most influential persons having promised to attend. The object of the meeting was to pass certain resolutions connected with the 1883 Fisheries Exhibition. The meeting is to commence at twelve o'clock on Monday, February 27. He hoped all the members of the Piscatorial Society would make a point of attending. (Hear, hear). Mr. Birkbeck then referred very feelingly to the loss the society sustained through the absence—through illness—of its respected "Father," Mr. Pearse. It was pleasing to hear he was improving. Just at this moment one of the members got up and announced that not only was Mr. Pearse better, but at that very instant (9.30) he was uncorking a bottle of champagne to drink to the health of the society. (Applause). The whole assembly then most enthusiastically drank to the speedy recovery to health of Mr. Pearse.

The next incident of the evening was the singing, in rare good style, by Mr. Alfred Jardine, of that favourite song, "The Fine Old English Angler," which Mr. T. R. Sachs informs us was composed by Mr. G. W. Chapman, a former secretary of the Piscatorial Society. With the permission of the society, we should much like to publish it in the Gazette.

The next toast was that of the secretary and other officers, proposed by Mr. Thomas Huggett, who is one of the most successful members, he having weighed-in more than a quarter of the total weight for the club. Mr. Huggett said he was proud of the Piscatorial Society; he always regarded it as an oak among clubs, not a poplar or a willow, but a good sturdy oak—(applause)—with its roots going back half a century; but even a century was nothing to an oak, nor would it prove more in the history of this society. He then referred first to the hon. secretary, who had all—or nearly all—the work to do. Angling societies were like ships, they require good officers to steer them. He was sure they would all agree with him that in their hon. secretary they had the right man—(hear, hear)—and one who had done much to keep the society together. He lamented the absence of their treasurer, Mr. Pearce. All wished to see him back. The duties of the auditors, Messrs. Gillet and Patteson, were most efficiently performed. There was yet one gentleman to whom he had not referred, and that was their librarian. Mr. Gray was respected by all. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Gray was always ready to take anything he could lay his hands on—(laughter)—either for their library or museum.

Mr. Lander briefly replied for the officers, stating their endeavours would be to maintain the efficiency of the club, and they had to thank the committee for their cordial support. A capital song, which was encored, then followed.

The next toast was that of "The Thames Angling Preservation Society and Kindred Societies," proposed by Mr. T.R. Sachs, who said that as one of the committee of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, he felt a little out of place in proposing this toast, but he perhaps for that reason had better facilities for knowing how really efficient and hard-working the society was. (Hear, hear). He regretted the absence of Mr. Thomas Spreckley, the president of the society.

Mr. W. H. Brougham, secretary of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, then responded. He regretted that it had fallen upon him in consequence of the absence of Mr. Spreckley, which was occasioned by the marriage of his daughter. Mr. Brougham said it was eighteen years since he first became a guest of the Piscatorial Society, and on the first occasion he had had to respond to the same toast. At that time the Thames Angling Preservation Society was a private society, but it was a very jolly one, for sometimes the most important business transacted was to find out who had to pay for the bottles of sherry, (Laughter.) The Thames Angling Preservation Society was now a public institution, and it had representative and hard-working men on the committee such as Messrs. Geen, Ghurney, Hatfield. (Hear hear). Mr. Birkbeck had referred them to the riparians on the Thames. He (Mr. Brougham) was happy to say that the Thames below Staines was free. (Hear, hear.) The T.A.P.S. had, during the last year, received the very honourable addition of a patron in the shape of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales (applause); they had important duties on hand, they were endeavouring to extend their protecting powers to Kew Bridge. (Hear, hear.) They were also endeavouring to get back from the water companies the fish which had been pumped from the Thames into the reservoirs, amounting, he thought, to many tons weight. He was glad to say the angling on the river had been very good. He might mention the 80 lb. weight of dace taken the other day at Twickenham, and that a bank angler took a pike of nearly 19 lb. at Shepperton. (Applause.) In the rearing ponds at Sunbury they had 3,000 fry of trout and char, the gift of Mr. Littlewood, of Huddersfield; and that gentleman had liberally promised them 10,000 more for the Thames. (Applause.) Mr. Marston's scheme for coarse fish culture would receive the hearty support of the T.A.P.S. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Elliott, who was from the provinces, responded on behalf of the kindred societies. He said he felt that all the societies should work together for sport, and not for prizes. (Hear, hear.) The great London angling clubs should set a high example, and it would surely be followed. The slaughter of small fish, in order to make up gross weight, was a most pernicious practice, and one which, he was glad to see, all the better societies were setting their faces against. He could tell them that there were a great many London anglers whose presence was not at all acceptable to their country brethren, for when they invaded their districts they seemed bent on mischief. They left gates open, so that the farmer's cattle strayed; they broke fences, stole fruit, took every fish they could catch, big or little, and, in fact, made themselves as different from what the true angler should be as it was possible to imagine. He, of course, did not for a moment accuse any of the gentlemen present of such practices, but he thought it would do good if it were known in London that country clubs and anglers often had very good grounds for closing their waters to London men who called themselves anglers.

Then followed a song by Mr. Harrison, and Mr. Alfred Jardine next proposed "The Press." Mr. Jardine said that he undertook this toast with considerable diffidence, for it was one which had always been in previous years proposed by a very dear old friend of his whom they all had known and loved. He referred to the late H. L. Rolfe, whose loss they all mourned. Such losses as these showed them plainly how time rolled on. They had also to regret the absence of their treasurer, who was on a bed of sickness, but he trusted he would recover, for it seemed to him (Mr. Jardine) that anglers were particularly looked after and cared for by the Almighty. He thought Izaak Walton's book was, next to the Bible, one of the best books in the world; and he was sure that any true disciple of Izaak Walton could not be a very bad man. But to return th the toast. We had there gentlemen of the Press, and he had much pleasure in referring to the immense benefits conferred by the Press on the public generally. And sportsmen were especially indebted to the *Field*—to that oldest of sporting papers, *Bell's Life*—and to the Fishing Gazette, which was the only paper entirely devoted to angling. He proposed, then, "The Press," coupled with the names of Mr. W. H. Brougham, Mr. J. P. Wheeldon, and Mr. R. B. Marston.

The company here sung "For they are jolly good fellows," a spontaneous compliment much appreciated.

Mr. Brougham briefly replied, and then Mr. Wheeldon said that he, too, deeply felt the loss of the gracious presence, the tall and stately figure and scarlet phiz of dear old Rolfe. He (Mr. W. had been connected with *Bell's Life* for eight or nine years, and felt that he had done his duty fairly well (hear, hear), and in describing his ill luck or good luck, he had always kept to the truth (laughter), which was more than all anglers could say The chairman had referred to the action of the riparian owners and their claims on the river. Now he felt very strongly on this question, and thought anglers should do their utmost to support the Thames Rights Defence Association. (Hear, hear.) He had hoped that the chairman of that society, Mr. Francis Francis, would have been present with them to urge the matter on their notice. It was only the other evening he was at a dinner where he heard riparians say they would repel London anglers in consequence of their unpleasant behaviour—trespassing, foul pipes, foul language, &c., being some of the charges made against the London club men. Now, he was no apologist for unseemly conduct, but, on the other hand, this gave the riparians no right whatever to set up claims to the river, to the exclusion of respectable anglers—claims which were founded on moonshine. He was sorry that the Thames Rights Defence Association had had to go to the Lord Mayor for help. He felt this was a case where anglers should help themselves. He said that he had the previous evening dined with the Good Intent Anglers at Shoreditch, and he was delighted to find that the best feeling was manifested towards the more wealthy clubs, such as the Gresham and the Piscatorial, which had done something towards breaking down the barriers which exist between rich and poor anglers. (Hear, hear.) When rich and poor were all banded together as one body we should have the finest body of anglers in the world; for he knew none would venture to dispute that some of the most skilful of our anglers are to be found amongst the mechanic and working class. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Marston, in responding on behalf of the Fishing Gazette said that one of the pleasantest things connected with the Fishing Gazette since it had been under his care, was the great number of friends it had made for him amongst the anglers of London, and not in London only, but in all parts of the world. Also not the least pleasant thing was the invitation for salmon, trout, and jack and other fishing, which he often got from perfect strangers—readers of the Gazette—in various parts of the country. He said he most heartily endorsed all that Mr. Birkbeck and Mr. Wheeldon had so ably said as to the necessity for defending our rights on the Thames. He was very glad to be able to announce to them that their chairman, Mr, Birkbeck, had most kindly promised to take the chair at the Society of Arts at the meeting of London anglers which will be held there shortly to discuss the question of the propagation of our coarse fish. (Hear, hear.) They, as anglers, were deeply indebted to Mr. Birkbeck for the great interest he shows in all fishery matters. He considered the establishment of fisheries exhibitions as of the utmost importance. In 1880 we had the splendid International Fisheries Exhibition at Berlin, which gave great impetus to fishing interests; then followed the important National Exhibition at Norwich. The Edinburgh International Exhibition, and the great 1883 International Exhibitions, were coming, All this was of immense importance in furthering our knowledge on the subject. He then referred to the Fishing Gazette Tournament, which was held at the Welsh Harp last year, and which was very successful. He thought that, as the fence months were coming on, this question of angling tournaments should be revived and he would venture to suggest that it might be possible to get up a competition between members of the Piscatorial and Gresham Societies, and if such a competition were arranged he would be happy to give a prize. With regard to the Edinburgh Fisheries Exhibition, Mr. Marston said that he had been requested by the committee of that exhibition, to endeavour, if possible, to get some of the London angling clubs to exhibit cases of stuffed fish as was done at Norwich. He was glad to say that some clubs hadpromised already; others, he regretted to say, were apparently indifferent, but he hoped the Piscatorial Society which has the finest collection in London, would exhibit. (Hear, hear.) As a member of the club, he felt they oughtto exhibit. Their Scotch friends would take it as a great compliment, and when we ask them to exhibit at our 1883 exhibition, they would be all the more willing to do so if we helped them with theirs. (Hear, hear.)

The next toast was that of "The Chairman," given by Dr Brunton, the vice-chairman. Dr. Brunton said the toast would have the sympathy of all. It was a great honour, and an important matter to the society, to have for their chairman not only a member of Parliament, but also the president of the Norfolk Acclimatisation Society. He thought that for this evening, they might fairly claim the initials M.P. after Mr. Birkbeck's name, as standing for Member of the Piscatorial Society. (Laughter.) Dr. Brunton then expatiated on the true nature of the angler's vocation. "We are not simple fishermen; we study nature, we are not pot-hunters." He took exception to the expression "Coarse Fish," which, he said, did not apply to such fine fish as perch, though truly of a bream, perhaps, it might be said it tasted like a boiled flannel pin-cushion. (Laughter.) He would very much like to see the continental system of stews introduced into the proposed new fish market, then we could buy our fish alive and fresh; the fish cleanse themselves in these stews, and got rid of the muddy flavour which they must acquire in muddy water. Mr. Birkbeck briefly replied. Mr. Addlington then proposed the vice-chairman, Dr. Brunton, one of their most expert fly-fishers, and also one of their most pleasant and genial members. (Hear, hear.) Dr. Brunton replied, thanking the society for the honour they had done him in giving him the duties of the vice-chair. Mr. Forman then proposed the visitors, and hoped they would all become anglers.

Mr. Spencer Walpole in replying, thanked them in the name of the visitors for the way they had been entertained. He would not make a long speech because the hour was late, and evidently, from what he had seen, whatever might be the feelings in another House, the Piscatorials were decidedly in favour of cloture. (Laughter.) We heard of rights of men, and rights of women, &c., but he thought what anglers wanted was rights of fish and fishing. (Hear, hear). Although, happily, political matters did not interfere with the harmony of angling meetings, he certainly considered that Mr. Birkbeck, the Conservative member for North Norfolk, had made a most liberal and even radical speech. (Great laughter.)

The general meeting then broke up, but some dozens remained for an hour, and, after voting Mr. Wheeldon in the chair, indulged in some singing and general chat. At 12·30, this subsidiary meeting dispersed, and so ended one of the pleasantest meetings of anglers ever held.

THE SPORTSMAN'S EXHIBITION AT THE AGRICULTURAL HALL.

It has been a matter of surprise and regret to all anglers who have visited this exhibition that so few of our fishing-tackle makers are found amongst the list of exhibitors; we think this may in some measure be accounted for by the fact that the Norwich Fisheries Exhibition was held so recently, and that Fisheries Exhibitions on a grand scale will be held this spring in Edinburgh and next year in London. However, the firms who do exhibit deserve all the more credit for their enterprise, and will doubtless reap a larger reward than if they had more competitors.

Messrs. F. T. Williams and Co., of Great Queen Street, have a very effective show, and we noticed many gentlemen handling their fine glued-up cane rods, their hard wood trout rods, &c. We were glad to see they made special features of rods fitted with Hardy's winch fitting, and the new Fishing Gazette winch. Amongst their novelties we noticed specially a new and cheap light tin box, divided into compartments, for artificial baits; the compartments being made of cork. This bait-box is very handy indeed, and is sure of a favourable reception from spinners. They have also the new "Captain Boyton" pike bait—a metal fish with archimedean head and tail spinning arrangements. In our opinion the blades at the head of the bait are quite unnecessary, and can only prove detrimental to the spin, as well as acting as a gag, and perhaps preventing the hooks striking home. As we have so repeatedly said, a properly bent tail is all that is required for obtaining the most rapid and regular spin.

Messrs. Holbrow and Co. have a good miscellaneous exhibit of polo clubs and balls, tent-pegging spears, fishing rods, &c. all appear to be of very good quality and remarkably moderate in price.

Messrs. W. Watson and Sons are taking orders for guns and fishing-rods, and they certainly have an extremely fine selection of both. Their sporting knives attracted much attention, particularly their new "angler's knife." We can strongly recommend any of our readers who are in the neighbourhood of 308 and 313, High Holborn, to look in and see Messrs. Watson's really fine stock. They have for many years past added a fishing-rod and tackle department to their business, and every novelty is at once added to their stock; they mean to command success by deserving it.

Messrs. Cayless and Sons, of Loughborough, have quite a large exhibit of their specialities—nets of all kinds, including the Fishing Gazette bait-net, which, we are glad to hear, is much appreciated. By the way, the *Field* gave it a very good notice.

Messrs. Thornhill and Co., of New Bond Street, have an extensive and most attractive exhibit of their sporting knives, flasks, baskets, canteens, clocks, &c., also one or two specimens of stuffed fish, the only ones we noticed in the building; in fact, the absence of trophies of the chase is general—in an exhibition of this kind they ought to have been a prominent feature.

Mr. John Loynes, of Elm Hill, Norwich, exhibits a model of his safety pleasure boat, which obtained the prize medal at the Norwich Fisheries Exhibition. It is built specially for fishing and cruising trips on the endless rivers and broads of Norfolk and Suffolk, and fulfils the necessary requirements of such a boat in an admirably perfect manner. Any of our readers who may think of visiting East Anglia, should note Mr. Loynes' address, as he will furnish all information about the waters. He publishes a useful guide for 3d.; every angler should possess it.

Mr. Henry Heath, of Oxford Street, exhibits his sporting hats, caps, helmets, &c., of every description—his soft helmet-shaped cap is the very thing for anglers. Keeps the sun and rain off both face and neck, and can easily be fitted with his registered removable band for holding the fly-cast—a most useful invention.

Messrs. J. Kay and Son, of Sheffield, have a selection of their porpoise-hide fishing and shooting boots, their patent "Eclipse" boot being an admirable sample of sound work and material.

Messrs. Salver and Co's. show-case attracted as much attention as anything in the building, their guns, camping out requisites, and other sporting accessories, being most varied and good.

Mr. Henry Churchman, of Horsham, exhibits a novelty in the shape of a "Sportsman's" tonic, or Seville orange brandy—a very useful friend when one is wet through on a fishing expedition.

Messrs. J. C. Cording and Co., of Piccadilly, have a splendid collection of fishing canoes, boots, stockings, brogues, coats, bags, hats, &c., &c.; the first-class quality of their goods is known too well to need comment from us.

Messrs. Macdougall and Co., of Inverness, show an exhibit of fishing and shooting hosiery which deserves special notice. These goods are hand-knit, and we can most strongly recommend them to the notice of all anglers who wade or who suffer from cold feet; they will outlast three pairs of the ordinary hose sold with fishing stockings, especially for wearing over the latter to keep out sand and grit.

Messrs. Anderson, Abbot and Anderson's exhibit is also of special interest to our readers, comprising, as it does, all kinds of fishing waterproofs, including many specialities. And the same be said of that of Mr. George Cording of 125, Regent Street, his fishing gloves being a noticeable features and a most useful one.

Mr. Thomas Grant, of Maidstone, caters for anglers with his world-renowned Morella cherry brandy, a most excellent liqueur for the sportsman.

Messrs. W. Sparkes Hall and Co., of Regent Street, exhibit their "Carmichael" Portable Boot Tree. This invaluable little invention we have before noticed most favourably. Most anglers have experienced the annoyance of not being able to get on their boots after they have been dried by the hotel "boots." Messrs S. H. and Co's. invention completely obviates this difficulty.

Messrs. S, Matthews and Son of Charing Cross, have a very fine exhibit of waterproof goods for anglers, and their new automatic invisible apparatus for preventing drowning is a capital idea, well worth the attention of all salmon and trout fishers.

Messrs. Taylor and Son, 82, Great Portland Street, have a good exhibit of their fishing, shooting and walking boots, which are of the best material, workmanship and style.

Messrs. Samuel Gulliver and Co. show their now celebrated whisky "Curaçoa," prepared from the finest old matured Irish whisky, oranges, lemons, and aromatic spices. This carries recommendation on the face of it, and fully deserves the immense success it has already attained.

Mr. J. Wilson, of 52, King Street, Woolwich, has a fine show of his specialities in lawn-tennis nets, racquets, shoes, &c. Mr. Wilson is a Freemason and an angler. His new fastening for lawn tennis racquets is very ingenious.

In concluding our notice of that part of the exhibition more particularly of interest to anglers, we must heartily congratulate Mr. Rafferty, the manager, and Mr. Etherington, the secretary of the exhibition, on the very great measure of success attained. Such exhibitions as this ought to be more general among such a sport-loving people as we are, and we trust they will be encouraged to repeat their enterprising experiment at no very distant date. Just a word for their catalogue—a most important feature of an exhibition of this kind. It is in every respect admirable—clear, well arranged, easy of reference, and has one special feature which we would strongly recommend to the notice of all who may have to get up catalogues of this kind, that is, the description of each exhibit has opposite it a blank space for "visitors' notes."

Our friends of the Piscatorial Society, should not forget to examine Mr. T. Huggett's really admirable fishing-punt made by himself.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

Splendid Take of Pike.

A SPLENDID take of pike by Messrs. Alfred Jardine and A. Nuthall, was weighed-in at the Gresham Angling Society on Friday last. These well-known anglers took no less than 30 pike in 5 hours, 18 of which were brought to the Gresham as specimen fish; 12 under 4lb. weight being returned to the water. Mr. Jardine, with his usual good fortune and skill, took the largest, his total, composed of 11 fish, weighing 87 lb., the two heaviest weighing 21½ lb. and 17½ lb. each; the remaining 9 going altogether 48 lb.

Mr. Nuthall had 7 fine fish, weighing together 57½ lb., the total gross weight being 144 lb. 8oz. These were all taken "spinning" and "paternoster;" forming a brilliant sequel to the grand take of Messrs. Jardine and Knechtli's we lately recorded.

CLUB REPORTS.

ACTON AND EALING ANGLING SOCIETY.

Since my last report the following fish have been weighed:—Mr. Slater, 26 lb. 7¼ lb. roach and dace; Mr. Howell, 4 lb. 12½ oz. roach and dace; Mr. Head, 7 lb. 11 oz. roach and dace; Mr. Dean, 1 jack, 2 lb. 6 oz. Messrs. Simpson and Clayton have also shown roach and perch. The first visit of clubs in No. 1 district of the W.C.A. will be paid to this club on Tuesday, Feb. 21, when we hope to see a good muster of angling friends amongst us on that occasion.—Black Bag.

AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 12th twenty members fished for eleven prizes at Burnt Mill, with little success, only four being taken—Messrs. S. Patrick, Shary, Farebrother, and J. Pedley, first, second, third, and fourth, winning. Mr. C. A. Medcalf, Mr. J. Hunt, Mr. J. Robinson, and Mr. A. Plumstead prizes. The remaining prizes will be fished for at Ware on Sunday, February 19. A return visit will take place in the club-room on Wednesday, February 22. The visit is on No. 2 list of the W.C.A. Any other clubs being able to attend on that occasion, we shall take a great deal of pleasure in receiving the call, and return it in full afterwards.—T. Worledge.

ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Only three of our members weighed-in on Sunday, the 12th inst. Mr. A. Shakel, roach and jack; Mr. A. Glass, roach; Mr. T. Bowling, roach and dace. A roving match will take place on Sunday, the 26th inst., for three prizes (Staines Bridge to Penton Hook.)—D. Davis, sec.

Feb. 14.

BOSTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had a fair show of fish on Sunday last, the following members weighing-in:—Mr. Brothers, roach and perch, and Mr. Goodge, roach, from Shiplake; Mr. Hart, one jack; Mr. Collier, roach; Mr. Jennings, three jack; and Mr. Vincent, a pretty jack from the Colne weighing 14 lb.—H. Taylor.

BRENTFORD PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Our takes have been smaller this week, jack about 8 lb. Mr. T. Taylor, 8 lb. of dace on Friday at Isleworth with Howard. Mr. J. Allen, two perch, one 1 lb. 8 oz., the other 1 lb. 4 oz.—J. H. White, hon. sec.

Feb. 13.

BRIGHTON ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION

Last week in the Ouse Mr. Tomkins took two jack, one 7 lb. and one 3 lb. Mr. Anscombe, in the same river, took two jack, both small. Mr. Cardy lost one, after being friends a quarter of an hour. He was a large one, but did not gorge the bait. On Sunday he tried Chichester and did not get a knock all day. He could see the bottom across the canal anywhere, and strongly recommends anglers not to go till the water is cloudy or the weeds grow in front of the angler.—Groundbait.

CITY OF BRISTOL ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

The monthly meeting of this association was held at the club house on Monday February 13th, when, after the ordinary business of the evening had been transacted, the vice-president, Mr. J. H. Champion, rose, and spoke as follows: "Mr. President and brother members, it falls to my lot to now perform one of the most pleasing duties that can fall to the lot of a vice-president of such an association as this. I do this with more than ordinary pleasure, as I have at all times, since I have had the honour to be connected with your association, found your president (Mr. Jones) to be a man of sterling worth and a thorough angler, and ready at any time to give advice to any member or members who might be considered to be not quite up to the mark. And now, Mr. Jones, I have the extreme pleasure, in the names of the members and friends of this association to present to you a fishing-rod, reel and tackle, and to express a hope that you may long be spared to enjoy its use." (Loud applause, during which the vice-president resumed his seat.) The president, on rising to return thanks, said he should ever remember this evening. He found it difficult to find words at his disposal wherewith to express to them (the members and friends of their association) his deep thanks for their kindness in presenting him with such a beautiful rod, &c. He could assure them that it would always be much prized by him, not for its intrinsic value, but rather as showing the good feeling that existed between them as members of the City of Bristol Angling Association. After sketching out a brief history of the association, the president said they all knew he was not a man of wealth, but anything he had done in the past to promote the welfare of the association, he would for the future endeavour to surpass. Several other members bore testimony to the worth of the president. A vote of thanks to the vice-president for presiding, which, after being duly acknowledged, concluded one of the most pleasant meetings ever held by this association.—J. H. Stantial, hon. sec.

Feb. 13.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

A few of our members were out on the 12th to compete for two prizes given by Messrs. Hobbs and Stebbings, Messrs. Chambers and Castell winning the former with roach and perch from Amberley, the latter with perch from Penton Hook. Mr. Payne had roach from Amberley, and Messrs. Plumstead, sen., and Pratt roach from the Lea. Mr. Payne's prize will be fished for on the 19th.

CLAPHAM JUNCTION.

The only members weighing-in this week were Mr. J. Innes and Mr. Hutchins with some splendid roach and dace from Shepperton, several going over 1 lb. each.—E. Wilson.

Feb. 14.

DUKE OF NORFOLK ANGLING SOCIETY.

The above society had good trays on Sunday last. Mr. Pates chub and perch, the largest 2 lb. 5 oz., from Ripley; Mr. Allen, jack, from Cowley. Messrs. Baxter, Haimbers, Stone, Wilkens, Colley, and Avon, also having fish. —James Avon, sec.

FRIENDLY ANGLERS.

At the weekly meeting at the Albion Tavern, Albion Street, Hyde Park, on Wednesday evening last, Mr. Pugh made a magnificent show of perch from the Kennett. They weighed altogether exactly 57 lb. The nine largest weighed respectively 2 lb. 4½ oz, 2 lb. 3 oz., 1 lb. 12½ oz., 1 lb. 10 oz., 1 lb. 8½ oz., 1 lb. 8 oz., 1 lb. 6 oz., 1 lb. 4½ oz. and 1 lb. 4 oz. There were twelve others weighed over 1 lb. each and eighteen over 12 oz. In addition to the perch he had 8 lb. 6½ oz. of roach and 1 lb. 7 oz. of dace, making a gross total of 66 lb. 13½ oz. On the previous Wednesday Mr. Pugh weighed-in 16 lb. 8 oz. of perch, the largest 1 lb. 7 oz., and 10 lb. 4 oz. of jack.—B.

GOOD INTENT SOCIETY.

We had a handsome show of fish at our club on Sunday last. Messrs. Chritchfield and Brookwell showed 60 lb. of chub and perch, good fish, but not large size; Mr. Beard brought up one handsome perch, 3 lb.; Mr. Maybury, 10 lb. of roach; Mr. Edward Saunders, 7 lb. of perch; Messrs. Bell, roach; Philpott, roach; Gadbury, roach; R. Murphy, roach, chub, and dace; W. Wheeler, Sluggett, Donovan, Moss, Levey, Beard, Cox, roach. Our annual supper took place at our club house on the 14th inst., and was an immense success, 120 sitting down; Mr. Tibbatts making an excellent chairman; Mr. Brookwell, vice-chair. We were honoured with the company of J. P. Wheeldon, *Bell's Life*' Mr. Crumplen, hon. sec. of the Gresham; Mr. Bates, from ditto and Piscatorial; Mr. L. Bonvoisin, West Central; Mr. S. Mongan, East Central. The supper was everything that could be desired, and great praise was given to our worthy hostess, Mrs. Roberts. A telegram was received at the last moment from Mr. Geen, that he could not possibly be with us; Mr. T. Hoole sending an apology, as he is so unwell. After the supper, presentations were made to the secretary, Mr. R. Murphy; and Mr. W. H. Beckett, for their past services, consisting of illuminated addresses on vellum, in massive gold frames, beautifully executed. Harmony prevailed till two o'clock, when every one was delighted with the evening spent.—R. Murphy.

Feb. 15.

GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

On February 5th, Messrs. J. S. Fitch and W. Barker, jack from Grand Junction Canal, weighing, respectively, 6 lb. 1 oz. and 6 lb. 12 oz., heaviest fish, 5 lb. 9 oz.; Mr. Stammer, a brace of handsome jack from Welsh Harp, 9 lb. 14 oz. From the Thames the following weighed roach:—J. Kirk, 1 lb. 3 oz.; Theobald, 1 lb. 7 oz.; W. Parkin, 1 lb. 10 oz.; F. Watling, 3 lb. 15 oz.; Young, 2 lb. 5 oz.; J. K. Fitch, 1 lb. On February 12th, from Grand Junction Canal, Mr. J. A. Fitch, jack, 10 lb. 12 oz.; Mr. Barker, 6 lb. 9 oz.; Mr. Stammer, jack, from Welsh Harp, 5 lb. 15 oz. From the Thames:—Mr. F. Watling, roach, 4 lb. 8 oz.; Cowper, 3 lb. 1 oz.; Baker, 1 lb. 2 oz.; Armstrong, 1 lb. 6 oz.; C. Warren, 1 lb. 6 oz.; J. K. Fitch, 1 lb. 13 oz.; C. Watling, 2 lb. 1 oz. Messrs. Young and Walker, dace, from New River. Messrs. Kirk and Hutchings, roach, from the Colne.—J. A. Fitch, jun., sec.

Feb. 14th.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The weekly meeting of this society was held at 1 Bishopsgate Street Within, on Thursday evening, R. A. Holroyd, Esq., in the chair. The correspondence included letters from Mr. King, of the Royal Oak, Windsor, and Bartholomew, at Goring, both reporting water in fine condition, but much rain having fallen at the latter place probabilities for the next day or two were adverse. The circular from the West Central Association was read and discussed, Mr. Crumplen and Mr. Bates being deputed to attend the general meeting on behalf of the society. The famous take of pike by Messrs. Jardine and Nuthall, recorded in another column, was the subject of much interest to the members, and Mr. Jardine very suitably replied to the congratulations tendered. Several other members have also weighed-in some good fish during the week. The hon. secretary then described the visit of himself and Mr. Bates to the Good Intent Angling Society on the occasion of their annual supper, expressing his admiration of their fine museum, and, more than all, of the fraternal welcome extended to them by such a large body of their brother anglers, with which they were greatly gratified. Mr. Bates, having spoken in similar terms, it was unanimously resolved that a letter of thanks should be written to the Good Intents reciprocating all their good wishes. The proceedings closed with a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Holroyd for occupying the chair.

HEARTS OF OAK ANGLING SOCIETY.

I am pleased to say that we had some nice trays of fish on Sunday, Mr. A. Fish, Mr. J. Whitmore, and Mr. Walford being to the front. The supper of the above society took place last evening (Tuesday night), when an excellent supper was provided by the host (Mr. J. Wilson), and a very pleasant evening was spent. Mr. J. Woodard had a good show of chub.—C. J. Millie, sec.

IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several of the members were out on Sunday last, but only one of them met with any success, and that was Mr. W. H. Hawkes, who had a nice jack. There will be a special meeting of the members on Wednesday, the 22nd inst., for the purpose of considering the important resolutions advanced by the amalgamated associations. Mr. A. C. Critchfield showed 23 lb. of roach and chub on Monday last, the 13th inst.; the fish were in prime condition.

JOVIAL ANGLERS.

I have much pleasure in reporting that the members of the above club had a good day on Sunday last, the 12th inst. Mr. Clark, fishing at Hampton from the bank, took a good roach weighing 1 lb. 13½ oz., gross weight, 3 lb. 7½ oz.; Mr. Green, from the bank at Shepperton, had 6 lb. 7 oz. roach, two of these fish weighed 2 lb.; Mr. Kollman, from punt at Richmond, 6 lb. 12 oz. of roach and dace; other members also had a fair show. I am proud to say that the club progresses, and the members increase, both of working and honorary members.—H. W. Platt, sec.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCETY.

Most of our members were out on Sunday jack-fishing only, a series of prizes being given for the same. Messrs. Wightman, Pipe, Goodes, Welch, Raime and Moore proved successful in bringing home a most excellent show. Mr. Petrie also had a capital lot of roach, rudd and tench; Mr. G. Watson, perch; Mr. Thompson, roach; and Mr. Humphreys, roach and perch, which made a handsome display of fish on the trays.—H. Moore, sec.

NORTH-WESTERN ANGLING CLUB.

Many members of this club were out on Sunday, but met with very inferior success. Mr. Marshall (one of those that generally manages to show us some fish) had 6 lb. nice chub; Mr. Aldis, brace of jack from Elstree, and Mr. Grindley one from the harp. Mr. Turner had a few roach and dace from the Thames. At the time of sending this to you some four or five of our members are off for a day's jack-fishing; lets hope they will come home loaded, as it is the last day this season at this particular water.—F. Hill, sec.

Feb. 13.

ORIGINAL ALEXANDRA SOCIETY OF ANGLERS.

Our members went down to St. Margaret's to fish a pegged-down match for thirteen prizes, but we found the fish would not feed, and only five prizes were won. Mr. Lyndsell, of the Pied Bull, Stanstead, gave our members 10s. to fish for. Mr. Brockett took first prize, Mr. Blackledge the second, Mr. C. Hewitt, the third, Mr. W. High fourth, Mr. Stanton the fifth. The other prizes stand over to some future date. Mr. Coleman, one of our new members, kindly acted as referee.—E. Dymond, sec.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The trays of the above society were not overburdened with fish on Sunday last, the following members weighing-in:—Mr. L. Gorsuch, perch; Mr. Neagus, roach, both from the Stort; Mr. Obbard, dace and roach, from the Lea; and Mr. T. Burke, chub, one scaling 2½ lb., from the Thames.—Thos. M. Lucy, sec.

Feb. 15.

PECKHAM BROTHERS.

The members of the above club were out on Sunday last. A match at Staines for four prizes was on the *tapis*, and each member was on his mettle. "Lardy," while walking about to find a good swim, fell into the water, and had to swim really. He then settled down, and succeeded in taking first prize. A. Duke was second, J. Stidolph third, and H. Garrad fourth; Messrs. Menard and Gendle also had fish. March the 21st is set apart for the annual dinner, when A. Brodie, Esq., will occupy the chair.—W. H. Page, hon. sec.

Feb. 15.

SECOND SURREY.

At the weekly meeting held at the headquarters of the above, it was decided that all the members visit Staines on the 19th, to compete for those prizes that were not won at St. Margaret's, including the cup given by Mr. Hockley. Members competing will be restricted to that portion of the river Thames situated between Staines Bridge and Staines Lock. All fish, according to club rules, to weigh.—Pixie.

Feb. 16.

SIR HUGH MYDDLETON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above society fished a match for a series of prizes at Taplow on the 29th ultimo. The rain came down in torrents; still, the members persevered till darkness brought an end to the sport. The following is a list of the winners:—G. Rogers first, gross weight and specimen fish, winning two prizes; E. Smith, second; Duncan, third; Caborn, fourth, Taconville, fifth. Few of the members have been out since the match. The takes of fish worthy of mention are: Mr. E. Smith had on the 5th inst. four chub, scaling 10 lb. 6 oz., the largest—a perfect beauty—4 lb. 14 oz. The fish has been sent to Mr. Gibson, of Richmond Road, Barnsbury Road, for preservation; on the 12th inst., Mr. E. Smith was again to the fore with 10 lb. 11 oz. of handsome chub; Mr. G. Caborn had a nice little show of fish, chub and dace, the largest chub—a very handsome fish of 3 lb. 14 oz—taken with single hair. Who says chub don't fight? It took me twenty minutes to exhaust this little chub.—G. Caborn, sec.

February 13, 1882.

SOCIETY OF CAXTONIAN ANGLERS.

The usual weekly meeting was held on Friday, the 10th inst., and a very fine show of fish was presented. The palm was carried off by Mr. T. Matthews with a fine jack of 18 lb. 8 oz., and another of 16 lb. 12 oz. from Slough, and several others of smaller size. Mr. W. Cate showed a beautiful bream of 4 lb. 5 oz. from the Lea. This society does not boast of large takes, but notably of specimen fish. This night's show keeps up the principle of the club. —I. J. Field, hon. sec.

February 10.

SOUTH LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday, Mr. Price had a jack, 6 lb., frem Guildford; Mr. Mitchell, from Chertsey, 3 lb. roach; Mr. Norman, from private water, four jack; Messrs. Delehaye and Graving, from Twickenham, a nice show of roach and dace; Mr. Price followed up his success with a 5 lb. pike from Guildford. Six of our members will fish six of the Walworth Waltonians for a supper on Sunday next at Bourne End.—G. Field.

STANLEY ANGLERS.

Since our last report, some of our members have been very busy amongst the jack, as the subjoined figures will show. On the 11th inst., Mr. C. P. Wheatstone 10 fish, weight, 40 lb. 13½ oz.; largest jack weighed 10 lb., and a nice perch of ¾ lb.; Mr. H. Rose, on the 12th, three jack, 27 lb. 3 oz., largest weighing 17 lb. 6½ oz.; Mr. W. R. Humby, a nice jack of 5 lb. 1½ oz. Mr. Scull showed a tray of roach and dace. Several other members were out, but were not very successful. Mr. Rose's large pike has gone to Cooper for preservation, and was a beautiful fish, in splendid condition.—G. E. Walker.

Feb. 15.

STOKE NEWINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 12th inst., the members of the above fished the Rye House water for three prizes; Mr. J. M. Brookman taking the first with a brace of jack, weighing 5 lb. 4 oz.; Mr. A. Parrott, the second, with 4 lb. 4¼ oz. roach and dace; the third by T. Gretton, with 2 lb. 4 oz. roach, the heaviest a fine fish, weighing 1 lb. 2¾ oz. Mr. S. Wilkinson also had perch; Mr. W. Webb, jack; and Mr. T. Harris, roach; making a very fair show of fish when exhibited together in the evening at the new club house.—T. Gretton, sec.

Feb. 14.

UNITED BROTHERS.

Several members were out on the 12th but only two managed to return with fish:—W. Tyler, two nice little jack, and a perch from Pulboro, and A. Smith, some very handsome roach, one turning the scale at 1 lb. 6¾ oz., from the Lea.—W. Belton.

Feb. 15th.

WALTONIANS.

On February 8th, Mr. Giles weighed in a very nice jack, taken at Pangbourne from the bank, weight 5 lb. 6 oz., and a small show of roach. Mr. Waltham had a handsome show of roach, also from Pangbourne, 14 lb. 12 oz. Mr. Horsford also weighed-in 1 lb. 13 oz. roach. On the 12th the trays were well filled, nearly all who went out having fish. The best show by Mr. Phillips; roach, perch, chub, &c., a little over 10 lb.; Mr. Togwell, 7 lb. 8½ oz. chub: one fish 3 lb. 11¾ oz.; Mr. Packman, 4 lb. 6¼ oz. roach; Mr. Brady, 3 lb. 12¼ oz. dace; Mr. Malcom, 2 lb. 15¼ oz. roach; Mr. Roland, 2 lb. 9¼ oz. roach. Messrs. Greenfield, Good, jun., and yours truly also weighed-in fish.—A. J. Marriott.

Feb. 15.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

On the 9th, Mr. Weatherhead visited Blunham, and succeeded in getting three jack. On the 19th, a contest for a supper will take place at Bourne End between six members of the South London and six of this society, viz., Messrs. Brown, Bailey, Delehaye, Fox, Piolaine and another—Captain, Mr. C. Bansback. The representatives of the South London are Messrs. Brown, Boreman, Breewood, Buckham, Mitchell and Head—Mr. Field, captain. Conditions—Pegged-down, no livebait, no ledgering, one rod and line only, fish to go by this society's rules. Messrs. Field and W. Brown are appointed to pick out swims. An omnibus will start from the St. Paul's, Westmorland Road, in time to catch the first train from Paddington on Sunday morning. All fish to be weighed at the St. Paul's in the evening. The winners to have the choice of naming the house in which the supper shall take place—Pixie.

Feb. 15.

WAVERLEY ANGLING CLUB.

In addition to the £10 prize offered for an essay on trout, &c. (mentioned last week) to the International Fishing Exhibition, we learn the club has agreed to give another prize of £10 (ten pounds), for an "exhibit" for collections of inland fishing tackle and best complete anglers' outfit, specially adapted for the rivers and lochs of Scotland.

WEST LONDON ANGLING CLUB.

I am sorry to add to the length of your errata, but under the above head you give from me the takes of a roach of 3 lb. odd ounces, and a dace of over one pound. This was my error, as I sent on the tabulated statement of the secretary, but leaving out a column of the number of fish that made up these totals. The misstatement will be obvious to most of your readers, as a roach and dace of these weights are almost unprecedented, yet I hasten to ask you and your readers to accept my apology for the error, although not wholly my own. The account of the gross weight taken by this club and the weights of the specimen pike are accurate.—Creel.

THE GREAT INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION, LONDON, 1883.

We have much pleasure in announcing that R.H.H. the Prince of Wales, has consented to preside at a public meeting, to be held at Willis' Rooms, on Monday, the 27th. of February, at 12 o'clock. We trust our readers will make a point of attending at this meeting, which will be a most important one.

George James Eaton, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[Advt.]

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

"Ah, that deceit should steal such gentle shapes."
—Shekespeare.

The river is in prime order for all round winter work, more especially for roach, and the deceitful steel hidden with gentle shapes has been gathering and fleecing the river sheep to a nice tune, even until the weary angler has cried, "Bah, *toujours mouton!*" Jack and chub have not been too bountiful, but perch have been on the look-out for worm or seductive minnow. At Pangbourne and Maple Durham three takes of roach and perch came up to 32 lbs., and at Wargrave one take of perch scaled 14 lb. with twenty-one fish. From Horley I glean that on Tuesday Mr. Brooksbank caught with lob worm three tench scaling respectively 3 lb. 12 oz., 2 lb. 14 oz., and 2 lb. 10 oz. This pretty haul of physicians was shown in the evening at the village inns to admiring onlookers, one of whom, evidently the wag, seeing one of the fish at his last gasp, cruelly remarked, "Physician, heal thyself." The same day in the Horley waters Mr. Buckland took fourteen roach, best four going respectively 1 lb. 8 oz., 1lb. 6 oz., 1 lb. 4 oz., and 1 lb. 1 oz., with eight perch, two best scaling 1 lb. 10 oz. and 1 lb. 3 oz. Thursday evening.—I have just been interviewing Father Thames, and pronounce him to be in fine fishing fettle, pulse not too high, temperature not too low, and general condition will be still further improved by the copious dose of *aqua pura rainana* which was administered on Wednesday morning.—Marlow Buzz.

Ancholme.

At length the scale has been turned very severely against the pike. Large numbers have been caught in the upper reaches of the water, and some of them were of a very respectable size. Nothing worth reporting has, however, been done in the neighbourhood of Brigg, and the warfare seems to have been conducted mainly against the *ferox*. At the time of sending off this report the water is in fine condition, but we are now threatened with rain.—Thomas Ford.

Ballynahinch (Ireland).

The season opened on the above fishery with anything but a bright prospect, waters being so low, with continual east winds; but I am glad to say this week has been quite the reverse. Last Thursday the wind veered to the south, and we had a rattling spate, with a little sunshine. So, on Saturday, with the aid of a good "grey monkey," lured Mr. Springer to change his watery lair; and, again on Monday, with the same fly, both fish weighing 11 and 11½ lb. respectively. Since the spate, seals have been showing a good deal on the tidal pools, which is a good sign that fresh fish are running. Weather mild, with occasional shower since the spate.—W. B.

Dove.

Our scaly ones are not thoroughly in the humour yet. The fish have certainly not this week been biting well on the bottom, while they have not yet gone up to the top with any extraordinary degree of freedom. I fancy the weather has had a good deal to do with it. The elements have been unsettled, something after the style of March, rainy, gusty, and sunny by turns, and nothing long. The water, too, in the early part of the week was running low and fine. Trout and grayling have been rising best in the middle of the day, when the sun has been shining. They have then been taking the red fly, the bumble (light blue), and the dark one of the same class. I only hear of two good dishes having been filled, namely, one of five brace and the other of 6½ brace, taken above Tutbury, with the flies named. All these were mixed fish, and not very grand samples at that.—The Splodger.

Exe (Tiverton).

The rain of yesterday has moved the river only a little, it was slightly coloured to day and will be fishable to-morrow (Friday), if no more rain. The present prospects are not good. Should we get enough rain to have a flood water then some good sport may be looked for. The best killing flies at present are blue upright, halfstone, blue silver twist, and hare's ear gold twist.—Wm. Mudford.

Lea (Rye House).

The water is in good order now for fishing. The wind south-west and mild. There have been some nice takes of fish this week, roach, jack, and perch, and all in good order.—Wm. Cowell.

Medway (Tonbridge).

Water thick and unfishable. Sport since last week, Stanley, three pike, 14 lb., one 9 lb. 3 oz. On Monday, Mr. Cox took the first prize of the weighing-in club with a pike which weighed 5 lb. 7 oz. As soon as the water clears a little roach will be on the feed.—Ye Medway Water-Rat.

Ouse and Ivel (Blunham).

We regret to state that these rivers are a little flooded to-day (Thursday), but have had good sport during the week. We hope to see them in good condition by Saturday.—E. B.

Rother (Selham).

Water in capital order. At Chichester Canal water in good condition. Weather changeable, Pike and perch should be on feed. White frost this morning, with a few hours' rain. Wind westerly. At Selham roach off feed, except in early morning. Mr. Young showing some good fish; Mr. Summers, lower down, taking a fine dace measuring 13 inches. Some fair pike have been taken during the week; Mr. Terry, of Chichester, in four runs, securing but one fish of 4 lb. I hear of a 20 lb. pike taken near Burton Mill. At the canal, Chichester, Mr. Hammond took a small jack on Wednesday, but large bream and roach seem altogether off. Fish are in a very poor state here, and will evidently soon commence spawning.—Geo. F. Salter.

Severn and Teme (Worcestershire.)

These streams are good form for angling, and there is every prospect of a good season, as there could not have been a more favourable season for the salmon and trout to ascend the rivers to spawn, and there was a flush just in time to take the pelts down to sea again; the nets are taking some fine fish, the price in Worcester is 4s. per lb. I have seen a few good takes of whitefish. I reckon it will be a forward season for trouting; one of our fish dealers had about 20 brace last week. I am sorry to see a fine lot of fish fall to the netter, these fish were brook trout, some near 2½ lb. each. I have seen the early brown on the wing some days past, it is a fly you can kill trout with in this district. I have a few exact to size and shade of natural fly at 2s. per dozen.—J. A. Griffin.

Suir (Clomnel).

The rod-fishing has been excellent up the river. Surg.-Maj. Campbell getting seven in a few days, weighing respectively 28 lb., 24 lb., 20 lb., 19 lb., 18 lb., 18 lb., and 10 lb.; Mr. Jellies, five, 24 lb., 20 lb., 14 lb., 10 lb., &c.; Mr. R. F. Hutchings, three, weighing 25 lb., 12 lb., and 8 lb., at Banard; Major Blake, one, 10 lb.; Pat Moloney, one, 25 lb. There were two taken at Bally-Carron, 30 lb. and 25 lb.; two on Lord Donoughmore's preserves. The Clonmel cotmen got eighty-two salmon since the season opened; and, notwithstanding a great deal of poaching going on, the river is fully strewed with spring fish. The water-bailiff was severely hurt by poachers at Clonmel, on Monday night. The trout-fishing is getting very good and fish in better condition.—Dora.

Swale.

Trout-fishing has hardly yet commenced upon this river, as there is a good sprinkling of snow stilll remaining upon the high hills. The local fishermen, too, nearly all begin with the worm and natural minnow. Suitable flies for commencement are the needle brown, early brown, gravel spinner, and inside and outside woodcock's wing.—Thomas Ford.

Taw, &c. (N. Devon).

Taw has risen and thick. The smaller streams have scarcely risen from the rains of Saturday and Tuesday. The water was very low and clear last week; two or three days warm, mild weather, and only few fish taken. The wind having changed from east to west, with cold and hailstorms, not much prospect (until we can get rain to raise all the streams) of good fishing. The flies as before, which I enclose for your inspection. I am told they have done well already for this time of the year. I saw a gentleman who told me he had seen twenty salmon, which would have scaled 30 to 40 lb., laying dead within a short distance on the Taw, and no marks upon them to show the cause of death. They are in the rivers three and four deep, being so plentiful.—Rusty Game.

Thames (Goring).

Water came down to-day very thick in very good order for roach. Prospects at present looks bad for this week. If we get fine weather it will do for jack about Sunday. There has been taken a few jack and perch. Best day three jack, largest jack 5 lb., and 10 lb. of perch.—J. Rush.

Thames (Richmond).

The heavy rain that has fallen this week has made the water thick again, and the sudden change has put the fish off feed, for on Tuesday the water was getting too bright, and now it is a bit too thick; but if they had no more rain in the country than we had here there is a chance it will run off in a few days, and be all the better for the change, as there were not many roach to be had with the water so bright, but in all probability we shall be able to get the right side of them now the water is thick. Dace are heading towards the weir now, and they want the keeper's sharp eye on them or we shall lose the lot. Let us hope the Thames Angling Preservation Society will take the precaution, as in former times, to keep a man constantly on the spot for the next month, for this means either a good or bad fishing season next year and the year after; and all fish that are taken now that are rough should be returned to the water, as they are about to spawn or have spawned. Sport of the past week is as follows:—The 12th inst. being another day for Richmond, every punt was engaged. G. Howard, two days, 8 dozen dace; C. Brown, three days, 28 lb. roach and dace; Job Brain, two days, 21 lb. roach; H. Mansell, two days, 13 dozen dace; Wheeler, two days, 11 dozen dace; H. Howard, three days, 16 dozen dace and one bream; J. Bushnell, four days, 47 lb. roach and dace.—John Bushnell, fisherman.

Thames (Shepperton).

Since the rain the water is rising and getting rather too thick for jack and perch fishing. Prospects are very good for roach fishing. F. Purdue, two days, two dozen very good roach and half-dozen perch; Dr. Smith, in two days fishing in his own punt, first day, two jack, one 2½ lb. and one of 2 lb., second day, one of 5½ lb. A bank angler, on the 12th, caught a jack weighing 18 lb., and they have been doing well with the roach, taking some 1 lb. and some 1½ lb. each. I have not been out myself.—W. Rogerson.

Thames (Windsor).

Water, owing to the heavy rains of this morning and Monday last, is coming very much discoloured; will be good for worm fishing, but has stopped jack and chub fishing, though the latter will not despise the tail end of a nice bright lob, which will for some days be the bait. By the bye, writing of worm fishing, I omitted last week to mention a pretty lot of roach taken by a bank angler opposite Colonel Harford's, near Surly Hall, four of which went just over 1 lb. each, and one lusty fellow 1 lb. 15 oz. A very good specimen of Thames perch, as regards shape and condition, was taken last week by a customer of mine in the Surly Hall water, going 2 lb. 2 oz., by Mr. Allen, of Windsor. Our local enthusiast, Mr. Parsons, had a nice bag of roach on the 13th inst., twenty fish going 10½ lb. Very few jack have been had, and I only know of one decent fish; this was taken by Mr. Eason, of Stoke Poges, weight 5 lb. But few anglers have been trying them, otherwise, believe me, there are some good fish in the Surly Hall waters, notably the pool, and, lower down river, the "Flam" at Athens and Clewer Point; but water is now no good. Our thanks are again due to James Gray, the bailiff of the Windsor and Eton Preservation Society, who is evidently making it very warm for those members of the wire and net fraternity in the neighbourhood of Bovency, as it was only last week I had to credit him and his brother with the capture of another member, who is now doing a month's hard labour. This time, with the assistance of the lock-keeper, Croft, of Boveney, two brothers were caught almost on the same spot, with a large net, evidently made to suit Boveney ditch. Of course, they were catching rats, as to which the magisirates sitting at Beaconsfield will decide next Monday. Societies will do well to instruct their bailiffs to look after these ditches, as everything seems to be in a forward state this winter. The jack are evidently going up with the intention of spawning. The society here has promptly acted on the information of James Gray, that in a certain neighbourhood thousands of fish have been left behind from last flood, and two nets of simple construction are being made in order to restore them to the parent stream.—B. R. Bambridge.

Trent.

Rivers rising, water thick and unfishable, wind blowing almost a gale. Such is the disheartening news to hand to day. This is most disappointing, as the waters was reported in splendid order for pike fishing, and your humble servant had arranged to have the first day's pike fishing in the rivers this season. I cannot glean of much sport from the rivers. Mr. John Roberts got a good 10½ lb. fish from Alrewas last Saturday, and a few minor sized ones were taken by two of the members of the Birmingham and Midland Piscatorials. On the same day at Earlswood, Mr. John Allday, fishing with Mr. Joseph Naas the celebrated tenor singer—who, by the way, is one of the most enthusiastic anglers I know—secured a few fish spinning, but none of any size. A friend of mine, however, fell in with some good luck the latter end of last week fishing in some private waters a few miles from Birmingham by one o'clock. He and a friend had secured eighteen fish, after luncheon this was supplemented by another five; the lot, on being weighed, averaged 4 lb. each and were a splendid lot of fish, which any angler might feel proud of capturing. Roach fishing has been very bad. Mr. W. Reynolds took with the cockspur worm six fish, which weighed 5 lb., and this is about the sum total of news piscatorial worth speaking of.—James Gregory.

Trent (Newark).

Owing to the recent visitation of Jupiter Pluvius, our river is in a state of flood, nearly bank-full, and very thick; will take a week to get it in trim, if all things go on favourable. I have nothing of importance to communicate in the way of sport. I have not heard of a decent bag all the week. Our chub-fishing excursion that I mentioned last week duly came off, but was not a brilliant success. The fish caught were few and small. To-night (Thursday) the water is still rising, and about the colour of mustard, so the prospects are not as yet very brilliant. I can only advise anglers, who comtemplate a visit to the river, to take the advice of *Punch* to parties about to get married—"Don't." I said just now that I had nothing of importance to communicate this week, but I must not forget a very important item, and that is, Thomas Bentley and Valentine Watkin, two well-known members of the netting fraternity, yesterday had an interview with a local bench of magistrates, with the result that the former had to pay £3 and costs, and the latter £2 and costs, and forfeit the trammel nets they were using. John Swanwick, water bailiff to the Trent Board, clearly proved the case. A nephew of one of the convicted poachers said to me to-day, "There will not be so many fish weighed in David Slater's club now," a remark which I should like to hear further about. Will send a full report of the case in time for next week's Gazette.—Trent Otter.

Trent (Nottingham).

The river on Wednesday rose very rapidly, and quickly upset all calculations of pike and chub fishing. During the week a very large number of anglers have patronised the stream, and in one or two instances good sport was met with. For instance, a take of seven pike on Monday was followed by one of eight on Tuesday, whilst on Wednesday eight were brought up from Stoke. Several very nice chub have been caught in the Beeston length, besides three average-sized pike. The Weston subscribers appear to have been tolerably busy, but reports show that sport has been indifferent for the time of the year. Matters are quiet at Shardlow, but from Sawley I learn that a capital basket of pike (largest 8¾ lb.) has been forthcoming. On Thursday the water was still very much discoloured, and those who intend going out will do well to confine themselves to the back waters.—The Man at the Clubs.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

A very great quantity of heavy rain fell in the night last Tuesday, which caused both rivers to rise a little, and quite put a stop to fly-fishing for a short time. This rain will benefit the bottom fishers very much on the Derwent. Sport, both on Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday, was very good on both the Wye and also on different parts of the Derwent, with the artificial fly. One Sheffield angler killing seven and half brace of grayling on the Wye last Saturday between Bakewell and Rowsley, with bumble and furnace flies; also on the same day there were some nice dishes of grayling killed off of both the Chatsworth fishery and the Darley Dale club water, chiefly with bumble, February red, and furnace flies. On Tuesday six brace of good sized fish, both trout and grayling, were killed on the Derwent free water, between Darley and Matlock, both with the fly; the fish rising the best from one to three, and rose the best in the falls of the streams and in the deep slow runs. A great quantity of duns and browns were out on both rivers last Saturday, and the grayling were taking them eagerly. The bottom fishers have done fairly well on the Derwent during the week, chiefly with cockspur and brandling worms, killing chub, roach, dace, and a few trout; there has also been a few pike killed in the Derwent close to Whatstandwell, with gudgeons and small dace for baits. All that the angler requires now is fine weather to bring down the water, then good sport would be had. I have found out, and remarked for many years, that a high full water is very unfavourable for graying fishing with the fly. Bumble, claret body, Febuary red and furnace flies are killers, trout taking them as greedily as grayling. Both rivers ought to be in good ply for fly-fishing by Monday if no more rain falls. Very few anglers out Friday or Thursday; it is very cold with slight rain in the wind.—George James Eaton.

Yore (Yorkshire).

During the past few days the weather has reminded one more of April than February. A good many of the early duns have been out on the streams, but the fish have not, as a rule, been in a fly-taking humour. The mild open weather also appears to have caused grayling to spawn earlier than usual, as several that I have seen ought certainly to have been returned to their native element. A Wharfdale angler told me that he caught a trout last week, and that it looked in such capital condition, that it seemed quite a pity to be obliged to turn him into the river again. Let us hope that a real good trout season is in store for us during the present year.—Francis M. Walbean.

SCOTCH NOTES.

Tweed and Teviot.—Since last week rod salmon anglers, as well as trout-fishers have been highly gratified by the appearance of a much-needed flood. The stormy weather of the last few days of the previous week culminated on Sunday by a flood, which has raised the hopes of the angling community in this district, and which has also done an incalculable amount of good to the rivers. On Monday the flood was fully seven feet, having risen from the Friday previous from two feet to fully the height stated above. This has had the effect of allowing the kelted fish to go to the sea, and has also carried off all the dead fish which were polluting the rivers, and also rushed up all those salmon which were affected with the fungoid disease. No salmon angling has, therefore, been possible, but trout-fishers have had their fill during the past five days, and many good baskets of from 2½ lb. to 7 lb. have been got with bait. The rivers are now in good fishable condition, and as the bay at Berwick was literally swarming with clean salmon ready to enter the river whenever a flood gave them the chance, both Tweed and Teviot are sure to hold many of these clean fish now, and next week should see a goodly quantity of salmon killed. I am glad to record that no diseased fish are now to be seen. The net fishing opened on Wednesday, and better takes of salmon and trout have been got than has been the case for a number of years back, thus giving genuine hopes that the forthcoming season will be a better one than has been the case since 1876. I am to-day informed on authority that a good many clean salmon have been seen running the caulds, in the vicinity of Kelso, and high hopes are entertained of a successful spring fishing.—Maxwell, Kelso.

(From the *Scotsman*.)

Opening of the Salmon Fishing in the Forth District.—The net and rod fishing season in the Forth district opened on the morning of Saturday, under most unfavourable circumstances. Among the fish taken, however, was a beauty of 29 lb. weight. A number of kelts were landed with the nets, and returned to the river, and it is satisfactory to learn that not a single diseased fish was seen at any of the stations fished. A few undoubted cases of fungoid disease have been noticed in the Forth district during the close time, but there has been no real cause for alarm as to the spread of the disease, and it is to be hoped it will be arrested by the flood, which will carry most of the weak and sickly fish down to the sea. It is expected that the upper waters will be found well stocked with clean salmon, as during the last ten days a great many have been seen leaping in the Forth near Stirling, and the majority of these must have got forward with the present spate. The Stirling and Craigforth waters have again been leased from Mr. Speedie for rod fishing by the Stirling Forth and Teith Angling Club at the same rent as last year; and on Saturday several anglers were out, but owing to the dirty state of the wates almost no sport was obtained.

Tweed.—There has been very little angling on the Tweed during the past few days. Unseasonable fish have been frequently landed, but few clean salmon. On the Sprouston Water on Friday, two clean salmon of good weights were got. The heavy rains in the western districts brought the Tweed and Teviot down in flood on Saturday, and at Kelso Bridge the tweedometer indicated a rise of 2½ feet. Yesterday the water had fallen to a considerable extent, and good angling for both salmon and trout is anticipated this week should the weather prove favourable.

Annan.—The angling season on the Annan and tributaries opened on Saturday. An unusually large number of anglers turned out, but the river was too heavy for successful fishing. A good number of "kelts" were caught and returned to the river. Notwithstanding the ravages of the fungus, there seems to be a large number of sound fish in the river. The tributaries, the Milk and Dyfe, which are both excellent trouting streams, were also largely patronised by trout-fishers, and some good sport was obtained.

Callander.—Salmon fishing opened on Saturday, and every boat on the two lochs were engaged. The morning broke still, with a heavy downpour of rain, which prevented the fishing being as good as was expected. The following are some of the takes:—On Loch Lubnaig, Mr. Menzies landed a fine fish of 14 lb. Messrs. Stewart and Bryce, of Stirling, had nine yellow trout, in excellent condition, with the fly. On Loch Venacher, Mr. G. A. Cox, of Invertrossach, landed two salmon, one a beauty of 26 lb. On the River Leny, Colonel Robertson had one salmon, 13 lb.: John Henderson, one, 10 lb.; R. Lister, two, 20 and 13 lb.; A. Buchanan, one, 13 lb.; and Peter Robinson, one 18 lb.

The Tay.—Mr. Kincaid fished the Stobball water on Thursday, and caught two fine salmon, 26 and 15 lb. respectively. On the Grantully streams on Saturday, Mr. Alex Robertson, merchant, Aberfeldy, caught a newly-run fish weighing 10 lb. On the Athole Arms Hotel water, Mr. John Halliday, of London, landed a clean run salmon weighing 21 lb.

Opening of the Deveron Salmon Fishings.—The salmon fishing on he Deveron was opened for the season on Saturday with every prospect of a successful yield. The fine open winter has been favourable for the spawning of the fish, and more clean salmon were caught than for many years past on the first day of the season. The river was literally swarming with fish, the greater proportion, of course, being kelts. There were no symptoms of disease, and very few dead salmon. Over sixty fine clean fish were got by midday, ranging from 6 lb. to 12 lb. in weight. On the opening day last year about the same number were gos. Anglers are likely to have a good season, as the trout are not only plentiful, but rising capitally to the fly, A beginning will be made with the net sea fishings this week should the weather continue favourable for putting in the stakes. A good shower of rain is needed to put the river in proper condition for the free running of the salmon.

Loch Tay Salmon Fishing.—The weather is still unfavourable for fishing. On Saturday rain fell and the river Lyon was swollen, but the Tay was not much affected. On the Killin Hotel water, on Saturday, Mr. A. M. Cowan caught one salmon weighing 13. On Saturday the Killin reserved was finished by Colonel Murray of Polmaise, and Mr. N. J. Menzies of Menzies, when the former caught a nice salmon of 22 lb. The net was tried on the Kenmore reserved water, four shots being taken between the beacon light and the Kenmore Bridge, but only two salmon of 10 and 25 lb. were taken. The fish were newly run. On Friday a party of the Earl of Breadalbane's guests went up to fish the Auchmore reserved waters, and only caught two salmon, weighing 17 and 18 lb. respectively. On the Ardeonaig Hotel water, Mr. Christie, Edinburgh, had one fish, 23 lb, : Mr. Fyfe, Edinburgh, one, 23lb. The following takes were got by the Lochay Hotel boats on Friday:— Mr. Dixon, Glasgow; one fish, 17 lb.; Mr. Nicholson, Sheffield, one fish, 17 lb.

Opening of the Dee Salmon Fishing.—Our Banchory correspondant writes:—The salmon fishing opened on Saturday in this district. The weather was extremely favourable, but owing to the smallness of the river, anglers did not get very good sport. There is a good appearance of fish, and no signs of disease General Walker, in Knappach water killed a fine fish of 10 lb. On Lower Crathes water, Dr. M'Donald secured one of 9 lb. Mr Walter Leslie, on Biroston water, landed a fine fish of 10 lb. William Brands on very water secured two good fish about the same weight.

IRISH NOTES FROM CORK.

Atmospheric influences have been unfavourable to angling, during the last week. Floods in the commencement of the week, and cold weather with hail, showers, and snow has marked the last days of it. Very little good was done in consequence, but judging by the appearance of the morning with the glass set at fair, and the general pleasant temperature. I would not be surprised if some havoc was made. The late floods brought a lot of fish, and with the settlement in the weather excellent sport may be expected. During the last week. Sir Augustus Warren and party killed two fish. A professional angler named Manning had good sport on Saturday, having landed three springers and one unspawned fish. Among the other captures, were, Mr. Colthurst and party three ; Mr. Bowers three ; Mr. L. C. Parkes one ; Major Hawkes one ; Mr. Augher one .—Angler.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

PAUCITY OF FISH IN THE THAMES, &c.

Sir,—I have received a very strong reason for the re-supply, either by natural or artificial means, of the coarse-fish stock of the Thames and other waters of "our rivers." Mr. W. H. Davis, C.E., writes: "I read in the *Licensed Victuallers' Gazette* a day or two ago, that 'the dace were well on the feed at Teddington,' so I thought I would go and try. I went, and I can simply say that I believe the dace have departed from Teddington, and so thinks my fisherman, Ben Stevens. What few I took—about 18—were good fish. I remember the time when I could get seven or eight dozen easy .and I have taken thirteen dozen. But you cannot do it now ; the fishing has been wretchedly bad at Teddington all the season, and I do not think, from all I have heard, that it has been much better in the upper reaches. A few years ago I could always insure a good take of jack, perch and roach at Moulsford, now they are indeed few and far between. The glories of the Thames, as far as fishing is concerned, are departing. I believe there is still a great lot of poaching about Moulsford and up to Shillingford; and again, scarcely a boat sculls past your punt, but there is a bait of some sort out for jack, mostly a spoon, and young greedy fish are caught and taken out too, and many larger ones are pricked and fight shy. The best swims for perch and roach about Moulsford are constantly "fished" by a professional fisherman, and that does no good. I suppose one must try Norfolk, but then it is a long way to go. By the way, it is very bad of so many papers putting in falsehoods about the angling. Every now and again one reads 'Jack or Joe So and So had a rare day amongst the roach or dace or barbel or something.' One goes down and congratulates Jack or Joe, who are of course perfectly ignorant of such glorious luck ; they laugh, and say, 'Oh, sir, you must not believe them papers.' I have read some supposed exploits of my man Ben, who has been perfectly innocent of these, and I am quite sure he has had nothing to do with such deceptive conduct."

When will the Thames fishermen learn the value of truth, and the detriment to the interest of the whole fraternity by lending themselves to the salting of reports ? Creel.

SILKWORM GUT.

Sir.—With reference to my communication in last week's Fishing Gazette, and to the editorial note thereon, I wish to mention that the experiment referred to was made with dry gut, and arose as follows :—I was out fishing last season at the Welsh Harp, and while fitting up, my winch slipped from my hand, and I had the pleasure (?) of seeing it make two bounds down the embankment, and disappear with nearly fifty yards of Nottingham silk-twist in the deep water of the well-known "Bridge Hole." Fortunately, another winch was handy, and the misfortune was temporarily repaired. I had, however, to replace the loss for my own comfort, and this time with a Nottingham plait, as fine as a thread. Naturally, I wished to test the new line for strength, and, trying it in comparison with gut, I made the discovery of the effect of a breaking strain to which I have called attention. Since the appearance of the letter, and the appended note, the experiment has been repeated and varied, with the result that, with dry gut, the strength is, by once breaking, reduced to less than half; and with well soaked gut the loss of strength is, if anything, greater, although the difference is but very slight. Certainly, the fact of the gut being wet does not improve the conditions of the test. I have further tried the effect of soaking gut which has been broken when dry, and find that the water, to a small extent, restores the temper of the gut so strained, but in this case a subsequent breaking is altogether fatal. The lesson, therefore, under all the circumstances, whether wet, dry, or re-wetted, remains the same. Never trust a gut cast which has once been strained to breaking, however good it may appear, or the loss of the best fish of the day may give rise to a loss of, let us say, patience and equanimity, which several pipes will hardly restore and soothe,—I am, &c.,

W. B.

"SPECIMEN FISH."

Sir,—Your correspondent J. M. D., in his letter of February 4th, is not correct in his supposition that B. is solitary in his opinions as to fishing for specimens only. Our club "The Kingfisher," has been lately formed for the purpose of taking and showing only fish that can be classed as specimens ; and you will observe, by perusal of the rules enclosed, that our standard weights are higher, I believe, than any other in London. The Kingfishers as a body are composed of all-round anglers of many years' experience, and can assure J. M. D. that they feel much greater pleasure when returning the juveniles to the water, and, by so doing, providing future sport for their brother anglers, than J. M. D's. typical "sticker" would have in consigning the unfortunate brats to his basket and glorifying himself therewith at his club-house,

I write this on behalf of our society, to assure B. of our hearty co-operation in his laudable endeavour to induce anglers to return under-sized fish to the waters, to raise the standard of specimen fish shown at clubs, and to abolish all gross-weight prizes, which we are convinced are more destructive to sport than all the nets, netters, trailers, "stickers," steam launches, would-be riparian owners, or other abominations that anglers are at present afflicted with.

Only by the united efforts of London anglers—including J. D. M. and the novice who, seduced by the "Flesh-pots of Egypt," left his ledger and so caught his supremely innocent specimen, that so obligingly took the bait and quietly remained until his return—can this happy result soon be realised. G. A.

Hon. Sec. Kingfisher Angling Society.

The Royal Saxon, Alfred Road, Harrow Road.

The following are the weights which the "Kingfishers" have fixed as their standard :—Trout, 2 lb ; jack, 3 lb. ; chub, 2 lb. ; carp, 2 lb. ; bream, 2 lb. ; barbel, 2 lb. ; tench, 1½ lb. ; roach, 1 lb. ; perch, 1 lb. ; dace, ½ lb. ; rudd, 1 lb.

[This is quite refreshing, and we hope the club will be able to stick to their weights.—Ed.]

TABLES OF ARTIFICIAL FLIES.

Sir,—Your readers very generally must have been interested in the valuable table of the comparative deadliness of artificial flies, which your correspondent kindly gave at the cost of a very great deal of time and labour—and, that doubtless, to an extent greater than many may imagine—and the best thanks of readers of the Fishing Gazette are due to him. In connection with such valuable statistics —the result of long observation and accurately registered results— will you let me suggest that it would add to our obligation to know in what waters the flies were used, whether in Scotland, the Devonshire streams, the Hampshire waters, or elsewhere.

May I also ask yourself or one of your experienced correspondents to give a helping hand to young anglers who may not be very wise in selecting flies—for on many days and many portions of days there does not seem to be any particular fly on the water—by jotting down three or four casts of a representative character. A paper which would give general hints as to the selection of flies under particular circumstances of water, weather, and time of the day, would be valuable to those who do not find in the practical part of fishing their greatest difficulty.—I am, &c. X. Y. Z.

[The fence months for coarse fish will commence soon, and then we shall have more space for trout and salmon fishing matters, which are now becoming of greater interest.—Ed.]

DOTTERIL FEATHERS.

Sir,—I have a dotteril bird, with not a feather out of place. Any one can have it for a sovereign, or a wing, large size, for 7s. 6d. each. These feathers are very scarce and exceedingly dear. I can make 5s. per dozen for real dotteril flies, as many as I can make.—I am, &c., George James Eaton.

Starkholmes, Matlock Bath.

P.S.—There are are hundreds of dozens of flies made nowadays, that are sold for real dotteril flies, but are nothing else but plover and starling feathers.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

Sir,—I did not know that you would have any, even an imperfect, report of the few remarks I had the honour to make before this society on the 9th inst., on the subject of trout culture, or I should have taken care that the name of my friend, Mr. Byram Littlewood, of Huddersfield, to whom I referred, should have been mentioned, not only as the originator of the successful mode of carrying ova and fish without changing water, but also as the man who has in the present day given his time, energies and money, without stint and without reward, to the improving of fish-culture apparatus.

As an instance of what he has done, I mentioned how he had hatched and reared fish in his cellar in the middle of Huddersfield, and that at the present time he has over a million of ova and fry in his tanks, while in the same cellar he is now devoting himself to the propagation of oysters, and no doubt we shall see at the coming Edinburgh Exhibition young oysters, born and reared in my friend's house in Huddersfield.

Many of the improvements that I endeavoured to describe to the members of the Gresham Society were the suggestions, and some were the invention, of my friend Byram Littlewood, and it is only fair that he should have the honour due to him.—I am, &c.,

Hawley, Dartford, Hayman Cummings.

HOW TO FISH A BREAM HOLE.

Sir,—Your correspondent should have no difficulty in fishing the 35-feet bream hole. It can be easily done with what we Trent fishers call a running float. When fishing a water too deep for the ordinary method, we use a long thin cork float, or large swan quill, which has a small loop or fixed ring of wire near the top, instead of the ordinary keeper or cap. Having ascertained the depth of the hole or swim, we make a small loop in the line at the depth we wish to fish, and put into this loop half an inch of line or fine string, then draw the loop tight. After putting on our running float and a gut sufficiently weighted, we wind up the float to the top of the rod, and throw out from the reel. The weighted tackle runs the line through the float as it rests on the surface till it reaches the stop. By this plan water of any depth may be easily fished. Another advantage of the running float is that when you have a bite you can strike direct to the fish, instead of having the stroke partially broken by the float, which must be the case when fishing 20 or 30 yards off.—I am, &c.,

H. Page.

[We have notes from Mr. E. Gosling, of Budleigh Salterton, and several other gentlemen also recommending "Mark Antony" to use the sliding float and Nottingham style. We, of course, did not forget this style in answering the querry, in our note to "Mark Antony's" letter, but it appeared to us that it would not help the matter much. In the first place, "Mark Antony" will have to invest in a new rod, line, and winch, new float, &c., and learn to throw from the reel in the Nottingham style, which is not so easy as it looks; even then, if the hole is thirty-five feet deep, we do not see how he is going to get his line out much better than before—he will have to make a loop in it or tie a bit of stick to it thirty-five feet from his hook; and, although his float will slide down to the shot, how is he to get the odd thirty feet of line with the knot or loop in it through the rod rings every throw? This is the knotty question which prevented our recommending the Nottingham style to "Mark Antony." P.S. Since writing the above we see some of our correspondents mention this difficulty, but say it is easily got over by having large standing rings, and tying a loop in the line, and inserting a short bit of stiffish line to run through the rod rings and yet not through the float ring, this would answer.—Ed.]

TO FISH A 30-FOOT HOLE WITH A 14-FOOT ROD.

Sir,—If your correspondent will purchase a sliding float, *i.e.*, a float with two brass rings, minus the float cap, he will have little difficulty in performing this "feat" to his satisfaction. Any respectable tackle-dealer keeps them in stock, and I have no doubt will show him how they should be brought into operation.—I am, &c.,

James Gregory.

GIMP.

Sir,—I have frequently found in jack-fishing that the gimp has been completely bitten through. Could this be remedied by having several pieces of gut instead of gimp?—I am, &c., Winch.

Stoke Newington.

[We should not recommend gut for jack-fishing, though to use it treble, and not twisted or plaited, is the best plan, because it is not likely the fish will bite through each strand of gut. We intend to make our own gimp in future, thus:—using a piece of Messrs. Carswell's braided silk line; wind fine copper wire round it. The line is by far the strongest we know of (far stronger than the floss silk used by the gimp makers) and the wire can most easily be put on. You only want about 6 or 8 inches of line protected by wire in this way, and should use a stout gut trace, which is stronger and in every way better than gimp.]

YOUTHFUL ANGLERS.

Sir,—The question of allowing the sons or brothers of members only to be admitted to the Gresham (if not quite of full age) at a somewhat reduced fee for the time being, seems to be wholly misunderstood by "Piscator," who, if he is a member at all, judging by his very comical letter, can hardly have been present when the subject was discussed.

I do not purpose raising the question now, as the matter can best be dealt with by those whom it most concerns; meanwhile, until the whole facts are before us, your readers will kindly, as good contemplative anglers, suspend their judgment.

One or two points in "Piscator's" letter call for remark, and, as I am a frequent attendant at the Gresham meetings, you will perhaps allow me to say a word in their favour as against the insinuations "Piscator" appears to convey.

It is true they do take place at a tavern, some of the members do drink whisky, others do not, and a few of us really may be found enjoying the fragrant weed. We are not obliged to do so, or to meet at a tavern; and, although our host is a very worthy man, I am sure if our committee see their way to take suitable rooms where none of these things are obtainable, they will find very many members to support them.

I have just looked through my book of rules, but cannot find that they prohibit cards on the one hand, or encourage language of the kind "Piscator" seems to sometimes indulge in, on the other.

I am very far from classing these together. but neither are wanted in our club. The Gresham is yet so young that "Piscator's" experience of an angling society, and its effects upon its members, must have been acquired elsewhere.—I am, &c.,

A Grasshopper.

YOUTHFUL ANGLERS.

Sir,—I have read with pleasure the remarks of my valued friend "Piscator" (as I think I can fairly assume who the writer is), in reference to "Youthful Anglers." He knows my proclivity for defending and protecting the "small fry" in the river and looking after the "youngsters." In his great fame as an angler, "Piscator" goes in, as George Hone has it, "Big ones or none." I have given the quotation in more correct spelling than the venerable Walton fisherman does. "Piscator" will, however, agree with me that the subject of dealing with "Youthful Anglers" is entitled to free ventilation, whether anything results from it or not. I did not wish to imply in my first letter that the names I mentioned were favourable to it, but that I knew they each had sons who were likely to inherit the well known skill and prowess of their worthy parents.—I am, &c.,

B.

JUNIOR ANGLERS.

Sir,—As the originator of the motion for the admittance of junior members to the Gresham Angling Society, I shall feel obliged if you will kindly permit me to explain that by the terms of my motion junior members will not be entitled to attend the meetings of our society; but, as gentlemen interested in angling pursuits are always welcomed at our meetings, it would open to members to take their young relatives to hear papers read. Until your remarks of 4th instant, I was not aware that card playing was practised at any of our fishing clubs, and can only say it is not at the Gresham. Many gentlemen have lately remarked that they thought the time had arrived for conducting all angling associations, as far as possible, on the basis of scientific societies, and suggested that the Gresham should lead the van, by which means the objectionable practices you mention in your issue of 4th instant would be overcome. "Piscator's" remarks in your last week's number, require some qualification as to Mr. Jardine's objection; this gentleman having stated, towards the close of the debate, that he was in favour of the motion provided the junior members pay both an entrance fee and annual subscription.

B. having so ably invited the attention of all angling clubs to this matter, I beg to supplement his remarks by summing up the advantages, both to clubs and junior members, viz.:—The former would benefit by increased facilities for recruiting their ranks, as well as by an addition to their income, whilst the later would receive instruction from papers read, or lectures delivered; would obtain railway privilege tickets; and would, no doubt, look forward to the day when they might claim to rank as senior members of the society, from which they would derive both instruction and edification. With regard to juniors starting an angling club of their own "like other youthful clubs for cricket and football," as recommended by "Piscator," the case seems to me quite different. In those clubs members should be matched for strength, as well as skill, whereas it is both preferable and advantageous for juniors to fish in company with their elders, which they cannot now do in the society's water under existing regulations.—I am, &c., A. W. Parker.

Gresham Angling Society.

[We consider whiskey and tobacco as anything but "objectionable" (if good). As regards cards, we certainly think they interfere with discussion, and we should like to see them relegated to another room during the meeting-time, if certain members must have their whist.—Ed.]

THE WEST CENTRAL ASSOCIATION, &c.

Sir,—There are many points in "Roach's" communication of Saturday last thoroughly deserving the attention of London Anglers; and I am quite sure he will pardon me if I point out to him and the leading authorities of the West Central Association a few reforms desirable and which must take place before they can hope to attract representatives from the better class of clubs. It is not all indifference or apathy, it is simply that the business requires to be conducted in a different style and on a different basis. In the first place, the locality where the association holds its meetings is not at all central and is difficult of access for a great many men; and again, the late hour at which the society meets precludes numbers from attending. The chairman is supposed to take the chair at 9 p.m., and when any important business is on hand the discussion lasts to 12 p.m., when many gentlemen who live in the suburbs find, to their sorrow, that the last train is gone, and there is nothing to do but walk or stay in town. Now, if they could move to a central point, and begin business at 8.0 p.m., or even earlier, it would be an advantage. Of course, I may be met with the remark that the delegates are "hard working men and mechanics;" true; but, as a rule, they finish their work long before the class whose absence "Roach" is bemoaning. And, after all, what is wanted is organisation; and, in order to have that, you must go in for central offices and a thoroughly good secretary, wholly paid by the association. Give the present secretary, and if not him some other man, a good salary, and let him devote the whole of his time to the business. He might attend the offices by day, and visit occasionally the clubs at night; and I am quite sure you would soon find a different result. That there is plenty of work to do, requiring more time than the present secretary can devote to it, is shown by the fact that at the last meeting I attended, I urged, as you are aware, the great necessity for unity among anglers, and we carried the resolution of a special committee in spite of the undisguised opposition of the officials.

Yet, from that hour to this, I have heard nothing of the deputation to the third association, although I find that another gentleman, who was not present, and consequently knew nothing of the discussion, was invited and actually took part in the discussion. It may be that no discourtesy was intended—simply, probably, over work of the secretary—that I was omitted; but still I cannot help feeling sorry that an outsider should have taken my place, especially when I had so strongly advocated the holding out the hand of friendship to the third association. I am glad that the result has been that the associations are going to work together, but what a boon to anglers it would be if the two associations would go a step further and amalgamate—until that is done, the work of looking after the interests of anglers must be a divided one. You bear double expenses, good men's time wasted. Your hands are tied; for, if you propose some legislation for the benefit of anglers, the first cry is, What will the third association do? The fact is, if the prominent men in both associarions would sink their petty jealousies and put their shoulders to the wheel, we should have an association which it would be a pleasure to attend, and every club would not hesitate to send its best man as delegate, and the work of propagation and preservation could be carried on in a manner which would command the attention of anglers throughout the world.

I think all right-feeling men must agree with me, that the energies of anglers are being wasted by the multiplicity of societies. There is the Thames Angling Preservation Society, the Marlow and Maidenhead, the Windsor and Eton, the West Central Association, the Central Association, (I omit the East End, as they are united in the work of preserving the Lea), the Anglers' Benevolent Society, the Thames Rights Defence, &c., and now we shall have the Propagation Society, which is an important one. Now why should not all this be done at one office? Look at the saving of time and money; they are all intimately associated with one another, and a great many anglers begin to feel that, with the Thames especially, all the work in connection with it, should be guided by a body of practical men. At the present moment we are wasting our time and money by having a delegate to this, another member to that. Whereas if we had unity of working, our expenses would be lessened by one half, and the energies of the representatives concentrated on one object alone. "Unity is strength," and I invite other anglers to think of these remarks, which are made in the interest of all; and "Roach" may possibly find that men or clubs are not lukewarm, but sincerely desirous of doing all they can for the benefit of their poorer brethren. I will not assume to be anonymous, like "Roach," although it can add no weight to my letter.—I am, &c. FRED. C. CLENCH.

Chairman Richmond Piscatorial Society.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

IT is very pleasant to be able this week to begin my jottings by chronicling the capture of two good jack. The first was taken from Old Father Thames at Dockett Point, Shepperton, on Sunday last by a bank angler, and weighed on the inn scales nearly 19 lb. My informant, Mr. Castell, the Secretary of the City of London Angling Club, who had a good look at it, says it was an exceedingly handsome fish, and in first-class condition.

The other fell to the rod of our old friend, Mr. Vincent, of the Bostonian Angling Club, now residing at Watford, who sought and found his fish, a 14 lb. "avoirdupois" pike, per club-weight and scales, in the prolific waters of the Colne. I am this morning (Wednesday) in receipt of a note from Mr. Vincent, in which he says:—"I believe the fish taken by myself on Friday last to be the heaviest taken by fair means about here for some time; it was in splendid condition, and gave rare sport, being but very slightly hooked on the finest tackle; in fact, had I not had the assistance in landing it of Mr. Horn, a brother angler, I am afraid it would have bid me good-bye. I have duly forwarded it to friend Lancaster to be set up. We took two others, but of no particular weight. My neighbour had a nice well-fed fish of about 5 lb. a day or two ago. I think the fishing is improving, and the river is in grand condition, but live baits are very scarce, and run small."

A visit was paid on Monday evening last to the Eustonian Angling Club, the King's Arms, Swinton Street, Gray's Inn Road, W.C. There was a capital muster of piscators, and some very excellent singing. The Eustonians' new premises are roomy and very central.

I am sorry to have to announce that our much-respected friend and colleague, Mr. R. Ghurney, is very unwell. I am sure that all anglers who know what a steady, never-wearying worker Mr. Ghurney has been—and who does not?—will wish him a speedy recovery.

From Haslett, of Chertsey, I have this week the following note:—"Sir,—My report is not so heavy as it should be, not because there is no fishing, but because so few anglers come down. Better weather could not be, and the time glides by and presently it will be all over. Jack are well on the feed; I got four with Mr. Allan, two with Mr. T. Hoole, and on Sunday, with Mr. Smith, six jack, four perch, one chub (3 lb.). I fancy my list will be heavier next week, as I have other fishing on hand besides jack."

A sub-committee in connection with the International Fisheries Exhibition, Edinburgh, has, agreeably to a wish expressed by our Scotch friends, been formed in London, whose principal object is to obtain the loan from angling societies and others of preserved specimens of Thames trout and coarse fish for exhibition. Beyond the facts that Mr. F. C. Clench has consented to act as secretary, and Mr. R. B. Marston and Mr. L. Bonvoisin as committee-men, I am not at present informed how the committee is composed; though I have no doubt, when the names come to be published, as they are sure to be shortly, we shall find many well known and trusted ones among them.

Mr. Caborn, the hard-working secretary of the Sir Hugh Myddleton Angling Club, and a first-class exponent of the mysteries of the Nottingham style, has been getting some very good chub, the heaviest fish weighing, I understood, within an ounce and a-half of 5 lb.

This (Friday) evening a special meeting of the West Central Association of London and Provincial Angling Societies takes place, at which every club enrolled on the association books have received notice together with an urgent request for the attendance of all delegates.

What has become of our friend "Thames Fisherman"? I feel sure many beside myself will have missed those capital letters we had quite learned to look forward to each week.

Apropos of "Thames Fisherman," it is worthy of note, as emanating from a professional puntsman, that he is totally adverse to trout culture experiments, and, as far as the Thames is concerned, seems to consider them a perfect farce, a total failure, and an utter waste of money.

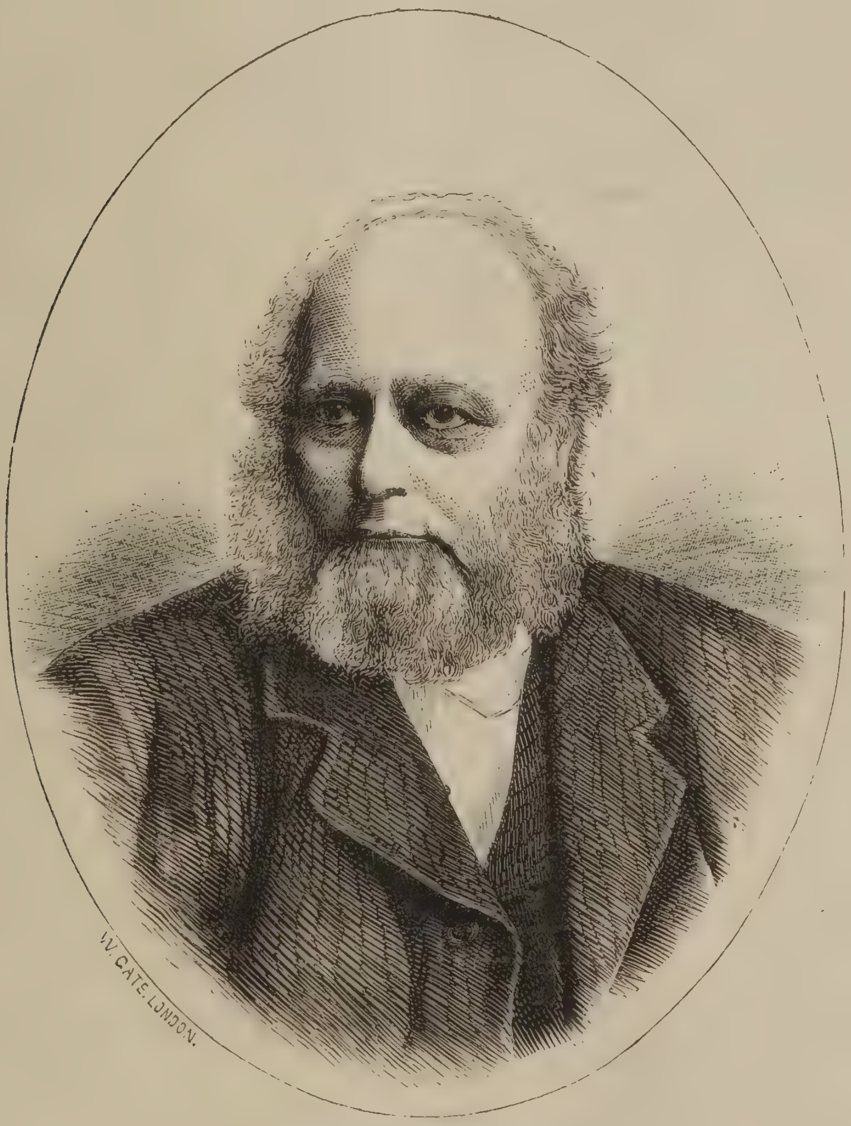
I am pleased to be able to state that our good friend, Mr. T. Hoole, is much better, and once more back in business. He forwards me a copy of the West Central Association new visiting lists; they have been most carefully drawn up, and I feel sure cannot fail to give satisfaction to the various societies concerned.

The annual supper of the Good Intent Anglers took place at their home, the Crown Inn, Church Street, Shoreditch, on Tuesday evening last, between 130 and 140 members and friends sitting down to do justice to the worthy hostess, Mrs. Roberts, capital catering. Mr. H. J. Tibbatts occupied the chair, and a better chairman it would be impossible to find, while Mr. H. Brookwell efficiently supported him in the vice-chair. Among the visitors were Mr. L. Bonvoisin, West Central Association, Mr. Samuel Morgan, United London Anglers, Mr. J. P. Wheeldon, *Bell's Life*, Mr. Crumplen, hon. sec. Gresham Angling Society, Mr. Bates, Piscatorial Society. I cannot hope, within the limits of these jottings, to give full particulars of the whole proceedings, and cannot do more than give the heads. Among the toasts proposed were the usual loyal toasts, the chairman remarking that the fact of the Prince of Wales, England's future king, being a keen sportsman was beyond doubt, while his interest in our branch—the gentle craft—was amply attested by his having accepted the post of President of the National Fisheries Exhibition of 1883. The next toast, "Success to the Good Intent Anglers," was responded to by the hard-working secretary, Mr. R. Murphy, in a telling and practical speech, in which he traced the rise and progress of the society, and making *en passant* some very flattering allusions to their guests that evening. Messrs. Wheeldon, Crumplen, and Bates, gentlemen who, by their presence on that occasion, testified to the high esteem and respect in which the Good Intent was held by them—esteem and respect which he sincerely hoped his society would always continue to deserve. To the toast of "Angling and Angling Institutions," proposed by the chairman in a capital speech, during which he introduced to the meeting several angling novelties he had purchased at the Sportsman's Exhibition, coupled with the names of Messrs. Bonvoisin and Morgan, these gentlemen duly responded. The former, touching upon the important topics of coarse-fish culture, the renting of waters, coarse-fish legislation, trout culture as carried on by the Upper Thames Preservation Societies to the detriment of what should be their principal care—the preservation and increase of the coarse fish, which was comparatively easy, and certainly less expensive. The speaker quoted from the report of the report of the Reading and District Association, which appeared in last week's GAZETTE, and said he really thought the time had arrived when serious representation ought to be made to the Upper Thames Preservation Societies by the various associations in London, clubs and anglers generally, to discontinue their trout experiments, which past experience proved to be nothing less than a total waste of publicly subscribed money. Mr. Morgan in his remarks having feelingly alluded to the absence through illness of his colleague, Mr. R. Ghurney, the chairman remarked that it was now his pleasing duty to present to their good friends, Messrs. Murphy and Beckett, marks of the society's respects of the great value set upon their services to the society, and indeed to anglers generally, at the same time unveiling, amid loud and continuous cheering, two handsomely-illuminated tablets, with suitable inscriptions, in massive gold frames. Messrs. Murphy and Beckett (the former of whom was visibly affected) having made suitable replies, the chairman proposed the "Visitors," coupling with the toast the names of Messrs. Crumplen and Bates. Those gentlemen having suitably responded, the former in one of his plain, practical speeches, in which he remarked that he heartily endorsed Mr. Bonvoisin's remarks anent trout culture in the Thames, and firmly believed that every penny spent upon it was wasted; the latter, in a few short, witty remarks, which kept his hearers well on the laugh the whole time. The chairman next proposed the "Press," coupling therewith the name of Mr. Wheeldon, of *Bell's Life*. Needless to say, Mr. Wheeldon made a capital speech in reply, during which he touched upon the duty anglers owed themselves in supporting the Thames Rights Defence Association. He also remarked that he had no doubt Mr. Harry Brookwell's splendid case of five Lea trout was the handsomest of the kind in the world. Being obliged to leave early (12 o'clock), the last toast I heard was the worthy hostess, Mrs. Roberts, who not only on these occasions tries her best but at all times, together with her son, who is an active member of the club, identifies herself with the Good Intent Angling Society. I understood from the chairman that that was the last toast down on the programme, and that the rest of the evening (extension till 2 a.m.) was to be spent in harmony, I only regret that the exigencies of business, and the indifferent state of my health, made it impossible to stop and see it out among such a jolly lot of fellows, as I would so much like to have done.

NOTICES OF BOOKS, &c.

Little's Angler's Annual. Comprising Articles and Practical Information on all matters relating to Fish and Fishing. By the ablest Writers. Illustrated with Portraits of Gentlemen eminent in the Fishing World, and many Engravings. To which is added an Almanac with notes of "Events" published by the proprietor, G, Little, 15, Fetter Lane, E.C.

Mr. Little is certainly determined to keep pace with the times; it was only the other day we noticed his elaborate and handsome volume, "The Angler's Companion," and here we have another literary venture bearing his name. It is a square 8vo. book of some hundred pages, very nicely printed, and illustrated with some good engravings, one of which—a capital portrait of Mr. W. H. Brougham—Mr. Little has kindly lent us.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W. H. BROUGHAM, Esq.

(SECRETARY OF THE THAMES ANGLING PRESERVATION SOCIETY.)

The Annual is sold at the small price of one shilling, it offers a good fund of entertainment to the angling reader. First we have a good portrait of Mr. Spencer Walpole, Senior Inspector of Fisheries, with a short biographical sketch; then an article on English Coarse Fish Culture, by Mr. J. H. Keene; we think we may credit him also with "Fishing in Winter Time;" in fact, there is a good deal of his pleasant writing in the annual—some of it, it is only fair to our readers to mention, having first seen the light in our own pages.

There is a most lucid and useful article on "The Culture of the Salmonidæ," by Mr. W. T. Silk; then follows, most appropriately, "A Day at Burghley," by "Diomed." By a printer's error "Bass" is printed "Bars," throughout this description of the Marquis of Exeter's piscicultural establishment which has succeeded so well under the able superintendence of Mr. Silk. Mr. W. H. Brougham, gives a short history of the "Rise and Progress of Lower Thames Preservation," "Norfolk Natural History," is the title of Mr. Greville Fennell's able contribution. Then we have a portrait and biography of Mr. Thomas Spreckley, "The Early History of Fly-Fishing" is evidently by Mr. Keene. There are many other articles, and the portraits of Mr. Brougham and Professor Huxley are very good. There is a list of London Angling Clubs, of Fishing Stations on the Thames, with names of fishermen, hotels, &c., and then we come to the Calendar, with its long list of "Events" in the angling world; for instance, opposite Jan. 20, we find "Howill Considine, a fisherman of the Shannon and Lough Derg, brought me a pike he had killed. It weighed 65 lb., and was in bad condition. I kept the head for some time (W. A. Hackett, Cork, Jan. 20, 1877.)" There are one or two blunders in this list of events, for instance, on page 91, Dr. Norman is credited with a 36¾ lb. pike, and on page 103 the same fish is said to have been caught by Mr. Cooper—the fact being that Mr. Cooper merely set it up. But this is a little matter, and we think we have given a sufficient index of the contents to show that anglers will find much to amuse, and not a little to instruct them in this the first issue of Mr. Little's "Angler's Annual." Next year, we have no doubt, the work will be more valuable still, as some little drawbacks are inseparable from the first issue of a novelty of this kind. We heartily congratulate Mr. Little on the very enterprising manner in which he caters for the wants of anglers.

FLIES AND MINNOWS FOR NORTH DEVON WATERS.

IT is quite a pleasure to receive from Mr. Rowe, fishing-tackle maker, Barnstaple, three favourite old friends—the deadly "blue upright," the "half-stone," and "pinket." The latter is good on warm, wet days, and the two former are the best general flies for the Exe, Barle, Lynns, Taw, Torridge, Bray, Mole, and other moor streams. The flies are all made, with good, stiff hackles. The blue upright is particularly good. Mr, Rowe claims to be the original maker of the real Devon minnow. At any rate, the sample he sends us is the best we have ever seen, and spins in the most perfect manner. There is no better artificial than the Devon, though the Derby killer is as good.

CARP-FISHING.

TO make paste for carp your hands must be very clean, and well rinsed from soap; dip a piece of wheaten bread, a day old, into clean water for a moment, then press and squeeze and work it up into a stiff paste with honey; ascertain the depth of the spot where you propose to angle the day before, and mark so that you may know whether the river has risen or fallen. Ground-bait the place with bread made into paste, mixed with a little barley meal, and a small quantity of honey, the night, or even two nights, before you angle; your hook must be short in the shank, and the hook should be hidden by the paste; the whole bait should be about the size of a marrow-fat pea. You must approach the bank very quietly, not too close, drop in your bait gently, and let your rod lie down; the shot should nearly rest on the bottom but not quite, so that your float, which should be very light, will have its lower end a little depressed; the bait will be about nine inches from the shot; the gut must be fine but round and strong. Throw in, one at a time, very quietly, little pellets of plain paste, about the size of peas. Angle in a still place near an eddy, in from four to six or more feet of water. The carp will suck in the bait, the end of the float will dip under water. As soon as you see this, carefully, and without shaking it, put your hand to your rod, and, in a second or two after, the float darts off; then firmly, but not violently, only with a mere turn of your wrist, strike, and the struggle commences; the fish will endeavour to run in between roots of trees, if there be any near, and, if large, will put your skill to the test. On the front of the dorsal or back fin the bone is like a sharp saw. When he is hooked, he will make many very short turns iu his endeavour to escape, and it is possible that the line, from bad management on the part of the angler, will in some instances pass across this bone, and, if so, will be instantly severed.

The angler should calmly watch the route the fish he has hooked takes: let him have more line as may be necessary, and wind up whenever practicable with safety. Be in no haste to see the fish, for many a good fish has been lost through the angler throwing himself into a flurry; and be cautious to play your fish away from the place where he was hooked, or other fish near will be driven away.—From W. Wright's "Fishes and Fishing," published in 1858.

FISH "SOUNDS."

IN Dr. Andrew Wilson's very interesting paper on "Found Links" (KNOWLEDGE, Jan. 6, page 195), "the *swimming-bladder, air-bladder*, or *sound*," are described as synonymous. There is a small mistake here, a misunderstanding of fishermen's technology, that, may mislead some readers. The same mistake occurs in anatomical textbooks. Dr. Wilson will readily understand the nature of the error by simply buying some "cod sounds" from any fishmonger. They are regular articles of separate commerce, salted by millions in Norway and exported in small barrels.

He will find that the sound is not the air-bladder, but the aorta, or chief blood-vessel of the codfish, laid open, and with some of the larger branching vessels attached. This vessel, forming a stout membranous bag, is attached by its edges to each side of the under part of the spine of the fish, from which the Norse and Newfoundland fishermen tear or rip it when they split the fish for salting.

I have a theory of my own concerning the etymology of the word, viz., that it of Scandinavian origin, like the commercial article, and is derived for *Sondre*, to sever or rip, from which we also derive our word asunder. W. MATTIEU WILLIAMS, in "Knowledge."

Ye fools wha live wi' care oppres't
An' scarce a joy tae cheer yere breast,
'Twad add tae life a brichter zest,—
Forebye a blessin',—
'Gin ye obey this my request,
Tae try the fishin'.—G. D.

THE man who goes fishing and sits in a cramp-inviting position on a narrow thwart from early morn to dewy eve, and calls it fine, is the same man who never goes to church because the pews aren't comfortable.—*American Sea World.*

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Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1882.

AN OFF-DAY IN MILFORD HAVEN.

BY RED-SPINNER.

THERE is no train till evening, and in sleepy old Milford something must be done wherewith to kill time. Were the month twice removed from January, one might wander up into the distant hills and try the virtues of a March brown upon the small trout in the downward-bound brooks. Still later, the lively sewin would assert some sort of claim upon the attention. In the town itself there might be unearthed many interesting local traditions of Lady Hamilton and Lord Nelson; but this description of sport requires a peculiar temperament, and I will none of it, unless it come in my way, as the windfall of autumn drops into the lap as you sit reading under the favourite pear tree. Standing at the pier-head, from which some day the Atlantic steamers may take their departure, I can count four small boats at anchor, and the sight at once suggests a means of bridging over the hours. It needs only to mention the idea to a hospitable gentleman, standing near, to have a whaleboat ordered at once, and an experienced fisherman summoned to receive peremptory orders to provide lines and baits, and, if he value his life, to see that we catch fish. Knowing right well that, foremost of all mortals, 'tis not for anglers to command success, nevertheless we resolve to deserve it, according to the oft-quoted dictum of the play.

Milford Haven is a glorious piece of water, presenting all the necessary conditions for good sea-fishing of the kind common around our coasts. From the entrance at St. Ann's Head, to the ferry at Pembroke, the length is 12 miles, and the inlet winds round like a horseshoe, the width varying from one mile to some thing over three at the widest part. Between the entrance and the new docks, especially opposite the great round fort that commands the mouth, there are rocks famous for bass in the proper months. The uniform depth of the water tempts many of the larger sea-fish, and there are any number of "grounds" favourable for operation against whiting. The hills around this lake-like expanse of water, are neither very high nor picturesque, but they are parcelled out into fields, adorned here and there by old or new farm-buildings, villas, and forts, and coloured in their season by furze, heather, fallow, corn, or grass. And they are always near enough for the eye to roam over when the patience of the fisherman is exhausted, and the mind, too long concentrated on the line, which will not lend itself to the desired signalling from below, craves for variety. There are some literary cynics who are fond of ridiculing the anglers' love of scenery and notice of points in landscape as a miserable affectation. Let them enjoy their opinion, if—which I doubt—*that* also is not an affectation. The fisherman, be he humble or exalted, fresh water or salt, fly-fisher or bottom-fisher, even by virtue of the peculiar character of his sport, has begotten into him very early in his career, if, indeed, he does not start with it, an honest appreciation of the beauties of Nature; and from it he obtains solace under disappointment, and a placidity of temperament that have become proverbial.

So pondering, as we get afloat, and push on towards the headland, I neglect my tiller, and am respectfully admonished to keep the head of the boat a 'pint or two the other way. What a wonderful day, too, it is for the month of January! Before starting we had strolled through the grounds of Castle Hall, down which a very trouty little stream tumbles into the sub-inlet, called in the district a "pill"; and I plucked from the hedgerows a dozen primroses, some golden furze blossoms, and a solitary violet. There is no sun and no wind, but the mildness of the atmosphere is such that, though we are on the water, and there is a greyness over sea and shore, an overcoat is not necessary. And the fields are of the brightest green. It seems as if;—here I lose the thread of my thought, being once more admonished by the skipper, and soundly abused by my companions for further eccentricity at the helm.

However, at last we reach the "ground." We have passed probably a score of boats, the occupants of which are men and boys fishing for a livelihood. Some of them have been there for hours, and, I am sorry to be informed, with unremunerative results; others have just come out as we have, to take advantage of the half hour before the tide begins to flow. We anchor in about twelve fathoms of water, and prepare the lines. In the bottom of the boat there is a bushel odd of mussels. Too much bait, I have, somehow, learned to regard as a harbinger of ill-luck. It is when the worm-bag is empty, and the last live bait defunct, that the perch and pike think fit to awaken into hungry life; whip off the solitary fly that remains in your book and you may take odds that the trout will suddenly conceive a violent affection for it, and for none other. Besides the ominous plethora of splendid bait we must also be aware that the season is not quite the thing. The poor fellows who, like Davy Llewellyn, in the "Maid of Sker," turn an honest penny by selling their fish, must come out at all times, but there is no denying that for the amateur, January is not May, nor June, nor July. Next, the lines and tackle generally are too coarse. Why is it that our sea fishermen will persist in acting as if anything will do for the fish of the sea? My line is big enough for the Dogger Bank, and the three sprays branching from the cross-stick, though they are made from the delicate ribs of a paragon umbrella, are yet affixed with altogether unnecessary clumsiness. We begin, therefore, hopeful but not sanguine. Still, we do get something, and after shifting our ground several times, we flatter ourselves that we are at last in luck's way. I have the honour of catching the first fish, a small whiting of some ten inches long, and thenceforth, for perhaps a couple of hours, we, at longish intervals, haul up whiting, and an occasional pout. But they are all under a pound weight, and the four dozen would not make a very heavy inroad upon the avoirdupois table. Fortune's gifts are unequally divided, as usual. There are a couple of urchins in a small, dirty boat astern of us, who haul in two whiting at a time incessantly, and there is a wrinkled veteran about the same distance ahead who has fished Milford Haven for over half a century, and who has not caught half-a-dozen fish during as many hours. If we ourselves could have killed a fish for every strike we made we might have quadrupled our take. The bites are fast, but not furious, the silvery rascals of the whiting brigade evidently worrying the outposts without boldly advancing to the central point. In this sense it may be said that they came to the barb-i-can, but stopped short of the barb.[*] We fain confess ourselves beaten. The fish have the best of it. A smaller hook might alter matters, but we have none, and so every five minutes we are compelled to haul up and re-bait, trying, now mussel, and now a dainty morsel from a fresh caught pout, but all to little purpose.

The boatman in the bows has put a small whiting upon a cod hook, and at one of our anchorages he allows an exclamation to escape his lips, and is seen struggling with something heavy at the end of his line. His mate leaves the heap of mussels which he has been told off to open, and stands by with a very workmanlike, short-handled gaff. The big one turns out to be a ling, about four feet long, and in prime condition, of solid flesh, and of good girth to the tail. It is my first acquaintance with this fish, otherwise than in a salted condition on the breakfast-table of ocean-going steamers, and after examining its wolfish mouth and strong teeth, I can quite believe certain wonderful yarns told of its voracity. Eaten fresh, the ling is not equal to cod, of course, but it is much superior to some of the flabby, over-iced stuff we sometimes get from the fishmongers. But, like the hake, I suspect there is a prejudice against the ling. Soon after the specimen is received in our whale boat, a hullabaloo is raised in a small craft abreast of us, and we have the pleasure of seeing a boy cope with a large fish on his small whiting gear, and bring it neatly to the gaff. It is a cod of 20 lbs. or thereabout—a beautifully-shaped fish (for a cod) being remarkably thick and short, considering its weight. That boat, where there already lies a ling that matches well with our own, is looked upon by many envious eyes, and as such a slice of fortune is not likely to be repeated to-day, the fish biting less and less as the tide increases, the boy's father decides to go ashore and dispose of the cod while it is fresh. Before nightfall he will have sold it, probably at the Lord Nelson Hotel, at threepenee per pound. We, soon after the departure of the cod man, get a passing sensation from the capture, on one of our whiting hooks, of a skate that measures over a yard across, and that, lying on its back in the boat, amuses us by that grotesque caricature of the human countenance always afforded by the underpart of the creature's head, and evokes perhaps a moment's sympathy through the laborious manner in which it sighs out its tenacious existence. Then comes a dapper little dog-fish to receive execution without sentence, and a little later we conclude business with a small thornback ray.

We change our ground continually when, convinced that we have outworn our welcome, we, in the afternoon, leave the place from which the ling, cod, and rays have been taken. The professional fishermen also now give it up as a bad job. On our way up the Haven to our final anchorage, abreast of the seedy-looking "Great Eastern," I hear a good deal from our boatman as to the general fishing at Milford. The statements of local fishermen everywhere should, of course, be taken with prudent reservation. The men may not deliberately mislead, but they are prone to be carried away by two perfectly natural impulses, namely, the desire to present the rosiest view of affairs in general, and the patriotic wish in particular to place their own waters in the foremost place. Wherefore, I make due allowance, and take care to secure such corroboration as I can from independent gentlemen who can make an intelligent estimate of probabilities, and would not mislead. The result of what I hear, mark, and inwardly digest is an entry in my notebook to look after Milford Haven at the first available opportunity. I doubt whether there are many fishing grounds that are better. During the summer months, the mackerel, bass, and pollack fishing is described as magnificent, and last year the bass, which so unaccountably decline at many places once famous for them, were unusually numerous. The fishermen get a good many salmon and sewin in their nets, and, in the autumn and winter, excellent takes of cod are yielded by a rough-and-ready sort of floating trot, with from 20 to 50 hooks attached. Many of the methods invented for sea-fishing are just so many fancies that do neither harm nor good, but the Milford Haven fishermen, I should say, might greatly increase their income by adopting a more artistic system.

It is probable that we shall, in time to come, hear more of Milford as a fishing station. A fishing association is making it a depot for the transmission of fish from the smacks and trawlers. In one of the "Pills" I saw four well-appointed steam carriers, almost ready for use, and two of these will start next month for the mackerel fleet. The rapid service of trains which the Great Western Company have promised, when the new line of ocean express steamers to America is financed into existence, may therefore assist in making Milford as much a new Yarmouth as a new Liverpool, though there is not any immediate fear that the supremacy of the one as the metropolis of Bloaterdom, and the other as the second port in the United Kingdom, will be challenged. It is not generally known that Milford has to some extent a fishy origin. Sir William Hamilton was one of the early landowners, and he brought over a number of Nantucket men, for the purpose of starting a South Sea Whale Fishery. The scheme came to nothing, but the parallel lines and right angles of the streets are said to be a reminiscence of the Yankee element in the original population.

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[*] This simile, be it noted, is strictly in accordance with the art of war, but though it may be far-fetched, I let it stand, knowing to how many readers it will afford an innocent opportunity of describing it as a *barb*arous pun.—R.

ANGLING CLUB DINNERS.

THE season of the year has arrived when the angling clubs of London generally have their annual dinners, and which are now carried out with great spirit, collecting together not only the members, but inviting amongst them, as guests, those gentlemen whose names are well known either as angling authorities or connected with the Press. Amongst those that have been recently held, and to which I have been invited, are, first of all, the Friendly Anglers, whose quarters are situated at the Albion Tavern, Albion Street, Hyde Park; but owing to a severe domestic trial at the time I was, much to my regret, unable to attend. Not only was the dinner a great success, but the operations of the Society are specially successful, both as regards the practical character of the members, and the amount of prizes raised for this years' competition. Mr. Paine is a capital treasurer, and Mr. C. M. Le Good a most energetic secretary. The dinner is always held in the spacious and elegant club room, and the proprietor of the hostelry, Mr King, is a good caterer. The next club in the order of dinners is the Richmond Piscatorial Society, which took place on Thursday week last, in the splendid club room at the Station Hotel, Richmond, where the host, Mr. Munro, put on the table as *recherché* a dinner as it is possible to give. Under the chairmanship of Major Bell and Mr. Dickinson, and Mr. Little as vice-chairman, with an attendance of fifty members and visitors, the result was an unquestionable success. This society, as a suburban club, under the rule of Mr. F. C. Clench, is perfectly unique in the annals of angling societies for having obtained in so short a period so large a number of members. Mr. Clench has great occasion to feel proud at his magnificent success, and in having an army of 130 full-grown anglers, as he was pleased to designate them the other night, who are united heartily with him in true angling interest and are determined to support fish preservation and coarse-fish culture. On the same evening, the oldest angling club in London, the Walton and Cotton, had their annual spread in the Duke's Salon at the Holborn Restaurant, presided over by Mr. John Jones. It was, both as regards the dinner and attendance of members, a very successful evening. Next we have two important dinners, the first in rotation being the Piscatorial Society, which took place in the Prince's Salon at the Holborn Restaurant, on Wednesday evening, the 15th of February, under the presidency of Mr. Edward Birkbeck, M.P., and Dr. Brunton. Since the introduction of these dinners at the Holborn the attendance has increased to something like 130 guests, and this year, the elegant salon was filled to an overflow. It is much to be regretted the father of the society, Mr. F. G. Pearce, was absent, and his absence was significantly felt. Mr. Lander, in his energetic services as honorary secretary, keeps up the prestige of the society as a West-end club, and with its age of nearly half-a-century of establishment, it is entitled to great veneration and respect. The dinner in every way was a conspicuous success. This dinner will be succeeded on the 23rd. of March, by that of the great City club—the Gresham Angling Society—which is also to take place in the Prince's Salon at the Holborn Restaurant. There can be no doubt as to its being an immense gathering, and with Lord George Hamilton, M.P., in the chair, it will be influentially attractive. With the originality of thought which has distinguished the career of this society, it is the first angling society to adopt the plan of a list of stewards, and I am assured that the number of gentlemen who have already accepted that position is remarkably strong. The arrangements that have been made at the Holborn by Mr. Crumplen, who was assisted by one of the best epicures in London, Mr. Alfred Jardine, will, under the active superintendence of Mr. J. J. Hacup, ensure a first-rate dinner, for which the establishment is becoming, and has already become, famous amongst the angling clubs of London. B.

HIGHLAND NOTES.

'Lives there an angler with soul so dead,
Who never to himself has said "—

A LITTLE altering of a good text can do no harm, and if I can help it the little change made above need cause no blush of shame to mount the face of any honest man, be he Scot, or be he who he may. There is nothing in this world which excites more enthusiasm than angling does in the votaries of the gentle craft, unless grouse-shooting, on the part of those who delight in seeing the trigger-finger answer the eye with that quick, sympathetic move which is so essential to the successful "right and left" shot, does so. I confess that for breathless interest—for an excitement which set every nerve vibrating—a lively seven-pound grilse going "like mad," now rushing in the water, then leaping out of t momentarily, beats everything. A heavier fish gives far less port, but, truth to say, any fish hooked puts one on the tenter hooks of suspense until it is landed. The great drawback to angling for salmon is, I take it, the many days on which, owing to one disadvantage (of air or water) or another, the fish seem to know too much to be cajoled into taking even a "highlander" or a "butcher," a "jockscot" or a "black doctor," a "dusty miller" or a "blue doctor." Patience is often tried, and temper not seldom. One must be patient when there are no "rises;" and he must be quite angelic who, after playing a fish for some time, sees the fly come back to him. But what serenity must be his who, without fault on his own part, sees two, or it may be three, salmon leave him late on in the day; leaving him the utmost certainty that there can be in angling, that is, of his returning to his quarters with an empty basket! He who can keep calm under such circumstances, must indeed possess an amount of equanimity which should commend him to the good graces of the most fickle fortune on another day.

I have seen some queer pools fished, and some extraordinary bits of good and bad luck in my time, and certainly during the eason just ended my experiences were sufficiently varied. You may talk of perch and roach, of dace and trout, and they certainly are interesting enough in themselves. Not only so, but the reports of what accomplished anglers have been doing in your southern atitudes, as given in the Gazette, while away, most pleasantly, many an hour in a remote and picturesque region, on days when o be out is not half so comfortable as lying content within doors. But, I am forgetting the "muttons," and no mistake, for instead of speaking of what I saw done, I have been writing apropos of nothing pretty much. In July last—and the angling was nothing ike superlatively good, I saw men returning to their hotels with most extraordinary baskets of brown trout, and that even on very ndifferent days. No doubt there might have been seen gentlemen with brand-new rods, tackle, baskets, gaffs, landing-nets, and flies, –flies of the most marvellous descriptions—coming home empty-handed. One dear, dried-up old soul, who had been many years n India, in a civil capacitv, and made "pots of money" there, was pecially notable. Hear him talking at the dinner table, or in the smoking-room, or on the "battery," and you would be impelled nto putting him down as an Admirable Crichton of the most esplendent order. In Ireland—at Balina—"Balina" was never out of our hearing for ten minutes together! — what prodigies he performed! Yet with us he was somewhat of a crew when it came to the pinch. Possessed of plenty of coin, but *not*, like Rory O' More, having the "heart for to spend it," was our nabob. He would enter on a disquisition of endless length; would speak of his store of materials for fly making; would spend Sunday manufacturing flies (the heathen!); would accept leave to angle on a friend's boat on a river; but only once was he known to go in for twelve and sixpence worth of salmon-angling on his own hook. And then "Piscator" produced his stores of home-made flies. Extraordinary productions they were! They glistened with gum, and the wings reached only half way down the hook! Well, one day, out the manufacturer went, with very keen, good, common-sense angler for his partner. The ne fished up stream, the other down, and they met at a given pot. The nabob had nothing—his companion had three salmon. Of course, there were the usual explanations, exchanges of sympathy, and the poor reaper who never got a good sickle was reroduced again. Said the successful man, "Allow me to try a ast on this pool with your rod?" "No. If you try at all, do it with your own." No sooner said than done. At the third cast a fish "came," and not only "came," but hooked itself through both jaws! got smothered and done for at once, and was on the green grass in a couple of minutes. Would you not, Mr. Editor, as soon be any one else as that looker-on, even with his heaps of coin? That evening in our smoking-room he was somewhat subdued, but he soon revived and—left! Had he been a genuine disciple of old Izaak Walton, you don't suppose that I would relate this anecdote, dear reader; but, being only a curmudgeon, let him have it!

I was told by a gillie, who had a very persevering master, that one day they got the largest fish of the season, just as a wind-up to the gentleman's angling; and the man, being determined to make his master's success as much beyond a peradventure in weight as well as in number of fish, no sooner saw the gentleman's back turned on him than he began to stuff the big captive with stones! Of course, the fish weighed well, and no doubt the person who prepared it for cooking would be rather surprised to find that Highland salmon had such a desire for food as to swallow large pebbles, and therefore such digestive powers as would enable them to fatten on such hard stuff.

There is a medical man resident somewhere in the western islands who is remarkable for the very tough "stories" he tells —tells, yes, with a gravity of deportment partially derived from long experience in the department of fiction; and partly, perhaps, from the circumstance that he is blind of an eye, in consequence of which he may assume ignorance of the incredulity of those of his audience who are seated on his dark side. This doctor had a Skye terrier, a most marvellous brute, a canine *enfant terrible*, in fact. One day the medico was crossing a ferry, the tide in which runs at the rate of several miles an hour. Suddenly the terrier espied a salmon passing below, and down he dived after the fish. The owner thought he would never see his dog again, but see him he did, improved in value by the value of that salmon, which he had safely landed on the pier, awaiting his master's stepping out of the boat.

A NEW KIND OF TROUT-ROD.

PROBABLY most trout-fishermen have experienced at times the need of a rod that is both a light, single-handed weapon, for the fly, and can be readily converted into a longer and double handed rod for fishing either minnow or worm; that shall not be troublesome to change from one to the other style of fishing, and yet leave the fisherman unhampered by an attendant, carrying spare appliances. Following in the path marked out by Stewart in his "Practical Fisherman," let it be assumed that the angler requires a light, stiff ten-foot rod for up-stream fly-fishing, while the fish are feeding on the surface, and a longer fourteen-foot rod for fishing fly or minnow. as soon as the take is evidently at an end as regards fly. Stewart has advocated such a rod, but seems to have failed in some of the details necessary to give effect to this idea. His ten-foot rod, in two long joints connected by ferrules, had a hand-piece, with winch fittings one foot in length. This hand-piece being removed left the joints nine feet in length, and a butt of slightly more than five feet, of somewhat massive build, was required by the angler at the riverside, when fishing bait, either worm or minnow. This longer rod is, moreover, stout enough for grilse-fishing, and not, therefore, quite the class of weapon preferred by the trout-fisherman in the rapid rivers of Wales or England.

An attempt has been made to meet and remedy these wants by a specially constructed rod, which will be found fully to answer the following circumstances:—

The fisherman has a very light and rather stiff ten-foot rod, free from double action, for up-stream fly-fishing, and uses in the disengaged hand a landing handle four feet long, fitted with spike and clearing hook, which well answers the purpose of a wading-staff. In order to obtain a longer rod, the net is removed from its handle, which now becomes the butt-joint of a fourteen-foot rod. The change can be effected in a couple of minutes without taking the line out of the rings; both the long and short rods are perfect as regards action, play, balance and lightness. It has been built, from the instructions given him, by Ogden, of Cheltenham; is a thoroughly good piece of workmanship, and, being an advance upon his well-known "Multum in Parvo" pattern, has been named the "Ne plus ultra."

We consider this is a splendid idea, and, when known to trout anglers, will speedily become popular. It originates with Major Bruce Seton, of the Royal Engineers.—Ed.

Mr. F. C. Clench, chairman of the Richmond Piscatorial Society and a member of the committee of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, has been appointed Honorary Secretary of the London Committee of the Edinburgh International Fisheries Exhibition, which opens in April next.

THE PRINCE OF WALES AND LONDON ANGLERS.

We beg once again to remind our readers that H.R.H. the Prince of Wales is to preside at the public meeting to be held at Willis's Rooms on Monday next, in furtherance of the objects of the Great International Fisheries Exhibition, which is to open in London next year. Proceedings will commence at 11·30 a.m., and we sincerely hope the London anglers will come forward on this occasion to support H.R.H., and prove to him that we appreciate the interest he shows in our affairs. For further particulars, see our advertisement columns for notice respecting this meeting.

LONDON ANGLERS AND THE EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION.

It is with great pleasure that we direct the attention of our readers to the letter of Mr. Fred. C. Clench, which appears in our correspondence this week. Our Scotch friends are most desirous of having exhibits of stuffed fish from the London clubs and private anglers. They offer to undertake all risk and expense connected with moving the cases and returning them, and also will give awards. Under these circumstances there can be no possible excuse for refusing to help to make the Scotch Exhibition a success. We are glad to state that some clubs have decided to exhibit, and feel sure that in the end the London anglers will be well represented at Edinburgh.

RIVERS OF ENGLAND.

Would it not be well for those in authority and who have legislative influence over our rivers and national watersheds to take a leaf out of the book of the Board of Works, who are simplifying the nomenclature of our streets and do the same good office for the various streams which intersect our lovely country? It may be said that we are more than personally interested in such a movement, having promised to give our readers a digest of all the fishable running waters in England, in order to extend that area of the sport of angling which is being so rapidly narrowed around us.

To exemplify the little difficulty we find ourselves under, and the confusion of titles which must result from such a plurality of names which at present exists, we give, from works now before us, a few of the rivers having similar names, and, it may be, to clear our way for more useful material.

Arrow.—There are two of this name; the one a tributary of the Upper Avon, in the counties of Worcester and Warwick, and the other a feeder of the Lug, in the Welsh county of Radnor and the English county of Hereford.

Avon.—Of these there are no less than eight: (1) In the counties of Wilts and Hants; (2) or Upper Avon, in the county of Northampton; (3) or Lower Avon, in the counties of Wilts, Somerset and Gloucester; (4) the Middle or Little Avon, a tributary of the Severn in the county of Gloucester; (5) or Anne, in Devonshire, off the wilds of Dartmoor; (6) or Avon Water, in the county of Hants, (7) in the county of Glamorganshire, South Wales, and (8) Avon Llwyd, a tributary of the Usk. It will be observed that, not content with having eight rivers of the same name in England and Wales, there absolutely exist two (1 and 3) in the county of Wilts, literally making confusion worse confounded.

Axe.—There are two of these, and both partly in Somerset.

Brain.—Then we have a Brain, in Essex; a Bran, on the Dove; a Brant, at Witham, in Lincolnshire; a Bratha, in Westmoreland; a Brent, in Middlesex; a Bret, on the Suffolk Stour; a Bride, in Dorsetshire, and a Brit, in the same county.

Calder.—Of these we have three: one on the Aire, in Yorkshire; another on the Ribble, in Lancashire; and a third in Cumberland, not to say anything of the Caldew, likewise in Cumberland, on the Eden.

Colne.—Of these we find three (1) a tributary of the Thames, (2) in Essex, and (3) a feeder of the Calder.

Derwent.—Here we have four rivers all designated alike: (1) in Derbyshire, (2) in Cumberland, (3) in Durham and Northumberland, (4) a feeder of the York Ouse.

Dove (Cotton's "beloved Dove"); then the Dove, or Dowe, in Yorkshire, and the Dovey, in North Wales.

Eden.—In Westmoreland and Cumberland and another in Surrey and Kent.

Esk.—One in Cumberland, and a second partly in the same district.

Eye.—There are two of these; perhaps this is as it should be, as both are in the same county of Leicester.

Frome.—Of these we have (1) a tributary of the Lower Avon, in Somerset; (2) a tributary of the Lug, Hereford; (3) Froome, Dorset; (4) Froome Upper, or Stroud River, on the Gloucester Severn, and (5) Froome, the Lower, Gloucestershire.

But, if our readers are not sufficiently impressed with such continued "damned iteration," we are. We will, therefore, jump to the letter O, and shortly conclude.

Ouse.—This important river runs through seven counties, but even that claim to its name being respected, does not seem sufficient, for we have another in Yorkshire, a third in Sussex, a fourth in Norfolk and Suffolk, and an Ousel.

Creel.

AT THE GURNETS.

It may happen that readers of the Fishing Gazette have either not much experience in, or much taste for, sea-fishing. But there can be no doubt that were people to engage in it oftener than they do, they would come to enjoy it heartily. There is something very exciting, and not exciting only, but invigorating, in the business. Then there is the strong sea-air, with its health-giving qualities, together with that desirable exercise which pulling a boat in a good swell gives. It may be that there is a breeze of wind, upon the advent of which sail is set, and variety is given to movement, a thing not undesirable in itself. Perhaps there is no species of motion so smooth and pleasant as that of a boat running before a smart breeze of wind which does not raise the waves. On a mild, pleasant day, such a trip as can be taken with a boat under sail on the numerous arms of the Atlantic which indent the shores of the West Highlands, is often looked back to with most pleasurable feelings by many men whose avocations call on them to reside in the great cities and towns of the country which are far from the sea. Or men may be so much occupied as to be unable to avail themselves of such healthful excursions as these, to which they fondly return in spirit "after many days."

In the Highlands of Ross-shire there is often nothing much more amusing for the ordinary class of residents to engage in than boating and fishing. Angling and shooting are amusements reserved for the favoured few; and therefore, when gale succeeds gale, and tempest comes after tempest—when there is hardly a fine day in the week, or, it may be, in a fortnight, as has been the case from the middle of October 1881 to the end of the first week of 1882—very little can be done out of doors, and indoor life becomes weariness and vexation of spirit difficult to describe. About a fortnight ago, however, there were two cold, frosty days, with only enough wind to make sailing agreeable, and likewise to make one remember that he had finger-tips and toe-points apt to be cold in the extreme.

A very short time, half an hour, say, brought us to a part of Lochcarron to which we were attracted by the immense number of gulls which were flying about there. On some small frames we had sundry lines coiled, at the end of them were lead sinkers, one to each, and weighing about a quarter of a pound. To the sinkers there was a continuation of line attached, and some gut, to which a good large hook was attached. It happened, fortunately enough for us, that we had fresh herrings for bait. The size of each individual bait was about an eighth of an inch broader where the hook was inserted than at the other end. As a general thing, each fisherman works two lines. On the occasion under notice, my companion and myself had, however, only three lines in the boat. The *modus operandi* was, each line was let out a distance of 10 to 15 fathoms, and the lines were kept jerking backwards and forwards until a good hearty tug was felt, upon which the line was pulled in, hand over hand, as quickly as could be. The gurnets were "taking" with great freedom, and so it happened that no sooner was one fish taken off the hook, and the sinker pitched overboard, than the next line had to be similarly dealt with. Thus for two or three hours, with an occasional slackening in the "biting" for a few minutes, we went on until we had got 270 gurnets into the boat. Now, cold as the day was, it is a fact that seldom on a steephill side were we warmer than on the day in question. Your readers are of course aware that the gurnet is one of the "cussedest" fishes in the sea, and that it has a head full of the most abominable prickers imaginable, a dab from which, ten to one, is sure to fester. This circumstance causes great circumspection to be necessary in handling the "beastie," and most adroit many men are in the unhooking process. Generally we go out oil-skinned "to the masthead," from the sou'-wester to the pants of same material. Some men, as soon as the fish comes over the gunwale, place it tightly between the left arm and their side, and so get it off—others put it between the knees; while some manage to pin it down with the foot and so manage, but the latter is the worst plan, for very frequently the hook gets broken in the process, as the foot is brought down with such force, in order to crush the head and kill the fish, as to give the hook bad usage if got in an awkward position. As regards the use of gurnets, it may safely be said that no fish resembles salmon in taste so much. Plain boiled or fried, when newly caught, they are excellent, and the ordinary run of Highlanders say that they are so also, when, after having been in pickle for a short space, they are smoked—"kippered" we may call the thing.

What adds zest to the amusement, is the care with which a man manipulating two lines has to act to keep them getting "droll." When a fish strikes one line he lets go the other, and hauls in vehemently. Very often the fish slips off the hook into the water, and joins a regular escort of its companions which accompanied it up on the way boatward. If herring bait cannot be had, a very small bit of the white part of the gurnet will do well, but so tough is the skin that, before the hook will penetrate it, a knife is required to make a hole for the hook. This kind of bait may last a whole day and save a heap of trouble.

The nearness of a lot of great whales makes some people feel nervous, but, although the writer almost steered his boat on to the top of one, which most quietly and good-naturedly "went below" in time to avoid a mishap, he does not remember hearing of any accident occuring through their means. Many a time has the writer been within a very few yards of the brutes—almost so near in fact as to get a share of the spray they spouted. They look uncommonly fierce some days, however, as they chase each other at something like railway speed. Indeed, on more occasions than one, we could almost declare that they must have been fighting, as they lashed the water furiously, and sometimes jumped high out of it. Such a mass of fish as was there!

The surrounding scenery has its attractions even to a boating-fisherman, and certainly anything grander than that to be met with on the West Coast of Ross, Sutherland, and Inverness-shires, would hardly be fallen in with anywhere. And it may be frankly stated that Lochcarron is overlooked by hills and mountains worth going far to see.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

On Monday evening, the 20th, the joint committee of the three associations met at the Star and Garter, St. Martin's Lane, W.C., over thirty members signing the "attendance book." Mr. Murray was voted to the chair, Mr. T. Hoole occupying the post of secretary. Among some important items of business done, was the election of a sub-committee of nine, empowered to draw up a short practical code of rules for the committee's future guidance. I was pleased to see our friend, Mr. R. Ghurney, present, and so far recovered from his recent indisposition as to be able to take an active share in the business of the evening.

Apropos of Mr. Ghurney, he has had printed, and caused to be circulated among club anglers and others, a number of tickets upon which is printed the following:—

"Anglers' Benevolent Society.
"New Foresters' Hall, Clerkenwell Road, E.C.

"To be disposed of, for the benefit of the funds of the above Society, a handsome old painting in gilt frame (subject, a favourite angling resort), painted and presented by Greville Fennell, Esq., to be drawn for on the Art Union principle. The result to be published in the sporting journals. Tickets 1s. each. Tickets unless paid for by Friday, March 31, 1882, will not be drawn for."

The cause is too deserving a one to need a single word of recommendation from me; but let us hope Mr. Secretary Ghurney will during the next three or four weeks be kept hard at it answering by every post applications for tickets.

I regret to announce the death, after a short illness, of Mr. Alex. Stone, quite a young man, an ex-member of the North-Western Angling Club, and well known among London anglers, particularly in the N.W. district.

I have just received notice that the first meeting of the London Committee of the International Edinburgh Fisheries Exhibition will take place on Friday next, at five p.m., at 20, Moorgate Street. Messrs. Ghurney and Morgan's names have been added to the committee.

Apropos of this exhibition, there is a capital article in this week's number of that excellent publication *Chambers' Journal*, dealing in a most interesting manner with fisheries exhibitions in general, and this one in particular.

In a contemporary appears the following:—"Providing Dagenham Lake is not converted into a dock before then, it is proposed to organise a grand angling sweepstake on the Sheffield principle, some good money prizes being given, and a fairer piece of water could not be chosen." Well, tastes differ, and I only profess to express my own views; but, judging from the one or two big things which have taken place in London within my recollection (the Ponder's End affair in particular), I should unhesitatingly say they are big scandals, and do more to bring the true angler's name into discredit than any other cause. Of love of sport proper there is not one jot, either among the promoters, the several hundreds of competitors, or the motley crowd, composed, with a very few exceptions, of the very lowest of the low; the three-card-trick man is there, the thimble-rig man ditto, tossing for money goes on freely, betting; and, in fact, every other objectionable feature of the lowest suburban racecourse, not omitting the roughs and the light-fingered gentlemen. One friend of mine was severely maltreated at the £100 sweepstake at Ponder's End, and another was eased of his gold watch and chain, while the scene en route by rail to and fro is better imagined than described. Supposing, however, that all that is really objectionable in these big things *could* be done away with, what is there to commend them to the notice of the true angler? Are they a test of skill? It is absurd to suppose it, even the promoters and those interested cannot maintain this view. Are they really enjoyable in the sense of a pure country outing? No, they are none of these; they are a big gamble from beginning to end—a gamble to join which the working man must first lose a day's work, invest from half-a-crown to five shillings, as the case may be, as entrance money, and pay railway fare and refreshments, all for the very remote chance of winning a money prize. No, no; though these things may commend themselves to the sporting man, they cannot but be repulsive to the sportsman, as utterly lacking every element of sport.

Mr. F. G. Young succeeds Mr. Jenkins as secretary of the Bridgewater Brothers.

The Peckham Brothers' annual supper is fixed to take place on Tuesday evening, March 21st, Mr. A. Brodie in the chair.

From Haslett, of Chertsey, I have this week a very meagre report, the rise of water not having improved the fishing. A few good perch and a tench of 2 lb. being all worth recording.

The Hoxton Brothers fish for a number of valuable prizes of the total value of between £6 and £7, presented by Mr. T. Bevington, proprietor of Ratly's Weir Fishery, with another additional £1 1s. presented by Mr. G. C. Ransom. On Monday, Feb. 27th, a great number of entries are expected, particularly as the day's fishing is to followed by a snug little dinner at "Ye Old Rye House."

On Wednesday evening, 22nd inst., a West Central Association, No. 2 District, visit was paid the Amicable Brothers, Bald-Faced Stag, Finsbury. Mr. Medcalfe occupied the chair. Owing, possibly, to its being Ash Wednesday, the meeting was by no means a large one. Some good songs, however, were sung. The following clubs being represented:—City of London, Good Intent, St. John's, Sir Hugh Middleton, in the district; and also the Hoxton Brothers (Mr. Ghurney), North-Western (Mr. L. Bonvoisin), Westbourne Park Piscatorials, Phœnix, Bridgewater Brothers, North-Eastern, and Hearts of Oak. The roll being called by Mr. L. Bonvoisin, who has undertaken the duties of No. 2 District Officer until such time as a gentleman is elected to permanently fill the office. A cordial vote of thanks to the Chairman brought a pleasant evening to a close. The next visit will be paid the Acorn Angling Society, of which due notice will be given.

BURE PRESERVATION SOCIETY.

On Wednesday the annual general meeting of the subscribers to the Bure Preservation Society was held in the Grand Jury Room at the Tolhouse Hall. There were present, the Deputy-Mayor (T. B. Steward, Esq.), who occupied the chair in the absence of the mayor, and Messrs. W. Worship. C. Woolverton, J. Tomlinson, C. J. Greene (Norwich), H. Stafford (Norwich), A. J. N. Chamberlin (Wroxham), J. Chamberlin, T. Elliot, J. Ecclestone, H. R. Harmer, and W. J. Hall. The report was read by Mr. Harmer, one of the secretaries, and was of a very gratifying character. It referred to the steps which had been taken to put a stop to the poaching on the Bure and its tributaries, and to the satisfactory results which had followed the efforts made in this direction. Reference was also made to the question of the eel-sets, which has been recently so fully discussed in the newspapers. The increase of subscriptions from anglers from London and elsewhere beyond this district was encouraging, and showed that the society was appreciated; and during the present year efforts would be made to bring the society under the attention of anglers in the metropolis and elsewhere who did not know of it. Allusion was made in grateful terms to the liberality of the Great Eastern Railway and the North Norfolk Railway in the facilities which they offered to anglers visiting fishing-stations on their lines.

The balance-sheet was then read, from which it appeared that the receipts were £135 10s. 8d., and the expenditure £57 18s. 6½d., including the watcher's salary, £46 16s., thus leaving a balance of £80 19s. 1½d.

The report and balance-sheet were adopted, Mr. A. J. N. Chamberlin expressing his satisfaction at the state of affairs, and pointing out that they had not touched the balance from last year nor the subscription from the National Fisheries Exhibition. He thought that as they had such a good balance in hand it should not lie dormant, but be invested in the best possible way. After some conversation it was resolved to invest £50 of the balance.

The election of officers was then proceeded with. The Mayor (C. C. Aldred, Esq.) was re-elected president. Mr. Worship proposed the re-election of the Deputy-Mayor as vice-president, and referred to the interest Mr. T. B. Steward took in all matters concerning angling and the local Boards and rivers. Mr. Elliot seconded; agreed to. The Deputy-Mayor thanked the meeting for the compliment paid him, and promised to continue his support of the society. Mr. E. P. Youell was re-elected treasurer; Messrs. H. R. Harmer, A. J. N. Chamberlin, and W. J. Hall, secretaries; the committee being also re-appointed, with the addition of the names of Mr. Elliot and Mr. Ecclestone. Mr. Greene proposed that a list of members of the society should be annually published and a copy sent to each member. This was seconded by Mr. Ecclestone, who proposed in addition that the report and balance-sheet should be printed with the list of subscribers, and this was agreed to.—*Yarmouth Gazette.*

George James Eaton, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[Advt.]

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

"He is well paid, that is well satisfied."
—SHAKESPEARE.

I am satisfied that very little successful fishing has taken place during the past week. This is to be accounted for by the presence of snow in the water, which seems to have fallen heavily above Oxford, but not lower in the valley of the Thames. I have some miscellaneous records of takes of roach and chub, but they are hardly worth record. The river, from personal observation on Thursday, is in fair trim for all-round angling, and evidently hourly improving, and good sport may, at the end of the week, be confidently anticipated.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Ancholme.

Some splendid sport has been had during the past week amongst the bream, and the pike fishing also continues very good. The water is in capital order, and the weather all that can be desired. I caught twelve beautiful trout in a tributary of the main stream on Saturday last. Not one under $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., and the largest $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. They were in prime condition and cut quite pink. A small black spider fly is on the water, but none of the drakes have yet made an appearance. A few early browns are out in the middle of the day.—THOMAS FORD.

Ballynahinch (Ireland).

The waters have not been fished for this last week. The lakes and rivers in good order, but some days very calm. Any wind we do have is from the south and south-west. Weather very mild.—WALTER BLACKADDER.

Broxbourne.

Water in splendid condition. Amongst other takes of jack during the past week, Mr. Grimmo one of 7 lb. and Mr. Bainbridge ore 16 lb. Considerable quantities of perch continue to be taken, the largest I have seen weighed 3 lb. —F. B.

Chichester.

The water here is, if anything, too fine for successful angling, no take of importance being recorded. The Rother is in good order but pike have been chary of feeding the past week, but few fish taken and those small. The weather the past few days has been mild and summerlike with cold nights and mornings. Perch should afford good sport but roach seem entirely off. The commencement of the week on the Rother proved almost a blank, rodsters, like wandering Israelites, finding no resting place, many not having a touch the whole day. For pike and perch live gudgeon on this water seem most killing, while at Chichester gudgeon or strange roach or dace seem entirely useless. A meeting was held at the Globe Hotel, Chichester, on Wednesday evening, when Mr. Bracey and Mr. Buck of the Portsmouth Waltonians, and Mr. Gambling of the Brighton Anglers' Association, attended as delegates to confer with the Chichester society respecting the preservation of the fish during the repairs necessary to Birdham lock. A resolution was passed empowering the Chichester committee to take what steps may be necessary for taking and returning the fish to the upper water above the dam, and watching the canal during the progress of the work.—GEORGE F. SALTER.

Colne (Thorney Broad).

Water in first-rate order for all-round fishing. Every prospect of getting good takes of roach, perch, and jack. The weather is as fine as the middle of spring. A few jack, perch, and roach have been taken. A number of trout have already shown up in different parts of the water.—E. GODFREY.

Dove.

We have had fine mild days and cold nights this week. The water has been in nice condition, but still I do not think it can be said that trout are biting with their customary freedom. There has been a rise on when the sun has been out in the middle of the day; but when old Sol disappeared, the speckles (and the grayling too) left off coming to the surface. I suppose things will mend by and by. There are lots of flies out, principally reds and duns, and perhaps the reason the fish do not accept the artificials very readily is that there is so much natural food in the water. The average of baskets runs to about four or five brace per rod—I am now referring to our open lengths of water. A good many of the locals were out on Saturday, and a few on Shrove Tuesday, but most of the Ashbourne folks were footballing on the latter day. The goals here are two miles apart, and the whole town can join in the sport. I prefer fishing myself to having my shins kicked, as a good many were on Tuesday. However, the folks appear to like it, and so it is not for yours truly to complain.—THE SPLODGER.

Exe (Tiverton).

What a magnificent opening we are having. The weather is all that can possibly be wished for. The few night showers we have had have helped to increase the streams, and also the sport. Yesterday (Monday) certainly was rather a sneezer, the wind being due north, but, true it is, to-day (Tuesday) is one of the most magnificent spring days one could possibly realize at this time of the year, perfectly warm, in fact, first-class fishing weather. Salmon are very plentiful, and had our net fishermen the privilege of fishing this month, as they had some few years since, some thousands might have been taken, and very probably, when their season really sets in, we may have the usual floods to prevent their commencing at that time. I have not heard of a single fish being taken with the rod up to now; but trout have come to grass in good numbers, the heaviest of which turned the scale at three-quarters. Dace and roach are very fine, perch and pike small, the larger, seemingly, are well fed. and refuse other luring bait at present. There are great quantities of "gravelling" and "parr" marked fish in the various streams. Fishing in the estuary very poor, but excellent sport may be expected should the weather continue favourable. I hope to send you a few notes from "Culmstock" in my next.—FRANK GOSDEN, Exeter.

Ilfracombe (N. Devon).

There is very little sea fishing to report this past fortnight. A few cod and some small whiting pout have been taken occasionally. On Monday a small seine was set at low water, and about 50 lb. of fish were taken, consisting of soles, dabs, flinkets, and plaice, a few small glovers are caught with hand lines from the jetty. Weather very fine for the present.—E. COMER.

Lea (Rye House).

The water is in good order at this time and the weather very mild; N.W. wind. There were some nice fish taken on Sunday, Mr. Bates took the first prize with a jack, 5 lb., and several other gentlemen had some very nice roach and perch.—WM. COWELL.

Medway (Tonbridge.)

The water in a couple of days will be in first-class condition for all kinds of sport. During the week small baskets of pike and perch have been made, but the water has been too thick for successful angling. Will wonders never cease? I hear that the anglers in the county town of Kent have serious thoughts of establishing a preservation society for the lower Medway, and have actually called a public meeting. Go it, Maidstone! You ought to raise sufficient to employ two water-bailiffs, and then the whole of the river that is of any use for coarse fish will be preserved. With poaching from Hartslake to Maidstone knocked on the head—and I am sure the riparian owners would meet any society on fair terms—what a magnificent river it would make! No one would rejoice to see such a thing brought about more than YE MEDWAY WATER RAT.

Ouse and Ivel (Blunham).

The former the beginning of the week was thick, but now is in fine condition; the latter has been in good fishing order all the week. One of the association, Mr. Thompson, had a large take of roach on the 22nd, weighing 23 lb., the largest 2 lb., and several from $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{3}{4}$ lb. each. This day, the 23rd inst., several fine pike have been taken.—E. B.

Taw, &c. (N. Devon).

Water still going lower and remarkably clear. Cannot expect to get many fish. Only chance is to try tops and bottoms of very deep pits, where a few fish in the middle of the day, probably, will be hoodwinked and brought to the creel. I have only heard of three or four catches in the various small streams, 13, 16, 7, during the past week. To-day (the 23rd) I was told of a fish (large for us) $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. in weight, caught out of a gutter running into a very small stream, and the person said he saw many more in the same hole, larger and smaller. I fear the preservation of salmon will destroy all the trout. Now the water is so low in the small streams, and salmon so plentiful, and cannot go back into the sea, they will help themselves to a few trout; nothing better to be had. I was told of eight or ten fish (salmon) gaffed out of a short distance of water this past week.—RUSTY GAME.

Thames (Goring).

Water in good order for jack, perch, and chub. Not much doing; water too thick; have been taking some good roach; best day, 5 dozen of roach, largest 1 lb.—JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Halliford).

Owing to the bad state of the river the fishing has been very bad, but it is now rapidly improving. Since my last report different gentlemen fishing with me their takes have been as follows, viz.:—Mr. Thomas Abbot, on the 10th inst., caught a barbel of 4 lb. and six nice roach; 12th, Mr. Innis and Hutchings, sixteen nice roach, some over 1 lb. each, and a perch; 13th, Mr. Wilson, ten nice roach and three small barbel; 17th, Mr. Thomas Abbott, owing to the river being so high, took one barbel only; 21st, Mr. Rogers one jack; 22nd, Mr. Nichenson, one jack weighing 9 lb. 6 oz.—GEORGE ROSEWELL, fisherman.

Thames (Richmond).

The river has run down to a nice height now, and the water is a splendid colour now for fishing, but the fish are not at all well on the feed. I think it very likely that two-thirds of the dace went over the weir on Sunday with the high tide, as there has not been the fish jumping at Teddington that there were a week ago. We have had plenty of patrons down during the past week, but beyond two gentlemen, fishing with Wheeler on Tuesday, who had $19\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of roach, there has not been much done. The time for each fisherman during the past week is as follows:—G. Howard, 1 day; C. Brown, 4 days; Wheeler, 3 days; H. Howard, 2 days; Job Brain, 3 days; H. Munsell, 3 days; J. Bushnell, 5 days.—JOHN BUSHNELL.

Thames (Walton).

Mr. Bevington fishing with G. Rogerson, on the 19th, one bream, 4 lb.; two ditto, 2 lb. each; and one roach, 1 lb. On 20th, one perch, $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. On 21st, one jack, $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; and one bream, $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Weather dull; wind changeable. Water falling, and very low for the time of the year; very thick in early part of week, but clearing now and rising. Prospects uncertain; nothing biting but bleak and gudgeon.

Thames (Windsor).

Water here is a very bad colour though not high, and this last week it has been as thick as possible in spite of it James Gray, last Sunday, with two patrons, got a nice brace of jack from the Surly Hall water going 5 lb. to 7 lb. At Boveney the lock-keeper, Croft, has had three barbel this last week; and this morning he was unfortunate enough to lose a nice jack of quite 8 lb. which took a worm. Being single gut and on the weir stage with no one to help land it, in trying to get at his net, which was some distance off, a frantic effort on the part of the fish just at the time allowed him to get away, with doubtless very little harm to the fish. At Cookham, Godden the fisherman tells me, before this very thick water, he was getting very good sport with patrons, having with one gentleman some handsome roach up to $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. each, besides four jack, largest 4 lb. Two days out with J. H. Hill, Esq., resulted in three jack 3 lb., 6 lb. and a very handsome fish of

9lb. They had very bad luck, running no less than seven fish and breaking away with one. The two men I mentioned in my last report as having to appear at Beaconsfield Police Court last Monday, for taking fish with a net up Boveney Ditch, were each fined 14s., and of course net destroyed. Water will be in better order by Sunday if no rain, though it will not be clear.—B. R. Bambridge.

Torridge (Woodford Bridge), North Devon.

Some splendid dishes of dorsal fin "daisies" have been grassed during the past week, and I hear of one or two gents intending making a prolonged visit shortly, when I hope to report accordingly. The worthy host of the hotel is ever ready to render any assistance either upon the land or water, as occasion may require, at the same time not forgetting the inner man or his outdoor beast.—Frank Gosden, Exeter.

Trent (Newark).

The water went down much more rapidly than I expected from the heavy flood of last week; and by Monday it was in fairish condition for worm fishing; and has been improving ever since. At the time of writing, it is in capital condition for general angling, and the prospects, as far as I can judge, are fairly satisfactory. Chub fishing, in my opinion, will be the best sport to indulge in under the present circumstances, and pith and brains will yet be the best bait; although I should advise anglers not to forget their worms, in case the chub should not be on at pith, for roach and bream are now in capital condition and rather inclined to take a worm. A roach of 1 lb. 6 oz., and a bream of 3 lb. have been weighed-in as specimen fish this week. Heavy bags have been the exception, not the rule this week, but still I believe fish are now to be taken if the anglers will take the necessary precautions for making a good bag.—The Trent Otter.

Trent (Nottingham).

The river in this district has run down rapidly, and a rather large number of anglers have been out. Sport, however, has fluctuated; pike have not run at all well, and it is reasonable to suppose that ere long they will be in their spawning quarters. It is gratifying to know that from Shardlow on Tuesday several very fine chub were caught with the cockspur worm; the largest weighed 4 lb. 13¾ oz., and it was forwarded to Mr. Stanley, taxidermist, Trent Street, for preservation. Some fair samples of roach have also been killed in the same length, and on Thursday a friend of the writer succeeded in getting a pike of 8¼ lb. From the lower waters I learn that a bream of 5 lb. odd has been taken by Mr. Kirk, jun., of this town.—The Man at the Clubs.

Tweed and Teviot.

Floods having rendered the river unfishable during last week nothing was done till Saturday, when on that occasion a few uuclean fish only were landed. During the interval between that and Monday the rivers fined down a good deal, and angling was again in full swing on Monday, and with better results On the Sprowston casts a brace of fish were killed by Mr. Chas. Kerrs, one on Monday and one on Tuesday. On the Hendersyde waters on Monday two clean salmon were killed by Mr. James Kerrs, and on the day following Mr. Thomas Johnston, wine and spirit merchant, Kelso, killed one salmon on the same casts, while on the same day Dr. M'Kenzie, Kelso, was also successful in getting a nice clean fish. On Wednesday nothing was done on the same waters, two unclean fish only having been landed by Mr. J. Mickie, sen., Kelso On the Floors water the Duke of Roxburgh angled on Wednesday, but caught nothing, and the same story has to be told of the Makerstoun and Ednam House water. The weather is very mild, and as the rivers are again getting very fine, fish are now beginning to fight shy of the angler. Since the opening of the net fishings, the takes have been most encouraging, the produce being much better than at the corresponding period of the last four or five years. Prices, consequently, are low, salmon selling at 1s. 9d. and trout at 1s. 6d. per lb.

Wye and Derwent.

Both rivers are now in first-class condition for fly-fishing, and some good baskets have been made off of both rivers, during the past week, one angler taking 8½ brace of both trout and grayling in the Derwent (free water) between Darley Bridge and Matlock Bath. Last Tuesday every fish was killed with the bumble, red-fly, and spider-fly, the bumble killing the greatest quantity of fish. The fish have rose the best from one to three. Very few bottom fishers have been out on the Derwent during the past week. Several trout have been killed by trolling with the Derby trout-killer. The fish are running small, but in splendid condition. The same kind of flies I mentioned in last week's Gazette are killers.—G. J. Eaton.

Wye (Ross).

Owing to the mild winter, spring fishing has been much earlier than usual, and the fish are in good order. Salmon netting this year commenced a month earlier under the new bye-laws, and some capital fish have been taken in the Ross and Glewstone fisheries. A week ago, Mr. John Wale, one of the most expert anglers in this district, caught a strange fish of about 1 lb. weight, which gave capital sport. On examination it was found to be a salmon pink, and it is supposed that it must have been one of the very few which had not gone down to the sea at "sculling" time. Some nice trout have been taken by Mr. T. De la Hay, jun., and Mr. Roy and others. Mr. Ackerman the other day took a good perch about 2 lb. These fish are very scarce in the Wye here. It is a pleasing fact that the authorities seem determined to put down poaching. At the recent Petty Sessions, men have been fined for using cleaching nets, and at Hereford on Saturday five fellows were fined £2 14s. 6d. each for taking unclean salmon at Fownhope.—John J. Counsell.

LOCH TAY.

Our Aberfeldy correspondent sends the following record of sport on the middle and eastern sections of Loch Tay:—On the Ben Lawers Hotel water Mr. Brood, London, one salmon, 20 lb.; Colonel Philpot, one, 21 lb.; on the Ardeonaig water, Mr. Fielden, Leeds, one, 21 lb.; on the Kenmore Hotel water, Mr. W. R. W. Smith, Glasgow, one, 25 lb.; on the Auchmore reserved water, the Duke of Roxburghe, one, 17 lb.; on the river Lyon, Mr. Jacob Burns, one, 16 lb.; and on the Grandtully water, Mr. Alex. Robertson, one, 21 lb.—*Scotsman.*

SOUTH OF IRELAND.

With genial and seasonable weather, and water in settled condition, there has been a great improvement in angling. The improvement has manifested itself not only on the Lee, but on the Blackwater, and on the lordly Shannon, which courses through the heart of Ireland. The captures on the Lee weae:—Mr. Bass, 4; Mr. Dunscombe, 4; John Connolly, 4; Mr. Angler, 2; Mr. Pursee, 2; Mr. Geo. Haynes, 6, one on Sunday and five yesterday, including two fine unspawned fish. Three of these were taken on the worm in one stream, with the worm which in the light water still continues to be the most destructive of lures. On the Bandon river, which was formerly under one conservatory with the Lee, but which has been on its own account for the past five or six years, Lord Bandon took 3; Capt. Rye, 1; Mr. John Rye, 2; Mr. Herrick, 1; Mr. Somers Payne, 1; Mr. Pridgman, 1; Mr. Perry, 1. On the Shannon some large fish have been taken, one of 33 lbs. having been landed during the week with rod and line. Mr. O'Connor, on the Blackwater, has landed two, and several other gentlemen have been also successful. Again some trouble has been experienced with the poaching fraternity. There was a serious conflict on Thursday night, in which both boats of the conserving interest were attacked. In one case the launch was surrounded by poachers' boats, and an attempt was made to board the vessel. The bailiffs held their own. Stones were interchanged, and one of the poachers was placed *hors de combat.* The other launch shaved nine unfortunately. It proceeded to a remote part of the harbour with a summons-server and two policemen to serve summonses. An effort was made by a howling mass of men and women to prevent a landing; the policemen succeeded in reaching the shore and in arresting the ringleaders, but they were unable to hold their own, and were hustled away while a volley of stones rained on the devoted bailiffs' head. One stone, fully half a hundredweight, was cast at the machinery in order to disable it. An effort was made to man the boats in order to attack the launch on water, but this was frustrated by the launch steaming off. Since those episodes a force of six men of the constabulary proceeds on board each time the launch goes down the river.

THE BEST TONIC.

Short days lengthen: dark days brighten:
  Fog and mist have fled away:
Anglers' hearts, like lovers', lighten,
  Drawing near their bridal day.

Falling on the warm and thirsting
  Earth, soon April showers shall show
Spring's sweet signs, where buds are bursting,
  And where early blossoms blow.

Soon the wandering voice comes crying,
  "Cuc-koo," loud, across the lea:
And the song-birds all are vieing
  To make utmost harmony.

Merle and mavis, lark and linnet—
  Every warbler of the dale
Pours its wood-notes-wild forth in it—
  All save donna nightingale.

Not with that orb o'er her beaming,
  But beneath a tend'rer light,
Are her heavenly strains outstreaming,
  Peerless songstress of the night.

'Tis the day when clouds are coming—
  And are going—o'er the sun;
Bees in cowslips'-bells are humming:
  'Tis the day when deeds are done—

Fitly done, with fur and feather—
  By the crystal, fishful stream—
Fairer day of angling weather
  Never love of sport did dream.

Then thou—that wert longing, yearning,
  Amid many an hour of pain,
For thy rapturous returning
  To thy yielding rod—again,

O'erwrought one—greybeard or stripling—
  By the soft winds whispered out,
Revel'st in the waters' rippling
  And the splashing of the trout.

Therein, whilst thy bending Bowness
  Stoops to conquer, shalt thou find
The best tonic for all lowness
  Of the body and the mind,

As each wrestle, as each tussle—
  To "the landing" from "the rise"—
Braces every flaccid muscle,
  And a new nerve-force supplies.

For all ills an angler's heir to—
  Few or many, mixed or pure—
O what physic can compare to
  The true magic trouting-cure?*

A.R.I.E.L.

London, Feb. 14th, 1882.

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* For the inspiration of the foregoing lines I am indebted to one whose very spirited verses, "A Sporting Idyll," must live in the recollections of many of the readers of the Fishing Gazette. He has recently written me:—"I long for the ripple of the waters and the splash of a trout. *That* is the best tonic for lowness of body and mind, after all."

A Pig with Eight Legs.—One of the most peculiar freaks of nature ever seen has just been sent to Mr. William Howlett, the well known taxidermist and angler of Newmarket. It consists of a pig with eight perfect legs, four ears, one head; it was born on the 16th of February, 1882, and, after living some time, was killed and sent to Mr. Howlett to be preserved. It is a full-sized, plump animal, and has been seen by hundreds of people during the last few days.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

D. G. C., Walthamstow.—The legal fence time for trout is from Oct. 2 to Feb. 1, but many clubs fence a longer period, for instance, at the Broxbourne fishery trout are fenced from Sept. 1 to April 1. —Ed.

F. P. Barnhart, Brownsville, U.S.A.—We never heard of ferns being of any value as bait for fish, but there is a little fly called the "Fern web," which is greedily eaten by trout.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION, EDINBURGH.

Sir,—I shall feel obliged if you will allow me to call the earnest attention of all London clubsmen to this important exhibition, which takes place in Edinburgh in April. A London committee has been formed for the purpose of taking charge of intending exhibits, and the following gentlemen have consented, up to the present time, to serve on the committee:—Messrs. Marston, Wheeldon, Bonvoisin, Ghurney, Morgan, Hatfield, and Capt. Alfred. All representative men, and holding important positions in the angling world. As the date of entry is very near, it will be necessary for all clubs who intend to exhibit their fish to send a prompt reply, stating the amount of space they require. No expense will be incurred by any society, and it is sincerely to be hoped that London clubs, for their own credit's sake, will do all they can to further the labours of the committee, and give our angling friends in the north some idea of the sport obtained in southern waters. I shall be pleased to answer any questions, and no one need think they are giving trouble by calling on, or writing to, me.—I am, &c., Fred. C. Clench, hon. sec.

39, Liverpool Street,
Bishopsgate, E.C.

TABLES OF FLIES, GUT AND GIMP, &c.

Sir,—As I was the original occasion of the publication in your columns of Mr. Balderston's tables of flies, please allow me again to thank him, especially the last one, which I have studied with great pleasure and interest, and which I am sure must have cost him an endless amount of time and trouble to put in so lucid and complete a form. And now to refer to another subject—your correspondent "Winch's" complaint as to gimp. I can confirm your suggestion as to the best method of using gut as a substitute in pike-fishing, for I once fished for some time with a tackle consisting of 3 feet stout gut and a hook tied on a foot of double untwisted ditto, taking with it some two dozen fish from 2 to 4 lb. each before I put it by, still quite serviceable, though the hook length was somewhat nicked and frayed. It was a capital tackle fo: small baits and small pike; but I now use what I consider an improvement, viz., a similar tackle, but the hook on stout salmon gut, single, but covered for eight inches with silvered tinsel wound neatly on, and stained by burying in a box of flowers of sulphur for a day or two. This gives dead black, and is a capital stain also for silvered gimp, as it does not injure the silk in any way. For big fish, however, I do not like to trust to this tackle, as the strike in snap-fishing, live bait, or spinning, is too much for the knots occasionally, though I use Pennell's mode of whipping between the two knots of a fisherman's draw-knot. The single gut also is apt to go as the angle formed by the gut and hook shank just above the whipping. I then resort to fine twisted gut for the trace, and gimp for the hook, and quite agree with your correspondent as to the deterioration in the gimp, as I have to use it thicker than formerly. The reason, I think, is that thicker wire and less silk is used to produce the same thickness of gimp, and often the silk is adulterated with cotton besides. Many tackle-makers, however, dress hooks on such fine gimp that I do not wonder at fish being lost. The gimp, perhaps, is as fine as salmon gut, and after deducting the space occupied by the wire, the central silk is not thicker than say lake gut, and not nearly so strong. This is no tackle for a good pike unless there is unlimited elbow room to play him in, and a more pliant rod than the usual pike-rod is used.—I am, &c., W. T. S.

WEST CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF LONDON AND PROVINCIAL ANGLING SOCIETIES.

Sir,—When I read Mr. F. C. Clench's letter, which appeared in last week's Fishing Gazette, I don't know whether I was most amused or annoyed—amused at the utter muddle into which the proverbial "little knowledge and over zeal" have landed Mr. C. in the, to him, by no means novel *rôle* of would-be reformer; annoyed at the possible mischief which might be the outcome of his injudicious epistle. Merely premising that I will be as brief as possible, I will note one by one the suggested reforms which, according to the "Daniel come to judgment," must be undertaken by the Association before they can hope to attract representatives from what Mr. C. is pleased to call the "best," but which might more accurately be described as the "wealthier" class of angling clubs.

Mr. C. says: "In the first place, the locality to many men, is not at all central enough." Well, Mr. Clench, we know that there is a locality which would be better, viz., within a few minutes' walk of Charing Cross, and nowhere else. The Association grew so rapidly that it was impossible for it to remain at its birthplace, the Star and Garter, St. Martin's Lane. The committee sought high and low, week after week, month after month, for a suitable room in that neighbourhood, but in vain, and we thought ourselves fairly fortunate when we secured a very good room, capable of accommodating the daily increasing number of our delegates, with a decent address, no rent to pay, and, above all, within two or three minutes' walk of the Metropolitan Railway (Baker Street), from whence trains can be had to almost every part of London and suburbs, including Richmond, up to a very late hour, to say nothing of several lines of omnibuses which either pass the door, or within little more than a stone's throw of it. At the same time, if Mr. Clench can help us to secure a room, in other respects as good as the one we have at present, in the district above named, we shall be his debtors. I need not remind him that, as the bulk of our members are working men, the refreshments must not only be good, but supplied at the usual (not hotel) charges.

Now, sir, after several years' experience, I am persuaded, that nine o'clock is not a moment too late to suit the convenience of our members, a great number, particularly during certain times of the year, do not leave their work until eight and even later. The prolonged meetings referred to by Mr. Clench are quite the exception, and if he will come up to the association's meetings for, say a twelvemonth, I will guarantee he shall catch his last train (11.28 from Baker Street) eleven times out of twelve; if he has to leave us before the meeting is quite concluded on the twelfth time, to do so, I for one will promise not to find fault with his going.

Whether or no the three associations could be advantageously amalgamated into one, discharging the various duties at present discharged by the Angler's Benevolent, Lea Preservation, Thames Rights Defence Association, &c., &c., is such a big question, and appears, upon the face of it such an unlikely event, that I will not venture an opinion, beyond saying that I do not think the anglers would be likely to acquiesce. Mr. Clench goes on to say, "We carried the resolution of a special committee in spite of the undisguised opposition of the officials."

When Mr. Clench stated, in the course of his speech, "the association had not gone the right way to induce the Central Association to co-operate," he was told by not only the chairman and vice-chairman, but by several delegates what had been done, and that his accusation was uncalled for, and I beg to state most emphatically not one word was said against the special committee being elected, in fact, the proposition was carried without a dissentient.

Mr. Clench says. farther on, "I heard nothing of the deputation to the third association." I had no minute entered upon my books wherein Mr. Clench's name appeared as a committeman, therefore he was not advised of the date of meetings. No discourtesy could be intended. I have known Mr. Clench for a number of years as a jolly, good-hearted fellow, and one that I should never think of slighting in the smallest degree. I could not attend that meeting myself, and therefore had no knowledge of an outsider being upon the committee. I know, whatever was done, was done for the general good. I must call Mr. Clench's attention to my circular, giving full particulars of each meeting of the joint committees, a copy of which was placed in his hands by his secretary (Mr. Gaunt) on Wednesday night, the 8th inst.; therefore it is scarcely correct to make this statement.

Yet, from that hour to this, I have heard nothing of the deputation to the third association.

I feel it to be my duty, as hon. sec. of the above association, to refute the accusation made against the officers, and more especially against myself for having neglected my duty. Mr. Clench ought to know me better than to think that I should treat him with discourtesy. I have too much respect for him, and for his labours in the angler's cause.—I am, &c., T. Hoole.

SPECIMEN FISH *v.* GROSS WEIGHT.

Sir,—In reply to your correspondent G. A., of the Kingfishers, allow me to state that I can find nothing in my letter of the 4th inst. showing B. in the light of a solitary enthusiast on the question of specimen fish; on the contrary, I know that B.'s views on the subject are shared by many good and true anglers. Further, if G. A. will again refer to my letter, he will see that I agree with the theory, but see great difficulty in its practical application to all clubs alike.

I believe that for some time to come yet the capture and weighing-in of specimen fish, and the abolition of gross-weight competitions will be almost exclusively confined to those clubs the members of which belong to the well-to-do classes, who are enabled to make frequent journeys to far-away fishing stations, and by their influence obtain admission to private waters, where it becomes more a matter of personal convenience than self-denial to retain none but the largest fish. For instance, who would not be satisfied with 57 lb. of large perch or 87 lb. of good pike in a day, as recorded in this week's Fishing Gazette under the doings of the Gresham and Friendly Societies respectively?

Such takes, however, very seldom fall to the lot of the working-man angler, the greater part of whose trips to the waterside are made on Sunday, when admission to private waters is rarely granted, and the state of whose pocket will not allow him to take a sufficient number of long journeys to gain that knowledge of the water necessary to success.

From this working-man class I drew the typical "sticker," who is by no means a self-glorifying individual, but a man who, although honestly and deservedly proud of his piscatorial skill, is remarkably quiet and wanting in "brag" on that or any other subject. He knows, too, that to bring to bank a few sizeable fish on a bad day is often a greater achievement than the capture of a basketful of specimens under more favourable conditions, hence his chagrin at his defeat by the novice's mere luck, an occurrence not so far out of the range of possibility as G. A. seems to imagine. Indeed, according to my own experience, the capture of the largest fish on a particular day is much more a matter of luck than skill.

In conclusion, I beg to express my admiration of the avowed objects of the Kingfishers, and to hope that their rules will not oblige them to spend more time in "providing future sport for their brother anglers" (*i.e.*, returning to their native element roach and perch of, say, ¾ lb. each), than in gratifying their friends who admire a good show of fish.—I am, &c., J. M. D.

Highbury Angling Society, Plimsoll Arms,
Highbury Park, N., February 20.

THAMES DACE.

Sir,—In reply to Mr. Bushnell's remarks in reference to the heading-up of the dace at Teddington Weir, I have to state the same instructions as last year have been issued to the energetic lock-keeper, as well as the offer of assistance. There has already been one large shift of the dace and they have gone safely above. In the report of assistant-river-keeper John Johnson, sen. at Kingston, he says: "There is an immense body of dace at Kingston, and the water is black with them." These remarks are confirmatory of the reputed safe passage from Teddington. We are always glad to get any suggestion or hint from the fishermen in the interests of fish and fishing, and they may rest assured every attention will be given to them. W. H. Brougham, sec.

7, Ironmonger Lane, Feb. 22.

FISHING IN THE NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK BROADS AND RIVERS.

Sir,—Permit me, through the medium of your valuable paper, to call the attention of your numerous readers, and particularly those intending to visit Great Yarmouth during the coming season, to the numerous fishing stations within a few miles of here, and to the advantages granted by the Great Eastern and North Norfolk Railway Companies to members of the Bure Preservation Society, in issuing to subscribers of 5s. and upwards, fishing tickets at single fare for double journey. I shall be only too glad to obtain and send any gentleman a card of membership and railway pass, upon receipt of subscription with addressed envelope, and to give now, or at any time, all the information in my power as to local fishing stations, &c. I shall feel indebted to any reader who will send me the names and addresses of any angling societies or clubs, particularly London ones, or to any secretary who will communicate with me on the subject.—I am, &c., A. J. Ecclestone.

South Quay,
Gt. Yarmouth.

GOOD PIKE-FISHING AT BEDFORD.

Sir,—Seeing in your edition of Saturday last an account of Messrs. Jardine and friend's take of pike, I send you the following, thinking it may prove acceptable and interesting to your readers. A friend of mine, Mr. J. G. Austin, an hon. member of the Bloomsbury Brothers' Angling Society, caught, on Wednesday, Feb. 15, whilst fishing near Bedford, a splendid show of pike, the gross weight of which was 80½ lb.; the fish were in beautiful condition, the respective weights being 20 lb., 18 lb., 10 lb., and six others averaging from 5 to 7 lb. each. There is no doubt the take would have been much greater but for the inclemency of the weather, Mr. Austin fishing two hours and a half only, when he was forced to quit the waterside for shelter, on account of the heavy fall of snow and sleet.

I may as well mention that last September the same gentleman caught in the same water thirteen pike (the gross weight of which I do not remember) the heaviest being a splendid fish of 35 lb., which has been preserved by Mr. Cooper, and can be seen in the bar of the Black Horse, Whitcombe Street, Haymarket.—I am, &c.,

J. Seymour.
Chairman of the above Society.

FISHING AT SNARESBROOK.

Sir,—Would you be so kind as to answer, or, if you are unable, to insert the following questions for some correspondents to do so, viz.:—Is there any fishing, and if so, of what kind, to be had in the Eagle Pond at Snaresbrook, or in any of the ponds in that neighbourhood? Trusting you will accord me this favour.—I am, &c.

Young Angler.

TROUT-FISHING WANTED NEAR LIVERPOOL.

Sir,—Can you, or any of your readers, inform me of any good trout-fishing within about a couple of hours of Liverpool? I should be quite willing to subscribe to or to rent a water. I am a busy man and cannot spare time to go far away, and so am anxious to secure a fishing within a reasonable distance, in order that I may get a day at it whenever opportunity offers.—I am, &c., G. L.

Liverpool.

[We should say that G. L. will not get much good trout-fishing nearer than Ribchester on the Ribble (the Tabley Arms Inn gives leave to fish), or Clitheroe. But, probably, Corwen-on-Dee would furnish better sport. The Owen Glendower is a good place to stay at; fishing can be had by day-ticket.—Ed.]

PAUCITY OF FISH IN THE THAMES,

Sir,—In reference to the letter of "Creel," in the Fishing Gazette of last week, I was surprised to find that the *Licensed Victuallers' Gazette* had made a statement that "the dace were well on the feed at Teddington," as it could not possibly be substantiated, as those fish here long since ceased to go to the head of the tide, as formerly, and I have all along stated that fact. The fish that have been taken the last few seasons, in any quantity, have been caught at Tickenham and Richmond, and there is no flavouring in the report of the week previous, which stated that Mr. Johnson, a member of the Richmond Piscatorial Society, had weighed-in, as the result of four days' fishing at Tickenham, 80 lb. 4 oz. of sizeable dace. I am sorry to differ from so good a correspondent as "Creel," whose writings I generally admire; but I can hardly go so far as to say the glories of Thames fishing have departed. He must bear in mind it is more largely fished; and if anglers would be satisfied in only taking away a portion of the fish they catch, and the system of "gross weight competitions" was abolished, there would be plenty of fish left for future sport.—I am, &c., B.

"PATERNOSTER," "LEDGER," AND "TAFT."

Sir,—I shall be much obliged if you or your readers can inform me of the meaning of the above angling terms.

I have to thank your correspondents for the information on bream fishing.—I am, &c. Mark Antony.

[The Paternoster is doubtless so called from its resemblance to the Rosary or string of beads used for counting the decades of the *Ave Maria* and Paternoster (or Lord's prayer) in the Roman Catholic Church. In old paternoster lines bone beads are fixed at intervals down the line and the hooks fastened round them on short stiff bristles. These beads are not often used now as being too clumsy. Ledger, or ligger, or leger: this word comes from the Dutch *legger* (anything laid or put so as to rest in a place) through ancient Saxon *lecgan* (to lay). We never heard the expression "Taft" before; perhaps it is some local slang name?—Ed.]

FISHING AT CANTERBURY.

Sir,—I should feel greatly obliged if you would insert the following query in your Gazette:—Is there any fishing near Canterbury, Kent? If so, how can I obtain permission? Thanking you, in advance, for the space I know your usual courtesy will allow me.—I am, &c.,

1, Liverpool Lawn, Dover, Harry Davis.
February 19th, 1882.

[There is very good good fishing at Canterbury, trout and coarse fish. We believe that day tickets are issued by the association to the public. Write to the Secretary of the Stour Fishery Association, Canterbury, but these tickets only apply to coarse fishing, pike, &c. Members of the Association can take a friend to fish for trout.—Ed.]

ELLIS'S BOOT STUDS.

Sir,—Some time ago I noticed your remarks upon Ellis's boot studs for fishing boots and brogues. Passing down Ludgate Hill, I procured a box from Woolgar's. I am pleased to say they answer admirably, being far better than nails. I advise all anglers to try them. F. Cotterell.

98, Walworth Road, S.E., Feb. 22.

[We quite agree with Mr. Cotterell, these new boot studs are just what we have been wanting for years for our brogues and fishing boots. We shall notice them more fully shortly.—Ed.]

A SHEFFIELD QUERY ABOUT THE NEW WINCH-FITTING.

Sir,—Would you, or any of your correspondents, kindly inform me if Hardy's new patent winch-fitting is to be obtained in Sheffield, and, if so, where? as I and a great many of our Sheffield anglers (whom you hear so little about) would derive a great benefit from such a valuable invention. I have made every inquiry, but cannot find a tackle dealer who keeps them. Trusting I have not encroached too much on your valuable space, I am, &c.,

Sheffield. A Constant Reader.

[Any Sheffield tackle maker can get it from Messrs. Allcock and Co., of Redditch.—Ed.]

A LITERARY QUERY.

Sir,—Should any reader of the Fishing Gazette, residing within the limits of a day's journey from town, possess Gosden's edition of "The Complete Angler," published by James Smith and dated 1825, he will confer a great favour on the writer by permitting him to come to examine the volume.—I am, &c., Thos. Satchell.

Downshire Hill, N.W., February 17th, 1882.

SALMON OVA WANTED.

Sir,—Kindly inform me where salmon ova can be procured, for artificial breeding; also what ought I to pay for it per 1000; is the present the most suitable time to obtain, and what is the best means of packing for a three or four days' journey? Information would be received with thanks, by W. Murch.

Street, Somerset.

A QUERY.

Sir,—I notice in your issue of February 11th, among the specimen fish of the "West London Angling Club," is a roach 3 lb. 15½ oz., and a dace 1 lb. 5½ oz. Surely this is a mistake, I never heard of such weights before—I am, &c., Thames.

Guildford Lodge, Teddington, Feb. 19, 1882.

[These weights are evidently wrong, but we cannot be responsible for errors of this kind in club reports which are often sent in at the last moment and written in a style that even no printer can decipher.—Ed.]

CLUB REPORTS.

ACT-ON-THE-SQUARE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this society contested in a pegged down match on Saturday last for Mr. W. Mead's prize, and although the water was as thick as the proverbial pea soup, and rather high, one of the most exciting contests ever had between the members of the society took place. Fishing commenced at three o'clock and ended at a quarter past five. Mr. George, the hon. sec., in his second swim, soon made a start by landing a good dace; and after the first hour the match resolved itself into a contest between Messrs. George and Chapman, although at one time it looked a runaway affair for Mr. George, but fish after fish was landed by Mr. Chapman, until he ultimately caught up to Mr. George in point of numbers; and, as the fish were known to the members to average about the same weight on both sides, excitement ran high until the house was reached, and weighing-in commenced, every one hazarding a guess as to which of the two would prove the winner. Mr. H. Day, who officiated as clerk of the scales, ultimately proclaimed Mr. George the winner by 1 oz. only, thus ending one of the most exciting contests seen at the old Ferry Boat for many a long day, and one of the nicest shows of dace had this winter at this fishery, as there was only one gudgeon to relieve the dace.—A. George, hon. sec.

Feb. 21.

AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The pegged-down match for seven prizes, which took place from Ware Lock to the Engine House in the River Lea, resulted by being all won. Mr. C. A. Medcalf, first, with a jack, 4 lb.; Mr. F. Harding, second; Mr. Howlett, third; Mr. Mour, fourth; Mr. Arnold, fifth; Mr. Marshall, sixth; and Mr. W. Say, seventh. Mr. Shury weighed-in roach and perch; he also caught a trout, which was landed by Mr. Murphy, of the Good Intent, who, with the best of intentions, returned it carefully whence it came. Mr. Patrick had roach from the River Lea. Wednesday, February 22, the return visit, No, 2 district, West Central Association, took place. Mr. Medcalf in the chair, Mr. Bonvoisin attended as district officer, also Mr. Thorley, ex-officer. The clubs answering to the roll call were:—City of London, Good Intent, St. John's, Sir Hugh Myddleton, West Central, North-Western, Hoxton Brothers, North-Eastern, Westbourne Park Piscatorials, Phœnix, and Hearts of Oak. The following gentlemen contributed to the harmony of the evening:—Messrs. W. Say, Thorley, Carrington, Pink, Fowler, J. Robinson, sen, Duncan, Freeman, Bentley, Bagler, H. Cooke, Bracker, Williams, and Lewis. The next visit will be paid to the Acorn Angling Society.—T. Worledge.

Feb. 19.

ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The trays of the above society were not overburdened with fish on Sunday last, only two of our members weighing-in. Mr. A. Shakel, roach and dace, 4 lb. 5 oz.; Mr. A. Glass, 2 lb. 9¾ oz. of roach, from the Lea.—D. Davis, sec.

Feb. 20.

ANGLERS' PRIDE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The first No. 3 District visit was paid to this society on Wednesday, the 15th inst., when the following societies were represented, viz.: In the district, Excelsior, Peckham Perseverance, Peckham Brothers, South Belgravia, United Brothers. Outside the district: City of London, North Eastern, Original Alexandra, Dalston, Bermondsey Brothers, Anchor and Hope, Friendly Citizen, Great Northern Brothers. Mr. John Soar in the chair, faced by Mr. Thos. Fiddes. Mr. T, Beningfield, pianist, accompanied by Mr. Fiddes, senr., upon the violin. Mr. Hyams sang "A Negro Child"; Mr. Bignell, "Full Inside"; Mr. Rock, "Three Jolly Britons"; Mr. Tyler, "Down by the Riverside"; Mr. Bisley, "Sine quâ non" Mr. Hyde, "Silver Moonbeams"; Mr. T. Fiddes, "Here, Here"; Mr. Steddall, "The Belle of the Rose and Crown"; Mr. Bennett, "Happy Irish Boy" (encore); Mr. Page, "While Bathing," and many more songs followed, and a most enjoyable evening was spent. Mr. T. Hoole has undertaken the duties of District Office for No. 3, and promises to try and make the visits more successful. If secretaries will send him notice of the day decided upon for a visit he will assist in soliciting clubs to send delegates, and give any further assistance in his power. Speaking last night, at the A.P. visit Mr. Hoole said, "He was surprised, seeing that each club in the district had received notice of the visit, only five were represented; it was not the way to make their own visits successful. Mr. Fiddes is such a jolly good-hearted fellow that one would expect to hear every club's name responded to. Every member of the club are such good visitors themselves, therefore have a right to expect their friendship might be returned.—Multum in Parvo.

BRIGHTON ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION

The members held a competition on Sunday. All rivers open; all fish, bar eels. Mr. Upton, 1st, with jack; Mr. Amcombe, 2nd, with jack; Mr. Ingram, and A. Cardy, 3rd and 4th, with perch. A meeting between the Chichester, Brighton, and Portsmouth anglers this evening to consider the weeding of the Canal at Chichester. Each society sending a delegate. Mr. Tree and Mr. Ash went to the Adur on Sunday, the latter landing a carp between 4 and 5 lb., but was disqualified from the competition, owing to going out of bounds from that laid down by the association. Weather very fine.—Groundbait.

Feb. 22.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Mortimer weighed-in on Sunday, the 19th, 5 lb. 2¾ oz. of roach from St. Margaret's, winning Mr. Payne's prize. Mr. Castell 1 lb. 14 oz. of roach from the Thames at Wraysbury; no others weighed-in. The Amberley men came back very muddy, and had no fish. Mr. Pratt's prize will be fished for on the 26th.—Cas.

CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

There was a nice show of fish weighed-in the club on Sunday last by several members. Mr. Davis gave a prize, value £2 2s., for the largest jack weighed-in during this month. I am sorry you were not at St. Martin's Lane last Monday.—R. Stebbings, sec.

FRIENDLY ANGLERS.

The weekly meeting of this society, at the Albion Tavern, Albion Street, Hyde Park, on Wednesday evening last, was graced with the presence of a lordly salmon of 24 lb. 12 oz., taken with the fly from the river Test, by Mr. Emanuel, and was one of nine fish taken by that gentleman, the smallest being 10 lb. Mr. Pugh brought up from the Kennett 15 lb. of perch, six of them weighing over 1 lb. each; one dace of 10½ oz, and 5 lb. 1 oz. of roach, Mr. Nickinson, a fine jack of 9 lb. 4 oz., from Shepperton.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The meeting of this society was held, as usual, on Thursday, C. Bates, Esq., presiding. The hon. secretary read the correspondence, the various reports from the Thames representing the river as now in fair condition. Some nice roach were weighed-in by Mr. White. A packet of tickets for the art union prize-drawing on behalf of the Anglers' Benevolent Fund, were received from Mr. Ghurney, and the majority were immediately sold. Mr. Crumplen also mentioned that Mr. Bates and himself attended as delegates at the meeting of the West Central Association, and had duly represented to them the desirability of raising the scale of weights, and adjusting their own fence months in the waters it was proposed to rent. A little discussion followed on coarse fish cultivation, and the hon. sec. stated that he had been appointed one of the sub-committee to draw up rough rules, and make sundry suggestions in reference to the waters the three associations giving privilege tickets proposed to rent. The design for the tickets for the annual banquet (prepared by Mr. Harding, of Piccadilly) was handed round and generally approved of, the great majority of tickets having been already taken. The evening closed with a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Bates for presiding, coupled with a wish that he might soon appear again in the same capacity.

KELSO ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday night the twenty-second annual meeting of the members of this association was held in the White Swan Inn, when there was a large turn-out of the members. In the absence of the vice-president, Mr. John Croall, Mr. Walter Torrie was called upon to preside; the croupier being Mr. N. I. Mills. The secretary and treasurer (Mr. George Forrest) read the minutes of the last annual meeting, which were confirmed. Mr. Forrest stated that the income for the past year, including a donation of a guinea from Mr. J. J. E. Brown, of Rosebank, and bank interest, amounted to £6 12s. 3d., and the expenditure for prizes and advertisements amounted to £6 5s. 6d., leaving a balance on the right side of 6s. 9d. The committee had been authorised by the members to enter the association as a life member of the Scottish Fishery Association, and in order to do this they had subscribed two guineas, and their bank account was, of course, reduced by that amount. The total funds at the present date amounted to £28 5s. 4d., as compared with £30 0s. 7d. last year. Notwithstanding that fewer subscriptions had been received this year, the balance for the past year rather more than balanced the expenditure for the same period. The election of office-bearers for the current year was then proceeded with. The election of His Grace the Duke of Roxburghe as patron, Sir George H. S. Douglas, Bart., as president, and Mr. John Croall as vice-president, was unanimously agreed to. Mr. George Forrest, in resigning the office of secretary and treasurer of the association, which office he had held for ten consecutive years, stated that he did so on the ground that his time was full occupied with a duty of a similar nature. However, if it was desired, he was quite willing to become a member of the committee, and he would continue to do what he could for the welfare of the association. He begged to propose as his successor Mr. Archibald Steel. Mr. Steel was unanimously appointed secretary and treasurer. On the motion of Mr. Charles F. Brown, a cordial vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Forrest for his past valuable services. The committee was then elected by ballot as follows:—Messrs. George Allan, N. I. Mills, George Lees, Walter Torrie, James Gibson, George Forrest, and John Michie, sen. Three new members were afterwards unanimously admitted. On the motion of Mr. N. I. Mills, it was agreed to fix the third Tuesday in February as the date on which the annual general meeting shall in future be held—in place of leaving it open as hitherto—in order that the rule providing that applicants for membership shall furnish the secretary with their names a fortnight previous to the annual meeting may be rendered workable. This was all the business, and subsequently the usual social meeting was held, when the loyal, patriotic, and usual lists of toasts were duly proposed and honoured; the hilarity of the meeting being enhanced by the singing of a number of excellent songs by Messrs. Steel, Mills, Young, Affleck, Clerk, &c., &c.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

On sunday several of our members brought home some very choice fish, the quantity was not large, but the size and quality was good. Mr. Petrie had roach and chub; Mr. Heelas, roach; Mr. Atkins, dace and jack; and Mr. H. Moore, four jack.—H. Moore, sec.

Feb. 23.

NORTH-WESTERN ANGLING CLUB.

The following members showed us fish during the week:—Messrs. Harding, Halse, Grindley, Hillier, and Alder, jack; Messrs. Stead, L. Roxbee, Turner, Marshall, and Holmes, roach, dace and chub. The jack, showed by Mr. Grindley, and taken at the Welsh Harp, was one of the prettiest marked fish ever seen in our tray, and it was a pity it was not larger.—F. Hill, sec.

ODDS AND EVENS ANGLING SOCIETY.

A complimentary visit will be paid to the Odds and Evens on Tuesday, March 7. A brother member having taken the house, the members wish to have a convivial evening. Circulars will be sent to all clubs.—F. Parslow, sec.

Feb. 23.

ORIGINAL ALEXANDRA SOCIETY OF ANGLERS.

We had very few fish on Sunday last, the whole of our members having blanks, except who Mr. Brockett had a few roach. On Sunday next we have a pegged-down match at Waltham, the swims to be drawn at Mr. Wellers, King's Arms. On the 16th, Mr. Hammond, one of our week day fishermen, had a nice show of roach.—E. Dymond, sec.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Fair trays of fish were seen at the society's house on Sunday last, the following members weighing-in:—Messrs. T. Longman, S. J. Edwards, and Obbard, roach, from the Thames; Mr. Neagus also roach from the Stort. On Monday next, February 27, a special meeting will be held, to transact some important business. Members please attend.—Thos. Wm. Lucy, sec.

Feb. 22.

PISCATORIAL SOCIETY

On Monday evening last, Mr. Thos. Gillatt in the chair, the distribution of prizes won during the year 1881 were distributed to the various winners. Of the twelve club prizes for specimen fish seven only were taken, which reveals the fact that no member had weighed-in a Thames trout of 5 lb., a grayling of 1½ lb., a barbel of 5 lb., a carp of 3 lb., or a tench of 2½ lb. from public waters. The seven prizes were distributed as follows:—Largest trout (Thames barred), Mr. T. Huggett; largest pike, Mr. Atwell; largest perch, Mr. Marsden; largest roach, Mr. T. R. Sachs; largest chub, Mr. H. Brown; largest bream, Mr. Blamey; and largest dace, Mr. Faulkner. The chief winners of private prizes, which amounted in all to nearly £100, were Messrs. Atwell and Shipway. Later in the evening Mr. Huggett called attention to the remarks made at the dinner by Mr. Marston, of the Fishing Gazette, in favour of the Edinburgh Exhibition, and advocated warmly the reconsideration of the decision that had been arrived at not to send specimens to Scotland. An earnest discussion ensued, in which a large number of speakers, including Messrs. Harrison, T. R. Sachs, Adlington, Edwin Sachs, Ross, Faulkner, &c., spoke in favour of the motion, and only two against it. The new committee will, therefore, consider the matter, along with some other important affairs. A large number of private prizes were offered, and Mr. Adlington volunteered a prize of £2 2s. for the best paper read to the society during the year—not less than twelve papers to be read. Some good pike were shown by Messrs. Goodger, Walker and Robinson.

RICHMOND PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

There was a good attendance of members at the weekly meeting at the Station Hotel, Richmond, on Wednesday evening last. Mr. F. C. Clench, as chairman of the society, discharged his duties in his accustomed courteous and energetic manner, and, after the formal business had been disposed of and the election of a new member, expressed the pleasure they would all feel at receiving a visit from Mr. W. H. Brougham, and he was sure they would be glad to hear any remarks he was desirous of making. Mr. Brougham then addressed them on the satisfactory progress that was being made in reference to an extension of angling water in the tideway; the permission that was being sought to net the reservoirs on the banks of the Thames; the arrangements that had been made to assist the movement of the dace at Teddington Weir, and the prevention of anglers fishing on or near the Weir; and the further liberality of Mr. Byram Littlewood, of Huddersfield, in offering to contribute 10,000 more trout this year, his liberal gift of 3500 last year making satisfactory growth in the rearing pond at Sunbury. Mr. Littlewood's kindness being highly appreciated. Mr. F. C. Clench gave notice that, as the new rules now in force gave power to elect as honorary member any gentleman who had distinguished himself in the angling world, he should move at the next meeting that the first honour be conferred on Mr. W. H. Brougham, who was most richly deserving of it; the remark being warmly applauded.

ROYAL PISCATORIALS.

During the past week there has been some excellent show of fish at this society, the total weight reaching nearly 200 lb., among which was a very handsome jack, which turned the scale at 25 lb., taken by Mr. T. Hughes; this is another to add to the collection.—Pixie.

Feb. 22.

SECOND SURREY.

Some of the members of this society visited Staines on the 19th, but the river was not in a condition to enable them to compete for their prizes; the competition is therefore postponed. Two of the members visited Sharnbrook, but to no purpose, the river being in the condition of a little sea.—Pixie.

Feb. 22.

SOCIETY OF CAXTONIAN ANGLERS.

Mr. Cato, the president, had an extraordinary catch on the Lea on Monday last (Feb. 20). With roach tackle he took a brace of bream the larger being nearly 4 lb., a brace of roach 1½ lb. and a brace of jack, the larger 3 lb. All taken with worm on a No. 8 hook and fine gut.

SOUTH LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday last, six of our members fished six of the Walworth Waltonians, at Bourne End, for a supper. The water was very thick and cold; and, although both parties scarcely left their seats all day, when time was called one roach, 7 inches, and one gudgeon, caught by the Walworth Waltonians, were only sizeable, the rest too small for weighing-in. Wednesday. Mr. Price had a jack, 7 lb., from Guildford. Thursday, Messrs. Morris and Boorman had a nice show of roach, from Wraysbury.—G. H. Field.

Feb. 23.

STEPNEY ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday last, the 19th inst., Mr. Gerrard, of this club, while trying for jack at Ware, hooked and landed a trout a good 3 lb. It was at once relieved of the steel with the greatest care, and after being admired and almost adored for a few seconds it was returned to the river and disappeared from the view, but not from the memory. The bait was a live dace. We fish a pegged-down match on the 5th of March next. Whereabouts not yet settled.—E. N. Pierce, sec.

Feb. 12.

SURREY PISCATORIALS.

At the fortnightly meeting of this society, held on February 22, Mr. Beckett presided, owing to the illness of Mr. Meadway. The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, Mr. Hamlyn placed before the meeting the balance-sheet, in order that all members should know the financial condition of the society; this met the approval of all members present. A letter was then read from the Bermondsey Brothers, but it came to hand too late to appoint delegates to attend that society on February 23; but the support of the Surrey Piscatorials can be depended upon. Mr. Hamlyn is appointed to represent the society at Willis's Rooms on February 27, in furtherance of the Great International Fish Exhibition of 1883. The last competition of the season will take place on March 3, for three prizes, given by Messrs. Cant, Pay and Winter; condition, "Go where and fish how you like." A leg-of-mutton supper will take place at the St. Paul's among the members of this society on the same date, at nine sharp. Further particulars to be had of Mr. Beckett, Villa Street.—Pixie.

THE HIGHBURY ANGLING SOCIETY.

The trays of our society were abundantly filled on the 19th instant with a splendid assortment of bream and roach, particularly the former, Mr. Ballard having six scaling nearly 22 lb., from the Thames, the heaviest being nearly 4½ lb. Messrs. Higley, Anthony, E. Wheatley and others, also contributed some fine roach from the Thames and Colne.—Jas. Edward Wheatley, sec.

Feb. 20.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

The competition between six members of the South London and six members of this society took place on the 19th inst. at Bourne End, in spite of the thick water and heavy wind that prevailed in that neighbourhood. About a dozen of each society attended, all of whom were much pleased with the management made by Mr. Boalch for the arriving at and returning from that place. Arriving at Bourne End they were met by Messrs. Field and Brown, who led the way to the locality in which the pegged swims laid. The swims having been drawn for, each of the competitors tried to get the first fish. Time passed on and a few had managed to land either a pope, gudgeon, or else a bleak, but nothing was taken that would honour either party with victory till towards the evening. The signal was given to pack up and adjourn to the Red Lion to await the arrival of the train and also to indulge in some of "mine host's" good ale (whose soothing influence I need not mention). The train arrived in due time, and they were soon on their way to London, and reached the society's headquarters about ten o'clock, where a goodly number of both societies awaited their coming. The fish having been displayed and measured, Mr. W. Brown was declared the winner for the Walworth Waltonians. The fish of the other competitors not coming up to the standard. A vote of thanks to Messrs. Boalch, Field, and Brown, for the able manner in which the affair had been conducted, brought the competition to a close. The supper will take place at the St. Paul's Tavern, Westmorland Road. Gentlemen wishing to take part in it can do so by consulting Mr. Field, at the headquarters of the South London Anglers; Mr. Morris, the George and Dragon, Camberwell Road; or Mr. J. Boalch, Old Kent Road.—Pixie.

Feb. 22.

WALTONIANS.

Feb. 15, Mr. Waltham, 6 lb. 1¾ oz. roach; Feb. 19, Mr. Roland had four roach from the Lea going 4 lb. 9½ oz., the largest 1 lb. 8 oz., the next two 1 lb. 3¾ oz., and 1 lb. 2½ oz. There have been a few other shows but not worthy of mention.—A. J. Marriott.

Feb. 21.

WENSLEYDALE ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

The first annual meeting of this association (which was formed last year) was held on the 10th inst. at Mr. R. Mason's, the King's Arms Hotel, Askrigg, Yorkshire, at which there was a fair attendence of members, and great interest was taken in the proceedings. Captain Chapman, of Thornton Rust, president of the association, occupied the chair, and briefly stated the objects of the meeting; also of the association, which was to preserve the fish in the river Yore from the depredations of netters and other fish poachers, and so improve the sport of bona-fide anglers. The waters of the association extend the whole length of the river Yore (from the Bain Foot to Yore Mills Bridge, Aysgarth), also the river Bain and Lake Semerwater. The annual subscriptions and donations received during the past season have been very encouraging, the balance in the hands of W. E. M. Winn, Esq., the honorary secretary and treasurer (after paying all expenses), being £9 10s. The rules of the association were taken as read and adopted. The following gentlemen were elected officers for the ensuing year;—President, Captain Chapman, Thornton Rust; Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, W. E. M. Winn, Esq., Askrigg; Committee, John J. G. Lodge, Esq., Askrigg; Mr. Taylor, Aysgarth; Mr. John Willis, Carperby; Mr. James Hodgson, Bainbridge; and Mr. E. Chapman, Worton. A considerable amount of other formal business was transacted, and the prospects of the fast approaching angling season discussed, which is considered by those most competent to judge to be highly favourable, and with a strict enforcement of the rules, and a thorough piling of the river to prevent netting (which it is proposed to commence at once, or as soon as the state of the river will permit the necessary work being done) the fishing will improve every season. The meeting terminated with the customary compliments to the president and the hon. sec. and treasurer for their indefatigable efforts in promoting the objects of the association.

WEST CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF LONDON AND PROVINCIAL ANGLING SOCIETIES.

The new visiting lists for 1882 have just been issued. Secretaries who have not received a copy, should apply at their club-house at once.

AMONGST THE PIKE.

"Bother the barber, I'll have to fish with that whipcord line after all!" What's up now, John, has he snipt a piece out of your ear, spokeshaved a bit off your chin, or been amusing himself cutting miniature steps up the back of your cranium? The fact is, my friend delayed his visit to the barber's—who deals in tackle—until half-past nine on Saturday night, when, making his wants known, Mr. Lather-em-shave-em, drew his face out like a fiddle, and said he was sure it would take twenty-minutes to find the box containing "Pike Tackle;" he had several customers to shave and it only wanted half-an-hour to closing time! John was never cleaner shaved in his life; with a growl, he bounced out of that shop like a parched pea. Moral: procrastination leads to disappointment, never put off till to-morrow what can be done to-day.

"Look here, Richard, it has come to this, clothes line or nothing; I don't mean to be baulked of my sport; be on the platform at thirteen-minutes past eight Monday morning, sharp! "All right, my friend." Needless caution that. Some considerable time had passed since I had thrashed that fifteen-pounder and I was quite as anxious as he to have another flip at them. A pleasant ride of half-an-hour literally along the Witham's sinuous banks and we arrive at ———, but no, I must not split; the knob of that umbrella of his has an ugly knack of dropping athwart the ribs of others besides dogs. We walk across to a neat little inn and take in something short, over which our swim was decided upon, and what a swim to be sure; eleven fish came out of that hole! John knew the spot to an inch; we made two long days of it and returned home with hearts light as thistle-down and 54 lb. of pike in our bag. Bravo whip-cord!

The Boston Bittern.

Gregory's Spinning Baits. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by he press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[Advt.]

THE POLLUTION OF RIVERS:

Being a lecture delivered on the 13th of January, 1882, before the Society of Caxtonian Anglers, by Compton Reade, M.A.

It is with much pleasure we notice that the Society of Caxtonian Anglers, have published Mr. Reade's excellent paper, and are distributing it widely. This is one of the most important directions in which an angling club can expend its energies; the dissemination of useful knowledge on important matters connected with angling. We wish this flourishing young society every success.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE NAVIGATION OF THE THAMES, DETRIMENTAL TO ANGLING.

The improvement in the navigation of the Thames has caused a great deterioration of it as far as angling is concerned; when a boy, I have gone into an osier ait, with a tolerably long rod, a short line, a few cockchafers, and, screened by the leaves, could pick out of a shoal of chub as many as I chose; or, more recently, with an artificial fly, I have filled a large bag with dace, six to eight ounces each, and chub from one to five pounds, besides occasionally, though rarely, a trout of a pound or a pound and a half, during a walk by the side of the Thames from Weybridge to Sunbury. The most expert angler could not do one quarter, or a sixteenth as much at the present day.—From Mr. Wright's "Fishes and Fishing," published in 1858.

We are informed by Mr. W. Oldham Chambers that the Norfolk and Suffolk Fish Acclimatisation Society has had a valuable present of 2000 salmo fario eggs from C. C. Capel, Esq., of Foot's Cray, Kent. The same society has also received a like donation from R. B. Marston, Esq., the spirited conductor of the Fishing Gazette, who has purchased of the society 200 young perch to give to the Cambridge and Ely Angling Society. Mr. W. O. Chambers will be pleased at any time to show the hatchery of the society to any friends visiting Lowestoft.—*Norwich Argus.*

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JOHN STONE, Secretary.

The POTATO CROP OF 1882.—The GARDENERS' MAGAZINE for SATURDAY, Feb. 25th, contains:—NEW LIST OF POTATOES, comprising Names, Characters, Qualities, and relative Suitability for various soils. DIRECTIONS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF POTATOES. LIST OF SYNONYMS, designed to guard purchasers against common sorts at uncommon prices, and a great body of original matter bearing upon Potato Culture. Price Twopence (specimen copy 2½d.), sold everywhere. Office, 4, Ave Maria Lane, London, E.C.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 1882.

THE GREAT INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION.

IMPORTANT PUBLIC MEETING AT WILLIS'S ROOMS.

THE most influential and successful public meeting ever held in connection with the fisheries interests took place on Monday last, at Willis's Rooms, the chair being taken at 12 o'clock by the president of the Exhibition, the Prince of Wales. His Royal Highness was accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, the Duke of Teck, and the Duke of Richmond, and among a distinguished company present were :—

Musurus Pasha, Turkish Ambassador; Count Münster, German Ambassador; Prince Lobanoff Rostrowsky, Russian Ambassador; Count Karolyi, Austro-Hungarian Ambassador: Count Charles de Bylandt, Minister for the Netherlands; Count Menabrea, Italian Minister; the German Consul, the Austro-Hungarian Consul, the Consul-General of Turkey, the Spanish Minister, the Swedish Minister, the Danish Minister, the Brazilian Minister, the French Consul; the Duke of St. Albans, the Duke of Sutherland, the Marquis of Salisbury, the Marquis of Londonderry, Earl Granville, the Marquis of Hamilton, Lord Elcho, M.P., Earl Percy, Lord Suffield, Lord Abinger, Lord Leven and Melville, Lord Reay, Lord Hylton, the Lord Advocate, Sir W. V. Harcourt, M.P., Mr. Shaw Lefevre, M.P.; Sir Alexander Galt, High Commissioner for Canada; Hon. H. Tyrwhitt Wilson, in attendance on H.R.H. the Prince of Wales; Baron Heath, Baron C. Hambro, Sir A. Young, Sir T. F. Buxton, Mr. W. S. Shoobridge, Mr. Harry Towse, Mr. A. W. B. Burdett-Coutts, Mr. A. J. Mundella, M.P., Mr. E. Birkbeck, M.P., Mr. A. P. Vivian, M.P., Mr. Montague Guest, M.P., Mr. G. Anderson, M.P., Mr. W. H. Smith, M.P., Mr. O. E. Coope, M.P., Sir Henry Peek, M.P., Sir Donald Currie, M.P., Mr. H. E. H. Jerningham, M.P., Mr. E. Marjoribanks, M.P., Sir Wilfrid Lawson, M.P., Alderman Sir Andrew Lusk, M.P., Mr. Alderman Cotton, M.P., Mr. Alderman Lawrence, M.P., Mr. R. W. Duff, M.P., Mr. John Pender, M.P., Mr. W. Caine, M.P., Colonel Gourley, M.P., Dr. Spottiswoode, President of the Royal Society; Mr. Spencer Walpole, Professor Huxley, Mr. Gordon Cumming, Sir Philip Cunliffe Owen, General Eyre, General J. H. Van Allen, Admiral Sir Claude Buckle, Sir John Rose, Colonel Custance, Sir Edward Parrot, Sir Harry Buzzard, Sir H. W. Petre, Sir Brandreth Gibbs, Admiral Sir A. Milne, Mr. J. A. Youl, Baron Francois Van Hurdt, Mr. H. Calcraft, Mr. Fryer, Mr. H. Ffennell, Mr. P. Soman, Mr. C. Stevens, Mr. S. Allcock, Mr. C. Farlow, Mr. William Senior (Redspinner), Mr. J. Temple, Mr. Crumplen, Mr. Francis Francis, Admiral the Hon. Sir H. Keppel, Sir Edmund Y. W. Henderson, Mr. E. Marston, Mr. R. B. Marston, Mr. A. Jardine, Mr. P. Geen, Mr. T. Hoole, Mr. Ghurney, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Bonvoisin, Mr. Rowe, Mr. Wheatstone, Professor Leone Levi, Major Flood Page, Mr. G. A. Sala, Mr. J. M'Gregor (Rob Roy), the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Dr. Gunter, Admiral Phillimore, Mr. W. H. Russell, Mr. W. H. Flower, F.R.S., the Hon. Charles Ellis, the Lord Advocate of Scotland, Mr. W. Oldham Chambers, Alderman Sir C. Whetham, Mr. A. C. Butler, Mr. F. T. Williams, Mr. Frank Fuller, the Mayors of Liverpool, Southampton, Sunderland, Scarborough, Newcastle, Newark, Yarmouth, Ryde, Penzance, Bridgewater, Sheffield, and several other towns. Many ladies were also present, among whom were the Hon. Mrs. Birkbeck, the Countess Spencer, Lady Northcote and Miss Northcote, the Baroness Burdett-Coutts, Lady Tenterden, Lady Layard, Lady de Blaquiere, the Hon. Lady Keppel and Miss Keppel, and Mrs. F. T. Williams.

The report of the committee, which was read by the Duke of Richmond and Gordon, after detailing the circumstances under which the project had arisen, and the preliminary step taken, continued as follows: —

"The committee have bestowed long and anxious consideration on the prospect of the proposed exhibition. The classification, which has been compiled with the assistance of leading scientific men, comprises every object adapted for exhibition, illustrative of sea and fresh water fisheries; the preparation, preservation and utilisation of fish; fish-culture; the natural history of fish, and literature connected with fishing. Another department of the exhibition will relate to the economic condition of fishermen. It is proposed to give prizes on important subjects connected with fishing; and with a view of turning the exhibition to practical account, conferences are to be held for the purpose of reading and discussing subjects specially connected with the fishing industries. The exhibition is to be opened on the 1st of May, 1883. In order to illustrate the great extent and magnitude of the fishing industries of the United Kingdom, it may be stated that, at the lowest calculation, 550,000 tons of fish are annually taken in British waters by our own fishermen; that, according to Professor Huxley, 3,000,000,000 herrings are annually taken in the North Sea alone; that 130,629 tons of fish were delivered in Billingsgate Market in one year; and that the fisheries of the United kingdom are carried on by about 35,000 boats and vessels, giving employment to no less than 110,000 people afloat. The first International Fisheries Exhibition was held at Berlin in the year 1880. The total receipts were £19,116, and the expenses £17,304, leaving a surplus of £1812. It is obvious that to carry out the proposed exhibition on an adequate scale, having regard to its international character, a very large outlay will be necessary; it is, therefore, proposed to open immediately a subscription list for the general and prize fund, and also a subscription list for a guarantee fund to provide against contingent liabilities in the event of the proceeds of the exhibition proving insufficient to meet the expenditure. The committee have pleasure in announcing that the Fishmongers' Company have already promised the sum of £500, for the general and prize fund, and £2000 to the guarantee fund. It is hoped that the amount of support given both to the general and the guarantee fund will be of such a character as to free the committee from all pecuniary anxiety in relation to this great undertaking. At the same time, when it is remembered that the Berlin Exhibition was visited by 483,000 persons in ten weeks, and the Norwich Exhibition by no less than 70,000 in three weeks, it may fairly be assumed that in the Great International Fisheries Exhibition, to be held in our own metropolis in 1883, and which is to remain open for six months, there will be such an immense influx of visitors that the enterprise will prove a financial success."

The Prince of Wales, who was received with loud applause, then rose and said :—

Ladies and Gentlemen,—You will, I am sure, have been interested to hear the report which has just been read by the Duke of Richmond, as it presents to you the labours of the committee of which his Grace is chairman, and as it has also brought before your notice the many salient points as important statistics in connection with this great proposed fisheries exhibition. You are all aware of what a great success that held in Berlin was, and I am inclined to think that as that was such a great success, and as the population of Berlin is little over one million one hundred thousand, an exhibition held in this great metropolis, where the population numbers nearly five millions, has every chance of being successful in every respect. (Cheers.) We are also very anxious that foreign countries should co-operate with us, and we look especially to America in all important matters of fish-culture, whether inland or sea. I may state that the United States Fisheries Commissioners raised in 1878 no less than 15,700,000 shad. The United States Government, moreover, contributed £20,000 towards the expenses of the American exhibits at the Berlin exhibition, and I hope they will not be less liberal on the occasion of the exhibition of the next year. The statistics which have been given are with regard to the enormous amount of fish taken and delivered in our fish markets. I may say that I believe the amount is considerably larger. I believe I am right in stating that it amounts nearly to a million tons of fish taken in the British waters by our fishermen. Last year nearly 154,000 tons were delivered at Billingsgate. The value of the salmon fishery, as you are aware, in England amounts to £800,000. Of course, in the great exhibitions in 1851 and 1862, and the exhibition held on the Continent, there were exhibits of everything connected with fishing, but I may say that this great exhibition is a larger development of what was shown at those exhibitions, and those who had the advantage of seeing the remarkably well arranged exhibition at Norwich last year will have some idea of what the exhibition in London will be. It will be on a much larger scale, and it is intended not only to show you everything connected with pisciculture, and with fishing generally, but also everything connected with lifeboats and life-saving apparatus (cheers). Another point which has been alluded to in the report is that it is to be hoped that this exhibition will not only be a mere show, but that it will be productive of some good, inasmuch as international discussion and intercourse will arise from it. There are several resolutions to be proposed and seconded, and I will not, therefore, trouble you with any further remarks. This is such an exhaustive subject, that I might be addressing you for some time longer; but I think it will be better at once to call upon the Duke of Edinburgh to move the first resolution.

The Duke of Edinburgh, who was warmly applauded, said.—In obedience to the chair, I rise to move the first resolution, which is as follows :—

"That the report now read be adopted, and that this meeting, having regard to the great and increasing importance of fishing industries throughout the world, cordially approves of the proposal for a Great International Fisheries Exhibition to be held in London in 1883, under the patronage of her most gracious Majesty the Queen." I will not detain you at any length in introducing this resolution for your acceptance, but I think there are one or two points in the report to which I should allude. The Prince of Wales has himself touched upon almost all the heads; but in reference to the figures, I must say I think they have, if anything, erred on the side of caution, for in going round the coasts of the United Kingdom in the performance of my professional duties I have received the impression that the number of the fishing population employed afloat must be considerably in excess of the 110,000 mentioned here. It is clear, therefore that this exhibition, dealing with so large a population and with such an industry, must be one of very great importance, seeing that it provides food for so many of the population, and on those grounds I think this exhibition is well worthy of every support. Then, again, if the figures of 550,000 tons of fish taken annually are correct, the importance would be great indeed, for that would represent something like £11,000,000 sterling in value, and that gives an idea of the enormous value of this particular trade. (Hear, hear.) I hope that this exhibition will not only be one to exhibit fishing appliances as they are now understood or have been invented, but that great improvements will be the result. (Hear, hear). I am more especially glad to hear what was mentioned by the Prince of Wales, that there would be ample opportunities afforded for discussing all important subjects. There are several matters in which I am certain such a course would effect great good, and more especially in two points—one being the development of the fisheries of this kingdom. I might especially allude to the fisheries of Ireland, which are at the present time almost entirely neglected by the native population. (Hear). On the Irish coasts the fisheries are almost entirely being conducted by boats coming from the Isle of Man from Lowestoft, from Cornwall, and also by a fleet of French vessels. It will give an idea of how easily the development of these Irish fisheries might be effected to mention the fact that, during the year of distress in Ireland, the Canadian Committee gave to one of the districts £200 worth of nets, and in that same year the people to whom the gift was made realised £1200 by their take of mackerel (cheers). That shows that if perhaps some assistance could be given, if some regulations could be made, if there could be some form of organisation, the native population on the coasts of Ireland might be considerably enriched and placed in a more prosperous condition (hear, hear). Another point I should like to allude to is one that it is eminently necessary should be discussed, and that is for steps to be taken to preserve the lives of these hard-working fishermen (cheers). There are many cases in which lives are lost in the performance of their duties, not only from great storms in which their vessels are sunk—such as the great calamity on the Scotch coast last autumn—but from minor and preventible causes, such as from risks undertaken in carrying the fish from the smacks to the steamers which carry them to market (hear, hear). I know that from this cause and from one port alone something like twenty lives have been lost in a single year; though I am glad to find that in the past year, so far as I can ascertain, only two lives were lost. Now, if some proposals were brought forward—and some have already been suggested to me—and were thoroughly discussed, it would be possible to make regulations, either by agreement amongst the fishery owners themselves, or else by some simple legisiation, that would greatly conduce to saving the lives of these hard-working men (cheers). With these few remarks, I have great pleasure in proposing the first resolution.

Lord Granville, who was called on to second the resolution, said:—

I own that at this moment I rather envy the fishes—that *species mutum* as they have been called, which, as far as we know, are allowed to pass their lives in complete silence (laughter). Besides, I am bound to say that it is difficult for me to do anything but add water to the wine of the excellent speeches made by their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Edinburgh (hear, hear). Nothing could be more clear than the manner in which the Prince of Wales put before you the principal points of this great enterprise, while with regard to the Duke of Edinburgh I am sure you all felt that he speaks with a special authority on the matter, not only from his general knowledge but also from his being much more than I believe any one else in this room personally acquainted with the coasts of Great Britain and Ireland (hear, hear). The only excuse I have for trespassing on your attention even for a very short time is in this one way—that some of the most interesting moments of my life have been connected with exhibitions of different sorts (hear, hear). Some have been more brilliantly successful than others, but there has not been one of them, so far as I know, which has not had a most useful and excellent effect on some branch or other of commerce and of trade (hear, hear). Another reason is the office with which I am unworthily connected. I am glad to see that there are several eminent diplomatists present—whom we are very glad to see—but amongst the most difficult and complicated matters that we have to negotiate are the international arrangements with regard to the fisheries of different countries (hear). His Royal Highness has quoted some figures which are really stupendous and difficult to take in. When you think of 550,000 tons of fish, it seems perfectly enormous. There is one branch of the fisheries alone which is quite remarkable. I dare say some of you have read an interesting work on the subject of the herring fisheries, from which it appears that the take of herrings, including pilchards and sprats, amounts to something like 2683 millions, and that putting them at ½d. per fish, the value of herrings alone in the year amounts to over five millions of our money. So that you will agree that the trade is one of very great importance (hear). The part which Her Majesty the Queen, the Prince of Wales and the Royal family are now taking in this matter is following some very old Royal examples. It is said that Charles V. went a pilgrimage to the tomb of the man who invented curing; Edward III. took the greatest possible interest in the fisheries. Charles II. went to Yarmouth in order to encourage the fishing of that important place, and was presented on the spot with four golden herrings—a ceremony which I am quite sure has only been neglected on this occasion by the inadvertence of the committee (laughter). There have been several Royal Commissions on Fisheries, for Governments have always paid great attention to this matter, and there was a very remarkable Commission in 1856. You will readily understand that I don't know any pleasanter reading than the report which Lord Herbert, Professor Huxley, Professor Tyndall, and Mr. Caird took part in drawing up. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has referred to the exhibitions which have taken place; but there was also an exhibition at Arcachon, which was very successful, besides the International Exhibition at Berlin, which gives encouraging hope of what the London Exhibition may be. I was extremely struck by what his Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh said with regard to the results which we might hope to come from this exhibition. I think there was no point more important than his suggestion that it might stimulate what would be useful in every possible way, socially, materially, and politically, viz., the much greater development of the fisheries of Ireland. (Cheers.) But there are other questions. It appears that our modes of fishing, possibly arising from local circumstances, are different. I am told that our excellent neighbours the French—though they have rather an objection to our English-caught fish—have longer boats and nets than our own, and that their skill is even greater than ours. Now, there is no doubt the differences that we see greatly turn on such matters. We have always had a great fish trade with Italy, and we have recently had a trade spring up with Germany, which has been productive of the greatest possible advantage, both to our fishermen and to the German community. (Hear, hear.) But there are other circumstances which may arise from this exhibition. If amongst the prizes one could be given to facilitate our work in the Foreign Office in regard to international arrangements on the subject of fisheries I shall be only too grateful. (Laughter.) I shall be still more grateful if the result should be to devise any means of preventing that which, unfortunately, is too frequently the case, viz., bad feeling between the fishermen of two or three countries, though there are fish enough in the sea to suffice for the fishermen of the whole world. (Cheers.) I beg to thank you for your kindness and to second the resolution.

The resolution was then put from the chair and carried unanimously.

The Marquis of Salisbury, who was most warmly received, on rising to propose the next resolution, said,—

If the noble lord who spoke last felt it necessary to apologise for speaking on such a subject, and to indicate an intention of limiting his remarks, still more is such a necessity imposed upon me. In fact, he is the leader of the assembly to which I belong, and I should feel it a species of mutiny to make even so long a speech as he did. (Laughter.) Nor am I, I am afraid, qualified to address you by any extensive knowledge of the subject. The hours which I have spent on the sea have not been numerous, and they have not been interesting—(laughter)—but the matter is one which all of us must feel to be not a question of an individual industry, no darling of private fancy, or of special and peculiar tastes, but a matter of great national and international importance; for, after all, we are dealing with that which is the food of the most necessitous classes of the community. (Hear, hear.) Everywhere we may observe, in all countries, from whatever cause, the price of meat seems to be gradually rising, or, at all events, has risen greatly, and there is ground for fear that the time may not be distant when it may be sufficiently depressed to bring it easily within the reach of the great mass of mankind. But the supply of fish, if only we could get it, if only they were brought in sufficient numbers and in the most convenient and successful manner within the reach of the consumers, the supply of fish seems abundant for any demand which the human race is likely to make upon it. His Royal Highness has pointed out to you how large this industry is; but there is reason to believe that however large it may be, it is nothing compared with what it might be, if the pursuit were better organised, and if the combined experience of mankind were brought to bear on the apparatus by which it is pursued. (Cheers.) Do not let it be said that in this matter we are trying to assist an industry which is well capable of assisting itself. Of course, external interference can never supply the want of energy and enterprise on the part of those by whom that industry is conducted. But what we can do is to enable the various populations who pursue this industry by different methods, in different parts of the world, to bring their knowledge and experience together to supply each other's defects, and by help of their common effort to obtain a higher standard of excellence than that which they had at present reached (hear, hear). That is not a matter of theory. More than thirty years ago there might have been some doubt of the value of exhibitions, but owing to the efforts of members of the Royal family of this country (hear, hear) exhibitions were then introduced as part of the commercial apparatus of the world, and any one who has watched the successful exhibitions which have been held cannot doubt that they have lent a powerful stimulus both to the enterprise and to the intelligence by which all the various branches of industry and commerce are conducted (hear, hear). In fact, I have heard it put so highly, that the Exhibition of 1851 was so successful that it taught foreigners how to compete successfully with ourselves. But to be successful we must not only have our own efforts but the thorough co-operation of other nations. Now fishing, more than any other industry, is a pursuit about which each nation has something to tell its neighbour. The conditions of fishing and promoting the growth of fish are necessarily as different as are the various climates in which the fish live and the various races of men by whom they are pursued. We know that even our immediate neighbours have very much to tell us in this matter. The success of the Berlin Exhibition has shown us how far the knowledge of the northern races of Europe has gone, and I believe that in regulating the pursuit of fish so as to prevent their unnecessary destruction, and in avoiding those lamentable conflicts which Lord Granville has so feelingly alluded to, other nations have gone further than we have, and have probably pointed out the path along which we ought to follow (hear, hear). In the matter of pisciculture, again, such as the growth of oysters, I believe the other nations which line our seas have much to tell us as we have much to tell them.. More especially I believe have the French made great progress in that matter. There is a last consideration, which I will venture to reproach my noble leader for having stolen from me. The fishermen of the various countries may probably learn to pursue their industries in greater peace, if they can only meet together on common ground and learn to know and appreciate each other's industry (hear, hear). I have been asked to move this resolution, which especially calls attention to the necessity of inviting the co-operation of other nations in the great enterprise we have now in hand. It is as follows:—

That in the opinion of this meeting the co-operation of all other untries will be necessary to give full effect to the international vantages to be obtained from the proposed exhibition.” I earnestly pe that it will receive not only our support but that of others, cause it is only by common council that excellence can be reached, d it is only by meeting and discussing on a common ground that mentable causes for conflict and difference can be avoided (cheers).

The Count Charles de Bylandt said :—

Without in anyway committing the opinion of my Government, or ticipating their decision, I have not the slightest hesitation, but, n the contrary, the greatest pleasure, in seconding the resolution oved by Lord Salisbury; because I believe that such an international exhibition as the one contemplated to be held in this country ust be of the greatest interest for all fishing countries. I am sure would be so in my own country, where fishing may be considered be a traditional and national occupation. As, in this respect, my untrymen have for centuries since acquired a certain reputation, it pears to me that of all countries taking part in this exhibition, ine certainly ought to be well represented. I assure you I will o all in my power to induce my Government to do so. If I cceed I hope that my countrymen on that occasion will cut as good figure as they did at the last international exhibition of the same nd held at Berlin in 1880. I also hope that my colleagues here esent will follow my example and recommend to the consideration their Governments international and friendly co-operation in the ject of this meeting. (Hear, hear.) I will not detain you any nger, and I am the less inclined to do so because I believe one of e first duties of a diplomatist is not to talk too much.

The second resolution was then put and carried unanimously.

Lord Kimberley said—The resolution I have been asked to ove is—

“That in the opinion of this meeting, in order to ensure the success f the proposed exhibition, it is desirable to secure the support of ose interested in fisheries in all parts of this empire, including its olonial Dependencies.” I think I cannot claim the attention of this eeting from any knowledge or experience of my own in regard to sheries, but I may claim your attention on account of the ffice which I happen just now to hold. My noble friend poke of diplomatic negotiations on the subject of fisheries, and I an assure you that fish in their political characteristics are quite as uch present on my side of the square in Downing Street as that of y noble friend. Ever since the treaty of Utrecht, and probably a reat deal longer, fish have been the principal topic of the Colonial Office. You have heard how many tons of fish are imported into the ountry. I wish I could tell you, but I must leave it to you to conecture, how many tons of paper have been consumed in this neverending, probably never-to-end, controversy with regard to fishing. That s not unimportant on the present occasion, because it shows in a triking way of what extreme importance to the world is the industry concerning which this exhibition is to be held. You may almost lay down the importance of an industry according to the extent to which it engages the attention of the Government, and estimated n that way, I can assure you that fishing occupies a very important place. With regard to our colonies, it is not necessary for me to speak of that which is known to you all—that is, the immense isheries possessed by the Empire in the colonies. There are the great fisheries of Newfoundland, which we share with the French; there are the immense fisheries of the Dominion of Canada, concerning which the High Commissioner who is to follow me is more competent to speak. But this industry is important in our newer settlements, as well as in our long-established colonies. I was interested lately in reading the report of the Fisheries Commission appointed by the Government of New South Wales, which seems from the attention which it excited, to be an important branch of Colonial industry. Any one reading that report will be amazed at seeing the immense variety of fish utterly unknown to us, and their great value to the colony. I read also myself with alarm, when I know how easy it is in these days of rapid transit to move fish from one quarter of the world to another, and being like my hon. friend the member for Norfolk somewhat interested in the welfare of the fish in the Norfolk Broads, that there were in the rivers of New South Wales a monster fish of the pike kind which reached the enormous weight of 120lb. You can well imagine what the effect would be of such a fish being introduced into our waters. Our colonists have been much interested in the advance of pisciculture, a point which I cannot omit to mention, because everyone must be interested in the extreme importance of introducing salmon into that part of the world—the Australian colonies. Trout have been successfully introduced; but with regard to salmon there has been a controversy into which I am unwilling to enter, though I have been assured that salmon have been successfully introduced into Tasmania. It is unnecessary that I should detain you longer, except to say that I am perfectly certain that this exhibition will meet with great sympathy and great interest in our colonies, and I believe the proceedings in regard to that exhibition are likely to prove of the greatest advantage to the fishing industry in all parts of the world.

Sir A. Galt said :—

I feel myself highly honoured on this occasion in being permitted to second the resolution moved by Lord Kimberley. In speaking for the Colonies, I am glad that his lordship has made you acquainted with the attention bestowed in America and Canada upon the cultivation and preservation of fisheries, and I therefore feel myself more at liberty to confine my remarks to the fisheries of North America. I am happy on this occasion to be able to state that I have the authority both of the Dominion of Canada and of the colony of Newfoundland to express their hearty desire to co-operate in the objects of this exhibition. (Cheers.) I may say that in the colonies generally, and certainly in Canada, we are, perhaps, too apt to take the direction of our thoughts and memories from this country; we try to follow public opinion here. We try to study the resources from whence the greatness of this country has arisen, and we are proud of it. Looking back upon the history of England we think we discover in her commerce the main source of her greatness. Going a little further back, I do not think I shall be contradicted if I say that the germ of that commerce came from the inshore fisheries of the kingdom. We need not go back more than 300 or 400 years to learn that the naval greatness of the nation was derived from those hardy fishermen, the comfort and happiness of whom it is desired by this meeting to promote. Perhaps, following that, Canada may have shown an undue anxiety in reference to her inshore fisheries. We look to their development as the means of affording us naval strength, and helping us to keep pace with the Great Republic to the South. Notwithstanding the fact that the population of the United States is ten times greater than that of Canada and Newfoundland, the amount of shipping belonging to the latter is almost as large as that of the former. In estimating the extent of the Canadian fisheries it may be forgotten that she has the largest sea-coast of any country. There are 4000 miles of coast open to Canadian fishermen, and the take of fish is valued at five millions a year, while half that amount is exported to foreign countries. The fisheries give employment to about 45,000 men and a like number of boys, so that there were 90,000 to whom to look as a source of future naval strength. I therefore think if there be one part of the community more than another in which we should feel interested it is this; and we must feel very grateful to his Royal Highness for the support and encouragement which he is giving to the step now being taken. The objects of the exhibition are very valuable. Necessarily our methods of fishing and of curing fish are of the crudest kind, as we are away from the opportunities of being informed by the fishermen of Holland, France, Sweden and Norway. We are fishing with less intelligent means than we ought to have, and I hope that by coming to the exhibition our fishermen may acquire an amount of knowledge which will enable them still further to develop the means under their hand. Another important point has been referred to in the address of his Royal Highness to-day, and that is the discussion which will be given to the best means of preserving fish. Fish is acknowledged to be essential as one of the great food products of the world, and therefore it is of the greatest importance that it should not be destroyed. I am aware that the scientific report referred to by Lord Granville stated that the opinion was held by eminent scientists that it was impossible to exhaust the sea. I speak with great deference to those important authorities, but, at the same time, I have had great opportunities of learning the views of fishermen on the American coast on the subject, and there testimony is that large and wide as the sea is the inshore fishery is liable to be exhausted by fishing at improper seasons. I have already mentioned that I have been authorised to express the co-operation of both the Dominion of Canada and the Colony of Newfoundland in the object you have in view, and I have further to say that I have this morning received a message from Sir John M‘Donald authorising me to subscribe an amount equal to that subscribed by the Fishmongers’ Company to the general and prize fund. (Cheers.) In Canada we have a department devoted to fishing, with a responsible minister at the head of it, and I am sure he will feel it his duty to recommend the Canadian Parliament to support the object of this exhibition. (Cheers.)

The resolution was put and carried unanimously.

The Lord Mayor of London proposed :—

“That two subscription lists be opened forthwith, one for the General and Prize Fund, of the proposed exhibition, and the other for the Guarantee Fund, to cover the contingent liabilities in the event of the proceeds of the exhibition proving insufficient to meet the expenditure.” Lord Granville had said a fish was a creature to be envied; for his own part, he thought it seemed a creature to be destroyed, as the means adopted was not so much to supply fish as to destroy it. He, therefore, was extremely pleased to support an exhibition in which the means of preserving fish would be explained, and the means of using them with the least cruelty would be taught. He would urge, therefore, that the subscriptions should be large and liberal, first, because the object was not only national but international; secondly, because it had been taken up in a humane spirit; thirdly, because it would teach the most useful means of following the pursuit of fishing; and fourthly, because means would be taken to preserve the lives of the noble fellows who went forth, with out fear, to pursue their dangerous calling whilst we sat comfortably at home. He trusted other committees would act in unison with us to make this exhibition a great success.

The Prime Warden of the Fishmongers’ Company in seconding the resolution, which was unanimously carried, said :—

That the duties of his company were chiefly to destroy fish unfit for food, and therefore he feared that if they were to present a dish of fish it would not be one to “set before a king.” (Laughter). One of the objects of the exhibition, however, would be the preservation and transportation of fish, and its distribution to the consumers. His object now, however, was another kind of fishing—it was fishing for the “golden fish,” to which reference had been made by Lord Granville. If the masters of the great City companies would take up this matter he had no doubt the corporations of great towns would follow their lead, and then they would be able to get such a contribution as would make the exhibition a great success.

Mr. Edward Birkbeck, M.P., chairman of the executive committee, moved a vote of thanks to the Prince of Wales for presiding.

In doing so, he said that he had to express on behalf of the executive and general committee, and on behalf of the whole of the fisheries of the United Kingdom, their deepest gratitude to his Royal Highness for having presided, and he ventured to say that no one had done to promote, encourage, and develop the fisheries throughout the world as the Prince of Wales (cheers), especially by becoming president of the exhibition of 1883.

The Duke of Sutherland, in seconding the motion, mentioned that having been in the United States recently he was astonished at the amount of interest taken in fishing, especially in the inland fishing; and he felt sure the Americans would cordially aid in this exhibition if properly asked to do so.

The resolution having been adopted,

The Prince of Wales said:

I beg to return you my warmest thanks for the kind way in which this resolution has been proposed and received by all of you. I need hardly tell you that it has given me the greatest pleasure to preside, and it is most gratifying to me to see the interest taken in this great work. I wish also to express my thanks to the foreign ambassadors (cheers), who are clearly manifesting to us that the countries which they represent are taking a warm interest in this exhibition, which they look upon as an international question. I must also express my thanks to the gentlemen who have so kindly moved and seconded the resolutions, for the able, interesting, and valuable speeches they have made. I must also express regret, on behalf of my brothers, the Duke of Connaught and the Duke of Albany, as well as on behalf of the Duke of Cambridge, that they were unable to be present; but I have to state that they earnestly sympathise with the objects of the meeting. In the hands of the committee, I feel that the cause will not suffer, and the public need not fear to subscribe largely. Before I sit down, there is one name which I cannot help alluding to, and I think you will all join in the feeling of sincere regret that he is no more among us to give his valuable assistance. I allude to Mr. Frank Buckland. But in Professor Huxley and Mr. Walpole we shall find able successors. I think this meeting ought to look with gratitude to the work of Mr. Edward Birbeck, to whom the success of the Norwich exhibition was owing, and I feel sure that as chairman of the executive committee he will do all he can to render that assistance needed in so great an enterprise (cheers).

The meeting then terminated.

The following subscriptions have been promised to the Guarantee Fund:—The Company of Fishmongers, £2000; Sir J. M'Donald, Prime Minister of Canada, £2000; the Baroness Burdett-Coutts, £300; Mr. A. B. Burdett-Coutts, £200; the Duke of Richmond and Gordon, £100; Earl Granville, £100; the Earl of Kimberley, £100; the Marquis of Salisbury, £100; Sir W. Harcourt, £100. To the General and Prize Fund:—The Company of Fishmongers, £500; Sir J. M'Donald, £500; the Baroness Burdett-Coutts, £200; Mr. A. B. Burdett-Coutts, £100.

ANGLING IN THE SOUTH OF IRELAND.

THE accounts of Irish discontent and lawlessness are not calculated to make Ireland attractive for the English sportsman. It is true, the country has been thrown back, and chaos has hitherto prevailed instead of order. Political or social agitation in any country begets confusion and disorganisation. But the crisis has passed in Ireland. There is a rift in the clouds, and the horizon begins to clear. A brighter future seems in store for this unhappy land, and the incubus which has long depressed the cultivation of the soil has been partially, if not entirely removed.

This is a digression. Fishing, not politics, is more directly within the lines of this journal. Our object, however, is to show that, though Ireland has been the battle ground of a fierce social revolution, peace is again asserting itself, and the English lover of sport and scenery may enjoy both here with perfect safety, and with a thorough immunity from the evil consequences of the late party strife. The angler has a large field for sport. The south of Ireland is intersected by different rivers and tributaries, which afford excellent trout-fishing. Salmon fishing is more restricted, but for £20 or £30 a really good preserve may be secured. Cork is easy of access, and it is a centre from which radiates numerous railway lines that command the best fishing in the country. Within an hour's journey from any of the railways, streams teeming with trout and salmon can be reached. In a former notice the names and particulars of many of the rivers were given. Since then, two important arteries have been opened in the west of the county, and with them numerous rivulets full of fish are placed within easy distance. Some of these are streams that are seldom visited by the keen and dexterous angler. The natives occasionally fish them with a primitive contrivance when the waters are flooded. The clear, limpid stream offers no attractions to them. Their coarse tackle scares the fish, and brings no reward for the labours of the fisherman. A good angler will easily fill his basket on these remote and well-stocked streams. If the fly fail, the worm may prove effective. But with fine tackle a good angler can always find thorough enjoyment as well as practical results. The West Coast Railway has been extended to Skibbereen and to Bantry, and upon either branches the angler will find magnificent streams.

FRESHWATER FISH AT THE ROYAL AQUARIUM, WESTMINSTER.

IT will be of interest to anglers to know that a change is being made in the stock of the Royal Aquarium, Westminster. The twelve large tanks on the south side of the building which have hitherto been stocked with sea fish, are being prepared by Mr. John T. Carrington, the naturalist, for the reception of the angler's favourites.

Rarely has such an opportunity been afforded for the observation of the living denizens of our ponds and rivers as will be afforded at Westminster. The tanks are expected to be fairly stocked by the end of March.

We can promise Mr. Carrington that London anglers will welcome the change, and, if he requires it, will help him in getting specimen fish.

NORTH COUNTRY FAVOURITE FLIES.

MR. ROBERT C. STEVENS, fishing-rod and tackle maker, of 38, Western Lane, Berwick, called on us the other day. He had come up to town specially to be present at the International Fisheries Exhibition meeting at Willis's Rooms. He is fully alive to the value of these fisheries exhibitions; obtained a silver medal and diploma at Norwich, and will exhibit at Edinburgh and also at London in 1883. He showed us some samples of his salmon and trout flies, from which we have chosen a few beautifully made Greenwell's Glory and Johnson's Professor, both deadly flies on the northern trout streams. Also we chose a few samples of a new pattern stone fly, which looks "likely," if only the yellow colour will stand. Who knows of a permanent bright yellow dye, something which will not wash white before it has killed three trout?

Mr. R. C. Stevens lives in the midst of some of the best trout and salmon fishing in the country, and will be happy to give information to customers respecting where to go for comfortable quarters and good fishing. If any of our readers want to change their fishing grounds this year, we can most warmly recommend the lovely Berwickshire streams. Living is good and cheap; sport is to be had by all who can kill trout with fly, worm, or minnow; and the air and scenery are unsurpassed.

VACANCIES ON A GOOD TROUT PRESERVE.

If any of our readers want to have a rod on a first-rate Hampshire trout stream, and will send us their names, we will give them further particulars.—Ed. F. G.

ANOTHER TAKE OF LARGE PIKE BY MR. JARDINE.

MR. JARDINE must in his time have saved the lives of many thousands of roach and dace. Twice recently this season we have heard of big takes of pike by him, and at the Gresham Society, on Monday last, he weighed-in the following fish:—

(*a*) A pike, taken on Saturday and weighing on Monday evening 27½ lb., length 44½ inches, girth 25 inches. Taken on a gut paternoster, with single hook, the bait being a small bleak. It took Mr. Jardine twenty minutes to kill this fish, and he made two unsuccessful attempts to gaff him.

(*b*) Fifteen pike, also taken by Mr. Jardine, on Saturday last, weighing 89¼ lb.

(*c*) A brace of perch, caught also on Saturday, weighing 4lb. 12 oz. on Monday.

Mr. Jardine's friend, Mr. H. Brett, also captured ten fish, weighing 61 lb. The bulk of the fish were taken either by spinning or paternostering.

Comment is needless. All we can say to our readers is, "Go and do likewise."

We regret to notice in the New York papers an announcement of the death of Mr. Jardine's uncle, at the ripe age of 82. He was an enthusiastic and skilful angler, and one of the most successful organ builders in America. We hope his nephew may live and flourish even longer.

George James Eaton, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[Advt.]

THE GREAT MEETING AT WILLIS'S ROOMS IN CONNECTION WITH THE 1883 FISHERIES EXHIBITION.

WE have the pleasure this week to present our readers with the most complete report which has been published of the important meeting which took place last Monday, in furtherance of the aims of the Great International Fisheries Exhibition, which is to be held next year in London.

It must be very gratifying to the promoters of this gigantic undertaking to see their efforts so warmly and thoroughly appreciated, and especially do we congratulate Mr. Edward Birkbeck, M.P., the leading spirit of our English fisheries exhibitions. It was pleasing to notice the great number of London and provincial anglers who were present, many of them having come hundreds of miles for the purpose. We devoutly wished every fishing-tackle maker in Great Britain and Ireland had been present, they would most assuredly have gone home with a fixed determination to give their support to the affair by sending the best exhibit in their power. Copies of the prospectus of the exhibition were distributed to the visitors. This prospectus gives full details; it is a model of what such a prospectus should be, and reflects the highest credit on its compilers. A single glance at it shows the enormous scope of the exhibition, and we can strongly advise all anglers who have not yet seen it to write for a copy to the secretary of the Exhibition, 24, Haymarket, London. Prizes of the value of £100 each are offered for essays on various subjects, and this prize list is to be augmented.

PERMISSION FOR A DAY'S FISHING.

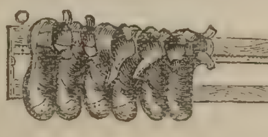
WHILST on our way the other day with an angling friend to the river we intended to fish, he added pleasure to the enjoyable walk in the fresh sunlit morning air, by relating some of his angling experiences. Amongst others, we remember the following, which was new to us, and will be so, we think, to most of our readers.

Parson F —— had got permission for a day's trout-fishing, and one fine afternoon made his appearance on the water. The keeper came by after a time and duly examined his *permit*, and wished piscator a good afternoon. "Good evening," said the parson, and went on fishing until dark.

Next morning found him early on the water hard at work, and when the keeper came along and asked to see his permit he produced the same he had shown him before. "But," said the keeper, "this only gave you permission for one day's fishing, you are having a second day." "Not so, friend," quoth the parson, "refer to Genesis, chapter i, v. 5, and thou wilt find that the evening and the morning were *the first day!*"—Ed.

MACDONALD'S BOOT AND SHOE RACK.

This is by far the best kind of rack for holding boots and shoes. By means of a couple of nails, it can in a minute be fastened to any wall or passage, and the boots or shoes are held in place by metal teeth, on which the heels are hung. One's boots and shoes are thus always out of the way when not wanted, in the way when wanted, quickly aired and dried, and kept free from the damp and mould which always attacks leather in cupboards and closets. Messrs. Macdonald and Co. have a patent for their excellent invention.



CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

THE great piscatorial event of the week is undoubtedly the numerous and influential meeting held at Willis's Rooms, King Street, St. James's, on Monday 29th ult., over which H.R.H. the Prince of Wales presided in that practical, yet kindly and genial, manner which has won him the respect and goodwill of Englishmen and foreigners of every possible shade of political opinion. As lengthy reports of the meeting appeared in all the leading daily papers, and as, moreover, my worthy chief was there in person, and will most probably give the readers of the Fishing Gazette the benefit of the notes he no doubt took, I will say no more on this point, except that it is my opinion that this big exhibition will be an opportunity of advancing the interests of fish and fishing in their every possible form—an opportunity which may not occur again in a lifetime—and of which all interested should eagerly avail themselves *re* coarse fish preservation.

As the annual close time draws near so this question seems to come to the surface. An active correspondence is taking place between the representatives of the Sheffield Association, and those of the West Central Association of London Anglers, having for object the means of taking early united action in the matter of getting the amendments to the Freshwater Fisheries Act, decided upon at the last meeting at the Society of Arts, passed into law.

The committee of the West Central Association meet on Friday next, and this question will undoubtedly be the principal one on the paper for discussion.

There is a strong growing feeling among anglers that no law that is ever framed for the protection of coarse fish, however stringent, will be effectual unless an authority is created whose business it will be to see the law carried out, and any infringement of it punished; in one word, the appointment by Government of a Coarse Fish Commissioner. Surely the interests of fishery proprietors and the public are of sufficient interest to warrant such an appointment?

I regret to hear that Mr. Frederiek Hill, the indefatigable secretary of the North-Western Anglers, has been very unwell.

The Anglers' Benevolent Society continues to have applications for relief from necessitous members (three on last meeting night), and Mr. Secretary Ghurney is eagerly looking forward to the merry month of May, when the donations and subscriptions, which will assist to replenish the society's cash-box, will become due.

From Haslett, of Chertsey, I am in receipt of a few lines. He has been getting some barbel. One day, with Mr. Allan, five barbel; heaviest, 5 lb.; and adds, he thinks, a fair take of these fish could be had, if customers would only try.

THE KENT, WESTMORELAND, ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

There are few older angling societies than this in the country, for it was established so long ago as 1824. During that time it has doubtless had many vicissitudes. The annual meeting was held on Monday evening last in the Kendal Town Hall, when there was a capital attendance of members. Mr. Rawdon B. Lee presiding. The chairman said he was sorry to see a gradual falling off in the subscriptions. Last year they amounted to but £21 9s., whilst in 1878 they reached £38, and ten years prior to that to £47. This was, no doubt, due to the half-crown trout licence which had to be paid to the Fishery Board; but this notwithstanding, he thought an association so important as theirs should have a larger income, and it should be a voluntary one. Allusions was next made to the connection between the association and the Board, which the chairman hoped would continue and be satisfactory. He also expressed a wish that the staking of the river at places to prevent netting would be proceeded with during the coming season, and he likewise hoped that the net which the Board had furnished to provide for the destruction of pike in the river would be ready for use shortly. Pollutions and fish disease were mentioned by the chairman, who drew special attention to the fact that last season the salmon were affected with the fungus when on the spawning beds, and even prior to that period he thought that portions of the fungus would be attached by the action of the fish turning over the gravel, and thus would the disease be spread. The heavy floods at the commencement of winter appeared to carry the diseased fish away, and since then very few had been seen. After further remarks from the chairman on the fall season of 1881 and the great increase in the number of salmon in the district in the early autumn of that year, for which some credit should be given their association, the meeting proceeded to pass the accounts. This was soon done, as was the adoption of the rules, with certain alterations of little moment. The officers for the year were elected as follows:—Hon. secretary, Mr. G. Fisher; treasurer, Mr. G. A. Hutchinson; committee, Messrs. G. F. Braithwaite, F. C. Grayson, W. A. Mann, R. B. Lee, J. Whitehead, B. Garnett, J. Shaw, W. Thompson, T. Atkinson, P. Bateman, C. Beadle, N. Eadson, C. McDonald, G. Redding, F. H. Watson, and T. D. Walker. A vote of thanks was then passed to the secretary for his efficient and valuable services during the past year, and a similar vote was accorded to the landowners who granted the association permission to angle upon their estates. Other votes of compliment followed, and with them the business of the meeting terminated. The statement of the accounts of this association is as follows:—110 subscribers, £21 9s.; balance from last year, £17 18s. 11d.; received from conservators, £8 8s. 9d.; total, £47 16s. 8d. Expenditure watching, £34 7s.; of room for meeting, 10s.; printing, £2 1s. 8d.; balance, £10 18s.; £47 16s. 8d.

More Large Pike.—Mr. G. Lopez, of 1, Seymour Place, W., who not long since was successful in catching a splendid pike, weighing 25¼ lb., succeeded a day or two since, at Tring, Herts, in landing one of over 21 lb.

A New Species of British Whale.—The Royal Society met recently in the Royal Institution, Edinburgh; Professor Maclagan, vice-president in the chair. Professor Turner stated the results of investigations he had made on a specimen of "Balœnoptera borealis or laticeps," captured in the Firth of Forth, at Bo'ness, in September, 1872. No properly authenticated specimen, he said, of this species of Finner whale had been previously got in Britain, and he had the satisfaction of adding this animal to the British fauna. He said the formation of the hyvid or tongue bone in these Finner whales was highly characteristic, and they might determine the species just as well from this part as from the examination of the skull. Several other papers were read during the evening.

Gregory's Spinning Baits. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[Advt.]

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

"The nature of bad news infects the teller."
—SHAKESPEARE.

The Thames is once again unfortunately bank high, and successful angling for the remainder of the season, which ends on the 14th of this month, seems out of the question. This is a great blow to the river side professionals and to the bulk of Thames anglers, who, from the late excellent trim of the water, had been looking forward to a grand final go-in. The reports from most of the Mid-Thames stations are devoid of interest, and only contain uninteresting details of small catches of roach and chub; but at Hurley, on Monday, Mr. Brooksbank succeeded in catching trom one swim eleven tench, scaling respectively as follows: 2 lb. 2½ oz., 2 lb. ½ oz., 2 lb. 7 oz., 2 lb. 5½ oz., 2 lb. 10½ oz., 2 lb. 2 oz., 2 lb. 4 oz., 1 lb. 14½ oz., 2 lb., 2 lb. 4 oz., 2 lb. 3 oz., in all 24 lb. 5½ oz. The physicians were evidently holding a deep consultation on the relative merits of the "diet of worms" and gave it in favour of lobs, with which seductive bait they seemed indeed to be very much taken. Is this not an unprecedented catch of doctors in the Thames with one rod, and in only a few hours? The catch was enviously observed by another man, who the next day was busy with three or four rods and evidently reaped the benefit of a four-quart baiting. I hardly deem this sportmanlike, as possibly Mr. B. might have wished to fish his undoubted swim the next day. The members of the Wycombe Angling and Trout Preservation Association held a special general meeting on Saturday, at which the financial position and general prospects of the association were fully gone into, and it was resolved that from the 1st of March, 1882, old members may continue their present rate of subscription, with certain restriction as to water fishable, and that new members shall in future pay £2 2s. per annum and £1 1s. entrance fee. A number of piscators are anxious to join the association as soon as there are vacancies. Thursday evening: Weather very wet and unsettled and river rising rapidly into flood. Wind S.W.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Ancholme.

Some further fine catches of pike and roach have taken place since the issue of my last report. The weather and water have been excellent. We now have a lower temperature, with cold rains. I have not yet heard if the fishing has been affected thereby. About a fortnight ago I had the pleasure of presenting 5000 Salmo fontinalis fry to the watercourses hereabouts, and shall in a short time turn out a similar number of common trout. If my Manor Fishery succeeds, as I hope it will, I purpose turning out a similar number every season. In this way I hope to earn the gratitude of succeeding generations of anglers.—THOMAS FORD.

Ballynahinch (Ireland).

Since my last report, we have had a slight spate, which has raised the water a little. Yesterday and to-day we had east winds. There has not been an angler on the water since the season opened. I feel certain good sport would have been got before these east winds set in.—WALTER BLACKADDER.

Chichester.

The recent heavy pluvial visitations have rendered the principal waters totally unfishable. The canal, Chichester, is now a nice colour, and with fine weather some good takes may be anticipated. This evening, after a boisterous day, the barometer is rising, with every appearance of a change for the better in the weather department. A day on the Rother, the early part of the week, was decidedly a trip to sell 'em, anglers returning with nothing but wet jackets. At Chichester, Mr. Summers took a tew small roach, and the nocturnal fishermen, Messrs. Young and Salter were, in the small hours of Monday, rewarded with a couple of bream, weighing together close upon five pounds, a heavy carp breaking away. On Saturday last four roach-fishermen were, by the kind invitation of Mr. Baker, of Aldingbourne, selected by the Chichester society, to angle for roach to place in the canal; in return taking some few dozen bream with them to stock the mill pond. A boisterous day kept the fine weather rodsters at home. Mr. Young and Mr. Summers bringing back close upon three dozen roach which were placed in the canal the same evening. Weather fine, wind S.W.—GEORGE F. SALTER.

Dove.

We have had heavy rains every day this week, and there have been few anglers out. The river to-day (Thursday) is running like a sea, and looks like being over its banks before long. It will be Monday at least before, under the most favourable circumstances, the water again gets into condition. There have been no trout captured since my last worth speaking about, and, indeed, all that I can hear of in the way of fishing at all is that two or three fair takes of coarse fish have been made near Uttoxeter and Sudbury with the cockspur worm. After I had despatched my last week's letter Messrs. Foster of Ashbourne, informed me that H. C. Okeover, Esq.'s keeper recently caught a trout scaling 3¾ lb., in that gentleman's capital length of water, with the artificial minnow. The fish has been sent to town for preservation.—THE SPLODGER.

Exe (Tiverton).

The river to-day is in flood with the rains of yesterday and to-day, and if there be no more rain it will be fishable in the upper portions of the association water to-morrow. Some good sport is looked forward to during the week. Some very good baskets were made on Monday and Tuesday last, the flies best were half stone, gold twist, blue upright and heron's body blue.—WILLIAM MUDFORD, March 2.

Lea (Rye House).

The water is very thick, and not at all fit for fishing now; if we have no more rain it will be in good order by Sunday. Wind S.W.—W. COWELL.

Medway (Tonbridge.)

The river is over the banks, and the fish can, if they please, be enjoying themselves in the fields. There will be but little chance of angling for at least a week. As far as the pike are concerned, this is not to be regretted.—YE MEDWAY WATER RAT.

Norfolk.

There has been no lack of sport amongst our local anglers, and good "all-round" fishing has been pursued with as much zest as if it were the height of the season. Since the Yare has got back again into its purified state, some splendid takes of bream and roach have been obtained from Thorpe, and from ten to twenty pike per week have been landed from the Whitlingham Dyke. This is at it should be, for those sportsman who have not the time to spare find this a great boon to be able to leave Norwich and be quite on to the fishing ground in something less than about half an hour. At Brundall, too, roach are feeding well, and one angler, a most inveterate "roach-fisher," succeeded in landing one hundred and eighty good-sized fish in about four hours; one thing, no doubt, being in his favour, that of having used some gentles which had been preserved since last summer. But the greatest excitement amongst the Norwich piscators have been the splendid exhibits of pike during the season, and I think I may venture to say that the members of the E. A. P. S. have carried off the palm in this respect. Many have been the grand shows which it has been my pleasure to witness in the club house of this society. A few of which, and more especially those which have come under my especial notice, I will enumerate;—1st, Messrs. Palmer Bros. and E. H. Holly, Esq, from Bawburgh, fifteen fish, weight 128 lb.; 2nd, the same gentlemen from the same place, twelve fish, weight 84 lb.; 3rd, same gentlemen, same place, nine fish, weight 54 lb.; 4th, same gentlemen and same place, four fish, weight about 21 lb. This is private water, and the above-named gentlemen were allowed the liberty to fish through the kindness of the agent of the estate. From Bowthorpe, on the same stream, through the permission of Geo. Rinder, Esq., Messrs. A. Palmer and M. Cullington in one day landed six fish, weight 38 lb. From Upland Broad, another splendid piece of water of about 20 acres, Messrs. Palmer Bros., Holley, Hicks, Cullington and Pepper succeeded in taking in three days fifty-five fish, the aggregate weight of the three days' take being 282 lb., the largest fish going 18 lb. The next noticeable event being the pike contest of the East Anglian Piscatorial Society, which took place on Horeton Broad on Thursday last, when nine members entered for the match. The day was beautifully fine; and when the members returned at night the result was as follows:—1st boat, Messrs. A. Palmer and Pepper, fourteen fish; 2nd boat, Messrs. R. Palmer and R. Otty, nine fish; 3rd boat, Mr. J. J. Rice (who fished alone), three fish; 4th boat, Messrs. Cullington and Tillett, none; 5th boat, Messrs. Hook and Howard, none. The entire weight being about 9 stone 6 lb., no one fish of any particular weight being taken throughout the day, the largest, scaling 7 lb., falling to Mr. R. Palmer. The contest was for a friendly supper, which took place on Wednesday evening last at the club-house, the affair throughout being an entire success. Minor other takes have also been exhibited, and one and all have succeeded in reflecting great credit on the society. If secretaries of other societies could prevail upon their members to exhibit their catches at their respective clubs they would find it would give a greater stimulus to the cause.—ANGLER.

Ouse (Littleport).

We have had no fishing in the Ouse since my last report worth mentioning, as the water has been too thick for roaching, and though I have heard of some good pike having been taken I have seen none, with the exception of a nice bag each Messrs. Titterton and Howard of Ely had on Tuesday. But at the mouth of the river Lark, where the clear water from that river meets the thick water of the Ouse, the roach have gathered in great numbers, and as they have taken very kindly to the gentle some splendid sport has been had there. Unfortunately, but few anglers have been able to enjoy it, as there are only about three swims fishable. A gentleman from Newmarket started the fishing there with a 17 lb. bag of roach, which he followed up two days later with one of 20 lb. Major Ferris, of Ely, getting a basket of about 19 lb. same day. Mr. J. Goaten, Newmarket, fishing with two friends got, in about six hours, a splendid take of roach going 80 lb. the lot. Messrs. S. Allpress and Lavergne, Ely, had 56 lb. roach; Mr. Allpress also taking three pike live baiting, going 17 lb. the three. Mr. George Bassingbourne had a nice show of 8½ lb, largest 1 lb., in two hours. Mr. Andrew Antony, London, finished up yesterday with a bag of 20 lb. good roach and dace; the only takes in the Ouse worth naming were by Messrs. A. Lemaire and Cooper, Newmarket, of 5 lb. and 4½ lb. roach.—CHARLES SOUTH.

Suir (Clonmel).

We have a heavy flood at present, and the rain still continues so that the rods will have some day's rest; even the cots below Clonmel cannot fish, river so high. There was very good sport on the upper waters last week; in fact, since the season opened each rod has enjoyed its own share. At Rochestown Miss Wise succeeded in landing a fine salmon weighing 18 lb.; Dr. Donaldson, at Spring-mount, got nine fish in two days, the largest weighing 21 lb.; Colonel Mangles got two fish, 14 lb. and 16 lb.; Captain the Hon. Miles Stapleton, one fish of 10 lb.; John O'Keeffe, one fish; Mr. Stevenson, at Kilcommon demesne, landed a fine salmon weighing 22½ lb. The professional fishermen have had good fishing during the week, Patrick Moloney, Michael Moloney, and John Moloney killed fourteen, weighing respectively 36 lb., 24 lb., 14 lb., 10 lb., 8 lb., 28 lb., 16 lb., 12 lb., 11 lb., 28 lb., 21 lb., 28 lb. 13 lb., 14 lb. Dr. Campbell heads the list, killing since the season opened 268 lb. weight of salmon. The cot-men only got twenty during the week. The boys about Clonmel are killing numbers of trout with worms, but they are still in poor condition; however, the trout on the streams seem to be in very fair condition.—DORA.

Taw, &c. (N. Devon).

Water has risen since last report; Taw has been flooded. Some good fishing to be had every day for some time. Wind rather high. I have heard of many good dishes since last week. Trout not yet in good condition. Mr. Connop caught in the Mole his basket full; Mr. Payne took 3 dozen on the Yeo; Mr. Harding 20 in the Bray; Mr. Tarr killed some good fish on the Yeo; a stream at Braunton a few days' good sport; and a gent took 20 fish in the Bray.—Rusty Game.

Thames (Goring).

Water now very thick and high; too thick for jack and chub. Roach-fishing is all over for this season now. Prospects for this week look very bad. It will take a week, if it is very fine weather, to get the water in good order for all-round fishing. Nothing much doing. Have been taking some good roach. Have had two days' fishing since my last report; best day, six dozen of very good roach and two jack.—J. Rush.

Thames (Halliford).

The river is now very high, and very few places where you can get any chance of fishing, and that is only by ledgering. I have been out twice this week. First day, Monday, February 27, Mr. Johnson, fishing with me, tried the jack up till three o'clock, and never touched a fish; then went ledgering for barbel, and caught twelve in about one hour and a half. Second day, Wednesday, March 1, Mr. Nickinson, fishing with me in the afternoon, caught three barbel and two roach, ledgering.—George Rosewell.

Thames (Kingston).

There has been little fishing done here. The dace have gone ahead. I saw on Friday last three trout feed, one a good fish of 9 lb., the other two about 2 or 3 lb. each. Since then the water has come so thick that I have not seen them. I am glad the dace have gone up, they were all fine fish. I hope we shall have a good season.—J. Johnson.

Thames (Richmond).

The water is now very thick and is running down the river at a great pace, and the heavy rain that we had in the night and this afternoon will nearly, if not quite, put a stop to the fishing here for this season, as it will take quite a week to get in anything like order again without anything to interfere with it. There was a good lot of anglers down here up till Sunday last, but since then the river has been quite out of order altogether. I hear from Teddington that there is a large body of dace at the weir again. Any one that has never seen the dace at the weir should, if it is a fine day, go and see them, for you never believe it unless you see for yourself..—John Bushnell.

P.S.—This would be a good opportunity for "Creel."

Thames (Walton).

Feb. 26, Mr. Lavey, from bank, one jack 13½ lb., taken from Sale, a nice fish; Feb. 27, Mr. Bryning from punt one bream 4 lb., and lost a larger one. Feb. 28, Mr. Mackriell, with G. Hone, two roach, ¾ lb. each. Wind S.W., very high and squally, rising to a gale; very rough, with heavy showers, continuous last night. Water rising all the week and over the meadows, every appearance of being higher. Prospects very far from good. Nothing to be done until water falls.—Henry Wood.

Thames (Windsor).

Water, owing to heavy rains, rising rapidly; is now over the low-lying land, and out of condition for anything but worm-fishing.—B. R. Bambridge.

Trent (Newark).

Heavy and continued rain most of the week has caused the Trent to rise rapidly, and the water is now (Thursday evening) all over the meadows and far away; there is every appearance of a very heavy flood; will take several days to get it in anything like order if it begins to go down now and everything goes on satisfactorily. A personal inspection of the water just now tells me that it is still rising, so I am afraid it is goodbye to sport for the remainder of this season. I heard of three very nice jack being taken down at Collingham last Monday, 17 lb., 8 lb., and 7 lb.; rather too bad to take them so late in the season though. A friend and I had a day's chubbing last Friday; best fish 4 lb., pith as bait, with brains as the enticing power. Sport on the whole has not been very good. A fish was weighed in at the club this week, which was pronounced to be a dace, but somehow or other I am of opinion that it is not one (there has been two or three of the same sort weighed-in during the last year; they were all caught in the Witham); it had the bright silvery scales of the dace, but it differed from the dace in several particulars, it was shorter and deeper, had a very large bold black eye, and had only forty-six scales on its lateral line, whereas a dace has fifty-two; 8 or 9 inches its extreme length; it was nearly as deep as a white bream of the same length, and its weight was, I believe, between 9 and 10 oz.; its pectoral, anal, and ventral fins were tinged a slight orange red. I remember once reading a description of a dace and a graining, from the pen of J. H. Keene, and, as far as my memory serves, I am rather inclined to believe that these odd, peculiar dace from the Witham are graining. I have written to Mr. Keene on the subject, but if any naturalist can recognise this fish from my description, and will kindly answer in the Gazette, I shall be greatly obliged.—The Trent Otter.

Trent (Nottingham).

Angling this week has been out of the question. The river is in flood, and on Thursday the water was still rising, with no immediate prospect of abatement. Most of the pike fishermen have now laid aside their rods for the season, which, it is to be hoped, has been a successful one.—The Man at the Clubs.

Tweed and Teviot.

Since our report of these Scottish rivers, the anglers living on the banks thereof have had their hearts gladdened by a four-and-a-half feet flood, which occurred on Sunday, heavy rain having fallen in the west during the two previous days, and then bringing down both rivers. Harking back, however, to the Thursday previous, Mr. James Kerss killed one clean salmon on the Hendersyde water on that day, and another the day following, but got nothing on Saturday, the river slightly rising as the day advanced. No clean fish were got on either the Floors Castle, Ednam House, Makerstoun, or Sprouston waters, and the same report reaches us from the Melrose, Mertoun, and Pavilion waters, as well as that of Rutherford, while on the Birgham water no fishing has yet been done. On Monday, the 27th ult., the rivers were too heavy for angling purposes; but on Tuesday the various "casts" were occupied, but little sport was got, although a good run of fish had teken place during the flood above mentioned. The only successful angler was Mr. J. Kerss, who, on the Hendersyde water, again got a beauty of nearly 12 lb. On the Innerleithen waters last week a few clean salmon were got, but the takes in the Melrose district were nil. Angling for salmon on the Teviot in this district has not yet commenced, but a good number of fish have been seen disporting on the various casts. On Wednesday the weather atmospherically was dead against angling—raining in torrents nearly all the day, accompanied by a bitterly cold wind from the east. Thursday was a better day for the partisans of the gentle art, and a few here out trying their luck, but with little success. Trout fishers lately have had very fair sport, but these fish are still in a backward condition, being very soft and colourless, with little or no flavour; and it is surely high time that something was done in the direction of having an annual close time for this species, instead of allowing them to be killed at all periods of the year, and more especially when in a state such as is given above. Since the opening of the net fishings very good takes have been got, and lessees are in much better spirits than they have been for a few years back. The report of last week's netting in the Coldstream district of the Tweed is as follows:—Little Haugh and Damford, over 30 salmon and a few trout; Twizel Boat House, nearly the same; Lennel Haugh and Tweedmill, 40 salmon and 20 trout; English water, 25 salmon and a few trout; Great Haugh, over 30 salmon and trout. The disease is still appearing amongst clean fish, which affects the market value of them to a great extent. Kelts are scarce and in very poor condition, and a large number of dead and dying fish (diseased and mostly unspawned) are still to be seen. The river came down in flood on Sunday, which had the effect of carrying salmon seaward, and also of allowing a fresh run of clean fish up the river, which will be the means of stocking the pools, and thus improving the fishing for the week. Owing to the heaviness of the river, little or no netting took place during the early part of the week, but operations were to commence yesterday (Wednesday anticipated). As I close the report (Thursday) the weather has again settled down, with the glass on the upward move; but the wind is still cold and raw, being the east.

Maxwheel (Kelso).

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

A very great quantity of heavy rain has fallen on most days all the week, both up in the Peak and also in the woodlands, which has caused both the above rivers to have continued floods on them, which has quite put a stop to angling of any description for a few days; the only parties that have killed fish during the last week have been the cleach-net fraternity, who, I heard, have done well in the Derwent at various places, killing trout, grayling and coarse fish. These floods will cause the greater quantity of trout to leave the brooks and come into the river again, for as the water drops the fish will work down into the main channel again, where they will remain till spawning time if not captured. There will be no chance of fishing on either the Wye or Derwent before the middle of next week, as both rivers are now very high and muddy.—George James Eaton.

SOUTH OF IRELAND.

On Thursday and Friday last there was exceptional sport with the rod. The water, as I stated in my last report, was in supreme condition. Sir Augustus Warren and party landed two on Thursday and two on Friday. Mr. Bowen took four on both days, Mr. Dale two on Thursday, and Sir Oriel Forster two. On Friday evening a desirable change set in, the wind went round to the south, and a steady downpour prevailed during the night. The rain continued on Saturday, and a red flood, bank high, was the result. On Thursday there was a heavy run of fish over the weirs, and the takes in the nets at Blackrock and Tivoli were large. A huge salmon was landed in one of the nets on Thursday morning at Blackrock. It was the finest specimen of the salmon species I ever saw in Cork. It weighed 32 lb., and was nearly four feet long, with corresponding proportions round the girth. An important meeting of the fishery conservators at Cork was held on Saturday last. Sir George Colthurst occupied the chair, and there were present Sir Augustus Warren, Sir Oriel Forster, Mr. Geo. Haynes, Mr. Henry Dale, and Mr. Robert Dunscombe. The report of the inspector showed that twenty-three illegal nets had been seized in the tidal way since the opening of the season on the 1st of February. The preservation of the river goes on satisfactorily, and illegal fishing in the tidal waters has been very much abated. An important subject affecting the future preservation of the river was discussed. The expenditure has greatly increased of late, and the ordinary resources of the Board have failed in producing a sufficient revenue to meet the demands of the river. It has been rendered necessary to make continual "whips" in order to meet extra expenses incurred for sudden emergencies. The "calls" have invariably been responded to by a few generous proprietors, but many of them—some, indeed, who receive a respectable rent for their fishing, and who derive all the advantages of increased preservation—have failed to contribute a penny to the funds. Mr. Dale said he had been in correspondence with Major Hayes, Inspector of Fisheries, with the view of having the fisheries on the Lea valued for the purpose of contributing a tax towards the expenses of preservation. He was informed by Major Hayes that the Act of Parliament gave them power to tax fisheries for the purpose of preservation, and enabled the secretary to levy the rate in the courts of summary jurisdiction. The principle of Mr. Dale's argument was generally admitted, and a communication was ordered to be addressed to Major Hayes for the purpose of ascertaining further particulars in the matter, particularly as to the liability of the fisheries so taxed to the ordinary poor and other rates. An extraordinary machine for the capture of salmon; which was taken the previous day in the river, was exhibited. It consisted of a piece of drift net fastened on a long bent pole. It was found stuck in a stream, with a beautiful spring salmon trying to wriggle itself out of its meshes. The machine is one of the many contrivances used by poachers for the destruction of fish. Twelve months ago a similar engine was found fastened at the mouth of a fish pass, so that any fish that ran the gap was instantly caught in the net. Along the Macroom railway, which starts a train at nine in the morning, returning at seven in the evening, there are several trout streams, upon which good fishing is to be had. Several of the salmon fishings on the Lee are also commanded by this line. In a few years an extension of the Macroom line to Kenmare will bring the angler into easy communication with some of the best rivers along the coast of Kerry. There are streams flowing into Kenmare bay, and into the tributaries of the Kenmare river, that are alive with trout and salmon. Here the keen angler, with his beautiful and deadly appliances, seldom appears. Here the primitive rod and tackle of the native is the only thing used for catching fish, and when the direct line between Cork and Kenmare, now about to be begun under favourable auspices, has been finished, the south of Ireland will form the most attractive part of Europe, perhaps, for the true Waltonian. By the way, a letter appeared in a contemporary the week before last in reference to the difficulties of fishing in this district. The letter was teeming with absurdities and misrepresentations. On one or two fisheries the tenants have insisted upon the right of fishing upon their own land. At first a little trouble was threatened, and menaces were used to the effect that the tenants would fish, in spite of the lessee of the fishing. They have carried out their word; and, beyond little occasional conflicts between the lessee and the aforesaid tenants, the contemplated attacks, the conspiracy to throw him into the river, the assembling of crowds, and the grand denouement of the police appearing on the scene, are pure fiction, and arose only in the imagination of over-timorous people. An angler from any part of the world may fish in the river, and may stroll over the country with perfect safety and freedom from molestation.

SCOTCH NOTES.

(From the *Scotsman*.)

Loch Tay.—Since the opening the result of the fishing in the middle and eastern stations of the loch has been extremely disappointing to anglers. A change of weather set in on Saturday, and it is to be hoped that the worst has been passed, and that better sport will now be enjoyed. Anglers state that there appear to be plenty of fish in the loch. The same holds good of the river. On the Killin Hotel water on Saturday, Colonel Cameron, Inverailork, caught one salmon of 20 lb.. and Major Thompson, London, one of 20 lb. On the Ardeonaig Hotel water on Friday, Mr. Wardle, Leeds, one fish of 17 lb., and Mr. Fielden, Leeds, one of 16 lb. On the Ben Lawers Hotel water, Colonel Hercy, one of 18 lb. The Taymouth Castle party tried the net on the Auchmore reserved water on Friday, and succeeded in landing 6 salmon, 3 of which were badly affected with the fungoid disease, 2 kelts, and only 1 clean fish. Capt. J. E. H. Heathcote's keeper killed a splendid newly run salmon of 24 lb. on the Lyon Garth water. Sir Donald Currie's keeper caught a fine salmon of 18 lb.

The Tay.—On Saturday Mr. T. G. Dundas, of Carron Hall, Larbert, fished the Murthly water, leased by Mr. Robertson, Athole Arms Hotel, Dunkeld, and landed a fine clean salmon weighing 23 lb. Mr. Kincaid, on the Stobhall water, caught one fine fresh run salmon of 17 lb.

The Dee (Banchory).—Since the salmon fishing opened in this district poor sport has been obtained, except on the Cairnton water, leased by Viscount Arthunot, where during the past two weeks 22 salmon have been caught, varying in weight from 8½ lb. to 19 lb. Mr. Thomas Barker killed a fish of 9 lb. on Saturday on the Woodend water, and Mr. Simpson another on the Blackhall water; and on the Imery water, General Oliphant secured a good fish.

The Tummel.—On Fisher's Hotel water, Pitlochry, on Saturday, Mr. Adam Conacher caught a clean run salmon of 20¼ lb. It took fully an hour to land, as the tackle used was a single gut on a trouting rod.

Large Burbot and Roach.—A fine specimen burbot was caught recently near Bardney. Length, 26 inches; girth, 12 inches; weight, 4½ lb. Also, at the same place, a roach of 2 lb. 4½ oz. Length, 16½ inches; girth, 12½ inches. Both were taken by Mr. W. Foote, manager of the Bardney Liberal Club. These fine specimens have been forwarded to Mr. W. Barber, 19, Sincil Street, Lincoln, to be preserved.

Conviction for Taking Trout out of Season. — On Tuesday last, before a full bench of magistrates at Ware, Arthur Pollard was summoned by the River Lea Angling Preservation Society for taking from the river Lea at Ware a trout and not returning the same to the river, in contravention of the fishery bye-laws. Richard Ghurney, fishery bailiff, prosecuted on behalf of the Central Committee. The defendant pleaded guilty, and was fined 10s. and costs, amounting in all to £1 17s.

Mr. E. Birkbeck, M.P., must be careful, or he will share the fate of most men who work too hard. We are not among the least of his admirers, and therefore it is that we wish he would be less prodigal of his labours. He should remember it is not the distance travelled, but the pace that kills, and no one will question that the junior member for North Norfolk is trying to go too fast. We know his desire is to be first and foremost in every good work, not only in the interest of his own constituents, but in behalf of the whole county with which he is so proudly connected; while in the affairs of the country generally he is at one with the national and patriotic Party, and ever ready to sacrifice his personal convenience to support Church, Queen and Country Having spoken generally of Mr. Birkbeck, we may just refer to his presence at the great angling dinner of the year, which was held in London last week, and at which he presided. The Piscatorial Society is getting on towards the half-century of its existence, and no wonder need be felt at the interest taken in its welfare. About 200 sat down to the banquet, and among the guests were some notable personages. References were made in the speeches to the increased interest taken in the supply of fish as a food question, to the loss angling and art had sustained by the death of Mr. Rolfe, whose works figured so conspicuously at the Norwich Exhibition, and to the fact that Mr. Birkbeck had promised to preside at a meeting of anglers to be held shortly at the Society of Arts in London. Mr. A. G. Jardine, whose monster pike were the admired of all and the envy of the few at the exhibition referred to, was full of praise of the Press, and especially of the Fishing Gazette, whose editor (Mr. R. B. Marston) has done so much to promote fish supply and the art of angling. Some mention was made of the selfishness of some of the riparian owners on the Thames who assert their exclusive rights over the banks. Mr. Birkbeck thought anglers should make a strong stand for a free Thames, and then went on to describe what he himself had done. He said in this connection, where this very matter of angling rights, on the river Bure, in Norfolk, had come before him, and when he had purchased title-deeds, giving him unquestionably the exclusive right to fish, he had said to himself that it would not be fair to preserve it merely for himself and his friends, and he had unreservedly thrown it open to all fair anglers. That is just what might have been expected of him, for it is this unselfish spirit which has endeared him to all who know him, and which prevents him saying "no" to any demand made upon him. We are glad to say that the Scotch Fisheries Exhibition is progressing favourably, and that every help will be given by the promoters of the latter to the international exhibition announced to be held in London next year.—*Norwich Argus*.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Juvenile Piscators.—We should advise you to go to Lowestoft. You can get very comfortable lodgings there in any of the streets away from the sea and at modest charges. At Lowestoft you are only three minutes by rail from Oulton Broad, which contains all kinds of coarse fish; make inquiries at all the inns and you will find some charge much more than others for a boat for the day. 1s. or 1s. 6d. is the most you should pay. Take perch and roach tackle. You will soon learn where else to go. Brundall, Buckenham and Cantley are within easy reach by rail and at either place you will be very comfortable at the inn close to the water. The fishing is first-rate, better than in Oulton Broad. Stay at Coldham Hall Inn, Brundall, near Norwich, for a day or two and if you will write again before you go, we will give you further information. At Lowestoft, you, of course, get the benefit of sea-air, sea-bathing, and sea-fishing as well.—Ed.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

CEMENT FOR AQUARIUM.

Sir,—I should be much obliged if you will inform me if putty is injurious to fish, and, if so, what cement I should use in making an aquarium.—I am, &c., Yorkshireman.

[In 1879, we published information on this point. Here is one recipe: Take ½ gill gold-size, 2 gills red lead, 1½ gill litharge, and sufficient silver sand for a thick paste. This sets in about two days. For a fresh or salt water aquarium, take ½ gill powdered resin, 1 gill dry white sand, 1 gill litharge, 1 gill plaster of Paris; sift; and for use mix with boiled linseed oil to which a little driers has been added. Mix fifteen hours before using, allow two or three hours to dry.

G. Y. stated, July 4, 1879, that genuine white lead, made stiff with red lead, makes a watertight cement, but must be allowed to dry at least a week.

On July 11, 1879, we also published a useful article on "How to Make and Stock an Aquarium.—Ed.]

MISSING ROD AND TACKLE.

Sir,—On Sunday last, while waiting at West Drayton Station, I left my rod and tackle, also four fish in bag, and though away from it only one or two minutes some person took it away. If it was a mistake on their part I shall be glad to have it returned to the Little Independent club-house, and will pay all expenses up to 15s. I may mention that whoever had it did not leave another in its place. The rod has eight joints, and a monogram, F.S., inlaid in the butt. Flax haversack with gut lines and hooks. I trust if brother anglers come across the rod they will let me know of it.—I am, &c.,

35, Crowndale Road, Oakley Square. Fred Spencer.

"TAFT."

Sir,—Very pleased with explanations of derivations, but "taft" is almost the only term used in Notts, Leicester and Lincolnshire, and means the bottom tackle complete, *i.e.*, the hook, shot and gut. If I were going to write to Dale, of Nottingham, I should say, send me three roach tafts, four bream tafts, five plumbing tafts, &c.—I am, &c.,

Mark Antony.

Sir,—In reply to "Mark Antony." In the Leicestershire and Nottingham dialect—to taft: verb, to bind on. A taft: subs., twine, thread, &c., used for binding on hooks, &c.

I do not know from whence the word is derived, but it is very probable it is Danish. The Danes, from their long occupation of Leicestershire, left many traces of their language behind them. The word is in common use at the present day among the Soar and Trent fishermen. It is used by Bailey in his "Angler's Instructor," page 109.—I am, &c., E. Gosling.

Budleigh Salterton, Feb. 28, 1882.

Sir,—I beg to inform your correspondent "Mark Antony" that the word "taft," of which he asks the meaning is, as you correctly supposed, a strictly local term. In Lincolnshire and other Midland counties the word is common. What its derivation is I don't know; but *to taft* means to bind together. A hook is said to be tafted on with silk. I have never heard the word used in any other manner than this; but in this application it is common enough in the counties I mention—Leicestershire and Nottingham.—I am, &c.,

18, York Road, Great Yarmouth, Feb. 28. Cyprinus.

STOVE FOR CAMPING-OUT TRIP.

Sir,—I shall be greatly obliged if any of your numerous readers can furnish me with the following information:—The best stove for cooking purposes during a boating and camping-out trip; also the cost and where to get one.—I am, &c., T. H. C.

[The "Rob Roy" Cuisine, invented by Mr. John McGregor, and sold by Hepburn and Cox, of 93, Chancery Lane, is extremely convenient.—J. H. C. will find an illustrated description of it in "The Voyage Alone in the Yawl Rob Roy," published by Sampson Low, Marston and Co.—Ed.]

HARDY'S WINCH-FITTING.

SIR,—In answer to "Constant Reader's" query as to where to obtain Hardy's new winch-fitting: he can obtain them any time, from yours, &c.,
W. H. HARDY,
149, Green Lane, Sheffield. Fishing-tackle maker.

[Mr. C. Shaw, of 6, Fitzwilliam Street, Sheffield, has also written to say that he keeps them in stock.—ED.]

FINE TAKE OF PIKE.

SIR,—Having taken in your paper for some time, and knowing your love of sport, I send you the following:—Three friends of mine (S. Simpson, J. Fryer, A. W. Ramsey) and myself have just had four days' pike fishing in Hampshire, and I think you will say the sport was grand, as in the four days we killed thirty-eight pike, weighing 201 lb. These were, with one exception, all taken spinning, small natural dace as bait. Mr. Ramsey and myself had the pleasure of taking the two largest fish—13 lb. each. Following are the weights. February 21, seventeen pike; total weight, 75 lb.—best fish 6 lb. February 22, eight pike; total weight, 40 lb—best fish 7 lb. February 23, seven pike; total weight, 47 lb.—best fish 9, 10, and 13 lb. February 24, six pike; total weight, 39 lb.—best fish 10 and 13 lb.—I am, &c.,
KEPPEL H. GIFFORD.

2, Hudson's Buildings, Victoria, S.W.
Feb. 22.

REARING TROUT IN SMALL PONDS.

SIR,—Possibly some of your numerous readers may be interested in the rearing of trout in small pieces of water; for the benefit of those who have such places, and may have thought that only the commoner kinds of fish would thrive in them, I wish to give my experience for the past few months. I have a small reservoir forty yards square, cut out of a stiff clay bank, with an inflow from drainage pipes at one end and an outflow at the other; when perfectly full it is fifteen feet deep, but this is very seldom the case; the inflow of water is also uncertain, and during the summer months very little, if any, comes into it, and consequently it gradually decreases during the summer, and rises again in winter. The place had never had any fish in it until I thought of trying the experiment of rearing trout in it, and last May procured 2000 of Mr. Chas. C. Capel's ordinary Cray trout fry from his fishery in Kent; they had journey of something like 200 miles to perform between Bexley and Llandulas stations, with two or three changes on the way, but I received them without a single death. Little mites of things they were, not looking more than half-an-inch long. On their arrival they were immediately placed in the pool, and for a few days afterwards were seen all round the sides, when they suddenly disappeared, and for quite two months not one was to be seen.

I had quite given them up as a total failure, believing that something had eaten them, when, all at once, they came to the surface again, and during fine evenings the water was perfectly alive with them, jumping and playing about; when the winter came on, they were not seen very much, only now and then a rise could be detected. Last week I had the curiosity to try and find out to what size they had grown during the nine months they had been in, so took my rod, with the finest cast and small woodcock fly, and whipped the pool a little; it was not long before I hooked my fish, which, on examination, gave the following results, viz.:—Length, 6½ inches; girth, 3¼ inches; and weighed 1½ oz. I think this is very encouraging for such a short existence, and for not the most favourable of places where trout are supposed to thrive. I think a good deal depends upon the breed of the fish; in this district, for instance, in all the rivers and streams the last five years' hatchings are not above half the size of the above, with always a good supply of water and food.

Those of your readers who have small pieces of water, but always full, or a tiny stream running into them during the whole year round, I am confident can in a very short time rear some splendid fish and enjoy some sport in their capture if they will but try.—I am, &c.,
GEORGE T. RAYNES.

Pen-y-bryn, Llysfaen, near Abergele, Feb. 25.

TROUT-FISHING WANTED NEAR LIVERPOOL.

SIR,—If G. L. will send his address to the undersigned, he may obtain the information he seeks.—I am, &c.,
G. P.

196, Vine Street, Liverpool.

[G. P. might well stand for "great prudence."—ED.]

THE RIVER ARUN.

SIR,—Wishing to do some fishing in the River Arun during the coming season, could you or some brother angler kindly inform me how to obtain the cheap privilege tickets issued to Amberley, &c., by the South Coast Railway Company. Any information will be thankfully received.—I am, &c.,
H. T. R. ARUNDALE.

George Street, Richmond, Surrey, Feb. 28.

[Join the Richmond Piscatorial Society; it is a first-class club, and being in connection with the London Angling Associations, it will entitle you to get privilege tickets on the railways.—ED.]

THE YARMOUTH FISH-WHARF—MASTER'S OPINION.

SIR,—The Prince has done it and no mistake, and 500,000 tons of fish is a long way ahead. There are not so many fish caught nowadays as there were, and others think so too. A fish merchant was talking with me yesterday; he says there's a fair lot got, but they make no money. I have lost £3000 in trawling, and I am now getting out of it before too late. Many are of the same opinion; they hope much from the new fish-market, but that must take time to establish. I can well recollect old Smithfield and the cruel sights one had to witness in the streets; also Newgate and Leadenhall markets. There is no doubt the Prince will do much good in the long run by taking it up, and it will be impossible to keep one wholesale fish market for 5,000,000 people. You might as well do away with the underground line.
A CONSTANT READER.

PERCH.

SIR,—Perch are, like the soles, getting scarcer than ever; the fishermen about here roar about that big chap only 10¼ lb.! The largest ever taken in the Thames was just 6 lb. less, *i.e.*, only 4¼ lb. I wonder that Mr. Cooper has never replied, as it was stated he stuffed the fish; that would settle the matter at once, and, for his own sake, I would do it. I think he told me a 4½ lb. (my perch) was the largest fish he has done. We do not mind the Londoners getting a big one, but like them to remember the collecting boxes and be truthful about the weight of their capture. The Brundall line to Yarmouth will be a rare accommodation—just fancy, only half an hour to Norwich!—and they are getting on well with it, so as to open about Midsummer's Day.
ESOX LUCIUS.

["Esox" can't swallow that big perch; but, really no one believes it to be other than a sea perch.—ED.]

WEST CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF LONDON AND PROVINCIAL ANGLING CLUBS.

SIR,—I had no idea, when replying to "Roach's" communication in a previous issue of your paper, that I should so suddenly rouse the ire of my esteemed friend, Mr. Hoole; but I fancy that if he will kindly read my letter again, he will find I made no accusations, and only desired to point out to the rulers of the association the desirability of making certain alterations which, in my humble opinion, would have the effect of attracting members from the better class of clubs to its meetings. It is, of course, a matter of opinion, and certainly one for discussion in your columns, and Mr. Hoole is kind enough to suggest that he will guarantee my getting to Richmond about midnight every time I attend his meetings. Unfortunately, I do not reside at Richmond, and a dreary walk of some distance would not altogether compensate me. But, while wishing to avoid discussing personal matters, I am surprised at Mr. Hoole so completely missing the point of my letter. My complaint was "that I was selected as one of a deputation to wait upon the Third Association for a certain purpose," and I said truly that from that hour to this I had received no notice of the meeting of such deputation; but Mr. Hoole candidly admits that he had no note of my being so appointed, and consequently did not send me any notice of the day and hour of meeting; but, strange to say, in a circular sent to my secretary on the 8th inst., it states at the top "that a deputation consisting of Messrs. Geen, Bonvoisin, Hoole, Marston, Crumplen and Clench, were selected," &c. Now, I should like to ask Mr. Hoole how it was that he had no note of my appointment? and yet he must have suddenly remembered it when he was drawing up the circular which he sent to the different clubs. The inconsistent statement which he makes, comes forcibly from one who seeks to convict me of "having little knowledge and great zeal." I should like to ask the association how far "my epistle is an injudicious one," and how much reliance can be placed upon Mr. Hoole's reply? But, sir, he ventures still further, and poses that I stated "that the resolution was carried in spite of the undisguised opposition of the officials," and, if that is not correct, I never saw "co-operation" manifested in such a peculiar manner before. The deputation was chosen, but ignored by some irresponsible person, who no doubt thought it was a stroke of masterly policy to omit myself, and, as I understand, another gentleman. So far, so good—I am quite content; but let not "Roach" bemoan again the absence of representative men from the better class of clubs—or wealthier, as Mr. Hoole prefers to call them—if you are going to treat them in this way. No one admires working men more than I do; but I fancy that they would not mind giving up some of their time to meet a little earlier once a month, especially if it would have the effect of making the association more representative than it is now. I may or may not be desirous of becoming a reformer, but I am quite convinced that something more is required to meet the wants of the anglers of London. To consolidate the different bodies dealing with the Thames especially (and in my letter I omitted the Lea and the East Association) is to simply mean devoting the energies of anglers to one common object, and having the work done efficiently, and the work of preservation and propagation would be carried on in a grand manner, and the London anglers would be enabled to point to their organisation as a model one next year. We shall have in London the International Fisheries Exhibition, and what have we to show the intelligent foreigner as to our system of protecting the interests of anglers? Associations not working in unison, but with separate organisations, all trying to do the same work; double sets of officers, five secretaries doing the work of one, all dealing with the river Thames; the funds of anglers wasted in the perpetuation of a system where the minimum of good is obtained at a maximum of expenditure. Surely at least some effort should be made to stop the waste of time, energy and money, and if the governing spirits of both associations could unite their minor differences, all the anglers of London would benefit by their concord.—Yours, &c.,
FRED. C. CLENCH.

ROACH-FISHING AT BLUNHAM.

SIR,—Sitting down here, "taking my ease in mine inn," I think it not uninteresting to give your readers an account of one day's roach fishing. I begin by saying that I am a tyro, a mere bungler in the patient but exalted art, and indeed aim only at the fly. Nevertheless, I wish I were a roach-fisher if good baskets were the criterion; and if good baskets are, here is the place to get them. I am not of an envious turn of mind, but I should like to get a lot like this in one day—say yesterday's take by one rod. Total, 23 lb; largest roach, 2 lb.; several (six or eight), $1\frac{1}{4}$ lb. to $1\frac{3}{4}$ lb.; half-pounders average, or nearly so.

Read this, my fishing friends of the Thames—ye of the punts—let your eyes goggle and let the tears trickle down to the tips of your innocent and envious noses. Gird up your loins, put on waterproof and sackcloth, bait your swims, recruit your energies from inexhaustible stone bottles, spare not your pockets to the fishermen, put your hands to the plough and look not back; match it if you can, and pronounce yourselves to be fishermen.

I am told in a "pig's whisper" that the captor, who is one "of ours," receives from some other association, of which he is the light and ornament, a flitch of bacon for the champion roach—the whale of his domestic circle—and the take deserves it. However, there is no gammon about the fish, whatever there may be about the pork, as I sat a neophyte at the feet of that Gamaliel of anglers and saw them taken. He, of roach-fishers, is, I should say, *facile princeps*.

The angler is Mr. W. W. Thompson, whose name in your columns I desire to immortalise. He is not only a good fisherman but he is glad to assist with his fish lore others of the rod. One big roach does not make a basket, as one swallow does not make a summer; but when you scrape acquaintance with a two-pounder and his kith and kin even to the third and fourth generation, and all his sisters and cousins and aunts at the same address, in due time you may expect the aged grandfather to accept invitation.

Blunham is not a lively place, and you may leave your lardy-dardy clothes at home; but if you like a quiet country and good fishing you are "about on the spot." I have remarked incidentally that fishermen eat fish, talk fish, and think fish—possibly they dream fish—but when they relax from the serious business of the day, they take kindly to good dinners and are particularly powerful at breakfast. Now, here is where you get them, and "Aye, there's the rub," the charges are in an inverse ratio to the cuisine. And then, if a quiet game at whist in the evening is not a too violent distraction, you can have that, too.

However, let us return to the cold-blooded animals, their ways, their numbers, and their proportions. They cannot speak for themselves, having "poor, dumb mouths," so let me be their humble exponent.

The roach having been dealt with, I will say something of his fellow lodger in these waters—the jack, who, I grieve to say, seems to board freely at the expense of his neighbour. "John" has been a little bashful lately, the water in the Ouse having been rather thick and pea-soupy, but one man took back three fish yesterday, and, if the present fair weather continues, a good many more will probably want railway tickets—single express.

Our fisherman here, Buck, has capital live bait, and plenty of it. He is a capable man, and of some muscular development, as a man need have to handle the "grains."

Eel-spearing is not a high style of art, but when the fish were off the other day we took a few hours in the boat.

It is of no use leaving a card on the eel at this time of the year. You must go into the high-ways and bye-ways with a gigantic toasting fork and compel him to come, willy-nilly. They did come in, too, to the number of about forty, but protestingly, the prodding of their backs and sensitive sides being doubtless disagreeable, and there must have been deep mourning in the mud.

One good thing about the fishing here is you can get plenty of roach, and some jack, close to the house. The Ouse, which is getting in fine order, is within a mile, and a man chooses his own ground. A few days ago, before the rain, eight or ten, some heavy fish, were taken in one day by two rods.

I have referred before to the creature comforts, and can only add that I know of no angler's resort, where a man can get better fare and lodgings, or at nearly the same rate, as at Mr. and Mrs. Elliot's, who do everything for the comfort and assistance of the angler. I enclose my card, and call myself, One in the Swim.

The Old Horse Shoes, Blunham, Beds, Feb. 24.

[For the guidance of our roach-fishing readers we may mention that, before they hurry off to fish in the waters described by "One in the Swim," they should ascertain from Mr. Elliot if day tickets are issued or not—we have an impression this fine water has recently gone the way of all good public waters, and has become a private preserve.—Ed.]

BLOOD WORMS FOR FEEDING FRY.

Sir,—Will any of your numerous readers inform me where I can purchase the small red blood worms mentioned by Mr. Buckland in his British Fishes (p. 401), as being sold by Mr. Newman, 32, Thanet Street, Euston Road? I have written to that address several times without success. Any information through your columns, or direct, will oblige greatly.—I am, &c., H. Cummings.

Sutton House, Hawley, Dartford.

OYSTER-CULTURE.

Sir,—Knowing that oyster-culture is a very interesting subject advocated occasionally in your paper, and wishing to destroy the general belief that oysters are almost extinct and beyond the reach of consumers through scarcity and excessive prices, we beg to inform you that we have begun re-stocking our fisheries at Queenboro'. We have imported up to the present:—On the 16th January, 1882, by the steamship "Widgeon," 108 packages, containing about 230,000 oysters; on the 6th February, by the steamship "Gannet," 166 packages, containing 350,000 oysters; on the 13th February, by the steamship "Lapwing," 144 packages, containing about 250,000 oysters; on the 20th February, by the steamship "Gannet," 225 packages, containing about 500,000 oysters; on the 27th February, by the steamship "Lapwing," 378 packages, containing about 740,000 oysters.

These oysters are natives, bred and cultivated in our grounds in the South of France. They arrived here in prime condition, and have been immediately laid in English waters, where they will acquire that fine and delicate flavour so much appreciated by connisseurs.

The two next months (March and April) are the most favourable in the year for importing and bedding oysters, and, if you will allow us, we will duly advise you of our weekly arrivals; they will be on an increasing scale,—We are, &c., H. Saunion and Co.

16, Mark Lane, February 28.

CLUB REPORTS.

ACTON AND EALING ANGLING SOCIETY.

A visit of the No. 1 District of the West Central Association has been made to this society since my last. A pleasant evening was spent by the members and friends. About a dozen clubs were represented. A club match has also been fished in the Grand Junction Canal, the winner of the first prize being Mr. Slater, with 7 lb. $2\frac{3}{4}$ oz. of roach from Harefield; the second prize was won by Mr. Cook, with 1 lb. $14\frac{1}{2}$ oz. roach from same place. The following members have weighed-in since my last report:—Mr. Howell, 21 lb. 2 oz. roach and dace; Mr. Slatter, 17 lb. $11\frac{1}{2}$ oz. roach and dace; Mr. Head, 21 lb. $14\frac{3}{4}$ oz. roach and dace and perch. Messrs. Edbrook, Cook, W. Eydman, and E. Eydman have also weighed-in fish.—Black Bag.

AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Harding had a handsome show of roach and dace, weighing 16 lb. 13 oz., winning Mr. Patrick's prize; Mr. Arnold, roach, 7 lb. 4 oz.; Mr. Patrick, 2 lb. 3 oz.: Mr. Howlett, 1 lb. 7 oz.; Mr. Shury, roach and dace. The next two Sundays will settle who are the winners for a silver watch, given by Mr. Farebrother; value 15s., given by Mr. Mees; value 10s. 6d., given by Mr. Brearley; value 10s. 6d., given by Mr. Clarke; and a bottle jack, given by Mr. Howlett.—T. Worledge.

Feb. 36.

ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

A roving match will take place on Sunday, the 5th inst., for six prizes, Rye House Bridge to the Fish and Eels.—D. Davis, sec.

March 1.

ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Since my last report I beg to acknowledge the receipt of the following subscriptions: £1 1s. from J. Hughes, Esq., and 10s. 6d. from G. Colls, Esq., with thanks. On Friday last, February 24th, grants were made to three applications for assistance.—R. Ghurney.

March 2.

BRIGHTON ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION

On Monday last the competition was almost a blank, owing to the river being so thick. Mr. Tomkins took first prize, with perch. Several members went, but returned with empty baskets. I wish to correct an error of last week. On looking through the book, I find that Mr. Ash, whom I said was disqualified owing to going out of bounds, was not in the competition, and was only fishing for his own pleasure. Weather very showery.—Groundbait.

March 2.

BRISTOL GOLDEN CARP ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

On Monday last, February 27, our worthy treasurer (Mr. W. G. Leigh) and Mr. F. David were out at Chippenham. Notwithstanding the weather being of a most unfavourable character, they had a splendid show of fish, viz.: three jack weighing about 20 lb., and about the same weight of roach. The latter member has been most successful at jack fishing this year, this making his eighteenth capture in four weeks.—Lewis Wride, sec.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had a very poor show of fish on the 26th; the only successful members being—Mr. Mortimer, weighing-in roach, perch and dace, from Chertsey, and winning Mr. Pratt's prize; Mr. Ditz also had roach, and Mr. Lundy a jack, from Tottenham. Mr. Marks's prize will be fished for on March 5.—Cas.

CLAPHAM JUNCTION ANGLING SOCIETY.

Since my last report the only members weighing-in were Messrs. W. Maslin, perch; E. Brewer, perch; E. Wilson, roach and dace; and J. Innes, roach. On Sunday next, March 5, the members fish at Windsor for several prizes, presented by Messrs. E. Wilson, H. Smith, and E. Brewer, from railway bridge to lock in Thames only. Weighing in at club house not later than ten p.m. Members to start by first train in the morning.—E. Wilson, sec.

Feb. 28.

GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

Messrs. J. K. and J. Fitch had a handsome show of roach on Thursday, a considerable number of fish weighing nearly 1 lb. each. Sunday, February 26, we had a very fine show of fish, nearly all roach. Messrs. Theobald, W. Parkin, J. K. Fitch, and J. Fitch had a fine show of roach from down the Great Eastern line. Mr. Theobald having 13 lb. 9 oz.; W. Parkin, 7 lb. 2 oz.; J. K. Fitch, 2 lb. 5 oz.; J. Fitch, 10 lb. 14 oz., one roach $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb., six weighing 5 lb., two perch nearly 2 lb., from the Thames; Mr. F. Watling, 10 lb. 1 oz.; Mr. Page, 3 lb. 5 oz.; Mr. Newman, 1 lb. 5 oz.; and Mr. Young, 2 lb. 5 oz. Messrs. Walker, Kirk, Baker, and Warne had roach and dace from the Grand Junction Canal.—J. A. Fitch, jun., sec.

Feb. 28.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this society met as customary on Thursday evening, H. L. W. Godwin, Esq., in the chair. Mr. Crumplen, the hon. secretary, read the usual reports from Mr. Wood, of Walton; Mr. King, of Windsor, and Bartholomew, of Goring, from which it appeared that the river was so far out of order that there was no good fishing prospect at present. The society had an excellent show of fish during the week, Mr. Jardine being again well to the front with another great display of pike. This famous piscator weighed-in fifteen fish, of a total weight of 89 lb. 2 oz., and later on a magnificent specimen (taken at the same time) weighing 27½ lb. This was a remarkably fine example, being some 44 inches in length, to a girth of 24 inches. A hearty vote of thanks was, it is needless to say, promptly passed to Mr. Jardine for this exhibition of skill. The same gentleman also took two perch weighing together 4 lb. 8 oz., the largest going 2 lb. 11 oz., and these, having been kindly offered to the society's museum, have gone to be preserved. Mr. Brett also fishing with Mr. Jardine, weighed-in ten fine pike, total weight 61 lb., as his share of the spoil. These two anglers have, therefore, weighed-in pike alone, during the present week, of a total weight of 177 lb. 10 oz. Mr. R. Ghurney, fishing the society's water at Waltham a few days since, also succeeded in taking two pike, one of 10 lb., another of 4½ lb., the former being a remarkable handsome fish and in fine condition. Mr. Brougham, one of the few honorary members of the society, gave some important details of the recent interviews of the T.A.P.S. with the water companies, from which very beneficial results were anticipated. A discussion followed, in which several members joined, having reference specially to the work of the society, and the propagation of coarse fish. Mr. Crumplen mentioned that Mr. Bates, Mr. Bentley, himself, and other members, attended the meeting held at Willis's Rooms, in furtherance of the International Fisheries Exhibition of 1883. The hon. secretary stated that there was a steady demand for dinner tickets, and the success of the society's banquet might be considered assured. The announcement that Mr. Alderman Cotton, M.P., would occupy the vice-chair (Mr. Alderman Fowler, M.P., being unavoidably absent) was received with great satisfaction. Grace will be said by the Rev. J. J. Manley, M.A.; and the musical arrangements will be in the hands of Messrs. Aveling, Winterbottom, and Woods, a sure guarantee that these will be of an efficient character. A paper, "Izaac Walton and Sir Thomas Gresham," will be read before the society on Thursday next, followed by a discussion and music.

GOOD INTENT.

We had a fair show of fish on Sunday last; Mr. Maybury having a tray of good roach, Mr. Raynor, G. Robinson, and Philpott having good fish, but the takes small. The members are going to fish for thirteen prizes on Sunday next at Harlow, pegged down, perch fishers roam. Six of the members of our club fished a friendly match for a leg of mutton supper for twenty on last Monday at Tottenham, Day's water, the members being Messrs. Roberts, Courcha, and Wood, against Messrs. Parker, Hughes, and Donovan. They began fishing at 11 p.m. and left off at 5. Mr. S. Morgan and H. Brookwell being umpire and referee. But their duties were very light, as there was not a fish taken that would measure; but the supper was had, and a right jolly evening was spent.—R. Murphy.

HAMMERSMITH UNITED.

On the 23rd, Mr. Hobden had some chub, roach, and jack from Eynsham, Messrs. Aldridge and Walters had a show of roach, perch and chub from the same place. On the Sunday following, Messrs. Reynolds and Lewis exhibited eels, bleak and dace from the Ouse, at Huntingdon.—Vortex.

HAMMERSMITH UNITED ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 9th inst., Mr. Pitts weighed-in roach from the Thames. Mr. Geen being to the fore with roach and chub. We had a nice tray of roach on the 10th, taken by Mr. Bacchus, who captured 15, the biggest bumping the scale at 1 lb. 5½ oz., the gross weight being 9 lb. 10 oz. Messrs. Penny and Reynolds had roach, bleak and gudgeon, from Bourne End on the 12th. A good show of chub, roach and perch, by Messrs. Hobden, Aldridge, and Walters, on the 22nd, one chub, taken by Hobden, weighing 4 lb. 15 oz. On Sunday last, Messrs. Elms, Lewis, and Reynolds, had fish from Godmanchester, near Huntingdon. They left London on Saturday evening, and put up at the Horse Shoes, of which Mr. Enfield is proprietor. I particularly desire to make known to anglers, through the medium of this paper, of the good and comfortable quarters, combined with very moderate charges, to be found there.—*Hammersmith Argus.*

HIGHBURY ANGLING SOCIETY.

Owing to the unfavourable state of the weather on the 26th inst., many of our members were not so successful among the finny tribe as hitherto, but, notwithstanding, there was a nice show of capital roach from the Thames and Colne, principally contributed by Messrs. Anthony, Higley and others. In reporting on Mr. Ballard's take of bream on the Sunday previous I omitted to mention that they were all brought to the bank with single hair, the largest scaling between 4 and 5 lb.—Jas. Edward Wheatley, sec.

HOXTON BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above society fished for four valuable prizes, given by T. Bevington, Esq., and one prize given by G. C. Ransom, Esq., and three money prizes. Twenty-four members were in the competition. The roach anglers were pegged down round the banks from the Tumbling Bay at Ratty's; the jack and perch anglers had the roam of the water, the boundary being from the weir to the end of the Oak Tree Field, on the meadow side of the Forty Guinea Water. Very few fish were taken, the water being rather high. The following were the winners: 1st, G. H. Wood; 2nd. W. Agombar; 3rd, J. Hallam; 4th, J. Mann; 5th. H. Steadman; 6th, B. Simpson; 7th W, Cooper; 8th, G. Gibbs. The dinner was provided at the Rye House by Messrs. Teale in their usual efficient style.

IZAAK WALTON.

Mr. A. C. Critchfield had a nice show of fish on Thursday, February 23; the following are the particulars of the same:—Three chub, 4 lb. 8 oz.; ten roach, 8 lb. 15 oz., the heaviest one, 1 lb. 7 oz.; twelve ditto, 5 lb. 8 oz.; two dace, 9 lb.; two perch, 1 lb. 8 oz.; two jack, 8 lb. 7 oz.; 1 eel, 2 lb. 15¼ oz., making the total weight, 32 lb. 6¼ oz. Mr. G. Wood had a splendid pike from Waltham on Sunday last, Feb. 26, the heaviest one weighed 12 lb. 4 oz., the other, 9 lb. 14 oz., total, 22 lb. 2 oz. The members will fish for three special prizes, given by Messrs. J. Twohey, T. Ward, and C. Hambridge, on the 12th inst., at Sawbridgeworth.

March 2.

JOVIAL ANGLERS.

Sunday last proved a very bad day, in fact, almost a blank, the wind being so boisterous; but we hope for something better next week A new chairman was elected in place of Mr. Green, resigned. Our new chairman is Mr. Thos. Lomax.—H. W. Platt, sec.

P.S.—Some of our members are very anxious to know the weight of the largest Thames roach caught this season, could you kindly inform them?—H. W. P.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our members were again very successful on Sunday, a handsome show of fish being the result of their day's labour, and which is quite pleasing to them just before the close of the season. Mr. Humphreys, while fishing the Colne, managed to take a fine carp on a tight gut line, 4 lb. 14 oz., he also had a nice lot of perch and roach; Mr. Heelas had roach and dace; Mr. Petrie, roach and dace; Mr. Gray, roach and dace; Mr. Thompson, roach; Mr. F. Moore, jack; Mr. Banfield, jack; Mr. Welsh, jack and Mr. H. Moore, jack, each member being well on the job.—H. Moore, sec.

March 1.

NORTH-WESTERN ANGLING CLUB.

On Sunday last Messrs. Plumpton, Smart, and Hillier had jack from the Welsh Harp, Mr. Aldis ditto from Elstree; Messrs. Stead, W. Roxbee, L. Roxbee, and Holmes, roach, &c., from the Thames.—F. Hill, sec.

March 1.

ORIGINAL ALEXANDRA SOCIETY OF ANGLERS.

I have very little to report this week, we had a pegged-down-match on Sunday last but only one fish was taken. We go out on Sunday next for twelve prizes; go where they like, all fish to weigh, sign club rules, and go down by first train in the morning.—E. Dymond, sec.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Several members were out on Sunday last and they met with very good sport, the following weighing-in:—Mr. Obbard, perch and roach; Mr. Gorsuch, perch, both from the Thames; Mr. Lucy also weighing-in jack. On Sunday, March 12th, the members fish a peg-down match at St. Margaret's (G.E.R.) for three valuable prizes.—Thos. Wm. Lucy.

March. 2.

ROYAL PISCATORIALS.

The members of this society visited Windsor on the 23rd inst. to compete for the £10 10s. dressing case, case of champagne, and several other prizes. Most of the members in for jack-fishing during the best part of the day; runs were plentiful, but the job was to land the fish (I say land, but I think I ought to say punt the fish, as all the competitors were punt fishing). One gentleman hooked a beauty off Clewer Point, but the tackle being fine "Mr. Johnny" had his own way, and after visiting the side of the punt he resolved not to visit London town on this occasion, and therefore wished Mr. G. L. good day, much to that gentleman's displeasure. Just before the leaving off time, Messrs. T. Hughes and J. Frith started roach-fishing, and at the close of the competition Mr. T. Hughes was declared the winner of the dressing-case, and Mr. J. Frith the winner of the champagne. The other prizes will be competed for at an early date.—Pixie.

Feb. 28.

ST. JOHN'S.

The show of fish at this club did my eyes good on Sunday, the 26th. There were only sixteen members weighed-in fish, but the sample was first-rate, and the weight good. Mr. Gill, the worthy host, was so pleased with the show that he gives another prize to be fished for (this will be the fourth), and Mr. W. Clark gives another gold pin for the same day. The fish all came from the Thames and Lea, and consisted of dace, chub, roach, perch, jack, and one eel of 1 lb. 7 oz. I beg to remind members that a general meeting will take place on Friday, March 10, when some very important business will be brought forward. I have also much pleasure to inform you that Mr. Gill has secured a mile of fishing in private water for the use of members of this club. Bravo, Gill, you are second to none.—Index.

Feb. 28.

SURREY PISCATORIALS.

Mr. Beckett visited Windsor on the 23rd inst., and succeeded in getting a very nice lot of roach, the heaviest turning the scale at 1 lb. 5 oz; Mr. Boalch had also some nice roach from Windsor, the two lots going about 15 lb.—Pixie.

Feb. 28.

WESTBOURNE PARK PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

At a special meeting of the above society it was resolved to abolish the one gross weight prize from the list of prizes this year, as also the 10 lb. weight of fish to be taken before they were eligible to take a prize, considering it tended to the unnecessary retaining of small fish; and, on the principle of live and let live in future perch and roach less than 8 oz., and dace under 9 oz., will not count for any prize in this club. We do not, however, quite endorse the enthusiastic remarks of G. A., who seems to think the Thames is to be cleared out with a rod and line. The successor of Mr. Frank Buckland does not think so, but rather agrees with angling all the year round.—Henry Adeane, sec.

WALTONIANS.

Feb. 22nd, Mr. Clarkson weighed-in a jack from Tring 3 lb. 3 oz.; Mr. Horsey had a jack also from the Harp, 2 lb. 9 oz. Feb. 26th, Mr. Phillips had chub, roach and rudd, 5 lb. 10½ oz.; Mr. Roland, roach and dace, 3 lb.; Messrs. Bowring, Togwell, Horsford, and yours truly, also weighed-in fish.—A. J. Marriott.

Feb. 28.

WINDSOR AND ETON ANGLING PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, Feb. 20, Richard Binfield and Albert Binfield were charged at the Beaconsfield Petty Sessions with attempting to take fish illegally upon the land of Thomas White, farmer, of Dorney. The offence was fully proved by James Gray, water bailiff to this association, who, with aid of the lock-keeper at Boveney lock, caught them using a net in Boveney ditch on Sunday, Feb. 12. They were fined 14s. each.

The Absent-minded Parson.—The "Reverend" William Musters, at one time minister of Colwick, was an ardent disciple of old Isaac Walton. Indeed, his attention seemed to be engaged in piscatorial pursuits when his mind ought to have been occupied in matters of a more sacred character. It is said that one beautiful morning he was deeply absorbed in his favourite occupation of angling in the "silvery winding Trent," at Colwick, when he was approached by an individual, who was soon recognised as his parish clerk, who thus addressed him: "Please, sir, the place is full, and the people are waiting for you." "What place is full, and what people are waiting to see me?" "Please, sir, the church, and the congregation. It's Sunday, you know, sir." "Bless my life, I had forgotten it was Sunday; I will be there in a minute or two."—Briscoe's "Book of Nottinghamshire Anecdotes."

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Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 1882.

ONE DAY OF MY LIFE.

(*Continued from page* 51.)

THE next pool above, "Carrion Pit," is said to be the deepest in the river. It is a large, weird-looking pool, and always contains salmon. It lies in an angle of its hill, which here takes a sharp turn at right angles, and the pool being thus sheltered, and overhung on both sides by many large trees, its bosom is seldom ruffled, and, unless there is a "cockle" on the water, fishing here is hopeless. It is beautifully placid to-day, so I skip the pool itself, and merely fish the rough water at the head of the pit, and here I kill a small peal. This fish seemed to prefer the air to its natural element, if I may judge by the number of times it leaped from the water, and, after some little trouble, owing to the high bank, I am able to gratify its apparent wish, and it lies in my bag. In the fording place above, I have a rise from a nice fish, which I cannot see, but which declines to make a second offer, so I pass on. I have now arrived at the weir pool, which is as high as I intend to go to day, for it is getting late, as I find by consulting my watch, and as I might have known long since, had I given heed to a feeling of hunger which has been gradually coming over me. So, before I fish this pool, I determine to have a rest and some luncheon.

I am particular about my luncheon places whilst fishing. I love to select a beautiful spot, lay out my spoils on the grass or gravel, and divide my time in looking at my victims, my flies, and the scenery.

I could not have selected a more charming spot on the whole river, charming alike to a lover of scenery and a fisherman.

Above the weir, calmly flows the deep river, fringed on each side by spreading beech and oak trees, reflecting on its mirrow-like surface, the furze-covered hill, studded here and there with huge boulders of rock, which forms such a charming background to the scene.

Away to the right rises a wooded hill, and there, nestling in its very bosom, is the pretty whitewashed cottage of the keeper, from which the blue peat-smoke is curling upwards amidst the trees.

Close at hand is the foaming weir, over which plenty of water is passing, now looking dazzlingly white as it is lit up by an occasional gleam of sunshine.

Below the weir spreads out the broad seething pool, across which the brunt of the current sets towards the opposite side, where it strikes an old wall, evidently the remains of a salmon trap, and then glides deep and eddying along for a considerable distance under the hazel bushes, till it finds itself about eighty yards below the sill of the weir, at the fording place, then over tossing, broken water, until it gains a resting place once more in the still depths of Carrion Pit!

On my side of the river, at the higher part of the pool, there runs out a shelving gravel beach, which will enable me to wade out for a considerable distance, but, even then, I fear I cannot reach across to the other side.

I fix upon a rock standing out of the shallow water below this beach, as the spot on which to regale myself, for it lies in the shade of the clump of beech trees overhead.

With the fish spread out before me, I am soon sprawling on this rock, with my feet dangling over in the shallow water, and thoroughly enjoying myself; now looking through my fly-book, now throwing a piece of bread to a shoal of minnows—which, like a small dark cloud, are sailing hither and thither over the gravelly bottom, but which, when the bread falls amongst them, become a mass of sparkling little pieces of silver. I have lighed my pipe, and am overhauling my tackle, when "Whew!" over there in the dark water, about forty feet below the weir, I see the unmistakable boil of a salmon. By wading out, I feel sure I can reach this fish, so I am busy again in a moment. It does not take me very long to be in fighting order once more, and I am soon wading out, paying out line as I go. I am getting within reach of the fish now, and halt for a moment to mature my plan of attack.

That is where he rose, over there under the shadow of the wall; I must get a little higher up.

And so I move up a step or two, but the foothold is not good. I am on the edge of the bank of gravel, which, just beyond me, shelves down rapidly into dark black depths, and the stones on which I stand have an unpleasant habit of moving in that direction. However I am high enough up now, and throw over into the white water, some distance above where the fish rose, but not quite far enough out yet. Moving down a step or two, and letting out more line, the next throw is well over into the enemy's quarters. I work the ground carefully inch by inch, and now I am just opposite where I saw the fish, but I have thrown over it twice and don't get an offer.

That must be some feet below where he rose. My fly has not moved a foot or two, when there is a small boil in the water, followed almost immediately by a huge swirl; my fly is sucked down into the whirlpool, I raise my rod, there is a taut line, and, "By Jove, I am into him; now look out for squalls." But the squalls don't come, so I give a gentle jerk, just to feel my fish, and make the hold sure, and then back out of the water on to the shingle, as I can move more freely there.

I am thankful for this breathing time, as it gives me time to see that all my gear is free.

But now I have glanced at my reel, and up at the point of my rod, which is bowing most gracefully to the water as the fish every now and then shifts about uneasily; I have lifted the strap of my fishing bag well up on to my shoulder; I have seen that my gaff is all ready in its place, and I am quite prepared. Why doesn't he begin?

In that short interval I notice everything about me. The water ousel which has just perched on a piece of stone, which projects out of the sill of the weir, and sits there ducking its white breast and looks at me. I notice the large white butterfly fluttering about under the hazel bushes on the opposite bank. I notice my shadow, and the shadow of my bending rod on the water above me; and then wonder, again, why the fish does not begin.

The delay makes me nervous, so I put on more pressure, and move the fish slowly at first; and then, in a moment, as if feeling the hook for the first time, he is off with a rush up stream towards the weir, apparently bent on going up it, and I am running along the shingle endeavouring to keep alongside. The strain on my tackle is very heavy as my line cuts against the rapid water. Presently, when he is right in the middle of the torrent, he comes surging up, shooting clear out of water. "He's a monster a good deal over twenty pounds, I'm sure." And my feelings are of a decidedly mixed character, despair of ever landing him almost outweighing the exultation of having hooked him. But little time is left me for reflection, as he falls splashing on to the water again, and drops down with the current for a few yards. Presently there is a great swirl in the water as the fish, very near the surface, turns and heads down stream. I gather myself together for a bit of steeplechasing, when, presently, here he is coming rapidly towards me. I run backwards across the shingle, winding up rapidly, endeavouring to keep a taut line on him; when, all of a sudden, I trip up, and find myself on my back in a bed of wild leeks, for I have traversed the whole of the shingly beach, and have reached the bank of the meadow, Lucky for me I had not a taut line then! I pick myself up, cast a hurried glance around, fearful lest some one saw me in that awkward mess, find the salmon is now forging diagonally up stream, and, thank goodness, I am still into him. When he gets close to where I hooked him, he comes head and tail out of water, but I contrive to keep the line clear of him as he falls, and now he is making rapidly up again through the white water. Presently, another salmon springs out a few yards below, evidently his mate; but there is no time for thinking of her, for, repeating his former tactics, but this time perilously near where the water falls over the weir, he again shoots out, falls again, and then drops down stream, and, close by the spot where I rose him, he stops suddenly, and lies there sulking, deep down. I hate this; it will never do to allow him to rest here and recover his wind and wits; so, getting well alongside of him, I gradually coax him to move. He comes towards me a little distance. Then there is a tremendous curl in the water, his huge tail appears above the surface, the fish turns, and is now going down stream at a very hot pace, whilst I am running over the shingle endeavouring still to keep up with him; for there is no mistake now, he means going. Down he goes, rapidly through the weir pool, and I have reached the end of the beach, and have to take to the water again, as the bank here is studded with trees. He is at the bottom of the pool now; I must stop him here, for if he gets below the fording place there will be no holding him until he is well down into the "Carrion Pit," where the bank is high and there are many trees and bushes. So I stop short, throw my rod well back, and try to put on the curb. I try it for a few seconds, but am compelled to give him line, for hold him I cannot. So I scramble up on to the bank which is clear here, and start off again. There he goes through the broken water below the fording place. "Good heavens! I had forgotten that rock!" I see it right ahead now, though only too plainly, as it stands out almost in mid stream, with the current swirling round it. I must bring the fish this side of it, or he will break me as he rushes past; so again I put on considerable pressure, but the fish is ahead of me, heading down stream between the rock and the opposite bank, and I cannot get much lateral power over him. A moment or two and I see that it is no use to attempt, from where I am, to steer him on my side of the rock, so I "put it on," in order to gain on the fish, shorten up my line, and jump in. The water is over my waders, but I rush out as far as I dare, towards the rock, and, as the fish sails past, raise my long rod, and almost succeed in clearing my line of the rock, but not quite. For a moment it hits the rough edge of the rock on the opposite side, the beads of water fly from the line as it grates over the rough stone surface; my heart is in my mouth, I raise my rod still higher, and the line drops over the rock on to the lower side, and this danger is past. Splashing and stumbling, I reach the bank again, and scramble up, and, waterlogged and bedraggled, am now following my fish again, who has gained more line than I can afford to give away here, and there are no signs of his stopping yet.

About a hundred yards below where the fish is, close down, overhanging the deep water of "Carrion Pit," on my side of the river, grow a number of large oak and ash trees, and there is a thick hedge beyond which I know I cannot pass, so I must gain line, for I shall want all I can get down there. I increase my pace and gain on the fish, and have saved a considerable amount of line, and am going easier, looking ahead to the danger that awaits me at the corner, when presently I am brought up, with my rod bending double, against the stump of a small pollard ash, which I thought I had raised my rod sufficiently high to clear. This difficulty has been caused simply by my too great anxiety as to future dangers. However, there is little time for regret. For a moment or two, as the line runs through the rings, owing to the strain upon the rod I cannot lift it over, but I pay out line rapidly, ease the strain, raise my rod, and we are going freely again. I run rapidly down to the trees, arriving there just after the fish has sailed by; and now here, I know, the real struggle must be fought out, for I can go no further. I climb down on to the moss-covered stump which overhangs the water, and throwing my rod well back, give every foot of line grudgingly—most grudgingly. But still on goes the fish. I look anxiously at my reel there is a good deal left still, but the fish is a good fifty yards off and most of the line under water. Thank goodness the water is deep, and free from sunken rocks, and this knowledge gives me infinite relief. Rapidly my stock of line diminishes; my greenheart, with the fish and the weight of the line out, is bending as I have never seen it bend before, and the great question is, will the salmon go round the corner at the bottom of the pool, and over into the rapid beneath? If so, "Good-bye." He must be down near that corner now. I know that the crisis has come. I must stop him now, or break. Checking the line gradually for a few moments; presently I hold the fish hard—the strain for a few seconds is tremendous, and then, as the salmon springs out of water at the very end of the pool, I know that the crisis is passed, one way or the other, but how? Has he broken me, or do I still hold him? The strain is over; I can wind up, though winding is heavy work. But that may be the weight of so much sunken line only. A few seconds of anxious doubt, and I am reassured. I feel him for a moment or so, as he turns restive and objects to being led, then yields to my pressure, and comes.

Now, for the first time, there comes over me a feeling that triumph is not impossible. I have got the salmon up to within a few yards of the stump on which I stand, and catch a momentary glance of his great broad back, and then he sees me; there is a flash of silver, a large wave in the water, and the salmon is rushing down the pool again at a greater pace than he has shown at any time before.

My heart sinks. "He means going right down, now, No! he has stopped, and I don't think he went so low down as before."

I am once more bringing him up to me. I have got him into close quarters again, when, with another rush, he is off once more.

Twice again is this performance repeated, and now, for the fourth time, here he is coming up to me obediently. I get him up to within a few feet of the stump now and catch his eye fixed upon me in a way that is not pleasant. "There he goes again!" But it is a slouching, slovenly turn this time.

I do not let him go far before I am able to turn him, and lead him back again.

I can see him plainly as he comes up, for he is showing a great deal of his side now. For the first time during the whole fight I become really excited, for as he comes up this time I determine to bring the gaff into play. I have it ready. The fish is slopping about on his side, but a few feet from me. I wind up short, kneel down on the stump, take my rod in my left hand, draw the fish up under the stump, on which I kneel, put the gaff well below him, strike, and "Got him! Hurrah!"

The fish is evidently quite exhausted, for he lies almost still, until I try and lift him, and then he begins flapping and twisting about, almost dragging me from my rickety perch. I find both fish and rod more than I can manage, so I drop the butt of my rod into the still water above the stump, against which I rest the rod, and then edge my way backward off the old trunk which has served me so well, lift the salmon up the bank, throw him down on the grass, pull out the gaff, keep him down with my knee—feeling rather like a murderer as I do so—a rap or two on the head, a convulsive shiver passes through the fish, I get up, and there he lies, my own now, indeed. He must be nearer 30lb. than 20lb. How beautiful he looks. I feel very grateful to him for having deigned to take my fly.

Then I assume a business-like calmness I don't feel, just as if such fish were common prizes to me. I look at my watch, find it half-past five, take a pull at my flask, throw off my fishing bag, lay out my fish side by side, and, as I look at them and load my pipe, I am really brimming over with pride, though I try and persuade myself that I am not.

Now I know that my uncle dines at half-past six; to be late is to commit an unpardonable offence, so, as I have a good two miles walk before me, I must fish no more. My rod is soon taken to pieces, the peal and the salmon are lovingly deposited in my "Freke" bag, and I notice with pleasure that a great deal of both extremities of my salmon show out, almost too much indeed, for safety of carriage. I shoulder my load, which, heavy as it is, I would not be without for sums untold, take a last look at the friendly stump, and with my pipe all aglow and my heart too, I step out jauntily across the meadow, homewards. When through the meadow, I cut across the wheat field, where the harvesters are still busy, and have not proceeded far, when a "Beg your pardon, sir," from a man I have passed, brings me up. The man touches his hat, remarks that I have "a good 'un there!" comes up and looks at it, lifting the bag to try the weight; and then others, women as well as men, crowd round. There is a chorus of "Oh, my's," and "lors," then a dark hint as to the fish being worth a quart or two, and I, who pride myself upon ignoring suggestions of this kind, find myself, in spite of my philosophy, minus half a crown ere I pass on, amid a regular volley of good wishes and laughter, and so, by the little bridge over the mill leat, up the winding lane through the covert, across which the rabbits are scuttling merrily, and out into the turnpike road.

It has been market day in Torborough to-day, and the farmers and their women folk are all going homewards in their market carts.

So I pass along, amid a running fire of good-natured chaff and laughter, listening every now and then to the call of partridges in some deserted stubble field on the opposite hillside, or the cooing of a wood pigeon in the wood below, where, every now and then, I catch a glimpse of the glistening river: and overtaking a herd of cows being driven home for milking, I get into conversation with the farm boy, who grows quite eloquent over a day's "clatting for yulls," which he had last flood.

Ah, now the old town is in sight on the steep hill crest, and there is my uncle's house with the church spire beyond, all ruddy in the evening sun.

My bucolic friend with his cows, turns down a lane leading to the mill, and I step out more briskly as I breast the steep hill.

I leave the road and ascend by the rough path. It is stiff work with my load. I begin to feel that I am not yet in training as I toil upwards, and the top seems a long way above me. But I am up at last, have let myself in at the garden door, and, as I walk down the gravel path, remember for the first time that I am a trifle wet, and the cook will bless me for messing her kitchen floor when I haul off my waders.

Good old Susan thinks much more of my wet things than of the fish, but the cook gives vent to a series of "lors," and at last the infection spreads to Susan, who is equally loud in her assurance that I must be "a wonderful fisher to be sure." The noise brings my uncle out into the kitchen, rubbing his hands, and looking blithe and jolly.

He does not say much, but I see that he admires the fish, as he turns them over, and is very particular in superintending the weighing, when, to my joy, I find my salmon turns the scale at 26 lb.

As I go upstairs, I hear my uncle ask for a candle, and catch the sounds of his footsteps as he descends into the cellar, and I know that we are to celebrate the event in something "extra" to-night.

What a cosy dinner it is! How jolly it is to feel really tired after a good day, and to chat away comfortably of scenes in other lands that we have beheld together, of the fight and ultimate capture of my uncle's big salmon "a many years ago" below Copswell bridge, and a hundred and one other pleasant topics.

Dinner, over we attack the port; and we can do so safely, for the port is old, whilst we are both young; yes young, though my uncle has passed his three score years and ten. Then I tell the story of the day's adventures as I have told them here.

And now we draw our chairs to the fire. I light my pipe, and my uncle prepares himself for a nap, which apparently he has not long to wait for. Gradually a gentle lethargy steals over me, I believe I go off to. How delightful is this feeling of luxurious laziness that comes over one sometimes during the after-dinner pipe, after a hard day's work in the open air.

Presently I wake up. My uncle is still in dreamland, so I determine to sally out to the club—for we have a club at Torborough—and I am sure to meet some old acquaintance at the billiard table or in the reading room, where fishing gossip is the staple article of conversation.

I am walking down the now quiet High Street, when Jim Burrowes comes up to me. "Well, I got 'un, sir. He was a good 15 lbs." "Did you Jim? I am very glad."

And then I tell him of my sport. Nothing will do but he must look at the fish. So we return to the house, and are in the midst of our inspection, when my uncle walks into the kitchen. My uncle and Jim are old friends, and I shrewdly suspect I could make a good guess who it is that presents Jim with his salmon license, if I were pressed to do so. Now the good old gentleman pretends that he has been wanting to see Jim to arrange as to the attack on the Monkworthy water to-morrow, and, after some pressing, Jim consents to come into the dining room, to talk over the the details.

So we gather round the fire again, and there are more drinkables and tobacco consumed—we have such delightfully simple ways at Torborough Jim, who is ill at ease at first, soon begins to feel more at home; there is a long talk over things piscatorial and political, for Jim is an ardent politician, and then he leaves us, on the understanding that he is to be here at nine o'clock to-morrow morning, when the dog-cart is to take us to Monkworthy Chase.

The long evening is passed, the day is now well over, "and so to bed," as old Pepys says, and bring to a close this happy day.

Many happy days have I since spent, many bonnie fish have I killed since I captured that 26-pounder, but still there stands out brightly in my memory, as a very pleasant thing to dwell upon, the recollection, which I lovingly cherish, of this "one day in my life."

THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY AND THE EDINBURGH AND LONDON INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITIONS.

It is with much pleasure we have to announce that the Piscatorial Society has decided to send a fine selection from its splendid collection of stuffed fish to the Edinburgh Exhibition. This collection has just received a most valuable addition in the shape of a forty-pound pike, well set up in a glass case, which was presented to the society, last Monday night, by Mr. Fennings; it is a grand fish, and will doubtless lead the way at Edinburgh.

The committee of the society, at the suggestion of the secretary, have also unanimously resolved to vote fifty pounds towards the guarantee fund of the 1883 exhibition, subject to the approval of the next general meeting. There can be no doubt about general approval being most warmly accorded to this proposal. Six new members were elected last Monday, and other names are waiting the approval of the committee.

We most heartily congratulate the Piscatorial Society on its enterprising action, and trust its example may be followed by the other London clubs.

Mr. Fred. Clench, hon. sec. of the London Committee of the Edinburgh Exhibition, 20, Moorgate Street, will be happy to give any information respecting the Exhibition, and especially with regard to the forwarding of specimens from the clubs.

NEW SPLIT LUG RIG.

We have received from Messrs. W. and A. K. Johnston, of Edinburgh, a large chromo-lithograph of a fishing boat, rigged with what the inventor calls "a new split lug," according to the design of Mr. Macleod, of Cadboll. The great difference between it and the ordinary lug sail is that the canvas is divided into two parts, the cloths abaft the mast travelling on hoops, like an ordinary cutter's or yawl's main-sail. Indeed, if it had a boom, it would resemble this exactly, except in the form of the gaff, which is an ordinary lugger's fore yard, and in only having a single set of halliards; the portion of the fore-sail forward of the mast being attached to that portion of the yard. The one great advantage of this over the ordinary dipping lug is the doing away with the necessity of lowering and "peaking" over the large and heavy yard and sail every time it is necessary to wear or go about

We venture, however, ourselves, to think that the same advantage would be gained in a much more satisfactory manner by doing away with the fore yard entirely, substituting an ordinary gaff for it, and converting the fore part of the foresail into an ordinary staysail or standing jib; in fact, rigging the boat as a yawl, with the exception of the main boom. This is done on the south coast in many cases, and, we were informed by the skipper of one of the boats, with the greatest satisfaction to the crew. This also has the advantage of enabling the crew, in bad weather, to lower the fore (which would probably then become the main) sail, and run under the mizzen and headsail only. The split lug has shrouds to the mast, and the halliards never have to be shifted over; but so has the yawl, which must always remain the handier rig, although her mainsail requires throat and peak halliards, instead of one set like a lugger.

Whatever may be individual opinion as to whether the yawl or split lug be the better rig, all must agree that the latter is a great improvement on the old dipping lug. Mr. Macleod's invention is practically the application of the principle of the double square topsail yard to a fore and aft sail.

CAMBRIDGE AND ELY ANGLING SOCIETY.

THERE will be an important meeting of the members of this flourishing society on Tuesday evening next, at the Red Lion Hotel, Cambridge. The object of the meeting is to revise the rules. The committee to whom the subject was referred at the annual meeting, have agreed to a number of alterations which, it is hoped, will prove beneficial. After the special meeting, the annual supper will take place. The president of the society, the Rev. Dr. Porter, Master of St. Peter's College, and Vice-Chancellor of the University, will be in the chair. He will be supported by the Mayor of Cambridge, Mr. Ald. Death; and a goodly gathering of leading members of the University and town may be expected. The waters preserved by the society have yielded abundant sport during the past season, and, as our report from South at Littleport testifies, some excellent takes of roach and pike have been reported recently.

SILKS FOR AMATEUR FLY-TYERS.

WE have just had, for our inspection, a case placed before us, containing skeins of all the exquisite silks manufactured expressly for that most unique work, "A Quaint Treatise on Flies, &c.," by Mr. Aldam. These silks are now in course of distribution, and each case contains sixty-four skeins of three-fold and four-fold tying, and twenty of floss silks. They are not of ordinary make or quality, and cannot be procured either in the tackle makers' or any silk shops. Every amateur fly-tyer ought to possess a case, and applications made to this office shall be forwarded to the proper quarter. The price, including case, is £2 18s., and we should say that there is, in each case, much more than this value, seeing that the silks cannot be procured anywhere else, and would cost over fifty pounds to re-manufacture.

STOCKING OUR HIGHLAND LOCHS.

SOME months ago the Trout Preservation Association resolved to stock Loch Ard with Loch Leven fry, and approached the Duke of Montrose, the proprietor of the loch, through Mr. Murray, his factor, on the subject. The consent of the Duke was cordially given, and along with his consent he sent a handsome subscription to the funds of the association. A deputation from the association shortly thereafter went to Howietoun Fishery, where they were received by Sir James Gibson Maitland, Bart., and Mr. Guy, secretary of the fishery, who obligingly showed them through the fishery, and it was agreed that 15,000 fry from Loch Leven trout should be put into Loch Ard. Accordingly, on Saturday last, Sir James Gibson Maitland met Mr. Brown, and the secretary of the association, at Loch Ard, and 25,000 fry were put into the burns flowing into that loch, under their superintendence. The work was accomplished successfully. The fry were sent in the van belonging to the Howietoun Fishery to Bucklyvie station in two tanks, the gross weight of which was 10 cwt. Arrived there, the tanks were transferred to a cart, which conveyed them to the loch, and on their arrival the fish were distributed over the following burns:—10,000 in Conn burn, 2000 in Culiegarten burn, 6000 in Ledard burn, 3000 in Blairhulichan burn, 2000 in Clarichan burn, and 2000 in Altmeach or Horse burn.

It will thus be seen that 25,000 have been put into the burns, the additional 10,000 having been generously presented by Sir James, who is taking much interest in having Loch Ard well stocked. The operation of having the little strangers put into the water was watched with much interest by a considerable number of gamekeepers and others residing in the district, who, it is hoped, will take an interest in their preservation, and prevent them from being destroyed. The association have appointed a keeper to be permanently on the spot for the purpose of watching the fry and destroying the pike in Loch Ard. He is to have a stake-net, and is also to fish sixty trimmers, and with these instruments it is hoped he will clean Loch Ard of pike, and thus allow the trout to multiply. Indeed, before the fry which have now been put in the burns shall have betaken themselves to the loch, the pike may be so reduced that little danger may be apprehended. It is expected that the fry will not leave the burns for a year after May next, and, meantime, there is no danger from pike or large fish. There is, however, danger from gulls, water ouzels, and thoughtless boys, and it is here that the assistance of friendly gamekeepers can prove so valuable.

The burns were particularly examined with a view to ascertain the supply of food which they are likely to yield, In the opinion of Sir James, save the Conn river, they are deficient in this respect. The other burns have short distances to run, and during the heat of summer they become small. It is well known that upon the feeding of the fish his size and quality depend. The food of trout is principally worms, insects, and larvæ of various descriptions, and several smaller kinds of fish, but chiefly minnows, on which he preys with the greatest avidity. Those streams which run through barren soil, or whose bottoms are grassy or clayey, seldom produce large trout, and this is principally the characteristic of the streams flowing into Loch Ard. This is an interesting experiment, and as it is the intention of the association to continue to work in the same direction until the lochs over which they take supervision are stocked with trout, the result will be looked for with interest by anglers, and indeed by all who would wish to see our Highland lochs and streams populated with their proper denizens.—*Scotsman*, March 8th.

NOTES FROM THE LAKES.

THE season for trout, char, and salmon fishing within the jurisdiction of the Kent, Bela, Leven, and Duddon district, opened on Thursday, March 2. The mild winter experienced in all parts of the country has not avoided us in the north, and an almost total absence of frost and snow led all to expect a favourable commencement. Unfortunately for fly-fishers heavy rains have prevailed for a long time, and the brooks and rivers, lakes and tarns, were and are, unusually high; but to set against this the weather is mild for the time of year. On the Kent, on Thursday week, though big clear water, trout about midday rose well, and several very nice little takes were had, a great majority of the fish being in fine condition. One angler took twenty-six with fly, others with the same bait took fewer; but up some of the smaller becks, with worm, I heard of at least one more numerous capture. Since then more or less sport has been had daily, but heavy rains continued to keep the river an unusual height; indeed higher than on the 2nd. One or two fair captures with fly were made in the neighbourhood of, indeed close to, the town of Kendal, one well-known disciple having about 4 lb., and another of lesser note, 3½ lb. Coming to this week I heard of, but did not see, a pannier of 6 lb. of trout from below Kendal. On Tuesday heavy rain fell, and following it the Kent and other tributary streams were in flood. There was a "worm water." The trout, however, did not begin to bite until towards 3 p.m., when all who braved the somewhat severe elements were rewarded for their trouble. John Nelson and James Whitehead had the heaviest takes, 6 lb. each or so. Wednesday was very stormy, the wind blowing strong enough to carry one into the river. Fishing out of the question. On the Bela moderate sport has been had; but as this stream is confined to a private club of some thirty-five members, a chronicle of the takes thereon would be of little use. On Windermere the fishermen were busily at work on Thursday, but at night their takes of char and trout were limited in the extreme. One boat failed to take fish, others had but two or three char each, and even the most successful did not take a dozen. and things have been no different there since. Fishermen are loud in their complaints, but these poor hauls necessarily do not prove a scarcity of fish. They are rather owing to the unusual amount of water in the lake, and the very mild season. The latter has doubtless induced the char to leave the deeps where they are usually found in "schools" in the early spring, and whence they have, in former years, been caught in enormous numbers. Now they are squandered up and down the lake, and up to the time of writing I have not heard that the fishermen have as yet found the whereabouts of their prey. It will be a natural result that should the nets fail to take their usual share of fish, the anglers will have better sport later in the season. The waters of our lakes and tarns is so cold that little with the rod is done until well on into April.—SPRINT.

SPINNING FOR SEA-GULL.

AN angling incident of a very unusual kind occurred on the Tay last week. While Mr. William Barlass, a well-known Perth angler, was fishing from a boat with a phantom minnow near Fancy Station, a sea-gull dived into the water and caught the minnow about the middle, clear of the hook. The gull instantly soared into the air, running out the reel like a fish. The angler gave the line a pull, when the minnow dropped out of the bird's mouth into the water. Not to be baulked of its prey, the gull again dived underneath the water, and secured the minnow in the same way, only to be again pulled out of its mouth by the sportsman. The bird repeated its attempt a third time, and it was a third time taken from its grasp in the same way. Meanwhile the novel sight was creating a good deal of attention and amusement on the bank, and as the bird became startled at the loud laughter which was created by its performance, it flew away, evidently more frightened by the noise of the anglers and spectators than at the peculiar character of the fish which it had three times captured. The minnow was made of indiarubber by Mr. Barlass himself. Dr. Brunton, at a pleasant piscatorial party at which we were present, about two years ago, described a similar adventure, only in his case the bird was well hooked on a fly, if we remember rightly, and repeatedly ran out all the doctor's line. Our host, Mr. Addlington, also a piscatorial, gave as a setoff a most amusing account of a terrific struggle (at Elstree Reservoir) between himself and an open umbrella which had got blown into the water and which made most life-like gyrations, probably owing to the movement of the boat. It had some valuable spinning flights on it, and doubtless to this day some anglers are living in happy remembrance of losing "that monster."

Since writing the above we learn that last week two Galashiels gentlemen were fishing on the Tweed, in the neighbourhood of Elwardfoot. A number of sea-gulls were fishing also. They dived down and picked up the salmon flies, lifting them out of the water and then dropping them. This went on until first one gull, then another, and a third were fairly hooked and brought in succession to land. The hooks were carefully taken from their bills. Two of the birds were set at liberty, but the other was kept as a memento of the incident.

SHEFFIELD ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

A GENERAL meeting of delegates from the various clubs connected with the Sheffield Anglers' Association was held at the Crown Inn, Scotland Street, on March 1. There was a large attendance. The chair was occupied by Mr. C. Styring, president.

The Secretary (Mr. T. Walker) read the minutes of the annual meeting, which was held in December last, and which contained the following:—"That the recommendation of the committee be approved and that in future the members of this association have only one ticket, which shall act both as water ticket and travelling ticket, and that the price of such ticket do not exceed 3d. each."

The President said he thought the only minute which required any attention was that with regard to one ticket being issued this year instead of two, as formerly. Last year, the charge for each water tickets was 6d. each, but as the association had funds in hand and the committee wished to make the fishing as cheap as possible, they had decided to reduce the price of the ticket. The committee had got a few tickets printed as specimens, and they would be handed round the room for the inspection of the delegates present.

After the tickets had been circulated amongst the delegates,

Mr. J. Wheatley moved that the form of ticket produced be adopted.

Mr. W. Rickson seconded the motion, and it was unanimously agreed to.

The President said it had been reported in some quarters that the close season had been altered. He hoped they would take no notice of the report; but the Secretary would read the resolutions which were carried at the Anglers' Conference, which was held in the Society of Arts' Rooms, London, on the 7th of June last.

The Secretary read the following:—"In the opinion of this meeting, the period between the 1st day of March and the 30th day of June, both inclusive, should be the close season for perch and pike. In the opinion of this meeting, the period between the 1st day of April and the 30th day of June, both inclusive, should be the close season for all fresh-water fish other than pike and perch. In the opinion of this meeting, the sale clause of the Mundella Act should be altered so as to make the possession of fish an offence, unless the possessor can satisfy the court before whom he may be brought that the fish were taken from a private fishery by the consent of the owner."

Mr. T. Guest stated that there were 300 persons at that conference, who represented associations in all parts of England. The question of fishing for eels and flounders during the close season was also before the meeting, and a resolution was passed to the effect that persons should be allowed to take both eels and flounders by rod and line all the year round. He and the president saw Mr. Mundella with reference to his Act. He said that in the position he was in he did not think he could interfere with it; but he would give all assistance he possibly could. He thought the resolution passed by the conference would amend the Act a great deal, and said he would endeavour to persuade Mr. Wortley to take charge of the amended Act. Mr. Wortley had promised he would do so, and would bring it into the House. (Hear, hear).

The President said the secretary had written to Mr. Geen, to know what steps were being taken with reference to obtaining an Act to enable them to kill eels and flounders all the year round. The secretary had received a telegram from Mr. Geen, which he would lay before the meeting. The committee were anxious to know whether it was the opinion of that meeting that they should do all they could to obtain the alteration required in the law with reference to the time allowed for killing eels and flounders.

The Secretary read the following telegram, which he had received that day from Mr. Philip Geen:—

"Glad to find Sheffield anglers determined; Londoners are in earnest. Together we can and will amend law, so as to protect our fish all the year round. Letter shall follow." (Applause.)

On the proposition of Mr. T. Shipley, it was unanimously agreed that the committee should endeavour to obtain permission to fish for eels and flounders during the close season.

The President briefly referred to a prosecution which had been undertaken by that association. A person who was not connected with any of the 240 clubs belonging to that association was found fishing in the river Trent, which was the private water of the Sheffield Anglers' Association, and they prosecuted him for the purpose of maintaing their right to the water. The man was fined a small penalty.

Mr. T. Guest said as the association could not afford to employ watchers at all times to protect their private waters, he thought it was very desirable that every member should do his utmost to protect the waters, and report any person he found fishing who was not the holder of an association ticket.

The Secretary read some correspondence which has passed between him and Mr. Day, the secretary of the Boston Association. The Sheffield Anglers' Association paid the Boston Association £6 last year for being allowed to fish in their waters, but when Mr. Walker wrote and asked for permission to be granted during the ensuing year, Mr. Day replied that the committee of the Boston Association would grant such permission on payment of £30. (Laughter.) He replied that he was not in a position to promise any amount, but he could assure the committee that the Sheffield anglers would treat them in the same liberal manner as they did last year.

Mr. T. Guest stated that one association which promised the Boston one £20 for permission, only paid £2. Sheffield promised nothing, but they paid £6, and when they paid it Mr. Day appeared perfectly satisfied.

The President said the matter had since been settled, and the members of the Sheffield Anglers' Association would have the pleasure of fishing in the Boston's Association's waters during the coming season.

In answer to a question,

The Secretary stated that the members of the Sheffield Association had 46 miles private water, and other 166 miles which they could, by arrangement, fish in, giving a total of 212 miles of water.

On the motion of Mr. John Birkhead, seconded by Mr. Richardson, it was agreed that the correspondence which had passed between the secretaries of the Sheffield and the Boston Associations was satisfactory and that that meeting support the committees.

The Secretary stated that Mr. C. Stuart Wortley, M.P., has forwarded a subscription of £1 1s. to the funds of the society, which was the same amount as contributed by Mr. A. J. Mundella, M.P.

This concluded the business of the meeting.—*Sheffield Independent.*

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

MR. T. HOOLE, the secretary of the West Central Association of London and Provincial Angling Societies has just issued a new list of clubs affiliated to the associations. Since the issue of the last list, about this time last year, the number has increased from 125 to 159, all situated, with two or three exceptions, in London and suburbs. The societies affiliated to the West Central are distinguished by an asterisk (*) and number 85, the remainder being in connection either with the United London Anglers' Central Committee, or the Central Association. On the 5th the North-Western Anglers were saved from the much-dreaded blank by Messrs. Patching and Smart, the former having roach from Boxmoor, the latter jack from the Welsh Harp. A number of valuable prizes are to be competed for by the members of this society at Pangbourne on Sunday next, and a rare muster is anticipated. On Monday evening last the monthly meeting of the United London Anglers' Central Committee took place at the Bald Faced Stag, Worship Street, Finsbury. The principal business done was the discussing and approving of minutes already accepted by the other two associations with regard to renting, stocking, and preserving waters. A long discussion also took place, in which Mr. C. Smith took a prominent part, anent the preservation of the River Lea; that gentleman's views, however, were so little in harmony with the feelings of the delegates that he failed to find a seconder for a motion of which he had given notice, and which consequently fell through. I am quite sure my friends at the East End will take in a kindly spirit a little bit of good advice from an old stager like myself. It must, however, be apparent to our friends that a great proportion of valuable time is wasted by the various speakers wandering away into matter, no doubt of interest, but entirely foreign to the subject under discussion, and this never was more plainly apparent than on Monday evening. My good friend Mr. Morgan I know has a difficult task, but, surely, showing too great kindness to the speaker is very often doing quite the reverse to the listeners.

After the 24th Mr. P. Geen's address will be Lowther Lodge, Lonsdale Road, Barnes. Among those who rejoice at the prospect of having this active and successful worker once more amongst us are Messrs. Hoole and Bonvoisin. As for the members of the Hammersmith United, of which Mr. Geen is an active member, I am informed a movement is about to be set on foot among them for the purpose of erecting a triumphal arch, and presenting the wanderer with an address.

On Thursday, 9th inst., a meeting of the Thames Rights Defence Association took place, at Simpson's Hotel, in the Strand. It is a burning shame that the anglers—and, indeed, the general public, who are interested in keeping the Thames a river free to all—do not better support the small committee of gentlemen who are ungrudgingly giving time and thought, and labouring very hard, without fee or reward,, to assure this most desirable object.

Take, again, the Anglers' Benevolent Society. No one has a word to say against it; it has been the means of affording prompt and efficient relief to a great number; done away with what were undoubted evils, &c.; yet it only boasts a few hundred members among a community variously estimated at from 5000 to 8000. And even these are not the spontaneous outcome of general appreciation, but rather the result of the indefatigable exertions of a small number of secretaries of angling societies; who manage to enrol a few, often in the face of rebuffs, by dint of persistently urging upon their brother members, night after night, the benefit of this excellent institution; or of a no less deserving working-committee, who, receipt-book in hand, are present at most meetings to enrol members of angling clubs anywhere, even those they meet in the streets, and certainly working quite as hard for pure love as if their living depended upon their exertions.

Next Friday week, 17th inst., is the monthly meeting of the West Central Association, when matters of the greatest importance will be brought forward for discussion.

Apropos of the above association, I have it on the very best authority that at the annual meeting night in April, when the money grants to the river preservation societies are voted, those to more than one society in the upper Thames will be strongly, and, I firmly believe, successfully opposed; and those wretched useless little trout fry, with a sprinkling of Wycombe and other bottlers, are at the bottom of it all. It is well known—indeed, has been repeatedly stated by them in these columns—that the president, chairman, and secretary of the association, are strenuously opposed to what they designate wanton waste of publicly subscribed funds.

Of course the pecuniary loss of a grant of £5 5s., or possibly £10 10s., would not be very great; but the moral effect, widely published, as it would be in the newspapers, and carried back by the delegates to their various societies, could not fail to be very considerable.

[We are not responsible for, and do not quite agree with, the opinions expressed in these two last paragraphs.—ED.]

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

"For love, thou know'st, is full of jealousy."
—SHAKESPEARE.

Anglers' love of their art is girt round with any amount of jealousy, and one brother would bet his brother or father his shirt, or any or all of his habiliments that he beat them in a fair, all-round day's match. The result is generally some dozen roach each, and high words over a gudgeon or a pope; but peace eventually reigns supreme, and the "feast of reason and flow of soul" get into the same fishing-basket, and it is well it is so; but for all that, there is an immense amount of jealousy in angling, but after all, it is only the sauce which adds a relish to a too often insipid dish. The Thames is now dropping down from flood, and some excellent work may be confidently anticipated before the close of the season, on Wednesday next. At Maple Durham a rodster fishing alone during the past fortnight has taken 28 lb. of perch, and one jack of 3 lb., all had on paternoster, with two hooks, worm on bottom, and minnow top. At Hurley on Saturday last Messrs. J. Bellingham and Blower Smith out with Townsend, under very adverse circs. of wind and water, essayed the roach. Messrs. Brookbank and Mason, fishing in the Hurley waters yesterday (Wednesday) got a nice lot of roach, but were bothered with popes—especially Mr. Mason—not the first time in the history of the world that Masons have been worried by Popes. Marlow, Maidenhead and Bray reports only contain uninteresting details of catches of roach and chub; but the fishermen are mostly sanguine of a few grand days' wind-up of the season 1881-2, as the water is certainly dropping down into prime trim—MARLOW BUZZ.

Ancholme.

The advent of comparatively adverse weather caused a corresponding deterioration in the fishing during the early part of the week, but owing to an improvement in the former the latter has showed some signs of recovery. A few fair baskets of pike and roach have fallen to the anglers in the upper reaches of the stream. As the close season is kept on these waters my reports thereon will cease for three months after next week.—THOMAS FORD.

Chichester.

The water, both in the Rother and Chichester Canal, is in fair condition, but cold winds have materially interfered with sport, roach seeming quite off the feed. There is no other prospect but a bad close to a bad season. From the Rother a few small jack, a 2 lb. carp, and 1¼ lb. roach, are the best takes I hear of. From the canal a few small perch and roach, a bream of 1½ lb., and a small jack, are the only takes at all noticeable. The celebrated Hunston jack had another escape last week. This fish is considered a 20 pounder, and has broken away several times. A Portsmouth angler, on this occasion, after an hour's fight, was left lamenting.—G. F. SALTER.

Dove.

During most of this week our river has been in rattling order for minnow spinning, though just a trifle too thick perhaps for the fly. At the time of writing, however, it is all right even for the fly, and if the weather only holds as it is at present, I fancy there will be some great sport next week amongst both trout and grayling. The minnow has proved particularly killing in the brooks, which are tributary to the Dove, and in the majority of instances the trout that have fallen victims have been large. A splendid dish of eleven fish were taken in the Manifold with the Excelsior spinner on Monday, and the improved heavy Devon has also been used with good effect. I hear that the poaching fraternity were again busy with the cleach-net in the late flood, and it is high time something was done to stop the depredations of these gentry.—THE SPLODGER.

Exe (Exeter).

The weather is most charming, perfectly summer, and the season has opened with the greatest success. The river, after the few genial showers we have had, has improved wonderfully, and the flies most taking are—as Mr. Mudford, of Tiverton, stated in last week's FISHING GAZETTE—the blue upright, half stone, and gold twist, with which some good creels have been filled, numbers of them weighing ½ lb. each, and in two or three cases ¾ lb. each. Our local anglers have been doing well in all-round fishing, which, as the time is now drawing to a close, will not leave that blank it was expected to have done. Perch and pike have been very small all the season through, but roach and dace have been very numerous, and many of them turning the scale at 1½ lb. to 2 lb. With regard to salmon fishing, Mr. George Lee, of the Elephant and Castle in this city, commenced with his usual good luck, and brought to grass on Tuesday two splendid clean fish, one of 14½ lb. the other 15½ lb., weighed home. He was out again on Wednesday and doubtless returned again with as good, if not a better, creel. I believe I am right in stating he lost a third fish on Tuesday. It is a treat to see him wind up his tackle and guide him (the salmon) to shore, then with the gaff land him, for the pot to be sure. A splendid fish of 23½ lb. weight was landed by the net fishermen, with several others, in the lower waters on Wednesday also. I have no news from the upper portion of the river, but expect some shortly. Nothing particular doing in the estuary, the herrings having all gone, and the mackerel have not arrived, but this beautiful weather will no doubt hasten their arrival.—FRANK GOSDEN.

Exe (Tiverton).

The water is now in very good order for fishing. Trout sported well at the commencement of the week. Some very good baskets were made. To-day (Thursday) sport has been very indifferent; too much wind, almost blowing a gale, which made it very difficult to keep one's flies on the water. Flies that have been killing best are the halfstone, blue upright, rat's fur, silver twist, and hare's flax.—W. MUDFORD.

Ferry Boat (Tottenham).

The water is now in fine condition, and catches will be the result for the next few days; anglers should take advantage of it. The late flood should greatly improve the prospects of good catches. This water will close on March 15 for fence months. The catches have been few of note. Messrs. Williams, Hughes, Chapman, Dodd, and many day anglers have had a few roach. A perch, 3 lb., was taken at Ford's, and also the chub now at Mr. Edell's for preservatoincam rome fthere.—H. GAME.

Lea (Rye House).

The water is in good order, the wind south and mild. There were some nice roach taken on Tuesday, and one chub weighing 4 lb. No perch taken. Some small jack were taken, but they were thrown in again.—WM. COWELL.

Medway (Tonbridge).

The water has been too thick for any kind of angling during the past week—a most fortunate thing, as the pike are seeking the spawning beds, and it is a pity to take them. The river is now going down, and in the absence of rain there will be just time to catch a basket or two of roach before the close season commences on Tuesday.—YE MEDWAY WATER-RAT.

Ouse and Ivel (Blunham).

These waters are in good fishing condition. On Saturday last some fine bags of fish were made; two jacks, one weighing 25 lb. and the other 20 lb., and seven tench, weighing 30 lb., by one gentleman; and Mr. Tompson, having his usual good sport, a large bag, varying in weight from 2 lb. to 1 lb. Mr. Wetherhead having taken a large bag of roach and jack, the gross weight 23 lb.—E., B.

Suir (Clonmel).

There has been no rod fishing this week, owing to the heavy water. Great numbers of fish have gone up the river, and good sport is expected when the water fines down, which won't be for a few days. The Clonmel cotmen took more fish this past month than they did for the same month during the past ten years. The following is a return for the past three years:—February 1882, 122 salmon, price 1s. 6d. to 2s. per lb.; February 1881, 89 salmon, 1s. 8d. to 3s. per lb.; February 1880, 69 salmon, 1s. 6d. to 2s. 3d. The trout fishing is improving, Mr. W. Bagwell got 27 good trout at Kiltman, the killing fly was, as usual, the favourite gold spider wren.—DORA.

Swale.

Very rough and boisterous weather has prevailed during the past week, and the river banks have been full of snow broth, consequently all angling has been put a stop to. With the advent of finer weather we may soon expect to see the earlier hatchings of the spring flies, notably the March brown, early brown blue drake, early spinner, &c.—THOMAS FORD.

Test (Hampshire).

A very fine jack, weighing 21½ lb., was captured on 6th inst. by Waterman Smith in a trammel net just above the railway bridge at Testcombe. It had not spawned, so was taken just in time. They will very soon be getting up the drains and back water, when they will fall victims to the wires. They are terrible fellows in a trout stream.—HAMPSHIRE.

Thames (Goring).

Water in good order for all-round fishing. Prospects good for all this season. Not much has been doing here. I have had two days, best day three jack and some good perch.—J. RUSH.

Thames (Walton).

Nothing of any description taken this week, nor do I believe there are any fish to take, through the heavy rains from the upper waters. It is very disappointing to have such weather just so close to the finish of the season, but prospects are a bit brighter now. The water has gone down, and is clearing very nicely, and I am in hopes that something will yet be done before the 15th. It is certain, however, that unless some have the heart to try next week will be as barren as the last. The weather now is dull, but warm, and looks like a light shower coming on, and I should think there will be a good chance from near the bank for bream. I wonder where are the roach.—HENRY G. WOOD.

Trent (Newark).

The water has gone down very nicely from the very heavy flood of last week, and is now in fairish condition for bottom fishing. The annual close time for coarse fish will commence next Wednesday; so I should advise anglers to put in full time while they have a chance, for I believe a few fish are to be caught under the present circustances. In my opinion chub can be had, and pith and brains will be the best bait for those fish; cockspur and brandling worms will be found the best baits for roach and bream. A bream of nearly 4 lb. has been weighed-in this week, and a report has just reached me to the effect, that a chub of over 5 lb. has been had to-day. I am just going to ascertain particulars. Water to-night (from a personal inspection) is fining down very nicely. Anglers should be in the swim; in fact, I hope all my readers will finish up the season with a rattling catch. The netters were again at work last Sunday, with the result that about 8 stone of fish went to Nottingham; no doubt to be weighed in at the various clubs, as captured with rod and line; one fish was a bream, that weighed over 6 lb. I am quite digusted with these netters' tricks; but they must be on the look out during the close season; for if they will be up to their old tricks they will probably come under the eye of—THE TRENT OTTER.

Trent (Nottingham).

As the close of the season approaches, there is considerably more activity noticeable amongst the various angling associations. During the week the river in this district has been extensively patronised, and some capital specimens of roach and perch have been weighed-in. For instance, a roach killed at

Weston on Monday weighed 1 lb. 9¾ oz., and a second, taken by Mr. Theaker, turned the scale at 1 lb. 7 oz. A few perch were also caught, and one brought up from Stoke was more than 2¼ lb. On Thursday the chub fraternity were buys, but the water was too thick and the fish did not feed. The wind has been blowing a gale throughout the week, otherwise I should have had some even better news to communicate. To-day (Saturday) will doubtless see some hundreds of rodsters out.—THE MAN AT THE CLUBS.

Tweed and Teviot.

From the time of your last issue little has been done on the above rivers, floods being of very frequent recurrence since Saturday last. On Friday of last week both rivers were two and a half feet above their normal level, but being a "big thin water" it soon subsided, and angling was indulged in on Saturday. Little sport was got, however, the only capture being by Mr. James Keriss, who killed one salmon of 9 lb., the fish being taken in the now famous Hendersyde water. I may here remark that this is the only water that has been the least productive since the spring fishing began, nearly all the fish killed having been got on the "casts" in this water. A slight rise occurred again on Sunday evening, and put a stop to angling on Monday, the rivers being flooded to the extent of two and a half feet; but on Tuesday the rivers were in fair condition for fishing, and on the Hendersyde water Mr. Thos. Johnston, wine and spirit merchant, Kelso, killed one beautiful fish of 15½ lb. Nothing was done on any of the other rod angling waters. In fact, my reports from the Ednam House, Sprouston, Floors Castle, and other salmon angling stations are to the effect that nothing has been done during the week, and a return of fine mild and calm weather is very much desired by all the partisans of old Izaac, and no good angling can take place till the weather is more settled, when anglers expect to enjoy excellent sport, the frequent recurrence of floods which we have had lately having allowed of a free run of fish up the river, the various streams and pools being said to be now fairly well stocked. Trout-fishing proceeds apace; but these species are still far from being fit for table purposes, and it is high time that something ought to be done in the way of having a measure passed by the Legislature to enforce a legal close time for the yellow beauties, as well as having one for the *Salmonidæ* species, as many baskets of trout are killed during the months of November, December, January, February and March, that are not worth carrying away from the river's edge. In the salmon netting districts, between Berwick and Coldstream, takes have been fair, although not so productive as the previous week, but some stations have done exceedingly well. So far as the season has gone, there is a decided improvement on the corresponding period last year. The occasional showers of last week kept the river at a level condition, which is termed a big thin water, coupled at night with a waxing moon—circumstances under which it is very difficult to secure heavy takes. Salmon promise fair, but trout are very scarce. Owing to the mildness of the season, the market is being supplied from all quarters—hence the low prices. On Saturday salmon were 1s. 8d. per lb., trout 1s. 6d.; corresponding period last year, salmon 2s. 8d., trout 1s. 11d. The reports from Berwick, the fishings with the nets, show a falling off—especially in salmon—the takes being very poor compared with those of the opening week. Trout still continue scarce, but that is nothing remarkable, as this is not the proper season for the fish. Prices continue to rise. To-day they are: salmon, 1s. 10d.; trout, 1s. 7d. per lb.—MAXWHEEL, Kelso, March 9.

P.S.—I am happy to state the fungoid disease has now almost entirely disappeared from the Tweed, and reports from the tidal waters are to the same effect.—M.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

The weather during the past week has been moderately fine, but the wind has been very boisterous indeed. It has been with very great difficulty that anglers could keep their lines on the water, but still there have been some fair catches of trout, grayling, roach, dace, and perch killed. The coarse fish have been killed with the worm on the Derwent, between Cromford and Ambergate, and trout have been taken daily off of the free waters on the Derwent close to Matlock bridge, with both fly and trolling. There have been several very nice grayling killed off of the Wye between Bakewell and Filleford bridge, chiefly with large claret bumble and furnace flies. Last Tuesday morning F. C. Arkwright, Esq., Willersby Castle, Cromford, had a consignment of young trout by rail from Howietoun fishery, Stirling. There were 1000 yearling trout, from 2 inches to 4½ inches long. Nearly all these came alive; I did not see, when we turned them into the river Derwent near Cromford bridge, more than four or five dead fish out of the whole lot. There were also 5000 young trout about half-an-inch long, fish that have been recently hatched, and I should think, out of the whole lot, there were not more than fifty live ones when we turned them into the river Derwent. If these fish can only keep of the way of the pike, in three years from now F, C, Arkwright's private fishery ought to be one of the best fishing places there is in Derbyshire. About sixteen or eighteen years ago, this very same water, from Cromford down to the bottom of the Birchwood stream, used to be completely full of both trout and grayling; but the river got poisoned during the time the Derwent was very low, and every trout and grayling in the stream was destroyed. Yesterday (Wednesday) at the Matlock Bridge petty sessions, Henry and Frank Martin, brothers, master carpenters, were summoned for using a cleach net in the Derwent while the river was in flood. Mr. Eddowes, of the Trent Fishery Board, prosecuted, and Frank Martin was fined £1 and 7s. 6d. costs; the other man got off. I hope this will be a caution to others, as this practice wants putting a stop to; in fact, we want a water bailiff of the Trent Fishery Board to see that the Freshwater Fisheries Act is properly carried out on both the Wye and Derwent. Where does all the license money go to that is got off both the Wye and Derwent every season for rod licenses alone? Surely it would keep a water bailiff well on those rivers. Hoping that Mr. Eddowes will see to this at once.—GEORGE JAMES EATON.

Starkholmes, Matlock Bath.

Yore (Yorkshire).

There has been very little doing in this district for the past week or so, owing to the river being in high flood. One or two dishes of trout have come under my notice; these were taken with the worm, and were in very good condition for the time of year. Up to now there has been no opportunity to attempt fly-fishing on account of the floods.—FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

SCOTCH NOTES.

(From the *Scotsman.*)

LOCH TAY.—On the Kenmore Hotel water Mr. Bruce Archibald caught one salmon, weighing 19 lb., and Mr. James Archibald, of Beechwood, Tillicoultry, one of 18 lb. Mr. Gow, of the Fort Lodge, Taymouth, gaffed a large diseased salmon in the bay behind the Kenmore Church, weighing 33 lb.

INVERGARRY.—The sport here continues to be very good. Up to Saturday last—three weeks' fishing, during the first two of which there were two rods, and during the last week three rods—121 salmon have been landed, and the ineications of future fishing are still very encouraging. There is no disease whatever here.

SOUTH OF IRELAND.

The Lee has, during the week, realised our best expectations. There has been exceptional sport, and appearances go to show that the fish are numerous. Sir Augustus Warren, on his excellent preserve, landed, on Monday week, four springers, and in the following day five. Since then he has added nine to his account. Dr. Gwynne, on Friday, took four springers, all taken with a lemon grey of a large pattern. J. Manning, on the preserves of Sir Oriel Forster, at Faigus, has been very successful, taking several during the week. Mr. Bowen killed two on Friday, and several since. Mr. Casey, of Carrigdrohid, took three on the same day. Mr. Perarse, postmaster, Macroom, has taken three during the week. Mr. George Haynes landed two on one day, and Mr. Angler two heavy unspawned fish, one of 16 lb. and another of 15 lb. Mr. Mat Manning took two fine springers. A fine springer of 10 lb. was taken on Saturday near Macroom by a one-armed man named Kennealy. This man's power to wield the rod and to play a fish seems an enigma to many. I have seen him angle, and he throws the fly well. At each cast he raises his knee, which becomes a rest for the butt of the rod, and enables him to throw the line well into the stream. When winding his reel he places himself in a sitting position, and crossing his legs he holds the rod between them and his body, while the hand is engaged with the wheel. He probably adopts the same tactics when playing a salmon, but his baiting of a worm hook is probably the most ingenious device of this man's angling capabilities. He sticks the shank of the hook into the heel of his boot and while it is thus fixed he puts the worm on. He has, however, practically abandoned this branch of his art and confines himself to fly fishing, in which he has been already very successful. It will be gratifying to the English angler, if he has a notion of visiting our southern rivers, to find that he can have angling on one of the best preserves of the river at 5s. a day. His train fare to the spot will be 3s. 6d., so that for about 10s. a day he can have a certainty of sport without the least interference. Mr. Wm. Haynes, Patrick Street, the angling warehouse, will supply full information to any gentleman desirous of paying a visit to Cork.—ANGLER.

THE ATTEMPT ON THE LIFE OF THE QUEEN.

HER MAJESTY has no more loyal subjects than the hundreds of thousands of anglers scattered through her dominions. The toast of the "Queen and the Royal Family" is always received with the greatest enthusiasm. In the name of the anglers of the British empire we congratulate her gracious Majesty on her escape and express our horror at the recent attempt to shoot her. May she long reign over us!

Respecting the man Roderick McLean, it seems pretty clear that he is a lunatic. The London Stereoscopic Company have brought out a photograph of him, taken immediately after his first examination. He looks a quiet, inoffensive young man, not the least like an assassin. We hope it will be proved he is mad.

LIST OF LONDON CLUBS.

The West Central Association of London and Provincial Angling Societies have just issued their new list of angling societies, a copy of which has been sent to every society whose name is upon it (158 in all). Fishing tackle manufacturers and proprietors of river-side public-houses, who are willing to exhibit these lists, will receive one, post free, upon application to the hon. sec., Mr. T. Hoole, Mortlake, S.W.

THE SIAMESE PIG IN EXETER.—Reading in the FISHING GAZETTE of the 25th of February, of one of the most peculiar freaks of nature, respecting a pig with eight legs, four ears, and one head, will you kindly allow me space to record another of these peculiar freaks of nature in the porcine way. Mr. Charles Blake, of the Royal Museum Hotel, here, kindly called my attention and assistance in preserving this curio. This pig differs from the above by having two distinct bodies, fully developed, each having the spinal vertebræ perfect; these bodies form one whole from just above the shoulder, thus leaving the major portions of their hind-quarters perfectly free of each other, consequently the hind legs are perfectly in their proper place; the two front legs appear as usual as upon an ordinary pig, there are two others just over the back where the bodies unite, and just below the base of a well-shaped head; thus showing almost two distinct bodies with one head. It is of the black Berkshire breed, well developed, two fine ears; and—to make an end, a finis, a wind up, a climax—two fine tails. This nature's freak is being seen by no end of persons daily.—FRANK GOSDEN, Exeter.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

DACE, GRAINING, OR WHAT?

Sir,—I am excessively obliged to E. Gosling, Esq., and "Cyprinus" for their very lucid explanations tendered in your last issue. I quite agree with "Cyprinus," I have never heard the word taft used in any other manner, and this is all the more singular as there is scarcely an angling term that cannot be applied to the occupations of everyday life, from spinning for jack to stringing for flounders.

In reference to the singular-looking dace caught in the Witham, and so artistically described by the "Trent Otter," I can bear him out. Many years ago I took two singular specimens from Besthorpe Fleet. There were various opinions expressed on the subject, but, on showing them to an old experienced angler he gave it as his opinion they were a cross between a bream and dace, but I am inclined to the belief they were a cross between a white bream and a roach—not the carp bream proper, but the white or silver bream. And I will tell you why; mind I do not say there are not dace in the Fleet, but I never caught one, and I have caught plenty of roach and rudd when bream fishing. I am deeply interested, and hope to hear something definite in your next issue.

I distinctly recollect the orange tawny tint of the fins, as described by the "Trent Otter," and it is just possible this peculiarity might have been inherited from the roach.

I should feel greatly obliged if the "Trent Otter" would inform me the greatest weight he has ever known a white bream to arrive at, and what relation the white bears to the carp bream.

Apologising for taking up so much of your valuable space,—I am, &c.,

Mark Antony.

HELGRAMITE.

Sir,—Can any one tell me what a helgramite is? In the *American Angler*, of Feb. 18, is an article on black bass fishing. The writer says:—I have tried helgramite, frog and crayfish in the lake, and have never taken a bass upon either. Leaving the lake only a few hundred yards, the helgramite is, by great odds, the most killing lure that can be offered." Further on he says:—"But he was not disposed to be beaten, and passing up the stream to a shallow place, he procured six helgramites, and, returning to the pool, succeeded in a short time in landing five bass."

Fish from the Witham.

The "Trent Otter's" description would point to the Pomeranian bream, *Cyprinus Buggenhagii*, occasional specimens of which have been caught in the Trent. I do not, though, remember to have seen one with orange-red fins; the usual tint is a light brown and sometimes nearly white. The fish was certainly not a graining. Some years ago I caught, in a tributary of the Trent, a fish which resembled a dace in shape, the eyes in colour like those of a white bream, the fins as scarlet as a rudd's. This fish I intended to send to Mr. Frank Buckland, but, in my temporary absence from the kitchen, where I was packing it, the cat stole it. I sent a description to Mr. Buckland, who, in his reply, seemed to think it may have been a hybrid. There are certainly many varieties, if not species, of the cyprinidæ which have escaped the notice of ichthyologists—as, for example, the half-bred, so-called, of the Yare—which, though abundant in that and other rivers, has not, to my knowledge, been even alluded to by any writer on British fishes.

Undersized Crabs.

Our men here are much troubled by a decision of the Plymouth magistrates that crabs are to be measured across the narrow part of the shell. Now the Act of 40 and 41 Vict. says:—"A person shall not take, &c., any edible crab which measures less than four inches and a quarter across the broadest part of the back." This appears to me clear enough; and how the Plymouth magistrates make out that to measure from head to tail is across the broad of the back passes my comprehension.—I am, &c., E. Gosling.

Budleigh Salterton, March 7, 1882.

[All we know about the helgramite at present is that it is a little animal about 2 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches long when full grown, which is found under stones and crawling about the beds of some American streams. It is doubtless the larva of some large fly like our stone fly or May fly. We will look up some of our American angling books, and see if we can get further particulars.—Ed.]

A PERMANENT YELLOW DYE FOR FEATHERS AND SILK.

Sir,—In answer to your own query last week I beg to send you the following as a simple method of dyeing permanent yellow of all shades, taken from Blacker's work on angling and dyeing, and proved by practical experience, In the first place you must procure two earthern pipkins, each to hold a pint. Nearly fill one of them with water, set on a slow fire, take a tea-cup and put a table-spoonful of the best turmeric, pour over it some warm water and stir it well with a piece of clean fire-wood; when the water begins to simmer in the pot or pipkin put in the ingredient out of the cup and stir it well with a piece of stick; have your other pipkin about half full of soft water and boil it, into this put two table-spoonfuls of ground alum and one tea-spoonful of crystal of tartar. While these are boiling and perfectly dissolved, put into it your hackles, mohair, &c., and boil gently for an hour or half-an-hour, then take off your pipkins and enter the hackles into the yellow dye out of the liquor into which you put the alum and tartar, and boil them very slowly for an hour, taking them out at intervals in order that you may see the shade you require. If too pale, put in more turmeric, and if too heavy in shade the next trial put in less, and do the same with all colours till you get the exact shade or shades required. After having done so take them out and wash them in soap and hot water, draw them evenly through your fingers in the bunch and let them dry, as this keeps them in shape. There are various methods of dyeing permanent yellows, the great secret being in getting the oil out of your feathers, furs, &c., which cannot possibly be done without a strong mordant and plenty of boiling, always taking care not to over-do either. Knowing that the above will suit any who may try it,—I am, &c., John Tweddle.

Choppington.

[Many thanks.—Ed.]

THE BRUMMAGEM PERCH.

Sir,—I have again been in the neighbourhood of the "big perch." I should not, but for the evident uneasiness of "Esox Lucius" and his roaring neighbours concerning it, have troubled you with mentioning this. You, sir, suggest it is a "sea perch"; it may be so, but I don't think it.

If "Esox Lucius" ever saw a "sea perch" it might be well were he and a few of those roaring neighbours of his to take a run down to "Brum," and go and look at it; they would find it just as I had previously described it, and I feel sure would receive a friendly reception from Mr. Reynolds, who is himself no chicken with the rod.

I may add, Mr. Reynolds, while I was with him, caught a bream weighing $5\frac{3}{4}$ lb., which Mr. Gregory has sent to Mr. Cooper to preserve.—I am, &c.,

P. F. Davis.

Eliza Cottages, Chandos Road, Stratford, E., March 6.

FINE TAKE OF TENCH.

Sir,—A friend of mine took four tench on March 6, in private waters, weighing respectively $3\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 2 lb. 13 oz., 2 lb. 12 oz., and 2 lb. 11 oz.; they were to be seen here until to-day, when I sent them to Cooper to set-up; and when finished I shall add them to my show at the following address.—I am, &c.,

The Castle, Farringdon Street Station, Mar. 7. Geo. Reeves.

HOOKS FOR BURN-FISHING.

Sir,—Being a subscriber to your widely-circulated paper, and wishing to become acquainted with the best make of bait and fly hooks, I beg to take the liberty of asking you to let me know through your columns what selections are best suited for hill-burns, &c. There are also rivers (Devon and Allan) in this quarter, and which are partly quick-running and dead-water streams. Your letting me know the above will oblige.—I am, &c.,

90, Stirling Street, Alva, Scotland. Alex. Morrison, jun.

[Bartleet and Allcock, and Woodfield, of Redditch, make first-class hooks, so does Hutchinson, of Kendal. You cannot go wrong if you get the goods actually made by one of these makers. But unscrupulous dealers trade on their names, and even use their labels occasionally. We much prefer sneck-bend for the artificial fly—size according to state of water (No. 12 would do in clear water). For worm, use three No. 10 or 11 to make Stewart's tackle. If you use single hook, try those made for Messrs. Hardy Brothers, of Fenkle Street, Alnwick, short shank, size from 6 to 8 or 6. These hooks are of excellent temper, and much used by Northumbrian up-stream worm-fishers.—Ed.]

NETTING FISH FROM THE LARK.

Sir,—I am very sorry this disgraceful practice of netting fish, in their passage from the deep Ouse to the shallow gravelly Lark for the purpose of spawning, has again commenced. Bushels of very small roach, dace, perch, &c. were hawked about Newmarket and adjoining villages on Saturday last; pike, five to eight inches in length, strung on a line, and sold for about halfpenny per lb. It is a great pity some steps cannot be taken to prevent this occurence. Nothing can, I am sure, be more hateful to anglers than this cruel business. There is a dinner to take place at Cambridge on the 14th inst., when we hope something will be done to prevent, if possible, this netting.—I am, &c.,

Newmarket. William Howlett.

BLUNHAM ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

Sir,—Referring to the article in your paper of last week about the fishing at Elliott's, Blunham, I would say that you are quite right in your supposition that the water is private (it belonging to the above association). At the same time we have a few vacancies, and to any gentlemen wishing to join I shall be happy to forward full particulars.—I am, &c., Charles Forge.

11 and 12, Addle Street, Wood Street, London.

PROPOSED ANGLING CLUB AT OXFORD.

Sir,—Several influential parties in this town are desirous of forming an association for protection of fishing. I should feel obliged, therefore, if you could hand this to one of the London clubs. Perhaps then the secretary would forward me list of rules, &c. you will know best which to hand this to.—I am, &c., W. J. Mayo.

Walton Street, Oxford, March 8th, 1882.

[We trust some of our club friends will give Mr. Mayo the information he wants. It is high time there was a good preservation society at Oxford. We should imagine that the rules of such a club as the Maidenhead Angling Association would be most useful.—Ed.]

LINES.

Sir,—I should like to know, through the medium of your valuable paper, why fishermen cannot get real lines made up from raw silk without bleaching or other abominations having been applied? I feel sure these lines would be far stronger, and, at the same time, more durable. I should also like to know the name of some firm who supply gut without having been doctored in any way. I cannot help thinking that coloured gut is a mistake; what is wanted is something that will take off the gloss and grease without injuring the substance. And this, I fear, we shall have to wait a long time for.—I am, &c., Constant Reader.

22, Goulton Road, Clapton, E., March 6.

A GREEDY JACK.

Sir,—It may probably be interesting for you to know that a pike I caught on the 22nd ult. (weighing 5 lb.) bit the tail off my flight between the time I struck him and when landed, and on opening his mouth to extract the hooks we found in his throat two gorge hooks, thus clearly proving that he had been hooked and lost twice before. However, he had to succumb at last. Is it not very unusual for a fish to feed while in that state, and would the hooks prevent the fish pouching his food?—I am, &c., K. H. Gifford.

[It is certainly unusual to catch a jack with two gorge hooks in him; how he could swallow we are at a loss to understand.—Ed.]

FISHING NEAR LIVERPOOL.

Sir,—Perhaps the following may be of some use to your correspondent, G. L.:—

Ribchester on the Ribble.—To reach this place you book to Wilpshire station, and by a walk of about three miles, you are brought to the New Bridge and the De Tabley Arms, where tickets are issued at a shilling a day for fly-fishing, but the bottom fishing is free. The river here is badly polluted, and one doesn't stand much chance except at the subsidence of a flood.

Hacking Boat.—By rail to Langho station, and a tramp of about two and a half miles brings you to a charming stretch of the Ribble and Hodder. Here good fishing is to be had. Bottom fishing free; fly-fishing a shilling per day; tickets to be had at the boathouse, where a kindly-faced, motherly old woman is sure to welcome a body; and whose ham, eggs, cream and cakes have a wide reputation.

Clitheroe.—Here the Ribble is pretty well fished, both top and bottom.

Chatburn.—Tickets to be had at the Pendle Hotel, close to the station, and you are not more than ten minutes' walk from the Ribble, unpolluted and sparkling, and first-rate trout-fishing.

Sawley.—By rail to Chatburn, and a walk of about three miles along the highway. Here tickets are issued by the landlord of the hotel that stands on the river's bank. The fishing is about the best to be had in Lancashire, and any one intending to visit this place had better make all arrangements before hand, as the number of tickets are very limited—a place that can be recommended for its beautiful river, its good hotel, and the quality and quantity of fish caught, Hoping this will be of use to a brother of the angle—I am, &c.,

H. N.

FISHING NEAR CORK.

Sir,—Can you or any of your readers tell me of the best and quickest way of getting to Cork, starting from London? Whether a bachelor could get furnished apartments (two rooms) in that city for less than a pound a week? What trout and salmon fishing could be got, and are there any pike or perch?—being willing to pay, say, £20 a year for the latter. Possibly some of your readers know of a better place than Cork? Should like to know what the climate of Cork is like?—I am, &c., Herts.

CLUB REPORTS.

AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

On March 5: Mr. Harding, roach and dace, 5 lb. 7½ oz.; Mr. Partrick, roach, 4 lb. 12 oz.; Mr. Arnold, 1 lb. 7½ oz.; Mr. Squire, roach and perch, 1 lb. 8 oz.; Mr. Howlett, 1 lb. 5½ oz.; Mr. Shury, roach, 10½ oz.—J. Worledge.

ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Sixteen of our members competed for six prizes on the 5th inst. (roving), Rye House Bridge to the Fish and Eels. Only three prizes were taken, the following being the result:—Mr. T. Bowling, first; Mr. D. Davis, second; Mr. R. Smith, third; Messrs. A. Shakel and A. West also had fish.—D. Davis, sec.

March 6.

BATTERSEA FRIENDLY ANGLING SOCIETY.

Next return visit in No. 3 District will be paid to the Battersea Friendly, Queen's Hotel, Queen's Road, Battersea, on Tuesday, March 14. Clubs in the district have been advised, and it is to be hoped a representative from each will attend. Mr. T. Hoole is the officer for 1882, and will attend, so now is the time if you want information upon matters pertaining to the association.

BOSTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had a few nice fish Sunday last, Mr. Jennings weighing-in 22 lb. of roach and one jack, four largest roach 4 lb. 10 oz.; Mr. Constable, perch; and Messrs. Hart and Gratton, roach.

March 7.

BRENTFORD PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The West Central Association, District No. 1, paid us our annual visit on Thursday, March 2, seven clubs being represented, our Acton and Ealing friends mustering strongly. A very pleasant evening was spent, Host Thaxter excelling himself in his attention to every one. Since our last report the following gentlemen have weighed-in, viz., Mr. J. Mounstephen, jack 11 lb. 4 oz.; Mr. W. Ricketts, jack 3 lb. 2 oz.; Mr. J. Allen, one jack 5 lb. 3 oz.; Mr. J. White, one jack 7 lb. 10 oz., a very pretty fish; Mr. H. Clark, one jack 3 lb. 2 oz.—J. H. White, hon. sec.

March 8.

FIRST SURREY ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this club are earnestly invited to attend at the Duchess of Kent, Warner Road, Camberwell Green, on Wednesday, March 15, at 8.30 P.M., for the purpose of arranging the quarters of the above club.—H. Bates, treasurer.

March 7.

GOLDEN BARBEL.

In spite of the thick water and the wind that prevailed on Sunday last several of the members succeeded in getting enough fish from Father Thames to make a decent show at the headquarters in the evening. On the 12th there are several prizes to be fished for "where you like." I noticed a few names down for that silver cup given by a gentleman for competition among the members of the various clubs at this end of the town. The contest will take place at Bourne End on the 12th; that old and tried member of this society, Mr. H. West is the secretary and referee.—Pixie.

March 8.

GLOBE ANGLING SOCIETY.

At a special meeting of the members of this society, held on Wednesday, March 8, Mr. J. J. Holmes, of 104, Blackstock Road, Islington, N., was appointed secretary pro tem. Secretaries please take notice.—J. Churchman.

March 9.

GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had a very fair show of fish on Sunday, Mr. J. K. Fitch heading the list with 10 lb. 15 oz. of handsome roach, one fish 1 lb. 3 oz., several of 1 lb., and two splendid dace, weighing 8½ oz. and 12 oz., Mr. Theobald 8 lb. 6 oz. roach, Mr. W. Parkin 5 lb. 15 oz., Mr. J. A. Fitch 3 lb. 11 oz.. Mr. F. Watling 2 lb. 11 oz.. one dace 7½ oz. Messrs. Hutchings, Armstrong, Newman, Baker and Young weighed some nice shows of roach and perch. A large number of the members will be out on the 14th, and we expect a grand show of fish for the last day. The dace taken by Mr. J. K. Fitch have been forwarded to Mr. Gibson, of Richmond Grove, Barnsbury, to be preserved.—J. A. Fitch, jun., sec.

March 7.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

There was a very large attendance at the meeting of this society on Thursday evening, and the room was densely crowded, A. Jardine, Esq., in the chair. After reading the minutes, correspondence, &c., the hon. secretary announced that Mr. Jardine, not content with his recent laurels, had been on the war-path again, and had added another 54½ lb. of pike to the record of his exploits during the present year. Mr. Brett, fishing with him, weighed-in five pike weighing 29 lb. 4 oz., and one perch of 3 lb. 4 oz. The latter was very generously presented to the society, and has gone to Saunders for preservation, and, with the other two lately presented, will make one of the finest cases in the metropolis. The great feature of the evening was the reading of an essay by Mr. George Austin, on "Izaak Walton and Sir Thomas Gresham," a skilful production, in which the vocation of both these celebrities, and the influence exercised by them, directly or indirectly, on the art of angling was clearly set forth. The paper was followed by a brief discussion, and at the close a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Austin was carried by acclamation. Mr. Jardine then ably introduced the question of the Great International Fisheries Exhibition; after which Mr. Towse read the report presented at the late meeting at Willis's Rooms. The idea that the Gresham should take a leading part in this matter (which had previously been discussed in committee), was very warmly taken up, and in a few minutes Mr. Jardine had the pleasure of handing £11 2s. cash to Mr. Towse for the general and prize fund, and £101 16s. guaranteed, forming the first list of the society. We understand that one of the toasts at the society's banquet will be the "International Fisheries Exhibitions of London and Edinburgh," and it is sure to be warmly welcomed. Mr. Bates drew attention to small jack offered for sale in Leadenhall market, four of which he found weighed only 3 lb. in all. The proceedings of this very enthusiastic meeting were brought to a close by a vote of thanks to Messrs. Aveling and Winterbottom, finally terminating with the National Anthem.

HIGHBURY ANGLING SOCIETY.

I have the pleasure to report that a goodly number of our members were out on the fifth instant to contend for three valuable prizes given by Messrs. McDermott, Payne, and Edward Wheatley, the field of action being confined to the river Lea, the result being a capital show of roach and dace in our trays, the honours falling respectively to Messrs. Oakes, Payne and Cartwright. Will you kindly permit me to mention that the society have appointed a committee to organise and arrange the establishment of a smoking concert, to take place during the forthcoming fence months, on every Wednesday evening at our club house as above, when we trust that our members will exert themselves, by the introduction of their friends and brother anglers, to make it a success.—James Edward Wheatley, sec.

IZAAK WALTON.

There was a fair show of fish on Sunday last, the 5th inst., Mr. W. Mecham had a tray of good roach, Mr. G. Wood also had a good show of the same, Messrs. C. Green and H. Butt also had fish. Mr. W. Mecham was again well to the front on Wednesday, the 8th inst., with 4 lb. 5 oz. of nice roach. Mr. J. Hilliar, jun., had some beautiful roach and chub. Three special prizes will be fished for on Sunday next, 12th inst., at Sawbridgeworth, it being the last Sunday of the season, a good muster of the members is expected.

JUNIOR PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Our members have been hard at it, but with indifferent sport. On the 14th February, Mr. Palmer, at Bexley, eight roach, weighing 2 lb. 12 oz.; on the 12th, Mr. Mills, sen., near Guildford, two jack, one weighing 10 lb., the other 2 lb. 1 oz.; on the 16th, Mr. Palmer, at Richmond, dace, 4 lb. 1½ oz., one weighing 9½ oz.; on the 18th, Mr. Mills, sen., at Brookwood, one jack, 2 lb. 12 oz.; on the 22nd, Mr. Palmer, at Bedford, three roach, 1 lb. 14 oz.—Alf. H. Bisley.

March 7.

LARKHALL ANGLING SOCIETY.

There have been but few members out lately, owing to the bad accounts received of the river. Mr. E. Watkins and Mr. Deane weighed-in some nice chub, one going 4 lb. 2½ oz., taken by Mr. Deane. Mr. G. F. Spencer, on Wednesday, had a splendid show of dace from Twickenham, weighing 13 lb. 10 oz. The annual dinner of the society is to be held on Tuesday, the 28th inst., at Mouflet's Hotel, when a large gathering of members and friends is expected.—E. M. Mallett, hon. sec.

March 9.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

Most of our members were at a peg-down match at Boxmoor on Sunday for three prizes, but only two were taken. Mr. Mead secured the first and Mr. Heelas the second. Messrs Pipe, Petrie, Thompson, Scott, Wightman and F. Moore weighed-in from other places. Our general visit to the eastern district takes place on Tuesday, March 21, when we hope all brother anglers will rally round and give a bumper on this occasion.—H. Moore, sec.

March 9.

ORIGINAL ALEXANDRA SOCIETY OF ANGLERS.

I have a little better news this week. Our members were out in strong force on Sunday last, for twelve prizes, go where they liked, and great excitement prevailed as member after member arrived with blanks. But later on Mr. J. Blackledge arrived with a handsome show of roach and dace from the Stort, Mr. L. Hewett came next with roach and dace from Harlow, and it was thought that no other member would show up; but Mr. Brockett came up just before time was called and upset the calculation of the other members with a handsome show of roach from a private water, some of the largest going over 1 lb. each; therefore, Mr. Brockett takes Mr. Clark's first prize, Mr. Blackledge the second, Mr. L. Hewett the third, and the remaining nine prizes will be fished for on Sunday next, go where they like, sign the club book, and go down by the first train in the morning. Mr. J. Lammack and Mr. Potter, two of our week day members, had a nice show of roach and dace from Twickenham, 5½ doz. on the 24th, puntsman J. Bushnell.—E. Dymond, sec.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The following members belonging to the above society weighed-in fish on Sunday last:—Mr. Laundy, dace; Mr. Marles, roach; Mr. Richardson, dace; all three from the Thames. Mr. Neagus, roach and dace from the Stort, and Mr. Obbard, dace from the Lea.—Thos. Wm. Lucy.

March. 8.

QUEEN'S ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Thursday week Mr. Morgan had 5 lb. of roach and perch. On Sunday, Mr. Walford 2 lb 1 oz. roach; Mr. Pearce, 2 lb. roach; Mr. Morgan, 1 lb. roach.—S. Walford, sec.

RICHMOND PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The first smoking concert of the season took place at the Station Hotel, Richmond, on Wednesday evening, March 1, when the room was crowded by a most appreciative and enthusiastic audience. The chair was, of course, taken by Mr. F. C. Clench, while the musical arrangements were under the able direction of Mr. F. A. Crew. Mr. S. Oakley Parrott rendered three violin solos. Professor Guido accompanied himself with his guitar, while capital songs were given by Messrs. Yeats, Ripley, Plant, Griffiths, Hester, Embling, and Crew, with Mr. J. D. Johnson ably presiding at the piano. Where every one did so well, it would be invidious to individualise. Suffice it to say, that each vocal and instrumental performer was at his best, and a thoroughly artistic programme was rendered in a very efficient manner. During the interval a collection was made for the Anglers' Benevolent Fund, when, in answer to the chairman's appeal. the sum of five guineas was subscribed towards this deserving object. Mr. Beckett, secretary of this fund, thanked the society for the magnificent sum thus raised, and said the amount would be all the more appreciated by the poorer anglers when it was remembered that on account of the social position of the members of the R.P.S. none of the money would ever have to be returned to them. A hearty vote of thanks to all who had taken part in the proceedings brought a most successful and enjoyable evening to a close.

SURREY PISCATORIALS.

This day the members competed for the prizes that I mentioned in my last report of this society. The result is as follows:—Mr. Boalch, first with roach and dace, from Teddington; Mr. Beckett, second with roach and dace, from Rickmansworth; Mr. C. Bansback, third, roach and dace from the Kennett. I met Mr. Pugh at Reading, and he showed me his take of yesterday and today, and he must have had about 50 lb. of handsome perch, several going over 2 lb. each. I beg to acknowledge receipt of subscription with thanks from your humble servant. This being the meeting night of the society Mr. Beckett took the chair. The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, Mr. Hamlyn gave in his report of the duties that he had had to fulfil since the last meeting, all of which met the approval of all the members present. On Mr. Boalch's proposition, Mr. Hamlyn was requested on the behalf of all the members of this society to forward a letter of condolence to Mrs. Meadway on her recent loss of one whom all the members of this society admired and respected. The general meeting will take place on March 29, on which occasion officers for the ensuing year will be appointed; till that time Mr. Beckett has kindly consented to officiate as chairman.—PIXIE.

THE KNIGHTS OF KNIGHTSBRIDGE CLUB.

The members of the above have several good shows of roach, nnd Mr. T. Pratt weighed-in 63 lb. of jack, one roach 1 lb. 6 oz. The members are going to fish for several prizes next Sunday at Cookham.—C. SAUNDERS, sec.

THE TUNBRIDGE FISH PRESERVATION SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of this society, which preserves the Upper Medway, was held on Monday evening at the Bull Hotel, Tunbridge, Kent, when Mr. T. Elliott, of Tunbridge Wells, presided and there was a good attendance of members. The annual report stated that, owing to the strict preservation of the river, fish were improving both in size, quantity, and quality. This was especially proved by the enormous catches of pike (ranging from 16 lb. downwards), bream, roach, chub, carp, &c. During the year 12,060 carp and roach have been presented to the society by gentlemen resident in the neighbourhood and placed in the river without the cost of a penny to the society. Great regret was expressed at the death of W. Graham, Esq., who had been president of the society since its formation, and had rendered valuable assistance, having gratuitously carried out the legal work. During the year one prosecution had been undertaken, and a conviction obtained against a man for fishing without a ticket. The best thanks of the society were tendered to the riparian owners of the river for kindly allowing the members and the water bailiff to preserve the ground. The chairman moved the adoption of the report in a lengthy and interesting speech, in which he adverted to the loss the society had sustained by the death of the late president, who took the greatest interest in the welfare of the society. The measures adopted to stop poaching and stock the river had been productive of the greatest amount of good, as well as improving the fishing of the Medway. This was not only appreciated by the local anglers, but those living in London as well. Besides this, it increased the knowledge of the art of angling and the use of coarse fish as an article of food. The officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows:—President, Mr. A. T. Beeching, J. P.; vice-presidents, Mr. T. Elliott, and Mr. E. J. Gorham; treasurer, Mr. A. T. Beeching; hon. sec., Mr. E. Hollomly; water bailiff, James Foster; auditor, Mr. E. Plowright; committee, Messrs. R. A. Dallas Beeching, I. Buley, T. M. Dove, J. Le Fleming, W. A. Kirby, G. Gray, E. Greenwood, F. W. Hancock, F. Chalklin, C. Payne, G. Punnett, J. Snelling, G. Payne, R. Ware, W. Ede, A. Bartram, L. Browne, and W. Flood. Votes of thanks were given to the riparian owners; Mr. E. Greenwood and Mr. W. Flood, for their valuable services; Mr. E. Hollomby, the hon. sec.; and the chairman; and the proceedings terminated.

WALTONIANS.

March 1st, Mr. Skeats weighed-in a jack 3 lb. 11 oz. I also weighed-in a jack 2 lb. 2¼ oz. March 5th, Messrs. Giles, Roland, Crabb and Grace, the last gentleman being the only take worthy of mention; a mixed catch, 4 lb. 13 oz.—A. J. MARRIOTT.

March 9.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

The members of this society visited the headquarters of the South London on the 2nd, and met with a very warm reception from the members of that society. The supper that was competed for by some of the members of the two societies will take place on March 21st at the St. Paul's, Westmoreland Road. On the 12th all the members of this society are invited to the last competition of the season, which will be a pegged-down at Bourne End. The first prize will be a diamond ring, given by Mr. Renault; second, a guinea hat, by Mr. Richardson; third, 10s. 6d. by Mr. Cain. An omnibus will leave Bright's Coffee House (near the Gate) at 7.30 Sunday morning. Mr. Feuillade gives a diamond pin to be competed for on the last day of the season.—PIXIE.

DEATH OF MR. MEADWAY, OF THE SURREY PISCATORIALS.

It is with deep regret that I have to announce the death of that much-respected member of this society, Mr. Meadway. As the chairman he was always appreciated for the impartial manner in which he fulfilled that office. He was a great lover of the rod, and looked on a day's fishing as beneficial to his health. A short time ago, while out fishing, he rescued a child out of a cesspool into which it had fallen, and since that time he seemed to be ailing more or less. On the 22nd ult. informotion was received that he was obliged to keep his bed, and on the 24th he died, aged 53 years. He was buried at Abney Park on March 1, much lamented by all who knew him.—PIXIE.

BIRTH.

On Sunday, March 5, at 3, Lloyd Street, W.C., the wife of R. B. Marston, of a daughter.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF ADVERTISING.

MATTERS WORTH READING, AND VITALLY CONCERNING EVERY PRESENT AND FUTURE ADVERTISER.—By Henry Sell. London: Sell's Advertising Offices, 10, Bolt Court, Fleet reet. This is an extremely valuable volume to all who advertise, and even the general reader will be amused and astonished at the amount of interest Mr. Sell puts into such a dry subject as advertising. Some of the apothegms on advertising are so good that we will quote a few, and trust that their effect will be to cause our present advertisers to double the size of their advertisements, and to make them more attractive. Any one would imagine that every fishing-tackle maker in the country would make a point of advertising in the GAZETTE, the paper which has the finest congregation of angling readers in the world, but they will not. They are afraid of the expense, and afraid of competing against rival houses; afraid of having too much work to do, and yet they grumble at the hard times. Let them read some maxims from Mr. Sell's book.

"Advertising is to business what steam is to machinery, the propelling power."—*Lord Macaulay*.

The following are unquestionably worthy of the serious consideration of all business men:—

He was a profound philosopher who compared advertising to a growing crop. He said, "The farmer plants his seed, and while he is sleeping the corn is growing." So it is with Advertising. While you are sleeping or eating, your Advertisement is being read by thousands of persons who never saw you or heard of your business, and never would have done so, had it not been for your Advertising.

Reader, if you have a good Advertisement running, you have hundreds of thousands of servants out at work for you, whether you wake or sleep, whether you be sick or well. No monarch's slaves ever scattered at his bidding so fleetly, or faithfully, or in such bewildering numbers as the literary messengers that bear your individual word to the people of this great nation.

The proprietor of an extensive establishment in London, in sending his order for a new Advertisement, said, "I have doubled my trade in the last eighteen months through Advertising, and shall, in consequence, this year invest double the amount in Advertisements that I have done in any previous year.

If you have not business, Advertise; if you have business, Advertise. People go to places that are Advertised, and they pass by those that are not. A place that Advertises is known to the world; that which does not is only known to a few that may pass it, and most people pass without entering.

Ceasing to Advertise in dull times is like tearing out a dam because the water is low. The one plan prevents a full reservoir, and the other a full purse.

Bread is the staff of human life, and Advertising is the staff of life in trade.

No bell can ring so loudly as a good Advertisement. People will believe what they see rather than what they hear.

When people see a man Advertise they know he is a business man, and his Advertising proclaims that he is not above business, but anxious to do business.

An American Paper says:—"Trying to do business without Advertising is like winking in the dark. You know you are keeping up a powerful winking, but no one else has any idea of your exertions."

Publicity is money. This is a recognised fact in business. It is not sufficient for a tradesman to place a sign over his door for people to look at, he must send out his sign far and wide, so that it may be remembered by the many, not only by the few who saw his name over the door.

Advertisers in "class" papers are always amply repaid, because the Advertisement reaches those it is especially desirable to address, and who cannot be reached in the ordinary way.

THE MENACING COMET.—I should esteem it a favour (though I think I might almost claim a right) if those newspapers who have spread the news of my supposed prediction, would be good enough to explain that I believe the world is more likely to last fifteen millions of years than to be destroyed in fifteen. I only regard the absorption of the comet of 1843 as most certain—regarding the time as quite nncertain, and the effects as extremely problematical. I have, indeed, shown elsewhere (see "Suns in Flames," in my "Myths and Marvels of Astronomy") that there is every reason for believing that all comets of the destructive sort have long since been eliminated from the solar system. So that, as in the essay referred to by the *Spectator*, I refer back to an essay in my "Pleasant Ways in Science," in which essay I refer back to the other in "Myths and Marvels," without in either case indicating any change of view, I might fairly claim to have very definite views as to the perfect safety of the solar system, even if I had not recently pointed out, with special reference to the comet of 1843, our probable complete immunity from danger. In the *Cornhill Magazine* for December last there is a paper, bearing my initials, on "Dangers from Comets," in which it is shown—as sundry newspaper articles have been good enough to explain in turn to myself—that if there were any real danger, save for the comet itself, we should have known it by great increase in the solar emission of heat in 1843, when the comet was checked so importantly in its career, and again in 1880, when it was subjected to another equally severe interruption of its onward course. There is not the slightest reason to fear that the comet of 1843 and 1880 (assuming they are the same) will do any harm to the solar system when finally absorbed.—R. A. Proctor, in KNOWLEDGE, No. 16.

GIMP.

WHY do not tackle-makers dye their gimp? If they would give it us of some neutral colour, grey, for instance, it would be a great boon. It is easily done. In the "Book of the Pike" Mr. Pennell gives this recipe: "Soak brass gimp in a solution of bichlorate of platinum, mixed in about the proportion of one part of platinum to ten of water (twenty is safer) until it has assumed the colour desired. This will take from a quarter of an hour to two or three hours, according to the strength of the solution; then dry the gimp before the fire, and, whilst warm, give it a coat of lacquer." We have had lately in the *Field* a long discussion on the bad quality of the gimp now made. Mr. Francis says the recipe just quoted must be carefully used or it will rot the silk. Why, then, is the wire not coloured before it is put on the silk? We have an idea that a splendid gimp might be made by using the enormously strong braided silk line made by Messrs. Carswell, of Glasgow, as a core, and covering it with some oxidised wire. The wire is not added for strength, it is merely a protection against the pike's teeth, and, in our opinion, it is only necessary to use six or eight inches of it next to the bait. The rest of the trace should consist wholly of strong salmon gut, dyed a slate colour. Salmon gut is quite as strong as gimp, and is, of course, infinitely less discernible in the water. Gimp is treacherous, because any defect in the silk is covered over by the wire, and many a mysterious breakage of a gimp trace might be traced to this cause—the floss silk has been carelessly spliced, and thus a weak point may exist which is quite invisible to the eye. An angler very rarely cares to put his tackle to severe strains to try it, and when the severe strain comes in attempting to turn a big fish at a critical moment, the loosely spliced ends of the silk give, and the angler thinks his trace has broken, whereas it has really been partly broken all the time. Pike are getting so highly educated that only fine fishing succeeds in clear water. If tackle-makers would supply four-feet traces of strong dyed salmon gut with three brass swivels, specially for pike-fishing, they would soon come into general use.

Our Fires.—Whatever opinions may be formed of the merits of the exhibits at South Kensington, one result is unquestionable—the exhibition itself has done much in directing public attention to the very important subject of economising fuel and the diminution of smoke. We sorely need some lessons. Our national progress in this direction has been simply contemptible, so far as domestic fireplaces are concerned. To prove this we need only turn back to the essays of Benjamin Thompson, Count of Rumford, published in London just eighty years ago, and find therein nearly all the Smoke Abatement Exhibition *ought* to teach us, both in theory and practice—lessons which with all our progress since 1802, plus the best exhibits at South Kensington, we have yet to learn—W. Mattieu Williams, in Knowledge.

In "Old Nottinghamshire," a neatly got up and reliable volume, edited by Mr. J. Potter Briscoe, F.R.H.S., public librarian of Nottingham, and published by Messrs. Hamilton, Adams and Co., is an excellent article by Mr. W. Stevenson, of Hull, on "The Ancient Fisheries of the Trent at Nottingham," which should be read by anglers. We make two quotations from it:—"It may not be out of place to glance at the mode of fishing in our great rivers in Anglo-Saxon times. In the Cottonian Library (MS. Lib. A, 3) we have an original document, the gist of which is a dialogue composed by Elfric to instruct the Anglo-Saxon youths, part of which relates to the art or craft of fishing. The following is a translation:—What gettest thou by thine art? Big loaves, clothing and money.—How do you take them? I ascend my ship and cast my net into the river; I also throw in a hook, a bait and a rod.—Suppose the fishes are unclean? I throw the unclean out, and take the clean for food.—Where do you sell your fish? In the city.—Who buys them? The citizens; I cannot take so many as I can sell.—What fishes do you take? Eels, haddocks, minnies, and eel-pouts, skate and lampreys, and whatever swims in the river." . . . . . "The ancient fishery of Nottingham is mentioned in our local history (Temp. 1527, 19th Henry VIII.) It is alluded to as something of great antiquity. The following is an exact copy of the entry, taken from the Corporation records:—'Hit is an olde custome for the Mayre for the tyme being to give his bredren knowlege for to see the annual sporte of the fishynge.' From this we learn that there was an annual holiday or sport-day of fishing, one set apart for the clothing or members of the Corporation. We may infer from this that there was a close season, when fishing was prohibited, and that the opening of the season was marked by the Mayor and his brethren fishing there in person on what could not be other than a public holiday."

Gregory's Spinning Baits. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[Advt.]

A DAY AT SOUTH KENSINGTON.

After travelling over two hundred miles to that grand meeting presided over by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, respecting the great International Fisheries Exhibition of 1883, I paid a visit to the above museum; I mean that portion now under the superintendence of Mr. Edon, viz., the pisciculture and fish museum, so ably collected by our late friend F. Buckland, and to which has been added the invaluable collection from India of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales; consisting of the most curious and splendidly preserved variety of fish it is possible to conceive. Mr. Edon, with his usual genial and happy manner, on leaving Willis's rooms, very kindly gave numerous invitations to visit the above on the following day, which was gladly accepted by many from various parts of Europe; when he, in a quaint, affable, yet scientific manner, explained, as far as time would admit, which was of some duration, the various exhibits of H.R.H., also the other presentations by various donors, not forgetting the American sunfish and rock bass, the telescope fish from China, and what the Chinese in London think of them, and how they came in the tank there, and the numerous other curiosities there in the flesh and plaster. The salmonidæ, although not numerous, were very healthy and growing fast; and the "pope," or "ruffe," in the tank opposite, were a sight in themselves, especially to those who know the "pope," or "ruffe," only by name, as they are not to be found in all streams. Your correspondent recognised several splendid casts of rare fish sent from Exeter by him during the past ten years, also some fine specimens of taxidermy, by T. E. Gunn, of Norwich. I am sure Mr. Edon must have been tired with his continual explanations; but, at the same time, I would advise all ichthyologists, pisciculturists and taxidermists to pay him a visit, if only to hear his true story of the Irishman and his fried pays (salmon ova) for breakfast. If any of your readers would like to hear the tale *in extenso*, I will endeavour to oblige.—Frank Gosden, Exeter.

Harbours of Refuge on the East Coast.—Mr. F. Johnson, 23, Norman Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, has succeeded in getting a great many influential members of Parliament to take up this important question. We trust he will succeed in his efforts to give some little safety to our sailors.

The Young Idea.—Schoolmistress (just beginning a nice, improving lesson upon minerals to the juniors)—"Now, what are the principal things we get out of the earth?" Youthful angler, aged four (confidently)—"Worms."

Whist.—There are few points which distinguish more thoroughly the good from the inferior whist player, than the play second hand. We are not, of course, referring to players so inexperienced as to know no other rule than "second hand play low." Nor are the rules for play second hand, at least in the opening rounds of a game, less definite than those for leading. But somehow it happens that many players who very seldom lead unwisely, who know well when to play highest and when to finesse third in hand, and when it is essential to success to win partner's trick fourth hand, are apt to trust, second hand, to chances which are demonstrably against them.—Knowledge.

Our Ancestors.—The very earliest race of men who ever lived in England are probably not in any sense our ancestors. They were those black fellows of the palæolithic or older stone age, whose flint implements and other remains we find buried in the loose earth of the river-drift or under the concreted floors of caves, and who dwelt in Britain while it was yet a part of the mainland, with a cold climate like that of modern Siberia.—Grant Allan, in Knowledge.

The Microscope.—In the early days of the microscope, wonderful reports were made of its revelations, and in 1745 Baker complained that "some people made false pretences and ridiculous boasts of seeing by their glasses the atoms of Epicurus, the subtle matter of Des Cartes, the effluvium of bodies, the emanation of stars, and such-like impossibilities." One doctor declared that he had seen the effluvium of magnets as a mist.—H. J. Slack, F.G.S., F.R.M.S., in Knowledge.

Punning as a Mental Sympton.—It is not, perhaps, commonly known that a tendency to make puns is regarded by many students of mental physiology as a sign of cerebral disease, a circumstance which we would commend to the notice of those persons who are always on the watch to play upon words, without caring whether their word-play is amusing or not.—Knowledge.

Man and Nature.—Science tells us, and experience confirms her teaching, that in the game man plays (or his contest, if you will) with nature, the laws of nature are the laws of the Medes and Persians, that he must not expect to have his moves back, or any help outside the laws assigned (inexplicably, so far as we are concerned) to nature: if he does expect this, he will most assuredly be disappointed.—R. A. Proctor, in Knowledge.

The Trout.—The faintest olive passing through many gradations of colour is the natural ground-work of the normal trout, but, then, as he has a polished surface, his scales being imperceptible, out from him bursts little flashes of light. He is by no means the lithe creature in form that idealists paint him. He is rather a bull-dog, aggressive-looking fish. Do you turn the next time you see a trout in an aquarium and get a full view of him and not his profile. You will see he has a combative look. Remember, he is a fighter, and bullies all other fish. He is constructed for speed, strength, and agility, and a predacious life calls on all these factors."—*New York Times.*

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Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 1882.

THE RIVERS OF ENGLAND.

By "CREEL."

THE AIRE.

THIS is an important tributary of the Ouse, in the West Riding of Yorkshire. Its course is generally east-south-east, after it quits its mountain birth in the Deanery of Craven, to the levels, where it mingles its waters with the Ouse. Craven is a highly romantic district, displaying some of the finest scenery in the kingdom, and is eloquently dwelt upon in Armstrong's "Scenes in Craven." Its mountains and caves are striking features, and, being watered by several considerable rivers, it has an especial interest to the angler. The Aire has its source in the transparent tarn or lake of Malham Water, a solitary expanse embosomed in cloud-capped mountains. This lake is celebrated for its abundance of large trout and perch. Most of the latter have the Cyclopean reputation of having but one eye. The best inns here are at Kirkley Malham—Buck, by John Benson, and Lister's Arms, by Swinbank. From the tarn, which is the property of Colonel Morrison, who is very liberal in giving permission to fish, (of the tarn we shall have more to say anon) the stream takes an underground course for about a mile, and then issues from the sides of a huge cliff of limestone called Malham Cove, through which it escapes, and leaps from ledge to ledge, forming a series of waterfalls, unequalled for their combination of grandeur and magnificence, not-free from awe.

"Malham Tarn," says Murray, "is about three miles in circumference, two miles above the cove, and 570 feet higher than the outlet of the Aire at its base. This is the most important tarn in Yorkshire, and its wild seclusion gives it an interest hardly due to picturesque beauty."

The nearest station is Bell Buck, 3½ miles from Malham. The best inn at Malham is the Buck; and the landlord, if written to in time, will send a trap to Bell Buck station, where no conveyance is to be hired. This inn is at the village of Malham, a mile higher up the valley, and nearer Gordale than Kirkley Malham, where is the church.

The whole of this neighbourhood is wonderful for its grandeur. Even Gordale Scar gives an impression of absolute dread, particularly if it be visited alone towards evening.

"Gordale chasm, terrific as the lair
Where the young lions couch"

writes Wordsworth; and Pocock, according to Whitaker, "who had seen all that was great and striking in the rocks of Arabia and Judea, declared that he had never seen anything comparable to this place." "I stayed there," says Gray the poet, "not without shuddering, a quarter of an hour, and thought my trouble richly repaid, for the impression will last for life." "It has," says Murray, "been compared to the ravine above Lebanon, in which is the sanctuary of Trophonius; and the semicircle of Malham is not unlike the cliff above the fountain of Castalia at Delphi."

From one mile east of the Cove in Gordale, which has been styled a "divine piece of masonry," and, of which Dayes, in his "Picturesque Tour through Yorkshire," says, "none of the passes in North Wales equal this, the water tumbling down its bosom giving it greatly the superiority." The river Aire flows from the Cove along Malham Dale, and, after passing Cold Coniston (no inn) reaches Gargrave, whence it rambles on to the vicinity of Skipton (Devonshire Arms), and the capital of Craven. The town of Skipton is pleasantly seated about a mile from the river and is dignified by the stately structure of a castle. Most luxuriant meadows line the stream for some miles both above and below this. Leaving these green pastures, the Aire plunges into a deeper vale and takes a romantic course through rocky scenery to the neighbourhood of the thriving town of Keighley, where we enter the clothing district of Yorkshire. The appearance of Keighley when viewed from the adjacent height is strikingly picturesque, and the surrounding scenery is of the most varied description, the blue heath and the rough summits of the hills being strongly contrasted with the fertility and beauty of the winding valleys through which several rapid moorland streams flow to the serpentine channel of the Aire. Rugged features continue to accompany our river as it sweeps by the busy town of Bingley and between the large village of Shipley, and the remarkable elevation called Baildon Hill. At Shipley, opposite to Baildon, the Bradford valley joins the valley of the Aire. Lower down the river, we pass the mansion and woods of Isholt, and are then conducted between the village of Calverley on the right, and the villages of Yeadon, Rawdon and Horseforth on the left, onwards to the well-known quarters of Bramley Fall, and the far-famed ruins of Kirkstall. Among the monastic remains of England, Kirkstall Abbey may claim a conspicuous place, whether considered as a feature in a landscape or as a specimen of architectural skill. The ruin is still a splendid monument, and the scenery around it is well diversified. Remains so full of solemn interest cannot fail to detain every man of taste and feeling, as they arrested the poet Gray "for many delightful hours." From Kirkstall Bridge, the river flows below the beautiful neighbourhood of Headingley, and ere long reaches the town of Leeds, and pursues its course to Castleford, sweeping through fertile meadows below gently-elevated and mostly well wooded regions. On the rising grounds are the conspicuous seats of Temple Newsam, Methley and Kippax, while Swillington Hall stands on the immediate bank of the of the stream. At the large village of Castleford, the Aire is joined by the river Calder from the southern part of the clothing districts—whence we need not more closely follow it. as it runs through lowlands for a distance of 20 to 30 miles until it joins the Ouse.

We copy verbatim of the rules and regulations of the Aire Fishing Clubs, for there are two thus named, both under one committee, the one for the preservation of the River Aire, from Gorgrave to Eastburn Brook.

(1) The club to consist of not more than twenty members, and to be managed by a committee of not more than four members. (2) Any gentleman, on being elected a member of the club, shall pay to the secretary an admission fee of ten guineas. (3) The annual subscription of members shall be ten guineas, to be paid into the Craven Bank or to the secretary, on or before the 1st March in each year. (4) Each mem ber, on payment of his subscription, will receive a ticket, which will entitle him to fish with one rod for the season, viz., from the 1st March to the 30th of September inclusive. (5) Any member accompanied by a friend may lend that friend his rod. (6) No salmon spawn or medicated baits shall be used. (7) No trout shall be kept under eight inches in length, and no grayling under ten inches. (8) No grayling shall be killed before the 1st of September. (9) The keepers are authorised and required to inspect each member's ticket on his first visiting the stream. (10) Any gentleman desirous of becoming a member of this club shall make a written application to the secretary, who will place his name before the committee at their next meeting. (11) Any member wishing to retire from the club shall intimate his intention to the secretary in writing at the end of the fishing season :—

The second club, under the same committee, preserve the Aire from Carlton Stone Bridge to Eastburn Brook. Rules :—

(1) In addition to the members of the Aire Fishing Club, a limited number of subscribers shall be allowed to fish in the river from below Carlton Stone Bridge to Eastburn Brook. (2) The number of such subscribers shall be limited to thirty, and the annual subscription shall be thirty shillings, to be paid to the secretary before the commencement of the season. (3) Each subscriber, on payment of his subscription, will receive a ticket, which will entitle him to fish, with one rod only, for the season, viz., from the 1st March to the 30th September inclusive. Rules 4, 5, and 6 the same as in the other club. (7) No fishing shall be allowed after ten o'clock in the evening or before four o'clock in the morning, or on Sundays. (8) The keepers are authorised and required to inspect each subscriber's ticket on his first visit to the stream ; also to inspect each subscriber's basket, and measure the fish therein ; and, if any are found undersized, the keeper shall report the fact to the secretary. (9) The penalty for breaking any of the above rules shall be the dismissal of the offender from the club, and the forfeiture of his subscription. (10 and 11) Same as the first club.

The following quotations from an official letter of a member of the club may be, as coming from such a source, of value :—

"Lest you should be led to form too high an estimate of the fishing to be obtained in the upper waters of this club, Gargrave to Carleton Stone Bridge, where the entrance fee and subscriptions are so high, I must tell you that some three years ago we spent a tolerably large sum in the erection of a breeding-house, and the excavating of two ponds for the hatching and rearing of trout. These promise very well, and we are expecting great things from them in the next few years. Mr. J. H. Dewhurst, the secretary, has had the entire management of these works, and they do him great credit. Our last season, as in most other rivers, was but an indifferent one. The previous winter was exceptionally severe and protracted, and the trout, consequently, were unusually late in getting into anything like decent condition. Fly-fishing was of no use until the last week in April. The season was, therefore, a short one. Besides this, the trout were very capricious during the whole season. So far as I have been able to learn from other members, the above remarks fairly represent their views. The greatest number I took with the fly was thirty trout, on 30th July last, fishing the whole day, and in the afternoon of 2nd August I took fifteen trout with the same bait. The prettiest dish I got was one of twelve trout, weighing 8 lb., on the 25th June.

"I do not know whether you ever had the fortune to see a well-conditioned Aire trout (and it is rare to get an ill-conditioned one), but if you haven't, please note it down as one of the things worth seeing. They are as different from their congeners of the Wharfe, which flows down an adjoining valley, as it is possible for trout to differ.

"With a view still further to improve the breed, Mr. Dewhurst has within the last few years obtained a fair supply of ova from the noted trout of Malham Tarn, kindly granted by Walter Morrison, Esq., and also from the private lakes of Farnley Hall, the seat of Francis Hawkesworth Fawkes, Esq., which run moderately large. The trout caught last season in Malham Tarn (fly only allowed) averaged a little over 2 lb. each, and they run very uniform in size. We are contemplating this year (1882) the introduction into the Aire of a supply of Lock Leven trout fry."

Thus it will be seen that Gargrave is the highest point up the river at which the divisions of the Aire club commence fishing. The twenty members at ten guineas begin here and, if they choose, can fish down to Eastburn Brook, a distance of ten or twelve miles. Carlton Stone Bridge is midway between Gargrave and Eastburn, and here the 30s. members begin, and fish down to Eastburn Brook. In this length the water is deeper and more sluggish, and the fish not nearly so pleasant to follow, while the streams are few. Grayling do not yet count for anything, they are only just introduced. Trout do not run so large as formerly. When fishing with the minnow the average will be twelve ounces under that with the fly. The largest trout taken during last season was 4 lb., with minnow. Mr. Nayler, a member's, largest with the fly was 21 oz., and with the minnow $1\frac{3}{4}$ lb. There are very fine chub in the Aire, and roach in far too great an abundance. There are a few pike, but every effort is made to keep all these down. Likewise plenty of perch, gudgeon, minnows, loachers, and bull-heads.

The Midland Railway, from Leeds to Gargrave and farther, runs parallel with the Aire ; or rather from Gargrave to Leeds, since the river runs or flows in that direction, and empties into the Humber.

The railway stations on the club length are Gargrave and Skipton for the upper waters, and Cononley, Kildruk, and Streton for the lower waters. There are "pubs" at all these places. At the last three there are indifferent country village ones. At Skipton (first class), the Midland, Devonshire, Black Horse, Ship, and others ; and following are given in order of merit, Gargrave, the Swan, Mason's Arms, and Grouse, are fair country village "pubs." Gargrave, a small village, is chiefly the property of Sir Matthew Wilson, of Eshton Hall, situated a mile out of Gargrave.

The Deanery of Craven includes the river Aire from its source, at Malham, to Bingley, four miles below Keighley, a distance of some thirty miles. It also includes Wharfedale from the source of the Wharfe, some ten miles above Kettlewell, a little below Caw Fell (2245 feet), also in Craven, down to and including Ilkley. Craven also includes Ribblesdale from the source of the Ribble (a splendid river), which also has its rise near Caw Fell. But of the Ribble, justice will be done in its turn, and so also the Wharfe.

The Aire, until it reaches Skipton, is but a large brook in comparison to the Ribble, say ten miles above Settle, and the Wharfe, say, at Bolton Abbey.

Since the above was written, the following gives yet more information of the Aire.

The best fishing is between Gargrave and Skipton, a stretch of about four miles, the higher part of which is probably within twelve miles of the source of the river. It is very strictly preserved by the Skipton and Gargrave clubs (Aire clubs).

The fishing has of late years been much improved by careful watching. In low water fish are very difficult to get, as they are compelled to take refuge in the few deep pools there are, and remain very quiet during the day. In times of "fresh," however, the members often have good sport with the minnow and fly. As a rule the fish run small, though not so small as Wharfe trout, but they are often taken over a pound, yet half-pound fish are considered fair sport in this length.

Below Skipton to Cononley, a distance of about three miles, the water still belongs to the Skipton Club. There are not many streams and the banks are very high. Trout are not numerous, but chub are repeatedly taken from 2 lb. to 3 lb in weight.

Below Cononley, the Keighley and Stockbridge Angling Club, have a good stretch of similar water to the length above, except that the river is a little broader and deeper.

Bottom fishing is the principal practice, though many of the members do use the fly and at times do very well.

Coming still further down the river, the Bingley Club, and below that the Saltaire Club, have both lengths of from three to four miles. The water, however, below Keighley, is much contaminated by sewage and manufactures, and very few trout are now taken. Scale fish, *i.e.*, perch and chub and gudgeon are the main sport of the angler. Trout, and good ones, used not many years ago to be plentiful even as low as Saltaire, but they are now seldom taken ; and, were it not that some few are seen up the becks at spawning time, it might be doubted whether any trout had survived the slow poisoning process of filthy water. The Saltaire Club manfully struggle against this great hindrance in the hope that legislation will do something more to purify the stream, and they turn in year by year large numbers of trout fry from their hatching apparatus.

Below Saltaire, about a mile, the Bradford Beck enters the Aire, and as it is the great drain for all Bradford refuse, it destroys all animal life below its mouth. Whilst, by the time the river reaches

Leeds, it is more like the washings of ink barrels, but more obnoxious to the nose.

Easy access is got to the Aire by means of the Midland line—Bradford and Skipton—as it runs in the same valley, and is nowhere very far from it. There are stations at intervals of two or three miles.

THEIR LAST DAY.

By Redspinner.

The fourteenth of March had arrived at last, and with it the last day of angling on the open waters. Holiday time for the coarse fish honoured by mention in Mundella's Act would begin to-morrow morning, and would last until the midnight of June 15. May they be happy; may they prosper; yea, may they multiply and bring forth abundantly, that the heart of the angler may rejoice, and his bag and his creel be filled with good things. There was a frost on the previous night; not an ice-bearer, however, as was the stinging white frost of Sunday, but still an unmistakeable frost. The sun retired over the woods westward, rosy-faced, and making all the sky blush red for its boldness. The smoke from the village chimneys rose straight and blue into the clear air, leisurely hovering over the place, and dissolving into nothingness, rather than drifting away bodily, as it would have done had it been received by a regular blustering blast of March. Then the stars came out bright, fearing nothing, and by nine o'clock the stillness of the country, disturbed only by the regular strokes of the church clock, and the distant barking of an uneasy farm dog, settled over the place. In the morning, as I walked to the railway station to see how many anglers had come down to take advantage of their last opportunity, the glass glittered gloriously with frost, and the children were blue with cold.

The closing day of the season was hot as summer, after the sun was fairly up; and if our angling friends were not altogether satisfied with the result of the day's operations, they cannot deny that a more magnificent March day never came within their experience. I am aware that this would be poor consolation for an empty bag, but it is as well to be now and then reminded that in this world we cannot have everything; but it was, as one would have supposed, a good day for angling. The wind veered between west and south, the water was in fair medium volume and colour, and the weather appeared to be settled. Against this the brightness of the sun might be urged, but that is an objection, as applied to bottom fishing, to which I do not, especially at this time of the year, attach much value, though by and by, when the fly-rod comes into play, it is an objection that always holds. There were perhaps a score of anglers arriving by the early train, and they congratulated each other upon the promising look of things, as they went their several ways. A few had a three-mile walk before them to a subscription water to which they belonged; others hurried off to secure certain favourite swims in a half river, half-canal, commanded by a towing-path. For myself, not being violently fond of bottom fishing, unless the float goes down at every swim, and having discovered on the previous afternoon that the fish were not "on," I elected to ramble through the meadows, and watch how the brethren were faring at their several stations. The sum-total of fish caught must have been very disappointing, and I sincerely hope that the anglers who went in other directions found their last day more productive of sport. There was not enough to make me a respectable piscatory description.

In my ramble through the meadows to a certain mill, I had a thousand-and-one evidences of the forward character of the season. There was an abundance of insects on the water, and the cow-dung fly was in great force. That the lesser celandine and daisy, the anemone in the copses, and, in the meadow trenches, the king-cup, should be blooming, was not surprising. Under almost any circumstances one begins to look for them in the middle of March. But there were masses of frog-spawn in the ditches, the black speck in the nasty-looking globules already assuming proportions which bespoke an unusually early release of the tadpole; aud many of the aquatic plants were at least three weeks more forward than is their custom. The lapwings, a month ago, were in possession of some marshy fields which they haunt during the winter, but they had now disappeared, and, in their place, were vast flocks of wood pigeons. The cushat is one of the wild birds that I admire, spite of his bad character amongst the farmers. He has a portly form, and the slaty-blue back, the metallic pinky bronze of the breast, and the white marks of the neck, from which he somehow has obtained the name of ring-dove, make up a fine blending of colours, which if not brilliant, are still pleasantly striking. Butterflies were numerous up and down the sunny hedges. The air was choral with blithe lark music, and here and there with the sweet song of the mavis. The little brown rascal of a water rat was out and about, and the dabchicks were making the most of the day. I accidentally put up a couple of wild ducks, quacking their anger as they rose, and I nearly trod upon a lark, sunning herself under a tuft. These observations I take the liberty of mentioning as justification for selecting to saunter instead of fish. What I saw in the stream may be imagined, but it shall not be described; only, if those grand trout will be good enough not to change their lodgings during the next month, and those roach, dace, and chub will be there or thereabouts when the close season is at an end, I may have a good store of bricks wherewith to build a really angling chapter.

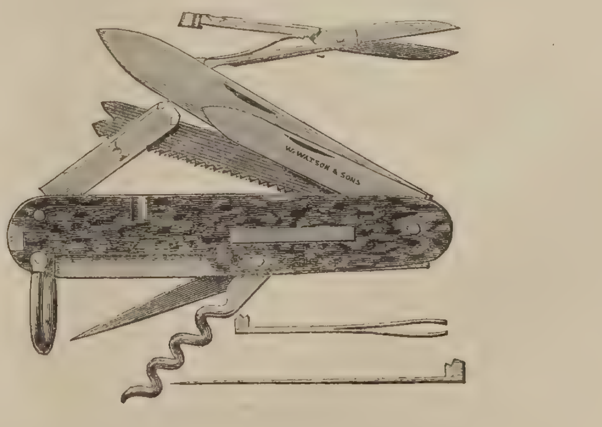
The first patient angler that drew my attention from the many claims there were upon it, was very angry at the minnows, which certainly were provoking. They worried his bait perpetually, and took down his float in the merriest fashion every other swim. He caught four while I watched him, and plump, handsome little fellows they were wherewith to tempt perch or trout. The minnows were equally on the rampage with nearly all the anglers I met with that day, and sufficient might have been taken to furnish one of those minnow tansies, which Walton says make a dainty dish of meat; "for," he observes, "being washed well in salt, and their heads and tails cut off, and their guts taken out, and not washed after, they prove excellent for that use; that is, being fried with yolks of eggs, the flowers of cowslips and of primroses, and a little tansy."

Three and four roach each seemed to be the amount of the average "takes" up to three o'clock in the open water, and as the sun smote fiercely upon them, and the barges were passing every half hour, the worthy anglers were not altogether happy. In the afternoon I walked up the towing path to a select subscription water where a friend had been fishing since breakfast. He had caught simply nothing, and another subscriber had taken only two or three small perch. They were, it is true, able to comfort themselves with the reflection that a five-and-three-quarter-pound bream had been taken "from this very hole, sir," two days ago; and that a London club angler, trespassing, and defiantly refusing to leave, had, on the previous Sunday, caught a goodly carp under that spreading elder clump. Neither carp, bream, nor roach, however, seemed to be now moving in this choice preserve where there are known to be plenty of fish, and from which it is not unusual for an accustomed angler to basket twenty and thirty pounds of roach in a day. But across the water, fishing from the towing path, was a free angler who was doing comparatively well. How often these things happen? The rustic lad with his hazel wand, line of whipcord, and coarsely mounted hook, catches strings of fish, while the well-appointed sportsman with the best appliances money can purchase, gets none. So, the fisher of a privileged river, strictly preserved, and well stocked with fish, after a day's hard work, is disgusted to find that a humble brother angler, in water open to the whole world, has "wiped his eye" ten times over.

The roaching gentleman on the towing path was fishing in a very workmanlike manner with paste, and in the course of an hour and a half he killed ten well-conditioned fish between half a pound and a pound, and seemed to be still catching when I left. It does not always follow that there is an explainable reason for these puzzles of an angler's life. Who shall say why a fish prefers paste to-day and gentles to-morrow? Why, in a moment, along the whole length of a river, fish will cease rising and biting, and as unaccountably begin again? But the excellence of the roach swim in question was, I think, explainable. It was opposite a triangular piece of land formed by a river on the one side, and a canal on the other, both merging into one at the point. The barges, constantly passing, no doubt caused a scour in the direction of the tow-path bank, upon which the angler had planted his seat with much judgment; and to this daily cleansed bottom, to which plenty of provender would be brought by the disturbed current, the roach would naturally be attracted even from the more secluded private water. On the whole, however, it is to be feared that the anglers who visited the waters to which I have been vaguely referring, will not be able to reckon their last day of the season as amongst the brilliantly successful, but it could harm no one to be in the country under such exceptionally pleasant circumstances.

WATSON'S ANGLER'S KNIFE.

Messrs. W. Watson and Sons, 308, High Holborn, London, have brought out the best fishing knife, at the price, which has ever been put before the angling world. It is thoroughly well made and of first-class material. It contains large and strong blade for cutting down branches, making splices, &c., a smaller blade for tackle-making purposes, a capital saw, a disgorger, a strong-spring scissors, always useful, especially to the fly-fisher, a most useful little vice for holding hooks when mounting them or making flies, a rimer, tweezers for extracting thorns, &c.; a pricker, a shackle to hang the knife to belt by; and, finally, a curiously-made serpentine pointed surgical instrument, which is used, we understand, for relieving stoppages in wine and whisky bottles.



Messrs. W. Watson and Sons have a very fine stock of first-class rods and tackle.

OGDEN'S "NE PLUS ULTRA" TROUT-ROD.

Mr. James Ogden of Winchcomb Street, Cheltenham (whose work on fly-fishing we have favourably noticed this week) has sent us one of his new "Ne plus Ultra" trout and sea-trout rods. We mentioned this rod a week or two ago as being the invention of Major Bruce Seton, of the Royal Engineers. We had not then seen it, but were convinced that the idea was a most valuable one.

The practice of wading up stream and whipping in front of you and under the bushes on each side, is becoming more popular every year. Anglers are beginning to find out that when the water is low and bright, this is the only way you can get at the fish. The best rod for this small-stream fishing is a short one of nine or ten feet; but in a day's fishing it almost invariably happens that you want a longer rod, either for fly, minnow, or worm. The greatest mistake the fly-fisher can make is to burden himself with extra rod or tackle, his equipment should be as light as possible. Now Mr. Ogden's "Ne plus Ultra" is a rod so constructed that, without taking a single ounce more with him than he now does, the angler has still two perfect rods, one a twelve-ounce ten-foot two-joint spliced one; the other formed by attaching the landing-net handle to the ten-foot rod, and thus obtaining in two minutes a powerful thirteen-foot rod, suitable for fishing a large water or for worm or minnow fishing. Both rods are beautifully balanced and the change from one to the other could be effected, as we before said, in two minutes. We purposely refrain from giving details of manufacture, because, although most simple and effective, they are so ingenious that it would be unfair to Mr. Ogden to make them public property. When not in use on the rod the long landing-net handle has a net attached, and this forms a most valuable help in wading. The rod Mr. Ogden has sent us is beautifully made, and we are glad to see is fitted with Hardy's patent winch fittings. We are having all our winches made to fit one or other of the three sizes in which the fitting is made, and we have lent Messrs. Allcock a London-made winch, so that they can get the fitting made to take the plate of the ordinary London winch. We feel certain that any troutfisher has only to see the "Ne plus Ultra" to accept it as a great improvement and an inestimable boon to the wandering angler who fishes in all kinds of water for all kinds of trout.

A CAPITAL BOOK ON FLY-FISHING.

Mr. James Ogden, fishing-tackle maker of Winchcomb Street, Cheltenham, has sent us his work on Fly-Tying and Fly-Fishing, for notice, and it is a long time since we read a work on fly-fishing which has given us so much pleasure. We can cordially recommend it to all our fly-fishing readers; they can get it by sending 2s. 8d. in stamps to Mr. James Ogden at the address mentioned above. We give the exact address, because there is another fishing-tackle firm in Cheltenham carrying on business under the same name—in part—and mistakes frequently arise in consequence.

Mr. James Ogden is well known as one of the most successful anglers and scientific and practical rod and fly makers in the country. In his work he freely gives to the angling world the experience he has gained during seventy years devoted to angling and tackle-making, and the trout fisher who can read his book without getting many a useful hint, must be indeed very perfect in the art.

What gives his book an additional charm to us, is the fact that he so frequently refers to some favourite trout or grayling stream with which we are familiar, such as Derwent, Wye, Dove, Test, Itchen, Arrow, Teme, Monnow, &c., &c. He refers to them to describe some particular day's sport, or some special mode of fishing which he has found successful. His instructions in fly-tying are very simple and good, and the list of his standard flies—about a score—include what we have found in our own practice to be the best killers in the endless list of artificial imitations—that is to say, on the rivers just mentioned, and on such streams as the glorious Eden, the Coquet, the Yore, Swale, and Rye, the Onny, Clun, Lugg, Arrow, the Dart, the Darenth, &c.

Here is the list of Ogden's standard favourites, and the angler who can not kill fish with these, had better devote his attention to the worm or minnow.

February Red
March Brown
Ogden's Fancy
Alder Fly
Coch-y-Bondhu
Tinkler's Dun
Stone Midge
Bluebottle and House Fly
Blue Dun
Iron Blue Dun
Cow-dung Fly
Golden Dun Midge
Oak Fly, or Down-Looker
Wren Tail
Whirling Blue Dun
Small Willow or Needle Brown
Hare's Ear, Blue Dun or Cock Wing
Red Spinner
Yellow Dun
Black Gnat
Furnace Fly
Little Orange Fly
Palmers
May Fly

Mr. Ogden says that he has always followed Izaak Walton's advice, viz., that of fishing "fine and far off." We believe it was Walton's friend Cotton who first insisted on this golden rule, as it was Cotton who first described the deadly and delicate method of killing trout by fishing up stream with a small red worm, using it almost as a fly is used.

We should much like to give some extracts from Mr. Ogden's description of how to use the floating may-fly. We mean, of course, the artificial; for we consider it nothing but poaching to kill trout with the natural may-fly. His remarks on the use of the dry fly are also most valuable. If our trout-fishers would give this "dry-fly" plan a place amongst their tactics for deceiving trout, they would much less frequently return home with poor baskets; they put their three wet flies in faultless style over a rising fish, time after time, and then think their flies are to blame; then they change them, and the first cast secures the fish. Why? Simply because the new fly happened to float over the fish because it was dry; they find it kills no better after a few throws. Ogden makes flies specially for dry-fly fishing; we have not tried them, but we have no doubt they are very good. Flies dressed on the eyed hooks float wonderfully well, as we have proved on the Test, and are quite as killing as the ordinary kind. These eyed hooks are the invention of Mr. Hall and are made for him by Messrs. Hutchinson, of Kendal. We have seen imitations, but they are worthless, Mr. Hall's pattern being peculiar in several respects. The worst of it is, the fly-tyers dislike these hooks, because they are more troublesome to make; in fact, one leading London tackle-maker in the Strand informed us his people would not make them, except at such a price as prohibited their sale. If Mr. Hall knows any fly-maker who will execute orders for flies tyed on his hooks, we should be obliged to him if he would give us the address.

Mr. Ogden, many years ago, invented a seat basket, it has numerous advantages over the ordinary French basket. His folding landing-net is also extremely useful. His "Multum in Parvo" trout-rod is too well known to need mention; and the new "Ne plus Ultra" trout-rod made by him from Major Bruce Seton's design, is such a great advance on anything of the kind that we have given it a special notice in another column. We have had so many inquiries about it in consequence of the short description we gave a few weeks ago, that we are convinced it fills a want long felt by trout anglers.

P.S. Since writing the above we have received a few samples of Mr. Odgen's flies, and are delighted with them. A new fly, called the Bittern, looks a very deadly fellow for a rough bit of water. An angler killed eleven brace of trout with this new fly the other day.

CAMBRIDGE AND ELY ANGLING SOCIETY.

THE annual supper of this society was held at the Lion Hotel, Cambridge, on Tuesday evening last. The president of the society, Dr. Porter, Master of St. Peter's College, and Vice-Chancellor of the University, occupied the chair; the two vice-chairs were filled by the secretary (Mr. W. Purchas), and Mr. Harold Archer, of Ely; and there were present the Mayor, Dr. Perkins, Dr. Cooper, Dr. Bacon, Dr. Moxon, Mr. C. Balls, J.P.; Mr. J. Evans, Mr. R. B. Marston, and other distinguished guests. After the removal of the cloths, a large pike, weighing 19½ lb., which had been caught that afternoon in Mr. Swann's private water by Mr. Mortlock, was brought in for exhibition. The Chairman then proceeded to dispose of the toast-list, which was rapidly gone through, the speeches made being remarkable for their conciseness. "The Queen" was first given, and received with all due marks of loyalty, and then followed "the Prince and Princess of Wales," in giving which the Chairman said he thought he suggested last year that the Prince would make a most gracious honorary president; and he still felt sure that His Royal Highness would feel it a pleasure and pride to occupy such a position in that very popular and successful society (cheers.)

Mr. Cockerell then proposed "prosperity to the University of Cambridge," with which toast was coupled the name of Dr. Perkins, bursar of Downing College, a great patron of all descriptions of sport, which gentleman, in replying, said that, in regard to the sporting proclivities of the University, he had always found the old adage about Jack and his play to be very true and good (laughter and applause).

Dr. Bacon was next called upon. He proposed "Prosperity to the Town of Cambridge." The presence of a society, he said, devoted to fishing at a time when the subject of fish preservation and cultivation as an article of food had been very much before the public, must be productive of some advantage to the town. He was well aware that the society existed not for commercial purposes, but for the exercise of pleasure only. Still it might conduce to some future benefit to the community, and he hoped it would tend to the prosperity of the town of Cambridge (applause).

The Mayor briefly replied. Cambridge had many advantages which other towns did not possess. It was evident that those engaged in trade could not of late have received so much benefit from the agricultural portion of the community as they had previously done; but the increase of members of the University had been very great, and must, to some extent, have made up the deficiency. It was mainly to the University that they had to look for prosperity.

Mr. C. Balls, J.P., then proposed the toast of the evening, "Proseperity to the Cambridge and Ely Angling Society." The society, h said, had been most prosperous, and there were several reasons why it had succeeded so well. In the first place, there was a necessity for the society. When they found there was a necessity for a thing, and especially in establishing a society, it generally succeeded. And then it depended upon the party who took the thing up at first. A few earnest men might do a great deal. That was the case with their society. A few very earnest men set themselves to the work of establishing the society. Then they were fortunate in the selection of officers. No doubt the success of the society might be attributed very much to having such a gentleman as the Vice-Chancellor as president. The primary object of the society was to provide true sport in angling, but it also gave amusement to many men engaged in a sedentary life, professional men and others, who were glad to get an outing, if only on the banks of the Cam. They had heard much of the Cam, its drawbacks and its advantages. He was not much of a fisherman himself, but he gathered from others capable of giving an opinion that the Cam was a very fine breeding ground for fish. He was old enough to remember when the Cam was fished not only every day in the week, including Sundays, but also every day in the year, and fish taken unfairly. The scarcity of fish was thus easily accounted for. But since the establishment of the society a change had been witnessed. They had not diverted the sewage from the river, but perhaps that was an advantage, as the fish were fed (laughter.) He was not about to dwell upon the breeding of fish, but upon their preservation at a time when preservation was especially required. It was very gratifying to find that the operations of the society had been so successful that they read from time to time of very fine takes, not composed merely of roach or dace; and he had heard of very fine specimens of salmon trout. And the society was making itself known. It was not confined to residents in Cambridge or Ely, but many gentlemen came from London and even more distant parts of the country to have a day's fishing in their waters. This was another gratifying success. Their chairman had made an allusion to the Prince of Wales; that if an application were made to him he might be induced to encourage their society. He would remind them of the likely interest that the Prince had taken in the fishing along the coast. He could quite understand that the cry of the widow and orphan had reached Sandringham, and that his Royal Highness felt for the misery that was endured by the men who supplied their tables with fish; and he could also understand that the Prince's object was to ameliorate the condition of those men, and to increase the supply of fish, so that their markets might be better supplied, and a most nutritious food brought to the public at much reduced prices. He hoped the day was not far distant when they should see their markets supplied with fish to such an extent that the poorer classes might be able to purchase and have good fish on their tables, as he was told that fish was very nutritious. It was just possible that their river might supply such a quantity of fish that they might see it exposed for sale in the market, and, if properly carried out, there was no reason why it should not be brought in in large quantities. He was sure they all felt a deep interest in the society, and he thought they were most fortunate in having such excellent officers to conduct their business. He coupled with the toast the name of their president—(cheers)—to whom the society was very much indebted (applause).

Dr. Porter thanked them for the extremely kind way in which they had received the far too complimentary observations that had fallen from Mr. Balls in respect to himself. He felt that he had been able to do nothing for the society. At their dinner the previous year he determined to know something of fishing. Although several officers had promised to undertake to give him lessons in the art, yet he confessed with shame and contrition that he had not taken advantage of them (laughter). He could not agree with opponents to the diversion of the sewage. He should like to see something done in taking the sewage out of the river (hear, hear.) He was quite sure every member of that angling society would be delighted if something could be done to make the Cam a purer river. He was certain that they would not then have to go down to Ely to catch their fish. He had begun to despair of having anything of that kind done during his term of office (laughter), but he was pleased to see something had been done by the members of the committee in reference to the matter by getting the Local Government Board to move in the matter. So he was not without hopes that, some time within the next half-century, some steps might be taken in the desired direction (laughter and applause.)

The Chairman then handed the prizes won at the fishing competition at Littleport on September 14 to the winners, as follows:—First, Mr. Webb, Ely; second, Messrs. Hayward and Thurston, Cambridge, tie; third, Mr. A. J. Ellis. Each competitor was warmly applauded.

The Rev. E. W. Cory gave "The Committee," for whom Mr. Ellis replied, commenting upon the advantages of angling as a pastime.

Mr. Harold Archer, of Ely, proposed "The Honorary Secretaries," especially alluding to the services rendered by Mr. Purchas, whose name he coupled with the toast.

Mr. Purchas said the society was in a most flourishing condition, and the number of members and amount of subscriptions exceeded that of previous years. They had received several presents of live fish from gentlemen; and Mr. Marston, the editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, had recently kindly presented them with eighty brace of perch, which had been put into the river near Clare College (applause).

Dr. Cooper gave "The Visitors." The number that had attended their gathering showed that the objects for which the society was founded had attained popularity amongst all classes. He had to couple with the toast the name of Mr. Marston, who was a gentleman they were very pleased to see there, because, next to catching fish themselves, their greatest pleasure was to see those caught. He felt sure if there had been a *Times* in the days of Izaak Walton they would have read with interest of the numerous monsters of the deep that were landed, and the various devices that were used to catch them. Mr. Marston was editor of a paper which was one of the greatest delights to him on a Saturday, as he not only read what others had done but there was a very useful column of notes and queries. Mr. Marston had done good service to the anglers by providing for them the means of inter-communication of ideas, and had also done a good thing to the world at large by opening up a way of increasing public interest in the subjects of fish culture and fishing generally. He was pleased to see the interest taken in the matter by the Prince of Wales, and that they were to have a grand exhibition next year, which showed the strides taken in the subject, and he had not the least doubt that fishing will become of more than local interest; that was, of national.

Mr. Marston replied. He thought the society ought to devote itself to the purifying of the river. He recommended to their support the Thames Anglers' Defence Association, more especially as they were the largest society in the world. There was not another club in the world that could boast of 500 members. He also referred to the London and Edinburgh exhibitions, and to the subject of coarse fish culture. He thanked them most heartily for the way they had received him that evening.

Dr. Moxon gave "the Ladies," and Mr. J. E. Whitehead responded. "The health of Mr. Archer" closed the toast list, and the Vice-Chancellor vacated the chair, which was taken by Dr. Perkins, and the remainder of the evening devoted to harmony and conviviality, speeches being made by Dr. Perkins, Dr. Moxon, Mr. Marston, Mr. Evans, and other gentlemen. A special vote of thanks was given to Mr. Marston for attending the meeting, which separated about twelve o'clock.

NETTING THE RESERVOIRS.

THE liberal concessions which have already been obtained from the Waterworks Companies by the Committee of the Thames Angling Preservation Society to net the reservoirs and turn the fish into their portion of the river, will be an immense boon to anglers; and it is intended that the different reaches between Teddington Lock and the "City Stone," at Staines, shall be equally benefited. On Tuesday last, a most lovely day, the netting commenced in the large reservoir of the East London Waterworks, at Sunbury, by the kind permission of Mr. George Seaton, the engineer of the company, who afforded every facility for the successful completion of the work by reducing the water to about four feet in depth, the reservoir itself being 15 feet deep, 800 feet in length, and 130 feet in width. Amongst the company who assembled to witness the netting were—Messrs. Thomas Spreckley (president), W. H. Brougham (secretary), F. H. Lemann, H. J. Alfred, A. J. Little, Alfred Nuthall, P. Geen (members of the committee), W. S. Edgar, J.P., Francis Francis, J. C. Chubb, C. T. Manley, James Temple, J. Cooper, J. Wotton, Thomas Hiscock, R. S. Fennings, L. Gow, J. Ross Faulkner, E. T. Walker, H. Dickinson, R. B. Matthews, W. T. Cosier, Russell Knapp, H. E. Wood, &c., &c. The netting was entrusted to Mr. Lewis Gibson, of Putney, several of the visitors being also very active in giving assistance. The netting commenced about half-past nine, under the direction of Mr. Thomas Spreckley, and continued for about six hours. As the boats came to the end with the nets laden with fish, the latter were hauled up in buckets and placed in four large fish-carriers. Near each end of the reservoir were large tanks, belonging to the waterworks, filled with clean water, and a constant stream kept running. Into these the fish were placed out of the fish-carriers, and they kept the fish alive until their time of removal. Too much praise cannot be awarded to Mr. A. Tucker, the indefatigable manager of the works, as he was unremitting in his attention, and rendered every help he possibly could. The first consignment of fish was sent about 12 o'clock to Chertsey to be placed in three different portions of the river there, the first being in the capital swim close to the Chertsey Bridge Hotel; Mr. James Forbes, who takes a great interest in Thames fishing, being present to witness the introduction of the fish into their native stream. The second and final consignment was sent to Chertsey under the orders of Mr. P. Geen, who proposed to turn them in the river above the lock, where some of the fish would be able to work their way up to Staines. It is a remarkable fact that, with the exception of a silver bream of about 4 lb., there was nothing in the reservoir except small fish, the number being estimated at about 5000, and these were principally perch, roach, dace and bleak. As regards the perch, of which there was a large proportion, and which are the kind of fish most wanted for the Thames, it is worthy of note they were all of one size, about 4 inches in length. Much pleasure was expressed by the visitors at getting so many beautiful perch. Amongst the bleak, there were so many remarkably fine specimens, a number of them were taken away for the purpose of preservation, notably three by Mr. Spreckley, as a reminiscence of so pleasant and successful a day; and Captain Alfred, for presentation to the Gresham Angling Society. The result of the day afforded abundant evidence of what will be the grand result to the river by the netting of the different reservoirs placed at the entire disposal of the T. A. P. S. Committee, which will keep the officials at work for some months; and the warmest thanks of the anglers will be due to Mr. George Seaton for the initiation of the work, a general expression of regret at his unavoidable absence on Tuesday last being felt by all present.

[There can be no doubt this netting is very useful work; but it will have to be repeated every year, unless some plan is adopted for stopping the influx of the fry into the reservoirs. We notice the expectations of Messrs. Francis and Brougham—who talked of getting tons of fish out of these reservoirs—are, as we said, far too high. If the great majority of the fish were perch of 4 inches, we may estimate the total weight of the take at a little more than 1 cwt.—ED.]

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

> "Saying good-bye is such sweet sorrow
> That I could say good-bye until to-morrow."
> —Shakespeare.

The angling season on the Thames for 1881-2 is at an end, and has certainly died in glorious weather. The season 1882-3 begins on the 16th of June, and it is to be hoped will be a more productive one than the past. Since the late push of water, fish of all kinds have obstinately refused to came to book, so there is nothing of interest to report since my last note, except that a few small jack have been had and some five tench. In my next I purpose giving a short *résume* of the past season's doing.—Marlow Buzz.

Ancholme.

The closing week of the season has been a magnificent one, both with respect to haul of fish and weather. The proverbial oldest inhabitant recollects not such a fine March. One angler had a perch weighing 2 lb. 10 oz., and I have not heard of a single fisherman going home empty-handed. Hip! hip! hooray! Mr. Editor I had the unspeakable pleasure of catching a magnificent trout of 3 lb. on Saturday last, and in the pink of condition. It was 20 inches long, and died like a prince. It was of the famous Wickham hook-beaked breed, and was placed by me as fry in the beck in 1878, consequently it was only four years old. I had another of $1\frac{1}{4}$ lb. on the same occasion, and four others of $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. each. I limited myself to six, as some recently established breweries have made sad havoc with my protegés. I placed the first trout in this beck in 1876, and have already caught out six of over 2 lb. each in weight. This fact shows the fine quality of the Lincolnshire chalk streams. With a small outlay they might be made quite profitable.—Thomas Ford.

Chichester.

The past week has been a most favourable one, both for weather and condition of water. Rodsters have been numerous. Yet roach have seemed off the feed, except an hour at sundown, when takes have been numerous but small in weight. At the Rother, on the 12th, when the Cicesterians, disgusted with previous ill success, did not put in an appeerance, jack were well on the feed, fourteen fish being landed, the largest $11\frac{1}{2}$ lb. At the Canal, Chichester, some fair takes of roach were made, but few of them weighable. Myriads of fish may be seen, many of them diseased. It has been a fair finish to an otherwise bad season. Bass and smelt fishing will now fill up the close time.—George F. Salter.

Coquet (Weldon Bridge).

On Monday, the 13th, the curate of Long Horsley caught two dozen and a half of trout, in good condition. Mr. Matthews, of Long Horsley, on the 14th killed one dozen of trout, the largest being fifteen inches. Mr. Hedley, on the 15th, killed one and a half dozen of trout, from eight to twelze inches in length; the trout are just beginning to take the natural fly. If the weather continues as at present there is every prospect of a good season for the trout fishing.—A. Glass, the Angler's Inn.

Dove.

We have had a wonderfully fine week for angling, the sun shining out warm and bright every day, and the river being in really capital order for both fly and minnow. Our trout fishers now increase daily at the river-side, and we shall soon be in the very thick of the season. Good dishes have been the rule and not the exception this week. Both trout and grayling have been rising freely and it would not be exaggerating to state that the average baskets have amounted to $5\frac{1}{2}$ brace each. Both in the brooks and the main streams good results have been attained. The March brown is now rapidly coming out on the surface, and in another fortnight will be at its height—that is, should the weather continue as at present. Wednesday last, of course, brought the close season for coarse fish, and I may say that several species of fish in the Dove were ripe for spawning at the end of February. The most killing flies for trout since my last communication have been the bumble, the March brown, the February red, and the cockwing.—The Splodger.

Exe (Tiverton).

The river is still in very good order for fishing, but soon will get low if this weather continues (sharp frosts by night and cloudless skies by day). Some very good baskets have been made during the past week, flies killing best—half-stone, hare's flax, blue upright, and iron blue. The half-stone has been doing extremely well.—Wm. Mudford.

Ilfracombe (N. Devon).

There has been a little better sea-fishing this week than there has been for the past fortnight. Several boats with fishing parties out this week, fishing with ground lines, the bait used is lob worm. Their catches have varied from 10 lb. to 20 lb. per boat per tide of tamlin cod, whiting pout, and pollack. A few skate, ling and cod have been brought in from the spillers, which they set just off the habour, There is some good sport to be had with hand-lines from the pier and jetty for small whiting, dabs, &c, Weather at present very mild but foggy,—E. Comer.

Medway (Tonbridge).

The season ended on Tuesday amidst beautiful weather, and, of course, there were a large number of the votaries of the gentle art out, some of whom were successful and some not. There have been no very large captures since last week. As an instance of the early season, a pike was taken on Monday, which had spawned, and in almost every shallow his friends and neighbours may be found attending to their family duties. On Friday no less than 8000 carp, chub, and roach, obtained from a pond in the neighbourhood, were deposited in the river near the Barden Bank.—Ye Medway Water-Rat.

Severn (Shrewsbury).

The water for eight or nine days past has been too high for anything but worm fishing, but is now fast subsiding, and on Thursday will be in splendid condition.—F. H. M.

Severn and Teme (Worcstershire.)

Water in excellent order for angling with worms, minnow, or fly; it is slightly stained, and when fishing in the deeps it has the appearance of a thick water, it has a clayey colour, but upon the fords it will do for the fly. In fact, a few good fish have been landed this week, both perch and trout are on the run. On most streams the fence months are in force, not so upon the Teme or the brooks in this district; the Act only takes effect in the Severn and the Avon. At the same time no one must have white fish for sale, but if you angle for them you can keep them; but I am glad to say that few are kept, the clubs do not approve of taking them. Mr. Davis caught a few brace of trout with the worm, myself landing a brace with the minnow. All looks well for a good season; there are more fish this season than I ever remember. Some large salmon have been taken with the nets near the city, many 30 lb. each, one fine fellow was 46 lb. The flies I recommend are the early brown, the March brown, and early dun, some call it the cock-tail, as it drops upon the water it is sure to float with wings and tail erect.—John A. Griffin.

Suir (Clonmel).

The cotmen here did well last week, killing thirty-two fish; this week they got only a few each evening, the water being too clear to use their nets during the day. The rod fishing has been very good; the water is in good order up the river. On Mr. Prendergast's preserves at Ardfinnan Mr. Jellicoe killed one fish 10 lb., same place Mr. Bouchier one of 14 lb.; the latter gentleman landed four salmon yesterday at Kilcommon demesne. Dr. Campbell got two at the same place, Mr. Massy two at Suir Castle. Ned Buttler landed three salmon last week up the river, and several, whose names are too numerous to mention, were equally successful. At Ardmagh Mr. Owen Mansergh landed two splendid salmon, and hid them by the river side under a bush, while trying his luck further down the river. When he returned for his two salmon, alas! they had disappeared, and on looking across the river he saw two men with his salmon in their hands, waving them in triumph at him, and then they made off as fast as they could, leaving the gentleman in question minus his fish. However, he had the satisfaction of having had fine play with the salmon previously. The trout fishing has been very good, Mr. W. Bagwell killing twenty-seven at Kiltinan on Monday, Captain Massy one doz. on Tuesday, and Mr. W. Bagwell two doz. on Wednesday, at same place. On the Tar, Messrs. Suther, Helen, Fitzsimon and Farrell killed six doz. and ten. Mr. Middling has killed some very large trout on the Suir.—Dora.

Taw, &c. (N. Devon).

Water not too high, but as clear as glass; the last two days have been cloudless, not much use for fishing, and scarcely, if any, wind, which is in the north. A little more rain, with wind, would be just what a fisherman wants (but, alas! he scarcely gets it). I do not hear of any kelts left in the higher water, the floods last week carried them off. Sir W. Williams killed two dozen on the Yeo, Mr. Paine 30 fish, Mr. Harding-Nott two dozen in the Bray; two gentlemen fishing in the lower Yeo has caught four or five dozen lately; a man in the Muddiford stream killed 30 good fish on Monday, and Mr. Quick took one dozen. A dish worth catching was had in the Mole on Monday. Taw getting right, and will be well fished from April. Mr. M. Rolle has given his usual number of tickets, and gentlemen are getting ready for salmon, which commences in April. Flies, rusty blue, silver twist, and a good blue upright, with silver tag.—Rusty Game.

Thames (Goring).

Water was in first-rate order for jack and chub. Roach did not bite much water too clear for them. About 30lb. of jack were taken last week, averaging from 5 lb. to 9 lb. each; also some good roach.—John Rush.

Thames (Richmond).

The river for the last few days of the season was in splendid order, but there was not much done with regard to catches; the fish left us down here when the high tide was on, and since then there has been nothing done. When the fish go over the weir at Teddington we used to think they were safe, but it is not so, as I hear from Hampton Court that at Molesey Weir it was quite a slaughter-house, some of the bankers taking from 8 to 10 dozen in one day. I hear that most of them were taken with a fly line, with two or three flies on it, and as the fish were all on the surface of the water they got one nearly every throw they had. I have only been out once in the last fortnight, but met with little success, but I had some splendid takes from private, waters the best day was 13 fish, $54\frac{1}{2}$ lb.—John Bushnell.

Thames (Shepperton).

The water has been in very good condition up to the end of the fishing season. The fishermen have been doing well with the perch, roach, and jack for the last of the season. Mr. Hewitson, fishing with F. Perdue, took a fine jack, weighing 11 lb., with a red worm on a paternoster. I have seen several trout feed, some very good ones.—W. Rogerson.

Thames (Walton.)

On the 9th inst., Mr. Bradley, fishing from bank, one jack, 7 lb.; on the 11th, Mr. Hickley, fishing with G. Hone, one jack $9\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; and one perch $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. On the 14th, Mr. Mackriell, with George Hone, fishing for bream, had a splendid carp of 12 lb. with a fine drawn gut line and a Little's hook baited with a red worm. This monster gave plenty of play for an exciting thirty minutes, when he was safely landed, although great anxiety was felt by reason of the rod and line being defective owing to an accident. The same gentleman had a splendid carp of $6\frac{1}{2}$ lb. on January 31st, but I understand this one is unprecedented in angling annals. Besides this monster, Mr. Mackriell had a fine bream of $5\frac{1}{4}$ lb., and also thirteen smaller weighing 13 lb., the largest 3 lb. Everything considered, Walton has reason to be proud of the take on the last day of the season. Wind S.W., weather very fine and warm, but with slight frosts night and morning. Water clear and in capital condition. Henry S. Wood.

Trent (Alrewas).

With the weather remarkably genial and spring-like, and the water in first-class order, the angling season for coarse-fishing has been brought to a close for the time being—the only cause of regret is that this agreeable change from atmospheric influences did not occur a little sooner. I should then possibly have had to chronicle better sport than has fallen to the lot of my brothers of the angle the last month, more especially the pike fishermen. It s, however, useless to lament over what is past, but rather look forward to he future with best wishes that the three months' close time will result in better stocking our rivers, and so be the medium of better sport to our craft. Although I do not believe in a three months' close time for roach, like all loyal subjects, I bow to the majority and put up my tackle for all other fish, but trout and eels, which can be angled for in the Trent during the close time; for the former a trout licence must be taken out, at the cost of one shilling; and in case any other fish are hooked they must be returned to their native element until the 16th of June. Since my last, the following catches have been brought to my notice:—Mr. Sale, a brace of fish, 11 lb., the largest fish 7 lb.; Mr. W. Reynolds, a few good perch and roach, and, what is a scarcity in our portion of the river, a fine bream 5½ lb.—this fish has been placed in the hands of one of our Birmingham naturalists to put in a case, and if it is only done as well as a perch I saw the other day, set up by Cooper, it will be a picture. Mr. Reynolds has also been fortunate in landing the best trout, 1 lb. 7 oz., among the members of the Birmingham and Midland Piscatorial Association, and which takes the prize. A strong contingent of anglers was on the banks of the river last Saturday, but I cannot glean of much doing. A youngster proved the most successful. With a very primitive rod and tackle, live baiting, he basketed in two days nearly 30 lb. weight of pike, the largest fish 10 lb. Mr. Sam Basnett is reported having an awful slice of bad luck. Hooking well a fish in the weir hole at Alrewas, and, after playing the fish for nearly half an hour, it ran round a sunken tree, broke the gimp and got away; the keeper writes me he has seen the fish several times this season and it cannot be less than 25 lb. This case is not near so bad as another member, who, on landing a fine fish, took out the hook, turned his back, and was drinking his success, when the fish suddenly gave a flop down the bank into the river and was soon lost to sight, if not to memory dear. Moral: always kill your fish before taking a "wee drap." With Mr. Henry Jephcott taking with a friend a couple of fish 10 lb. and 8 lb., and a few odd chub and roach, the last day of the season, by Mr. Reynolds from the river, is about the sum total. Our anglers fishing in the pools have been doing fairly well; some good fish have been landed at the Harborne Reservoir, the season for pike fishing closed in that excellent water on March 1. I may remark there are vacancies for two rods, and as the all-round fishing is good I can recommend it to anyone desiring good fishing an easy distance from town. Moderate sport has been had at Earlswood. I had the pleasure of a day, a week ago, through the kindness of our treasurer, Mr. John Allday. I nobbled five nice fish, spinning, the fish of the day, a perch 1 lb, 15 oz. was taken by Mr. W. Reynolds, which has been forwarded to Cooper to set up. The last day of the season it was my good fortune to receive a kind invitation from my friend, Mr. Sam Basnett, to join him and Mr. John Allday to some private fishing in Worcestershire. As the journey is through one of the nicest portions of the apple country, Mr. Allday, with his usual kindness, suggested, as the weather was fine, driving us over on the one day and fishing the next, a pleasure we were not very loth to accept. A little incident occurred when a short distance from town which might have proved very awkward had not Mr. Allday been an experienced driver. The horse was one of the good old sort, and when going at the rate of ten miles an hour, the pin which holds the shaft in position came out, letting the shaft on to the horse's legs. Fortunately, he did not commence kicking, but went on at an increased speed. When matters were looking most awkward, and our combined efforts to pull him up had little or no effect, the driver put him at a high embankment on the foot-path, which slackened his speed sufficiently for Mr. Basnett to alight and get at the horse's head. As the tackle was broken, and a steep hill had to be descended in a few more hundred yards, we may consider that our escape from any injury was most Providential. A fresh shaft-pin was brought into requisition, and the tackle repaired, and after a splendid drive we landed, at seven o'clock, at our journey's end, to meet our kind and genial host and hostess, and last, and by no means the least, a capital dinner, which, it is unnecessary to add, we did every justice to. After a pleasant chat about the probable results of the morrow, after sundry drinks and cigars, we departed to roost, determined to make an early start. We were on the road to the war path by nine, and about ten commenced operations in a pool by no means a good colour. Spinning was, however, useless, and live baiting only procured a fish 2 lb. So we made tracks to another pool, a few hundred yards off. This one was clear of everything but weeds. My friend Allday, however, managed to secure one fish, spinning, Basnett, ditto with live bait. I spun the place all over, and with the exception of landing weeds at nearly every throw, I left off tired and "fishless," at two o'clock. As matters could not be very much worse we determined to return to the pool of bad colour. Noticing a fish strike on the opposite side of the water, off I went round to the locality. At the second attempt I secured him—a nice male fish 5 lb., and quickly brought out another 6 lb. My friends Allday and Basnett following suit with a couple of nice fish. After giving the water a good spinning till five o'clock, with a result of having a one run and loosing the fish, we were informed there was still another pool if we chose to fish it; but the keeper remarked, "he did not think there were many pike in it," We packed up our traps and off we started to find a pool that had the appearance of looking anything but a place that did not contain pike, and the result proved that this occasion did not play false. Basnett at the second throw hooked a fish who got away and did not attempt to come again. Allday had in the meantime been by no means idle. By going through a sea of thick black mud he had landed at a nice quiet corner which must have been full of fish, A few throws and he landed a good fish, and was quickly into another, which proved over a 7 pounder. For half an hour the fun was fast and furious. Everything has an end, and so had this red-letter day. Night coming on, we were reluctantly compelled to give over. On counting up, we found we had taken 19 fish. The largest, 11½ lb. was secured by Mr. Basnett. I cannot guess what the result would have been if we had made the start in this pool, time only permitting our fishing a few hundred yards, while the fish at the lower end of the pool among the weeds were any size, if we could only have got at them. A pleasant and safe drive home brought to an end the second good day's fishing we have had this year in the same locality, which from circumstances must be unmentionable. In conclusion, our united and most hearty thanks are tendered to our host and hostess for their kindness and hospitality, and to which we are indebted for the permission to fish in such a lovely spot.—James Gregory.

Trent (Newark).

The water kept in pretty good condition for the last few days of the season, which ended on Tuesday last, and many rodsters availed themselves of the grand opportunity for a farewell swim or two, partly tempted, no doubt, by the splendid ply of the river and the genial weather. Fickle fortune was not very kind to many of them, for bags of fish were the exception and not the rule. I must confess that a bag of chub made by a friend and myself was the best catch that came under my notice all the week, consisting of nine fish that weighed nearly 19 lb , best 3½ lb.; and he finished up the season next day hy catching, among others, the best chub of the season, a rattler, that weighed close upon 5¼ lb., pith and brains being the fatal attraction. This fish, I believe, will take the special prize of one guinea, given by Mr. David Slater for the best chub taken out of the Muskham Fishery up to March 15. The chub that I mentioned last week, and which the captor estimated to weigh 5½ lb., only fetched 4¾ lb.; but it was in bad condition; if it had been in anything like the form of the other big fish just mentioned, it would have gone over 6 lb. I have nothing more of interest to communicate this week only I might tell the trout-fishers that the Trent and its tributaries is in fine condition, and no likelihood of a change at present.—The Trent Otter.

Trent (Nottingham).

The close time expired on Tuesday, and a rare busy day we had. Scores of anglers of all grades were out and anticipations as to sport run high. In the lower waters the chubbing contingent mustered in great force, but as the sun was very bright, the fish bit very charily indeed. At Colwick six or seven were taken with greaves and pith and brain, and several were caught in the Fiskerton length. None were, however, of extraordinary size. The executive of the Weston fishery very kindly threw open the water to the members of the Wellington Association from Saturday to Tuesday, but although a large number availed themselves of the proferred liberality, only a few small roach and perch were caught. On Thursday two men, named Savage and Platts were fined £5 each at Bingham Petty Sessions, for being concerned in blowing up fish with dynamite in the Trent, between Radcliffe and Stoke.—The Man at the Clubs.

Usk (Monmouth.)

This fine salmon and trout stream is in splendid order, but the last two or three nights' white frost, which has been very severe, has driven the fly off the water, so there has been but little rise. The cob, or March brown is now on the water; and that, for a leader, and with two blues for droppers, one with pale yellow body and the other dark and starling's wings, is the best cast you can put over the fish just now.—Cob.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

Yesterday (Wednesday) was the last day for some time to come for fresh-water fish to be allowed to be taken other than trout and char, according to the Freshwater Fisheries Act of 1878; and, taking the season through, I can only say that we in Derbyshire have had a very good season indeed, as there has been a great quantity of grayling, roach, dace and perch killed; also some chub and pike. The pike have not fed well at all in the Derwent during the last winter. No doubt it has been owing to the mildness of the winter we have had. The largest pike that has been taken this season was a male fish of over 9 lb. weight, killed near to Whatstandwell. The weather during the past week has been beautifully fine and warm in the middle of the day, with sharp, frosty nights. In the middle of the day, while the sun is out, we have had very large quantities of natural flies out on both rivers, viz., the long flat-winged browns and duns, and both trout and grayling have risen freely all the week, and some good baskets have been the order of the day off of both rivers with the artificial flies. The killing flies have been the claret bumble, furnace, and February red, one gentleman taking 7½ brace in the Darley water, below Darley Bridge last Tnesday. The heaviest and largest trout have fallen victims to trolling with the natural minnow and the "Derby trout-killer," Several trout of over a pound apiece have been killed, The bottom fishers have done fairly well on many parts of the Derwent during the past week; one gentlemsn angler, fishing off of Darley Bridge killing a well-fed trout of 1½ lb. weight with small worms for bait, besides losing another very large trout after partly killing him, The fish was slightly hooked. Trout are now getting into their feeding places in great quantities, and can be seen at the sides, looking out for the flies coming down, Trout are a month earlier this season; in fact, they are as yellow as a guinea. One old veteran killed a well-fed eel of 3¾ lb. with large worm for bait,—G. J. Eaton,

Starkholmes, Matlock Bath,

ANGLING ON THE TWEED.

In consequence of heavy and irregular floods on the Tweed last week, salmon angling was much interrupted, Tuesday being the only day on which anglers could ply their line. On that day Mr. T. Golmston, Kelso, was successful in landing a nice clean salmon of 15½ lb. From the following Wednesday until Monday last, fishing was quite impracticable, owing to the flooded state of the river. On the Ednam House water on Monday, Mr. Drummond landed one unclean salmon, and caught, with minnow, two very good common trout, one of which scaled fully 2 lb. when weighed. On Tuesday the same gentleman again brought an unclean salmon to bank, and also a clean fish of 7½ lb.; and on Wednesday he captured another fresh river fish of 8 lb. On Tuesday the river and its tributaries were in splendid condition for angling, and very encouraging sport was got. On the upper Hendersyde water Mr. Pringle Elliot killed one fish of 10 lb. On the Hendersyde, under water, the Rev. Hill Scott, Kelso, caught a salmon weighing close upon 8 lb., while on the Sprouston casts Mr. J. J. E. Brown, of Rosebank, had also one fish to his rod. On the Henderside upper water, Sir George Waldie Griffith, Bart., caught a clean fish of between 9 and 10 lb. On Wednesday, Mr. Pringle Elliott and Mr. A Steel, Kelso, fished the coasts on the Makerstown water, but only an unclean fiah was landed. On the lower water at Hendersyde, J. Usher, Esq., jun., Gatehouse-cote, killed one very nice salmon; and Mr. Brown, of Rosebank, on the Sprouston water, killed one beautiful salmon of fully 14 lb. weight. Trout angling during the past few days has been excellent. In the Teviot on Wednesday, Mr. J. Michie, sen., killed 8 lb. weight, fishing from the bank in the stretch between Herton Mill and the Castle Pool. Mr. Cummings, angling below Kelso Bridge, killed a grayling of 1½ lb., and at the back of the cauld above the canal of Kelso 9 lb. of trout were secured by another angler. Last week the net fishing in the Colt stream has not been so productive, the flooded state of the river for two or three days having interfered very much with the success, while some stations have had fair returns. Should the weather settle and allow the river to recede, better fishing may be expected this week. More of the disease has been seen wholly on clean salmon that have been for sometime in the upper district of the river and are returning, not with the view of going to the sea, but accompanying the kelts. Rod-fishing is at a complete standstill. Takes of new run salmon are scarce, and trout are exceedingly poor. Prices are higher—salmon 2s., trout 1s. 6d. per lb.—Maxwheel (Kelso).

THE SOUTH OF IRELAND.

Cork, Thursday Morning.

The fishing continues to improve, and with the accession of warm genial weather there will be a lively battle of springers. The weather during the week has been all that could be desired—seasonable and pleasant. There has been a great run of anglers to the bank, and that they were rewarded may be seen from the list which we append. Mr. Geo. Haynes heads the list with a gross result for two days of seven salmon, ranging from 7 lb. to 14 lb. Five were killed in one day. Paddy Sullivan, the bailiff of Sir Augustus Warren, has landed seven on two days, and J. Connolly, who is also fishing in the same preserves, has taken six. These two men killed eight on Saturday out of one stream near Carrigderhed Bridge. Jack Barry, a fisherman of Mr. Trunbear, from Macrom, has just one stream to fish, and out of that he brought two on Saturday and three on Sunday, and several others during the season. Mr. James Lampkin landed two yesterday. Mr. M. F. Barry took three on Saturday, and Mr. Thomas Barry two. Mr. Engler one on the same day, and Dan Rurdan, of Macrom, two. Mr. Henry Dale had one on Monday, and Mr. Pearse one on Tuesday. There were several other baskets during the week. Perhaps it would not be inopportune to reply to the letter which appeared in last week's Fishing Gazette, enquiring for information respecting fishing in Cork. These are no regular pike or perch fishings in the South of Ireland. The former is regarded as the enemy of trout anglers and is destroyed whenever it is possible to get at them. Pike may be caught in the Lee, however, in dark sluggish pools, and in high water. Perch are almost an extinct species in our rivers. Our principal angling consists in trout or salmon fishing. For trout fishing no permission or licence is required, and Cork is the centre of a hundred streams, where trout are numerous. Salmon angling can be had at a mere nominal sum—5s. a day—on one of the best preserves of the river, and lodging accommodation can be obtained at a lesser figure than that mentioned by the enquirer. The weather at present is most genial and seasonable. Owing to the proximity to the Atlantic ocean we have a good deal of rain from time to time, but generally speaking the temperature is mild, and the position of the city makes it highly attractive to tourists and lovers of the picturesque.—Angler.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

R. C., Donegal.—Your article is suitable, and we hope to get it in soon. We have so much matter waiting, we cannot say for certain when it will appear. Quite agree with your views respecting *Saprolegnia ferax*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

THE THAMES RIGHTS DEFENCE ASSOCIATION.

Sir,—The apparent apathy of anglers to protect their own interests when assailed seems to be again illustrated in relation to the above-named association.

Although the association has appealed again and again to the large body of Thames anglers, through the medium of your paper, the *Field*, and other papers, as well as placing notices containing a list of its objects in various fishing-tackle shops, it appears to have met with but cold indifference.

Surely it cannot be that the angling community do not know how strenuously many riparian owners on the banks of the metropolitan river are attempting to hinder, if not entirely to prevent, anglers from enjoying their favourite sport on this, the largest and most public river in England. Should the Thames Rights Defence Association collapse through want of funds, a result for which anglers would alone have themselves to thank, the public right to fish in the Thames wherever and whenever one may wish to do so will be another of those things of the past in a shorter time than may be generally anticipated. I refuse to believe that such a state of things will be allowed to take place simply because that portion of society which is most interested in the matter will not dip their hands into their pockets to enable a body of well-informed and energetic gentlemen to protect their rights.

It cannot be on the score of poverty that anglers do not subscribe, for I know some wealthy anglers who enjoy many a day on old Father Thames, and who, when applied to for a subscription to help preserve the fishing, simply consign the application, if made by letter, to the waste-paper basket; or, if it is asked whether they subscribe to the Thames Angling Preservation Society, the favourable results of whose labours they enjoy, answer with some shallow and shuffling excuse. Let it not be supposed that because one can only send a shilling or two it will be of no assistance; but let each and every one interested send his mite, and Mr. Francis Francis will not labour in vain.

It is fervently to be hoped that anglers will yet combine to vindicate and maintain their undoubted rights.—I am, &c., Henry Greenway.

The Firs, Cricklewood, March 13.

[We need hardly say again, what we have repeatedly said in favour of this association, Anglers *must* support it.—Ed.]

DOTTEREL FEATHERS.

Sir,—I have just obtained, at considerable cost and trouble, five perfect dotterel coats from Germany; and I find that they are as scarce there as in England. Two of them are magnificent birds, the other three younger specimens. I am very doubtful if I can get any more; but I offer the first two to my brother anglers at 15s. each, the other three at 10s. 6d., each. You, Mr. Editor, if you require one, can have the same gratis, in return for many courtesies. I am not at all surprised at my friend Mr. Eaton charging 5s. 6d. per dozen for his dotterel flies, if he he pays as dearly for his feathers as I have for these. I shall make no extra charge this season, as I have sufficient for present requirements.—I am, &c., Thomas Ford.

Caistor, Lincolnshire, March 15, 1882.

EARLIER TRAINS WANTED.

Sir,—For three long months will the rods of the London coarse-fish anglers be laid aside. Judging from the number of anglers who journeyed upon the Great Western Railway line alone on the 11th and 12th instant, the amount of money taken must be something considerable. It would be interesting to know the difference in the takings of the different railway companies, say, on the 19th and 20th (fenced) as compared with the 11th and 12th (open). I think the railway companies will find a considerable falling off. If the railway companies derive as much benefit as experience would show, surely, if put before them, they might take into consideration and study the convenience of such a number of customers by giving them a longer time to pursue their favourite pastime. Now, a working man who wishes to visit Goring, Moulsford, Pangbourne, Henley, or any of the stations Upper Thames, unless he can get away overnight, is compelled to start by the nine o'clock train, which does not arrive at those places till about eleven o'clock; and if the angler wishes to fish some distance from the station he gets out at, it will be nearly twelve o'clock before he makes a start. Then, again, he is compelled to pack up very early to come home by the train which leaves Moulsford at five o'clock, or he will be too late to weigh his fish at the club. We will take Goring as an example. By the privilege tickets the fare is 5s., which is just 1s. per hour to fish, and that in the worst part of the day.—I am, &c., A. Porter.

4, Hampton Street, Walworth, S.E., March 13.

THE FENCE MONTHS.

Sir,—As great interest is now being taken in the preservation of fish in our rivers, may we beg that you will allow us, through the medium of your valuable paper, to call the attention of landed proprietors and owners of riparian rights to the following sub-sections of the Mundella Act of 1878, which enacts that, the period between the 15th of March and the 15th of June, both inclusive, shall be a close season for freshwater fish. "If any person during this close season, fishes for, catches, or attempts to catch or kill any freshwater fish in any river, lake, tributary, stream, or other water, connected or communicating with such river, and if any person during this close season buys, sells or exposes for sale, or has in his possession for sale, any fireshwater fish, he shall, on on summary conviction before two justices, be liable to a fine not exceeding forty shillings. The term 'freshwater fish' includes all kinds of fish other than pollan, trout, and char, which live in freshwater, except those kinds which migrate to and from the sea."

Being strongly convinced of the urgent necessity for increased vigilance in the preservation of fish, and especially in the suppression of all kinds of illegal fishing, we trust that this appeal will meet with the attention it merits.—We are, &c.,

E. F. Atkinson, president,
G. W. Hellewell, hon. sec.,
Leeds Rockingham Angling Society.

March 10, 1882.

ELLIS'S BOOT STUDS.

Sir,—Should your intended notice of Ellis's boot studs not appear so early as next Saturday, I should be obliged if you would kindly state in that day's issue of the Fishing Gazette which size and kind (leather wood rubber) of the studs in question you recommend for brogues and fishing boots.—I am, &c.,

March 15. Inquirer.

[We recommend the smallest size made with leather.—Ed.]

A NEW ANGLING CLUB ON THE SEVERN.

Sir,—I have pleasure in informing you of the formation of a new club, entitled the Shrewsbury (Severn) Angling Society. The club holds its meeting at the house of the secretary, the undersigned, at 59, Mardol. The club has been inaugurated for the purpose of encouraging fair angling. A large number of piscators have enrolled themselves as members, and I am happy to say that the club commences its existence under excellent auspices and with every prospect of a prosperous career.

I shall be glad to receive suggestions from secretaries of similar societies which will tend to promote the welfare of our club, such, for instance, as how to best carry out club competitions. A glass case has been fixed in the club-room for the exhibition of specimens of fishing tackle.—I am, &c.,

F. H. Morgan, hon sec.

TROUT IN IN THE THAMES.

Sir,—In common with L. B., and most of the anglers of London, I cannot help looking on the attempt to propagate trout in the Thames as a great folly, and an utter failure. What preservation societies should aim at, is the employing a police of their own of fully-paid keepers. Night watching of the waters is very essential, and would probably reveal matters that would astonish some of our preservation societies. Should it be discovered that poachers work in gangs, volunteers would no doubt be willing, as occasion might require, to supplement the action of the regular paid watchers. The paid watchers should, in addition to their salary, have a reward on securing convictions.—I am, &c., A. F. Marriott.

FISHING NEAR CORK.

Sir,—In reply to "Herts," as to the best and quickest way of reaching Cork, I would suggest that the steamboat from Liverpool is the most pleasant; and if he gets on board the steamer "Gem," he will truly find her a gem. If he has any friends on the Atlantic steamer Lines, and can get a "pass" down to Queenstown—which, at this season of the year is not a great difficulty—he will have a nice taste of the Atlantic Liners; more especially on his return, when the hungry Yankees will surround him for all the latest news.

Apartments can be easily secured in Cork; but I paid 35s., I think, but they were fine, spacious rooms, and I had two daughters with me. The river Lee is very accessible from Cork; so is the Blackwater—two grand salmon rivers. Then there are plenty of smaller streams for trout, but pike have ever been beneath my notice. There are some "big 'uns" in the Lee, though. I have been through the best parts of Erin, and should prefer Cork for my head-quarters to most places. The famous rodsters and tackle makers, Haines Brothers, will give all you want in rods, tackle, or information. It is only an hour's ride to the Laune, near Killarney—a capital river. Of all countries I have fished, I never enjoyed one so much as Ireland; and when you are amongst the people, and find them so "aisy," courteous, and kind, it will be a mystery to you where they keep all the traitors we read so much of. The climate of Cork is most salubrious and health-giving.—I am, &c., W. J. Bullock.

Wigton, March 3.

ON THE GIMP QUESTION.

Sir,—Perhaps the following may call attention to one cause of weakness in gimp, hitherto, I believe, unnoticed.

Some years ago I had the pleasure of being present with and assisting a friend, a manufacturer, now, I believe, in America, in a series of experiments with various samples of silk. In all, except very old specimens, cotton was present. Much of the silk showed no fibre worth mentioning, being a kind of silk shoddy containing much cotton. A burst of a preparation of iron over a bundle of hank cotton furnished a plentiful and good sample of iron mould. Now what I would call special attention to is, that so long as this cotton was quite dry not much diminution of strength was discernible, but when soaked in water it turned through mush.

Gimp being a composition of silk and wire, my point is, that if any of the solutions used in colouring the wire will produce iron mould, and any of the silk used contains cotton, so soon as the gimp is soaked in water, here are the very elements of the rotten state so much complained of in the gimp as now manufactured.—I am, &c., W. S. L.

[This is useful information. The other matter will be used.—Ed.]

FIDDLESTRING *v.* GIMP.

Sir,—I noticed on page 119 of last week's Fishing Gazette, some very sensible observations about gimp. The discussion about the same matter in the *Field* I have not read.

I venture to give the experience of twelve years' trial of a material of similar appearance to gimp, but of vastly superior qualities, viz., fiddlestring. The strings I am speaking of are, in fact, made of catgut, and covered with fine wire, and are sold in various thicknesses, and employed in various musical instruments.

They are much stronger than gimp of the same thickness, with the additional recommendation that they do not seem to be injured by constant immersion in water.

About ten years ago I was one day indulging in my favourite sport—spinning for pike—in the river Ouse, at Castle Mills, near Bedford, when my flight of hooks caught an old sunken post in the centre of the river, with the result that, after a "strong pull and a long pull," my eight-plait silk line parted company about two yards above the "fiddlestring" trace.

Some nine months afterwards, I met an old friend, a well-known Bedford angler, who said, "I found yesterday a flight of hooks and a trace on an old sunken stump in the river." I looked at the tackle which my friend had recovered, and was surprised to identify it as the same I had lost. The trace was apparently as strong ever, in spite of its long immersion.

I have for many years used these "strings" for my tackles, with the result of but few breakages.

As to the trace, I have found double salmon gut (knotted) to be strong and durable, and better adapted for clear water than either gimp or fiddlestring.

The useful hints on page 119 I fully agree with.—I am, &c., A. R. H.

I enclose a piece of a "fiddlestring" from a tackle which has been in use for ten years.

[This fiddlestring seems in every way preferable to gimp made with silk.—Ed.]

STAINED GIMP.

Sir,—Herewith I send you a sample of gimp that is made in a different way. The wire is stained or tarnished before it is made, and the objectionable bichloride of platinum dispensed with, the wire being discoloured by a gas. You will see that the gimp is by this means quite as strong as by the ordinary way, and is made of pure silk it is the same price as the silver or gold colour, namely, 1½d., 2d., 3d., up to 10d. or 1s., according to size, the sample sent being 1½d. per yard. I should like your candid opinion on it, for I have found it invaluable for fine sea fishing.—I am, &c., William Hearder.

195, Union Street, Plymouth.

[This is the best gimp we have yet seen, and we can advise our readers to use it. It is fine and yet will bear a dead weight of thirty pounds. When we last week advised colouring the wire before it is put on the line we did no know Mr. Hearder had already adopted this simple plan.—Ed.]

SPECIMEN FISH *v.* GROSS WEIGHTS.

Sir,—I should very much like to know what the great difficulty is that J. M. D. can see in the way of the abolition of gross-weight competitions in clubs.

It is also a question that I should like to see discussed in the pages of the Fishing Gazette, being convinced that it will be to the interest of every angler to give the question his most serious consideration.

In my humble opinion, gross-weight matches and prizes for gross weights are nothing more than a specious form of gambling, a temptation to commit fraud, and a wholesale destruction of what might be "good fish," if it were not for the (to me) reprehensible practice of taking the gross weight in preference to the "specimen fish."

Again, is it reasonable to expect that one portion of the angling world will subscribe their money, time, and knowledge for the purpose of increasing the supply of fish in our rivers, if the other portion are permitted to take the fish before they arrive at anything like mature size?

What would J. M. D. think if he saw on his club trays a dozen chub—well, say from the Thames—and, perhaps, not one of them would weigh ¾ lb.; pounds of perch that were any size under the "standard"; bream, that were said to be like "bits of tin," and gudgeon more like minnows—and this one of the results of a gross-weight competition?

In my humble opinion the boy who angles for minnows with a bent pin for a hook and cotton for a line is a better angler than the man who, with his fine tackle and coarse cunning would take all the fish he can hook—the "typical sticker," who, fortunately for some, does not often get the opportunity to "stick" long at the waterside; for I venture to think, if it were otherwise, we should very soon have no fish to select our specimens from.

In conclusion, perhaps J. M. D. will allow me to thank him for his admiration of the "Kingfishers'" avowed objects and his courtesy in replying; also, to inform him that, so far as I know, the "Kingfishers" are working men who may have peculiar ideas of providing future sport for their brother anglers or not, as the case may be. Of this I am certain, they have long since passed the time when they might have felt annoyed at the well-known and often repeated words of—"What! no fish again?" on their return after another blank day; and they are also quite aware of the fact that there is but one economical place on the banks of the Thames, where, with any degree of certainty, fish may be obtained to gratify their friends' sight—or, taste.—I am, &c., Kingfisher.

CLUB REPORTS.

ALEXANDRA SOCIETY OF ANGLING.

On the 12th, sixteen members fished for eleven prizes at St. Margaret's with little success, five prizes only being taken:—Mr. T. Gripton taking 1st; Mr. T. W. Thompson, 2nd; Mr. Castle, 3rd; Mr. Chipchase, 4th; Mr. Miles, 5th. The remaining prizes will be fished for the first Sunday after the forthcoming fence months, when other valuable prizes will be added.—F. Wagner.

March 15.

AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

Being the last Sunday before the fence months the members went out in full force, and were amply repaid for their trouble by a great display of fish of all kinds, embracing jack, chub, tench, roach, dace, gudgeon, perch, and bleak, Mr. F. Arnold weighing in 1 lb. 1½ oz. of the latter, as well as 8 lb. 2 oz. of roach and dace; Mr. F. Harding, 20 lb. 14 oz.; Mr. S. Patrick, 16 lb. 3 oz.; Mr. G. Howlett, 7 lb. 3 oz.; Mr. Shury, 1 lb. 10½ oz.; Mr. Squire, 1 lb. 8 oz.; Mr. Farebrother, 1 lb. 15½ oz., perch; Mr. Hunt, 10½ oz., perch; Mr. Moir, 14 oz.; Mr. G. Carrington, 4 lb. 14 oz.; Mr. T. Lake, one jack, 3 lb. 15 oz., and roach. Mr. F. Harding won Mr. Mees', host of the Baker and Basket, prize for the gross weight of roach on the two Sundays; Mr. Farebrother winning Mr. W. Brearley's prize for the gross weight of perch on the last two Sundays; Mr. F. Harding won Mr. Farebrother's silver watch for the first heaviest weight of roach from the first Sunday in January; Mr. Partrick won Mr. Clarke's prize for the second heaviest; and Mr. Arnold won Mr. Howlett's prize for the third heaviest weight of roach.—T. Worledge.

ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several of our members were out on Sunday, the 12th inst., and succeeded in filling our trays with some capital fish. Mr. A. Glass 4 lb. ¾ oz. roach; Mr. A. Shakel roach and dace, from the Lea; Mr. Simpkins perch; Mr. T. Bowling roach and one bleak, 2½ oz., from Pulborough; Mr. D. Davis bream, from Amberley. The pike taken by Mr. Glass on January 22 and preserved by Mr. Miller, of 257, East Street, Walworth, has been returned and looks first-class. The bleak, 2½ oz., and the perch have been sent to Mr. Miller to be preserved. —D. Davis, sec.

March 14.

ANGLERS' PRIDE ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had a very fair show of fish for the wind-up of the season. Mr. Haines, 5 lb. 8 oz. of roach; Mr. Dawe, 4 lb. jack and 4 lb. bream; Mr. Deeley, 3 lb. roach; Mr. Wall, 2 lb. roach; Mr. T. Fiddes, 1½ lb. roach; Mr. Mallett, 1 lb. roach. Also the following members weighed-in:—Mr. Nash. Mr. Jones, Mr. H. Scutt, and Mr. T. Marshall won the consolation prize.—F. Marshall, sec.

March. 14.

BERMONDSEY BROTHERS.

The Bermondsey Brothers fished for a series of prizes on Sunday last at Pangbourne. Mr. Allen, 1st; Conn, 2nd; Gaffney, 3rd; Frost, 4th. The club had a fine show of fish to close the season with: jack, perch, roach, and dace adorning the trays.—Wm. Allen, sec.

March 14.

BOSTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our members have managed to get among a few fish this last week, Mr. H. Bastain, on the 8th inst., securing 13 lb. of dace. On Sunday last Mr. Adams, a new member of ours, weighed in 4 lb. of roach; Mr. Jennings, 6 lb. 14 oz. roach; Mr. Gratton and Mr. Seymour some handsome bream from Walton; on the 14th inst. Mr. Hart a pretty jack of 3 lb., and Messrs. Constable, Collier, and H. Bastain roach, dace, &c.—H. Taylor,

BRIGHTON ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

The sport in these waters has improved lately. Several good fish have been taken, although the rivers are somewhat cloudy. The members were determined to fish as long as the Act will allow them. Mr. Anscombe one carp, 7 lb., from the Adur; Mr. G. Saunders, carp, 6 lb. 6¾ oz., from Berwick; Mr. Anscombe some good bream from the same water, and the latter gentleman one perch, 1 lb. 6 oz., from the Ouse. The last competition took place on Tuesday 14th, and a good show of members showed up on the morning. Mr. Omerod, one jack 8 lb. ¾ oz.; Mr. G. Saunders and Mr. A Tomkins a good show of perch; Mr. Prangley and Mr. James Saunders also had perch; Mr. A. Cardy one jack. On Saturday evening Mr. Swaysland, naturalist, of Brighton, gave a lecture on "British Wild Birds," which was loudly applauded at intervals, and during fence month have promised another. A robin's nest has been seen by a member with five young ones, and a thrush's nest with four eggs.

Groundbait.

BRISTOL GOLDEN CARP ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

One of our members (Mr. James White) was out on Thursday last, and succeeded in bringing home a creditable catch of fish in splendid condition, which comprised the following:—Twenty-four large roach and dace, sixteen trout and one large eel, weighing altogether 29¾ lb., all of which were caught with red worms.—Lewis Wride, sec.

P.S.—Monday evening. Mr. Withers has just returned after a hard day's work with five nice jack, scaling 28¼ lb. Water very clear.

BURDETT ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above went out on Sunday last for the last batch of prizes previous to the close season. The first five of the following were successful; Mr. Eaton, roach; Mr. Whitmore, roach; Mr. Taylor, roach; Mr. Weeks, roach; Mr. Whitmore, jun, roach; Mr. Hastings, dace and roach; Mr. Creffield, rudd. The match was fished at Ware.—T. G. Walker.

BURTON-ON-TRENT ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

Very little has been done by members of this association during the last week in consequence of the thick state of the Trent. Of those who have been out, one member took a pike 6 lb. live-baiting, and another two pike, 5½ lb. and 6½ lb., spinning. A small party is being arranged to have a day on the association water at Rugeley before the close time commences. The water at Newton is now protected by a keeper, who has well staked all likely places to be netted. The annual meeting takes places in May, when a report shall be forwarded to the Gazette.

March 11.

CLAPHAM JUNCTION ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several of our members have been out and met with some good sport to finish up the season. Mr. J. Innes, landed 10 lb. of barbel and one chub nearly

3 lb.; Mr. W. Maslin, a good show of perch; and Mr. R. Wellman, roach; Messrs. E. Wilson, E. Wakeford, J. Walkley, J. Speed, E. Brewer, T. Smith, Bright and Bousine, roach, perch and jack. The prizes were not all taken on account of the bad state of the water, and will have to be kept till openibg of season. Members are requested to attend on Thursday next for important business and clear the books.—E. Wilson, sec.

March 14.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 5th, two members only weighed in, Mr. Mortimer, roach, and Mr. Payne, perch, both from the Lea, the former winning Mr. Marks prize. On the 12th, Mr. Mortimer, 2 lb. 6 oz. roach and dace from St. Margaret's, winning Mr. Chambers' prize, one dace weighing 10 oz., which has been sent to Cooper for preservation. Mr. Payne, roach, dace, and bream, 2 lbs., from Amberley, one dace weighing 7½ oz. Mr. Castell, 1 lb. 14 oz. roach and chub from the Roding, and Mr. Di'z 1 lb. 2 oz. roach and dace from St. Margaret's. —Cas.

DUKE OF NORFOLK ANGLING SOCIETY.

Fifteen members of the above society fished a match for a sweepstake between bridges on Sunday last at Uxbridge, only two members taking fish, Messrs. Darby and Godfrey who divided, Mr. Stone showing two pretty jack caught out of limits.—J. Avon, sec.

March 15.

GALA ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting was held in the Public Hall, Galashiels, on the 9th inst., ex-Bailie Main in the chair. The treasurer's report showed a balance in hand of £15 14s. 4d. The income for the year had been £32 2s. 11d. of which £13 had been spent in prosecuting trout-netters. The secretary read a letter from Mr. James Pringle, of Torwoodlee, intimating that for the time coming he had withdrawn his permission for any fishing on the Torwoodlee Estate. A communication was also read from Major-General Henry, of Pavilion, that the members of Gala Angling Club may commence fishing for trout on the Pavilion waters on March 1 instead of the 15th as formerly. The secretary was instucted to apply for the entrance of Gala Angling Association into the Scotch Fisheries Improvement Association. A vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.

GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had a fair show of fish on Sunday, Mr. W. Parkin 5 lb. 14 oz. roach, Messrs. Theobald and J. A. Fitch 5 lb. 12 oz., one fish 1 lb. 5 oz, J. K Fitch 6 lb. 8 oz., two roach weighing respectively 1 lb. 3 oz., and 1 lb. 1½ oz., Mr Page 14 oz. From the Thames, Messrs. Painter 1 lb. 5 oz., Newman 15 oz,, Hutchings 1 lb. 6 oz., C. Warren 1 lb. 4 oz., J. Watling 4 lb. 5 oz., Young 2 lb., Baker 1 lb. 1 oz., Warne 4 lb 11 oz., Armstrong 1 lb. 15 oz. Messrs. Burston, Kirk, Parrett, and G. Parkin also weighed roach, dace and perch, Mr. Mayes one jack from Welsh Harp We had a small show of fish on Monday and Tuesday evenings, Mr. C. Watling having a roach 1 lb. 7 oz. Our concerts during the close season will commence on Wednesday next; Mr. C. Watling, jun., will conduct the room as usual. We shall be pleased to meet brother anglers and friends on any Wednesday evening.—J. A. Fitch, jun., sec.

March 15.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The meeting of this society on Thursday evening was numerously attended. Mr. Crumplen (hon. secretary) stated that he had great pleasure in announcing that all the tickets for the dinner had beer taken, and a distinguished company would certainly assemble. Mr. Spencer Walpole, M.A., Mr. W. Senior ("Red Spinner"), and other celebrities of the angling world, in addition to those previously named, had announced their intention of being present, and Mr. Harker, the City Toastmaster, who was also a fisherman, would officiate on this occasion. Mr. Holroyd, the artist, who is a member of the society, has presented a pair of very fine, life size, oil paintings (half length), of Sir Thomas Gresham and Izaac Walton, perfect studies, and fine examples of portrait painting, which will be on view for the first time on the evening of the banquet. The society's list for the general and prize fund of the International Fisheries Exhibition, 1883, received several substantial additions, and, after a very successful and pleasant evening, the proceedings closed with a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Darling, who occupied the chair. Seven new members stand for election at the next meeting.

Art and Angling.

The members of this great and rapidly growing society may well be congratulated on the interest they one and all take in furthering its interests, and the united way in which all work. The society has just received a very handsome present from one of its members, Mr. Holroyd, in the shape of two very handsome, life size, half-length portraits in oil of Izaac Walton and Sir Thomas Gresham, which will be uncovered at their annual banquet on Wednesday next. We have not yet had an opportunity of personally inspecting these works, but from what we hear they are exceptionally fine productions, and the portraits are the result of much study on the part of Mr. Holroyd, from whose easel they emerge. The serene and contemplative features of old Izaac, the more stern, yet expressive face of Gresham, are both very cleverly depicted, and are as sure to bring fame to the artist as they are credit to the society in which he is enrolled.

HAMMERSMITH UNITED.

On the 12th Mr. Hitchcock caught a few dace at Surley Hall, and Messrs. Pitts, Peachey and Reynolds had a good take of roach from Henley. Messrs. Walters, Penney, Lewis and Burbidge also had fish. On the closing day Mr. Johnson showed roach from Harefield, Mr. Hobden, roach, dace, and jack from Eynsham, and Messrs. Walters and Aldridge roach, dace, perch and chub from private water.—Vortex,

HIGHBURY ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several of the members of this society contributed a very nice show of chub, roach and dace on the 12th inst., the most prominent being Messrs. Oakes, Higley, Payne, Cartwright, C. Rose, Hesse and Devonshire, the first four named taking respectively the prizes given for the heaviest weights of all fish from the Lea and other waters.—Jas. Ed. Wheatley, sec.

March 13.

IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Three special prizes were fished for on Sunday last, the 12th inst. Mr. G. Wood was first; Mr. T. Dennison, jun., was second (with some remarkably fine dace); Mr. G. Manning was third. As the fence season has commenced, the members will meet on Wednesdays, which evenings will be devoted to harmony only. Friends will also be heartily welcome.

March 16.

LARKHALL ANGLING SOCIETY.

There have been some fine trays of fish shown during the past week. Mr. Caplin had some good chub from the Loddor, largest going 4 lb., total 25 lb. 5 oz. Mr. G. F. Spencer, had roach from Twickenham, 18 lb, and from Guildford on the 14th, roach, dace, perch, tench, bream, barbel, chub and jack, one barbel going 6 lb. 4 oz., the gross weight of this very miscellaneous catch being 28 lb. 8 oz.; Mr. Boyce, from Richmond, perch, 5 lb. 9 oz., and roach 2 lb. 9 oz.; Mr. Deane, roach from Marlow, and Mr. King chub; Mr. G Watkins, had a nice perch from Egham, weighing 1 lb. 12 oz., a very good customer, being blind in both eyes and having a large hump on his back.—E. M. Macled.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

Most of our members ended the season on Sunday by fishing a peg-down match at Rickmansworth for six prizes. Mr. Humphreys was again lucky enough to obtain 1st prize, having done the same on several occasions; Mr. Gray, 2nd; Mr. Mead, 3rd; Mr. W. Evans, 4th; and Mr. Scott, 5th; the 6th was not taken. Mr. Heelas had one jack, Mr. Banfield gudgeon, and H. Moore three jack from other places. Our members are pleased to find that this has been a most successful season both to themselves and the society, and also to see that everything looks very promising for the next season. Our general visit from the eastern district takes place on Tuesday, March 21, when we hope all brother anglers will rally round and give a bumper on this occasion.—H. Moore, sec.

March 16.

METROPOLITAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 12th inst. Mr. Rowsell 6 lb. 2 oz. jack, 6 lb. 10 oz. roach, 2 lb. 4½ oz. perch, 13 oz. dace; Mr. Duckworth 3 lb. 8 oz. roach, 15 oz. chub, 7 oz. perch; Mr. Gowan 2 lb. jack.

NORTH-WESTERN ANGLING CLUB.

Sunday, the 12th inst., being the last in the past season, I should think a great number of our members were determined there should be a good show of fish in the evening, and there certainly was. Mr. Stead had four chub weighing 11 lb., two perch about 2 lb., and one jack 4 lb. 8 oz.; Mr. Mayman, hon. mem., one chub 3 lb 2 oz.; Mr. Isaac, fishing with Haslett at Chertsey, 8 lb. 8 oz. of barbel (not bad considering the time of the year), and 2 lb. roach; Messrs. Shackell, Plumpton and Foreman had jack from the Welsh Harp, all clean spawned, and the water is well up, so we can depend upon a good hatching of same this year, and, let us hope, plenty of fish in the future. Besides the foregoing about fourteen members started on the Saturday evening for Pangbourne to fish for a series of prizes on the Sunday. Mr. Marshall taking first prize, Mr. Pearse second, Mr, Holmes third, Mr. Weaver fourth, Mr. Greenwood fifth, Messrs. Harris, Spence, Harding, Patching and Grindley also had fish.—F. Hill, sec.

March 15.

THE ORIGINAL ALEXANDRA SOCIETY OF ANGLERS.

Nearly the whole of our members were out on Sunday last for nine prizes, go where they liked, and I must say we had a fine show of fish from different waters, Mr. C. Newton taking first honours with two handsome chub, their united weight drawing the beam of 7 lb. from the Lea, and were sent to Mr. Brock, of the Stepney Anglers, to be put up; Mr. Brockett taking the second with 4 lb. 2 oz. of fine roach from the Lea; Mr. W. High the third, with roach from the Chelmer; and the old one, Mr. Brockett senior, better known as the "Dagenham whip," fourth, with roach from the Lea; Mr. Blackledge the fifth, with roach from the Stort; Mr. C. Hewitt the sixth, with dace from the Stort; the other prizes not won. Mr. C. Fardell, of the City of Paris, Old Ford Road, and Mr. J. Cammack, the cigar merchant, had a fine show of roach and dace from Twickenham. As our fence month concerts proved a great success last year in aid of the Anglers' Benevolent Society, we intend having a second series. I will let you know more about it next week.—E. Dymond.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The major portion of the members of the above society fished a pegged-down match at St. Margaret's on Sunday last, and proved a very tame affair, only one prize being won, the fortunate individual being Mr. Laundy, the others not catching sufficient fish to entitle them to win. Mr. Neagus had roach, perch, and chub from the Stort.—Thos. Wm. Lucy, sec.

PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

At the meeting on Monday, 13th inst., Mr. Sachs, chairman, there were between twenty and thirty persons, including Mr. Towse, sec., London International Exhibition, and Mr. Crumplen (Gresham). It was moved by Mr. Bates, and unanimously carried, that a subscription list should be opened to provide a fund as a special prize from the members of the Piscatorial Society towards the prize fund of the Great International Fishery Exhibition, 1883, for prizes for freshwater fish and fishing exhibits. £9 15s. was promised. and the list will remain open for some time. Mr. Towse thanked the members, and said his committee would have much pleasure in carrying out the wishes of the society. The toast of the visitors was also given, to which Mr. Crumplen replied. Mr. Lemann weighed some chub from Maidenhead; Mr. Faulkener also some chub from Hampton. Mr. Pearce is improving in health, though slowly. The usual vote of thanks concluded the proceedings.

QUEEN'S ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our members fished for two prizes. Mr. Walford won one with 4 lb. of roach, at Harefield; Mr. Smith, the other, with 1½ lb. roach; Mr. Morgan, 2 lb. Mr. Smith's prize was for members that had not weighed-in 6 lb. of fish during the season.—L. Walford, sec.

ST. JOHN'S.

The members of this society fished for seven prizes on Sunday the 12th, but only nine members weighed-in fish; but the weight and sample was grand, for our trays were filled to the tune of 63 lb. 13 oz. of roach, dace, jack and perch, all from the Thames, Colne and Lea. On the 14th we shall have another good show, as there are a lot of members going out, but it will be too late to send report; but the fish will be on view at H. Gill's, the Three Compasses, Cow Cross Street, Farringdon Street.—F. Thorling.

March 13.

ST. JOHN'S WOOD PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Our members went out last Sunday for three prizes—1st prize, a splendid punt rod, given by Mr. Barnet, fishing-tackle maker, Church Street; 2nd, a jack line, given by H. Salmon; 3rd, two bottles of spirits, given by Salmon, senior—and were taken by the following members:—1st, by F. Bollington, with a brace of tench; 2nd, by R. Blackmore, with roach and chub; 3rd, by J. Manley, with roach.—J. Edwards, hon. sec.

TUNBRIDGE ANGLING CLUB.

The annual dinner of this club was held on Monday evening last at the Bull Hotel, High Street, Tunbridge, when there was a large attendance. Mr. T. Elliott, of Tunbridge Wells, one of the vice-presidents of the club, presided. The room was prettily adorned with stripped fish, including a pike of 28 lb., a 10 lb. Thames trout, and a brace of fine perch, lent by Mr. Greenwood; a 4 lb. Medway perch, a tench and chub from the same river, barbel from the Thames, a case of Medway brook trout, Loch Severn trout, and a fine trout from the Kennett, by Mr. T. Elliott; the skeleton of a pike, which must have weighed 30 lb., found on the banks of the river close to the town, after a flood, by Mr. Dove, and a Medway otter and fine perch by the secretary. At the conclusion of a first-rate repast, letters of apology for non-attendence were read from several gentlemen unable to be present. The chairman, in responding to the toast of the evening, "Success to the Tunbridge Angling Club," said that the main objects for which the club was started had been realised. The net of the poacher, and the sack into which everything went which had scales, were nearly extinct. The effect of strict preservation combined with the efforts in the way of stocking, had been to obtain for anglers good sport during the present season. Not only had there been good specimens and plenty of them, of the ordinary river fish, taken, but also fine carp which could hardly be called a river fish. Their water, like many, was not confined to local anglers, but they gladly welcomed any angler who could pay his subscription to the waters, and have good sport. He asked all members even to redouble their efforts in the cause of the society. The hon. secretary proposed, "The riparian owners," and alluded to the great kindness and the support they had received from the gentlemen and the contributions which had enabled them to put in no less than 12,060 fish in the river to improve the stock during the present year. Other toasts followed. There was some capital singing, and a very enjoyable evening was the result.

WALTONIANS.

A long list to close the season. Mr. Phillips, a mixed take, 10 lb.; Mr. Brady, roach, 9 lb. 2 oz.; Mr. Morris, roach, 8 lb. $2\frac{3}{4}$ oz.; Mr. Clarkson, roach, 8 lb. 9 oz.; Mr. Skeats, roach, 7 lb. 12 oz.: Mr. Waltham, roach, 6 lb. $4\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; Mr. Grace, roach, 6 lb.; Mr. Rowland, roach, 4 lb. 2 oz.; Mr. Togwell, chub, 3 lb. $12\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; Mr. Giles, jack, 3 lb. $8\frac{1}{2}$ oz., roach, $6\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; Mr. Little, a jack, 9 lb. $6\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; Messrs. Horsford, W. Putnam, Good, jun., W. Dodge and A. J. Marriott also weighed-in fish.—A. J. Marriott.

March 14.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

On the 9th Mr. Weatherhead returned from Blunham, he succeeded in getting among some nice roach while he was there, five of them weighing each respectively 1 lb. $5\frac{1}{2}$ oz., 1 lb. $5\frac{1}{4}$ oz., 1 lb. $4\frac{1}{2}$ oz., 1 lb. 4 oz., 1 lb. $2\frac{3}{4}$ oz.; he also had some perch and roach. Mr. Delehaye, jun., visited Saw bridgeworth, where he headed some of "the southerners" with 3 lb. 14 oz. of roach. On the 12th about twenty of the members visited Bourne End to compete for the diamond ring given by Mr. Renault, and several other prizes given by different gentlemen. Messrs. Bayley and W. Brown acted as the advance on the 11th, and by this means were enabled to peg-out some good swims. Reaching Bourne End, most of the members adjourned to the Red Lion, and partook of some of mine host's "Harvey's sauce," the influence of which they enjoyed. What do you think, Mr. J. Searle? It was a glorious day, the water a nice colour, and like a sheet of glass; in fact if the last Sunday of the 1881 season had been made expressly for the purpose, it could not have been a better day. The final result of the competition was as follows:—Mr. C. Beale, 1st, with roach; Mr. J. Bedford, 2nd; and Mr. Renault, 3rd, both with roach. The two first named ran very close with their fish, but Mr. Bedford lost the first prize by a little over 1-16th of an inch in one fish which was barred from being weighed. On the 14th a competition took place for a gold pin, given by Mr. Feuillade, two pictures of the birds of Great Britain, given by Mr. W. Hart, and a copy of that late piscatorial artist Mr. Rolfe's work of a salmon, trout and perch, given by "Pixie." I must not omit to mention that London societies mustered pretty strongly at Bourne End on this day; I recognised some of the members of the Golden Barbel, Marylebone, Eustonians, Waltonians, Silver Trout, and several others, most of whom were competing for two silver cups given by Mr. Kemp, of Cleveland Street, Portland Road. Messrs. Harrison and Lumby visited Hurley, the former succeeded in a nice jack, and the latter had a good time of it among the roach. I met the Brothers Raymond, of the Kenningtonians, one of them, while jacking, managed to hook, land and weigh a fine trout of 6 lb. After having admired it a short time, they, in real sportsman-like manner, returned it to Father Thames. Oh! Pixie, "he was a beauty."—Pixie.

Messrs. Hughes and Hockley had 200 lb. of jack during the last three days of last week, the whole of which Mr. Hockley exhibited. Mr. Hughes and a friend visited another water on Monday, and on Wednesday evening they exhibited and weighed 150 lb. of jack at the headquarters. The Second Surrey on the 12th were well among the bream at Hampton, one among the lot going over 5 lb. The winners of the Tuesday's competition for the Walworth Waltonians were Mr. Collins first, Mr. Bansback second, and Mr. Boalch third. Mr. J. Weatherhead will take the chair at the supper on the 21st. between the Walworth Waltonians and the South London.—Pixie.

March 16.

WESTBOURNE PARK PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The members of the above club fished an open match on the 12th inst. Mr. Butting took the first prize, 27s. 6d., with a handsome show, four bream scaling over 13 lb. and two chub 3 lb. $5\frac{1}{4}$ oz. and 3 lb. 1 oz., total, 19 lb. 8 oz., from the Ouse. Mr. J. Bayford took second prize, 10s., with one jack 3 lb. 3 oz., from Godfrey's Water West Drayton. Mr. W. Adeane took third prize, 7s. 6d., with 3 lb. of fish, also Godfrey's Water. The majority put their faith in the Thames but were not in it. On Friday 10th, Mr. Thomas took a fine chub off Monkey Island weighing 3 lb. $13\frac{1}{4}$ oz. The next few weeks will be devoted to walking round and finding fresh swims. -Henry Adeane.

March 13.

YARE PRESERVATION SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the above society will be held at the Bell Hotel, on Tuesday evening, March 21, 1882, at 8 o'clock, to adopt the accounts for the past year, elect officers, &c., and other important business.—C. J. Greene, hon. sec.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

In these notes I always give precedence to the capture of really good fish, and am very pleased this, the last week of the general fishing season, to be able to record the clever capture, by Mr. Hewitson—out with Purdue, of Shepperton, on Saturday last, while paternostering with a worm for perch—of a jack, weighing 11 lb. Mr. Hewitson has been very successful among big fish, and succeeded in taking among others from Hurley, a jack, 17 lb, and a perch of 3 lb.

Mr. Gee, the genial fishing-tackle dealer, of St. Andrew Street, Bloomsbury, has been on the war-path, after the roach, in the neighbourhood of St. Margaret's, but was beaten hollow by his friend, Mr. George Lake, who accompanied him, and who succeeded in basketing some 18 lb. of magnificent roach, the heaviest scaling close upon 1 lb. 8 oz.

Mr. Vincent, of the Bostonian Angling Society, now residing at Watford, writes me that a meeting will shortly be held in that town for the purpose of forming an angling society. Mr. Vincent promises to send me a report of same, and to keep me informed of what is being done in the matter. I am sure brother anglers in London will not only wish the promoters every success, but willingly give them any advice or assistance in their power.

I hear that the Hoxton Brothers' Angling Society contemplate removing from their present quarters, the Jane Shore, Shoreditch, and that tenders from those having rooms suitable for the locating of this numerous club are invited.

This (Friday) evening the monthly meeting of the West Central Association will be held at the Portman Arms, Great Quebec Street, Baker Street. As matters of great importance, including the paying of rewards for convictions obtained, the preservation of the Thames, etc., will be discussed, it is hoped every club will be represented.

The committee of the Thames Rights Defence Association met on Thursday, March 9, at Simpson's Tavern, in the Strand, Mr. Francis Francis presiding. Among the members present were Messrs. J. M. R. Francis, hon. sec.; Crump, treasurer; Ledger, Lemann, Morgan, Clench, L. Bonvoisin, and While; the last-named gentleman, who has been seriously ill, being heartily welcomed upon once more taking his place on the committee. Some business of importance was transacted, the balance sheet read and auditors appointed, the association's line of conduct in the immediate future being also unanimously agreed upon.

Another angling society has been started at the Black Horse, Whitechapel. There are now 158 societies in London and the suburbs, and I am open to bet any sceptic a new barbel rod to a split shot that by this time next year there will be over 200.

Concerning the society formed from the three London associations for the purpose of renting, stocking, and preserving waters, a meeting of the sub-committee appointed to draw up a code of rules for the society's guidance, took place at the Star and Garter, St. Martin's Lane, W.C., on Wednesday evening, March 15, and a meeting of the main committee of thirty-six will shortly be summoned that the said rules may be submitted to them.

An old member of one of the leading suburban angling societies brought into the club-room, some few days ago, a Thames trout weighing close upon 6 lb. The fish was taken, I am told, ledgering with a lob worm. The open manner in which it was done seems to point to the explanation given by the unfortunate captor being the right one—viz., that he did not know the fish was fenced and the retaining of it before the 1st of April was an offence against the bye-laws. But no such excuse can be pleaded by the professional fisherman whose name I have, and who has already been fined for illegal practices, and that recently. By lending themselves to such things, these men not only rob the river but rob themselves; for I do not hesitate to say that many gentlemen would utterly refuse to employ a professional who could be guilty of such actions. Well might a contemporary say that, when the president of the said society saw the fish brought in, "his hair fairly stood on end." I remember my own feelings on entering my society's room this trout fence season, and seeing a brace of "spotted beauties" lying on the trays immediately in front of the chairman. Nor shall I forget my own mortification when, after having worked myself into a great state of indignation, and wanting "to know who had done this," I was quietly informed, amidst some good-natured laughter, that the fish had not been taken with rod and line, but were a brace from High Wycombe which, together with some hundreds of others, had, unfortunately, been poisoned, through the bursting of a tank of bleach. Each fresh arrival was hoaxed in the same manner as I had been. At the close of the evening the fish were quietly slipped unobserved into Mr. X.'s bag by that incorrigible wag, Julius H., and were unknowingly carried home by poor X. in company with a few coarse fish, the result of his day's angling.

From Haslett, of Chertsey, I get the following:—"One day, two barbel. On Sunday, with Mr. Stanley Isaac, five barbel, two roach about 1 lb. each, and one chub. On Monday, with Mr. Allen, three jack (heaviest 6 lb.) and one barbel. I hope my next report will be the capture of a good trout. The time will soon be here, and I have two good fish already spotted.

This (Friday) evening there will be a meeting of the London committee of the International Edinburgh Fisheries Exhibition.

George James Eaton, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[Advt.]

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Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 1882.

THE GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY'S ANNUAL DINNER.

THE first annual dinner of the Gresham Angling Society was held in the Prince's Saloon, at the Holborn Restaurant, Holborn, E.C., on Wednesday evening last. The chair was taken by Lord George Hamilton, M.P., the first president of the society. The dinner was a most *recherché* affair, served in the style for which the Holborn Restaurant is so famous, and amongst the numerous guests and members present were the following :—

Major the Hon. E. R. Bourke; Alderman Cotton, M.P.; Rev. J. J. Manley, M.A.; Rev. H. Cummings, M.A.; Spencer Walpole, M.A.; T. Spreckley (T. A. P. S.); Dr. Brunton; Dr. Lloyd; Dr. Theodore Cash; Dr. Oswald; Dr. Defreiz; Dr. A. C. Tucker; Dr. J. Tucker; W. Senior ("Red Spinner"); W. Wheatstone; J. P. Wheeldon (*Bell's Life*); W. H. Brougham; R. B. Marston (*Fishing Gazette*); J. C. Fryer; W. B. Adlington; J. Ross Faulkner; Captain Alfred; C. C. Capel; J. Andrews; W. A. Crump; J; Callaghan; Graham Bennett; George Austin; F. W. Backhouse; J. Christie; J. F. Clarke; J. Massingham; J. Deller; D. Cartwright; J. Beckett; C. Hatfield; W. O. Woods; T. Crumplen; C. Bates; A. Jardine; J. Knechtli; C. S. Bentley, F.R.M.S., &c.; S. C. Harding; A. Nuthall; A. Paterson; E. Frost; J. W. Haye; Henri Brett; J. E. Harding; Howard Taylor; G. H. Young; R. Bryant; T. P. Cooper; C. E. Aveling; J. G. Thompson; H. Godwin; C. J. Darling; J. Elliot; R. A. Holroyd; J. Collingridge; R. Murphy; J. Morgan; C. Winterbottom; W. Cotton; F. Norman; and many others.

A liberal and excellently served *menu* having been discussed, the toastmaster, Mr. Harker, called for order for the first toast, "The Queen and the Royal Family," which was proposed by

The Chairman, who said: The first toast that we always drink on these occasions is the health of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen. She has ruled over us for a period which exceeds, with the exception of a very few of her predecessors, the reign of any sovereign who has occupied the throne of this country. But it is not merely for the length of her reign that it is most remarkable. During the time that she has been the constitutional monarch of these islands we have increased in material, in moral, and in social prosperity to an extent far exceeding any preceding cycle of our history. Of course it would be absurd to credit Her Majesty with all the prosperity which we have enjoyed during the time that she has occupied the throne; but this much I think we can fairly say, that there has been no great national or social movement which has taken place while she has been upon the throne that she has not helped with her enormous influence and brought it more quickly to a successful conclusion. (Cheers). But gentlemen it is not merely as a constitutional Sovereign that we are proud of Queen Victoria. In this country we pride ourselves upon the fact that domestic and family ties are perhaps stronger than in any other country of the world. (Cheers). Her most gracious Majesty as a wife and as a mother has set us an example which we would do well to emulate. Therefore it is as a woman that we honour and revere our present illustrious Sovereign. (Loud applause). And gentlemen it is therefore difficult to find language in which to describe our indignation at the recent atrocious outrage. (Great cheering). There was a comfortable theory that when any Sovereign or governor was popular with all classes, and did his duty well, he ran no personal risk from freely moving amongst those whom he might happen to govern; but unfortunately the successful assasination of President Garfield and the attempted outrage upon Her Majesty at Windsor have shown us that no matter how deservedly popular a Sovereign or governor may be their persons are not safe from notoriety-seeking rascals. We are very proud of the high state of civilization to which we have arrived, but unfortunately, notwithstanding the development, we sometimes find men like Guiteau and Maclean, and the best method by which outrages of this kind can be stopped, would be for the police to let go their prisoners for a few moments, and leave them to the tender mercies of the mob. If Maclean had been handed over to be kicked and cuffed for a few minutes by Eton boys, he would not be so anxious for the notoriety he craved. (Laughter and cheers.) Well, Her Majesty has gone to seek health in a foreign clime, and I cannot myself help thinking that that which will help to restore her as quickly to health as the breezes of the coast to which she has gone, will be the reports which must reach her there of the heartfelt thanks sent up to Providence that her precious life has been spared to us (cheers), and long distant may the day be before the historian is called upon to chronicle the full length of her glorious reign. (Loud cheering.)

The National Anthem was then sung by the assembled company.

The Chairman, in proposing the next toast, "The Gresham Angling Society," said: I have now to request you to drink the toast of the evening, namely, "Prosperity to the Gresham Club," and, in asking you to drink that toast, you perhaps will allow me to state to you the reasons why I think it has a claim upon your consideration. We are all of us very apt to generalise from our own experience, and I don't mind telling you what my own individual experience was some few years back. I happened to be somewhat unexpectedly elected at an early age to a seat in Parliament, when I was very fond of field sports; and, in consequence, I was compelled to be in London very much more than I ever expected to be. I was fortunate to be connected with many relations who happened to have places in the country where, if I could get away for a few days, I had opportunities for indulging in the various sports to which I had been accustomed. But it seemed to me if anyone had been in my place and had not those opportunities he would have found London very dull indeed. I have always attached the greatest importance to outdoor amusements, and the more we can cultivate them the longer we shall remain a great nation. It is a very remarkable fact that England is supposed to be the richest country in the world for her size, and yet Englishmen are notorious in all parts of the world for their pre-eminence in all athletic amusements, and long may the pre-eminence continue. (Cheers). At the very moment we are beaten in all outdoor exercises, and a general taste for them languishes amongst young men, from that moment you may date the decline of the English nation. (Hear, hear). Of all the sports of which England stands pre-eminent, hunting, fishing, and shooting stand first. Hunting and fishing are not always within every one's means, but fishing does not come within that catalogue; but it would not be possible for many an individual unless he had a friend who had water to fish, or belonged to a club like this, to indulge in his favourite amusement. Therefore, when I was asked to become the president of this society I reflected as to what were the advantages it offered. This year I have the honour to be the president of the Marylebone Cricket Club, and it appeared to me that my experience in that club was of advantage to me. Cricket is a great national sport. There are county clubs and local clubs in every part of the Kingdom. Still large London clubs are of immense advantage to cricket. (Hear, hear.) Apart from the social advantages which they offer to their members, they unquestionably confer great practical benefit upon the cricketers of the world. It seemed to me therefore that if any new club were started, that club might perform for fishing much the same functions as the Marylebone and other clubs do as regards cricket. (Hear, hear.) Therefore I accepted the honour that was offered me. (Cheers.) But I never thought it would prove such a great success as it has proved to be. (Cheers.) It is scarcely a year since the first meeting was held, and I believe the members already number 225. (Cheers.) There were several objects to promote which this club was started. With the toast which I am now about to propose to you I shall associate the name of Mr. Crumplen (hear, hear, and applause); for I am bound to admit that he is the most indefatigable secretary, and if you do write for information he replies by the next post, and in a hand so legible that I am bound to say I envy it, and wish most of my correspondents were forced to copy it. (Great laughter.) He will read you a report of the main features of interest concerning the past year, and therefore I feel that it would be hardly fair upon him if I were to trench upon his legitimate ground because he has been kind enough to furnish me with a copy of his report. Now, I believe one of the objects with which this club was started was one that it should form a library, that it should read and discuss papers, and promote and advance various experiments in reference both to the catching as well as the preservation of fish. Well, I believe it has been most successful in that respect, and the secretary will read to you a detailed account of its action in this direction. But there is one feature which I think is very satisfying concerning the position of the club. I mentioned that there are 225 members. I am glad to hear that most of those who have joined are themselves fishermen—practical anglers, and the success which has attended them in the past year will rank with any other club. In reference to the practice of noting the "takes" by members, I very much regret the tendency of modern times for men not to be satisfied with a good days sport, but to be dissatisfied unless they can beat every one else—(hear, hear)—and especially in cover shooting, so much so that men choose to shove into one day three or four days' shooting; to fire a lot of long shots without killing the animals they fire at, simply because they wish to beat some one who resides in the neighbourhood. Such sport is not sportsmanlike. (Hear, hear.) I hope that the club will in any regulations it may put forward lay down such reasonable precautions that men should not be able to fish with half a dozen rods at once. (Hear, hear.) I think I have kept you long enough in proposing this particular toast. (No, no.) I have very much pleasure in coupling with it the name of the secretary, to whose diligence and tact a very considerable portion of the success of the club is unquestionably due. (Cheers.)

Mr. Crumplen, who was received with rounds of cheers, said: I thank you for the way in which my name has been associated with this toast, and for the credit you have given me for what I have done. I could not have done what I have done without the cordial assistance of the committee and of the members of the society. We have all done our best. (Cheers). I promised when I undertook the office of secretary that I would be a working secretary (cheers); and I think I have worked. (Hear, hear.) But, as I have said before, every member of the committee and of the society has helped me so far as possible. Well that being the case I think I had better at once read the report which has been prepared by myself with the sanction and assistance of the committee. It details what we have done in the past year and embodies everything in much better words than I could put it in a speech.

The following report was then read, the reading being frequently interrupted by enthusiastic marks of approval:—

"Report.

"The committee are glad to be able to congratulate the members of the society upon the great work it has accomplished and the solid status it has attained in this, the first year of its existence. The objects for which it was founded were to promote congenial, social intercourse, to disseminate information, to obtain travelling privileges, to rent water, to abolish gross weight competitions, to form a museum of specimen fish, and, as far as possible, to aid all movements in furtherance of the interests of the angling community. It was felt that the time had arrived when a leading angling society, of a more literary and scientific character than usual, might be successfully launched in the City of London, and the correctness of this opinion is attested by the fact that within less than a year from our first public meeting some 225 members have been enrolled on the register of the Gresham.

"The earliest efforts of the committee were directed to the formation of a library of standard angling works which, they are happy to state, has already reached about eighty volumes. Many (and the first of these) were presented by Mr. Bentley. The hon. secretary, Mr. Jardine, Mr. Adlington, Dr. Brunton, Mr. Cooper, Mr. King, Mr. C. C. Capel, and others, have also contributed, Mr. Bryant undertaking the duties of librarian.

"The work of the society has been largely aided by the valuable essays read and discussed at its meetings. These have included papers from Mr. Crumplen, Mr. Bentley, Captain Alfred, Mr. Wheeldon, the Rev. Hayman Cummings, and Mr. George Austin; several others being promised for future evenings. The committee are pleased to notice that the practice of reading papers at angling meetings is now being largely adopted by other societies, and that their efforts to disseminate useful information by the publication of Gresham essays has been very widely appreciated.

"The society has also had several special musical evenings, in which some of the old Waltonian and other angling ditties have been revived; Messrs. J. E. Harding, Aveling, Winterbottom, Woods, and the members generally, rendering very valuable aid.

"Pending the acquisition of suitable water, the society acquired for its members temporarily the right to fish at Thorney Broad, and also at Ford's, and they now exclusively rent the smaller Lea at Waltham, which they purpose to preserve and stock. During the few months of the society's existence, some fine specimen fish have been presented or collected, and the nucleus of a museum, of which Captain Alfred is honorary curator, has already been formed.

"The society desire to thank many gentlemen for the loan of specimens, especially Captain Alfred, Messrs. Eaton and Deller, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Cartwright, and others. The society will shortly possess cases of pike, perch, and bleak, which will equal, if they do not surpass, any at present belonging to angling societies. The society is also able to compare favourably with any other in regard to the total quantity of fish taken by its members, but more especially so in regard to the size of the fish weighed-in; the society's prizes being given exclusively for specimen fish.

"The first fish weighed-in was a tench of 2 lb. 12 oz., by Mr. G. Chambers, on the 21st July last, which has been preserved by the society to commemorate the occasion. The most important takes have been:—Mr. Hunt, roach, 122 lb. 4 oz. (all large, some of nearly 2 lb.); Mr. Cartwright, bream; Mr. Edward Bennett, roach (several going 1½ lb. each); Mr. Graham Bennett, several fine trays of roach, exceptionally large; some fine dace and a carp of 3¾ lb. from Mr. White; chub have been weighed-in by Messrs. King, White, and Frost; grayling by Mr. Jardine and Dr. Brunton. In these instances the takes have all been of importance, and the fish in most cases above the society's standard, which is in itself exceptionally high. The takes of pike have been remarkable, no less than 654 lb. 4 oz., having been weighed-in during the season.

"These were from Messrs. Barrett, Barnard, Brett, Bryant, Cooper, Defreiz, Ellis, Jardine, Knechtli, McDowell, Nuthall, and White; by far the larger quantity having been taken by Messrs. Jardine, Knechtli, Nuthall, and Brett. Mr. Jardine has taken not only the greatest quantity, but the largest fish, one recently weighed-in turning 27½ lb. The great exploit of Messrs. Jardine and Knechtli at the commencement of the year is still fresh in the recollection of the society; those gentlemen placing ten fish before the members which, when taken, weighed over 150 lb., a circumstance not previously recorded by any angling society. Three of these weighing 60 lb., were presented to the society by Messrs. Jardine and Knechtli for the museum. Mr. Jardine has also presented two perch lately taken, which with one of 3 lb. 4 oz. weighed-in and given by Mr. Brett, will make one of the finest cases of perch existing.

"Such is a brief statement of that portion of the society's work, details of which will be brought forward at the annual meeting in June next. To all these successful anglers the thanks of the society are very justly due. A considerable amount has been offered to the prize fund by various members, and Mr. Jardine has presented a valuable painting by (and in memory of) his old friend Mr. H. L. Rolfe, who was also a member of this society: which forms the first prize.

"The presents to the society, in addition to the books mentioned (and apart from the prize fund) include the society's die (the grasshopper) from Mr. S. C. Harding; a similar stamp for its books from Dr. Defriez and Mr. Massingham; a presidential hammer; a case of exceptionally large bleak; and a beautiful painting, entitled "A Leap for Liberty," by Captain Alfred; a water-colour drawing of roach from Dr. Brunton; a case of goosanders from Norway, by a member of the committee and last, but not least, the magnificent portraits of Sir Izaak Walton and Sir Thomas Gresham, painted and preserved by Mr. Holroyd, which have been uncovered for the first time to-night. The society has taken considerable interest in piscicultural questions, and hopes soon to discuss Mr. Marston's scheme for the propagation of coarse fish. The praiseworthy objects of the Thames Rights Defence Association will also be shortly considered. It has done its best to aid all good angling movements, having been represented at every meeting of importance, whether those of the West Central Association, deputations to railway companies, or in reference to parliamentary bills; and has contributed from its funds, as well as by private subscriptions, to many worthy objects. Amongst these have been the Frank Buckland memorial, £3 3s.; the Anglers' Benevolent Society, £5 5s.; and the Thames Angling Preservation Society, £3 3s. About £15 cash has been collected from the members for the General and Prize Fund of the International Fisheries Exhibition of 1883, in addition to a guarantee of about £120, if funds are required.

"In presenting this brief epitome of the year's work, the committee desire to acknowledge the ready help received from all the members, and the kindly feeling displayed toward the Gresham by the members of other societies. They take this opportunity also of thanking the Press for their very frequent reports, there being scarcely any London paper, daily or otherwise, in which some notice of the proceedings of

The society has not appeared. They would especially mention *Bell's Life*, the FISHING GAZETTE, and *City Press*. They have also to thank Mr. Wood, of The Anglers, Walton; Mr. King, of the Royal Oak, Windsor; and several Thames fishermen for the reports of the state of the river received regularly from them. In conclusion, they would express their belief that by working in harmony with other societies, coupled with continued energy and unity of purpose, the progress and prosperity of the Gresham Angling Society is fully assured."

After a song, "Man's Life is but Vain," by Mr. J. E. Harding,

The Chairman said I have now to ask your acceptance of the toast, "The International Fisheries Exhibition of London and Edinburgh.'' The importance of these proposed exhibitions I think we can best estimate when we take into consideration the very large number of persons who obtain their livelihood by fishing in this kingdom; and anyone who has lived during rough weather in one of the seaside towns of England must have been struck with the audacity with which the fishermen manage their boats. I think it is very much in the national interest that men such as these should have their interests well looked after, because you may depend upon it among the British fishermen we find our best sailors. In mentioning the International Fisheries Exhibition one cannot help casting one's thoughts back to those who were the prime movers, and amongst those one name stands pre-eminent, and that is the Prince of Wales. (Applause and cheers). I always make a point of reading the literature in political life of those who differ from me, and I see in some very extreme journals that the life of members of the royal family is said to be practically one of luxury. (No, no). I should like those critics to have to go through one day's work such as the Prince of Wales has to go through, to attend the number of meetings and make the number of speeches he has to make—and in all his speeches he shows that he thoroughly understands his subjects. If some of those self-appointed critics were to perform their duties in life as well as the royal family do, we should hear less of their criticism. This International Exhibition will be a great success. The secretary of the exhibition is here to-night, and he informs me that they wanted seven acres for their exhibition. That shows the magnitude of the scheme. It relates to saltwater as well as freshwater fish, and there is nothing connected with fishing which will not form part of that exhibition. With this toast I have the honour of coupling the name of Mr. Spencer Walpole. (Cheers.) It is one of the great charms of angling that just in proportion as civilisation increases—provided rivers are not polluted—the fish become accustomed to the sight of men and are more difficult to catch. (Hear, hear.) Fish somehow or other seem to acquire additional cunning in coming into contact with human beings. Well, now, some few years ago attention was called to the decay of our salmon fisheries. I don't know if many gentlemen here are aware of the fact that not so very many years back salmon were so common that apprentices used to make it a part of their contract that they were not to be forced to eat salmon more than three times a week. (Laughter.) Of the enormous impetus given to salmon fishing, and of the result of recent legislation, and proper preservation of fish, my friend can speak better than I can, but anyhow we know that where you have a large population who like catching fish and eating it, it is necessary that there should be certain regulations enforced, and provided they are judicious the more they are enforced, the better for the angler and those who wish to eat fish. I believe we shall all go to the exhibition, and learn a great deal that we did not know before; and my friend, whose name I am about to associate with this toast will acknowledge that after he has mastered the exhibition, he will be a more stringent inspector even than he has been hitherto. I have associated with this toast, up to this time, the name of Mr. Spencer Walpole, but there are other gentleman who are well known to you as distinguished members of the club, and by their success as fishermen, and these two gentlemen are Captain Alfred and Mr. Jardine.

Mr. Spencer Walpole, in responding, said, I thank you all very sincerely for the manner in which you have received this toast. I must thank our chairman, too, for the very kind terms in which he referred to me. I am a very humble member of the Committees of the London and Edinburgh International Exhibitions; but I think, from what I have heard from the more laborious workers, I can predict that the exhibition which will open next month in Edinburgh will be a great success, and that the greater exhibition, which I hope her Majesty will consent to open in London, will be a still greater success. It has been my great fortune to visit two exhibitions of this kind, one at Berlin and one at Norwich, and I am quite sure that I came away from both of those exhibitions convinced that I, as well as most of us, had much to learn, and I have no doubt that our chairman is quite right in saying I shall learn much at our own exhibitions. The assurance which they give of the greater attention which is being paid to the whole question of fish and fisheries is important. When I recollect that at the meeting at Willis's Rooms, the Prince of Wales presided, that the Duke of Edinburgh was present, and that half of the members of the Liberal and Conservative Cabinets were also present (hear, hear), I think it is a fair assumption that the illustrious and eminent persons in this country have recognised the importance of the great fisheries of the United Kingdom. I don't know whether any of you recollect a delightful passage in a delightful book—I mean "Coningsby," familiar to our chairman at any rate (laughter)—in which Lord Beaconsfield propounds the question of the position and prospects of the Conservative party, and he makes one of his heroes say, "the question is, what are you going to conserve?" I have read through "Coningsby" more than once, and I do not recollect that he ever answered the question. But it has been left for our chairman to answer the question. (Laughter.) The Conservative party were going to preserve fish and fisheries—(great laughter and applause)—and they have sent down one of the most distinguished members of the late Conservative Administration to announce to you gentlemen this evening the policy of the party. (Renewed laughter). Speaking as a non-politician, for I have no politics, I think the Conservative party could not address themselves to a more useful function. (Laughter). In fact, I am sure that when our chairman looks round upon this company, he will consider that in taking up this question he will even add to the well-earned popularity that he has already acquired in this country. (Cheers).

Mr. Jardine, responding, said he felt, after Mr. Walpole, he had very little to say. There were, however, one or two topics not touched upon with regard to the International Fisheries Exhibition. There was no doubt that a very great deal of the success of the inauguration of the movement sprung from the very successful exhibition at Norwich, of which Mr. Birkbeck was the prime mover—certainly next to the Prince of Wales. Next to the Prince of Wales, he was the mainspring of the great exhibition which would take place in 1883. The exhibition was, socially, such an assured success that he thought it would not be smaller than the Great Exhibition of 1851. The executive had worked hard and well, and the work had been going on silently for six months, and they had put themselves in communication with the most distant countries—with China and Japan, and had sent out prospectuses and circulars to Cappadocia and the uttermost parts of Mesopotamia—(great laughter), and had received specimens which would link the fishes of the past with those of the present. (Renewed laughter). They had, amongst others, obtained specimens of the fishes caught by the apostles, upon the sea of Tiberias. (Roars of laughter). With regard to the locality that was not quite decided. They had hoped to have had Hyde Park. If they could not get Hyde Park they would get some other park. The exhibition would be kept open for a matter of about six months, and he believed it would be the greatest success in the world in regard to pisciculture. (Cheers).

Captain Alfred also responded, and explained what the London Committee of the Edinburgh Exhibition had been doing. With the short notice they had received they had sent on some very good specimens.

Mr. J. Elwin next sang "Tom Hardy,'' after which

Mr. Jardine proposed the toast of the "Thames Angling Preservation Society and Kindred Institutions." He said he was one of the committee-men, and felt it was rather a mistake for him to have to propose this toast, and he had canvassed about the room for some one to take the task out of his hands, but had not been successful. The Thames Angling Preservation Society had been established about six and forty years. It sprang out of a very small nucleus of fishermen who met at a small inn beside the Thames, and they now numbered in the society some five hundred members, and preserved the river for a considerable distance. Sometimes they had been bothered by poachers, a great many times by the elements, but more particularly lately by steam launches. (Hear, hear.) The Thames had for a number of years been very much denuded of one of the best of its fishes—the perch. But there were promises of better times. The poachers were suppressed and their nets collared; and they, with their own nets, had dragged the ditches after an overflow and turned back a great many fishes; but the greatest success they had achieved had been the dragging of many of the reservoirs belonging to the water companies. Their gratings had taken in a very great influx of fish, which, having grown fat, had been unable to return through the gratings to the river. Therefore, the reservoirs had been dragged, and the fish reconveyed to the river. Lately, seven thousand pounds' weight of fish had been conveyed to the river. The great bulk of these were perch, and the chances are that next year there will be a very great accession of that beautiful fish, and it will be a great inducement for anglers to go fishing and for anglers who do not belong to the Thames Angling Society to send in their guineas and so assist in preserving the river and handing it down to our children with a store of fish such as their fathers or grandfathers never had the privilege and pleasure of fishing for. With the toast he coupled the name of Mr. T. Spreckley, who, he said, had done more for the society than any other man connected with it.

Mr. Spreckley, responding, said he did not intend to say anything on that occasion for the Thames Angling Society, his friend, Mr. Jardine, having said all that was necessary. He had spent on the Thames Angling Society something like three days a week, and written some hundreds of letters, and he did not hesitate to say that the Thames was now in a better condition for fish than it had ever been before. He appealed through the chairman to those who had fishing waters to allow them to be properly preserved for the enjoyment of poorer anglers, and not allow the fish to be wasted and destroyed in the manner they too frequently were by keepers ignorant of the preservation of fish. He confirmed Mr. Jardine's remarks as to the results obtained in the dragging of the reservoirs.

Mr. Brougham also responded, and bore witness to the fact that the Thames Angling Society had never been better worked than under the rule of Mr. Spreckley.

Mr. Spreckley then proposed the toast of the Chairman's health.

The Chairman, replying, said, "I am sure I am very much obliged to you for the kind manner in which you are pleased to receive my name, especially as I feel I have done very little to deserve it. But Mr. Spreckley has, in the appeal he has addressed to me, very accurately interpreted my own feelings. One of the reasons which induced me to accept so readily the offer of becoming the president of this club was that I felt pretty confident that the objects of this club would not be in any sense mere pleasure; *i.e.*, that the committee would bear in mind that there are many clubs and many anglers who are only working men and whose amusement is derived from catching the coarser fish which many of us do not care to catch, and I hope that this will be kept in view by the society. It no doubt is to be lamented that gentlemen who have a multiplicity of sporting amenities do not make the most of them, and that they delegate their authority to keepers who know nothing about fish or fishing and do not make the most of the ponds over which they have control. And it is to be lamented that there have been cases known where gentlemen have bought land which bordered upon rivers, and have in consequence set up rights which their predecessors never thought of, and have by that means interfered with the rights of anglers. Such a society as this is perfectly justified in going to law to learn what are the rights. I speak as an angler myself, and I think anglers are a law-abiding people, but they know that unless the law be enforced their enjoyment will be diminished. Mr. Spencer Walpole was good enough to say that I am come here to propound a great Conservative policy. (Laughter). Well, I am bound to say I am always in favour of preserving and conserving anything that is good. But that which I am now absorbed in conserving is the right to open my mouth in the House of Commons. (Laughter and loud cheers). Even if we fail in maintaining that right, the restriction which is to be imposed upon us will never, I hope, be applied to fishing. I have watched this evening with some little anxiety as to what was to be the success of this society. We must all admit that so far we have passed a very pleasant and a very sociable evening. Therefore, I augur well for future of this society, and I trust that this meeting will form the first of many such successful gatherings in the future. (Loud cheers).

Two songs followed, "The Stirrup Cup," sung by Mr. Towse," and "The Children's Queen," by Mr. Bokenham.

Mr. G. Austin next proposed the toast of the "Visitors," which was responded to by Mr. Beckett, who accepted the request to respond as a compliment intended for the poorer class of anglers, whom he claimed to represent.

Mr. Odell gave very cleverly a recitation of a "Legend of Furnival's Inn," the acting of which was at once recognised as a burlesque of a certain popular actor, who is also an angler.

Mr. C. Bates proposed the toast of the "Press," acknowledging the many advantages derived by anglers from its assistance in supporting them in the endeavour to legalise the more stringent preservation of fish.

Mr. Wheeldon, of *Bell's Life*, responded. He was glad to note that the Gresham Club had inaugurated a better feeling amongst anglers in regard to their poorer brethren, and hoped to see them co-operate also in the better and more substantial support of the Anglers' Benevolent Institution, which deserved to stand more securely than it did in the matter of funds.

Mr. Marston, of the FISHING GAZETTE, also returned thanks for the kind way in which the FISHING GAZETTE had been received. When he first took up the FISHING GAZETTE it was the only paper in the world entirely devoted to angling, but this was no longer the case, for last year a paper called the *American Angler* had been started in New York, avowedly on the lines of the FISHING GAZETTE. It was a very capital paper, and it was only last week he read in it a description of an American dodge for catching pike, which he would briefly recount to them, because the Gresham Society could boast the most successful pike-angler living, and perhaps it would elucidate the mystery of his great success. It appeared that the American story described a lake containing plenty of pike, but they were so scattered about that only one angler ever had much sport. It was discovered that this angler, who was a professional fisherman, always took out his livebait in a large glass bowl; and on being questioned about this glass bowl, the veteran, having first exacted a promise of secrecy from his questioner, explained that he tied a piece of mosquito netting over the top, and then let the glass bowl and its living contents down into mid-water, and left them suspended there by a line all night. The live-bait in the bowl soon attracted a pike or two, and their exertions in trying to get at the fish made such a commotion that before morning every pike in the neighbourhood was waiting outside that bowl with a sore nose, and feeling just as mad as could be. The old fisherman came up quietly in his skiff, dropped over his live baits, and caught the exasperated pike as fast as he could haul them in. (Laughter). Now he (Mr. Marston) did not know if this American dodge would help to explain Mr. Jardine's great success or not, but he would leave them to draw their own conclusions—(laughter)—especially if they ever came across Mr. J. with anything of the nature of a glass bowl amongst his tackle. (Much laughter). Mr. Marston then congratulated the society on their wonderful success, and particularly on the thoroughly sportsmanlike way in which it was carried on. They had adopted Mr. W. H. Brougham's suggestion that gross weight competitions should be done away with it; was only fair to Mr. Brougham to credit him with being the first to urge the necessity for this step. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Marston then referred to the fact that Izaak Walton had been one of the first occupants of the shop which had been erected by Sir Thomas Gresham, and he read an extract from an old edition of Walton, describing this interesting incident. He had to thank the club personally for the kind support they had given his proposed scheme for the cultivation of coarse fish; they had invited him to come and explain the scheme to them, and, as he had told them at the time, he would have been delighted to do so, but that he had already arranged with the three great London angling associations, that a meeting should be held at the Society of Arts, to discuss the question, as soon as possible, and Mr. G. Birkbeck, M.P., had kindly promised to take the chair. (Hear, hear.) As regards what was being done, he might tell them he was in communication with the Fisheries Inspectors of Norway and Sweden, who were giving him every assistance. In concluding, Mr. Marston thanked them very heartily for the very kind manner in which they had received him.

Mr. Jardine sang "The Fine Old Jolly Angler," and Mr. J. P. Wheeldon "The Friar of Orders Grey," by request, both in capital style.

A call of "Three cheers for the Chairman," made by Mr. Marston, and enthusiastically responded to with "three times three," terminated a very pleasant and a most successful first annual dinner of the Gresham Angling Society, and the majority then left.

A few gentlemen remained for a pleasant half hour longer, and after voting Mr. Crumplen to the chair, gave another example of the wonderful knack humanity has of "leaving its music at home."

MANCHESTER MEMORIES.

By Red Spinner.

THERE were no "Anglers' Evenings" when it was my good fortune, now over sixteen years ago, to live in Manchester, and you may therefore guess my delight in perusing the two volumes of papers published by Abel Heywood and Son for the Manchester Anglers' Association. Indeed, anglers' clubs, even in London, were at that time little in fashion, and Manchester was probably the last place in the world where you would have expected such a society to flourish. But angling literature has, meanwhile, assisted the movement into the actual power it has now become, as would be shown if an angler's *fête* at some such place as one of our suburban palaces was carried into effect. A glance at the contents of the works to which I have referred will show that, although there are many worthy brethren of the angle in Manchester, they have to go some distance afield to obtain materials for their papers. Norway, the Isle of Man, Derbyshire, the Yorkshire dales, Wales, Ireland and Scotland are laid under tribute; but the references to Lancashire, to say nothing of Manchester itself, are, in proportion to the bulk of the chapters, in about the same ratio as Falstaff's meal was to his sack. There is an interesting chapter upon angling in the Irwell, but that refers to another generation; and in the second series there is a scientific paper by Mr. Charles Estcourt, the borough analyst, upon the waters of the Ribble and Bollin. The Ribble, however, is a long distance from Manchester; and the Bollin, which runs near the Cheshire border, used to be noted for a peculiar fish called, if I remember rightly, the Bollin trout. A short chapter on angling in Manchester waters may be interesting, therefore, not only to the Manchester subscribers to the FISHING GAZETTE, but to its readers at large.

Fresh from Hampshire, with its grand fishing capabilities—its rivers rich in trout, grayling, salmon, and the coarser fish; its park lakes, in which big pike have plunged and foraged for centuries—imagine the horror with which a young man who loved angling above any other sport known to mankind, would look out of the railway carriage window upon the polluted rivers and dismal reservoirs which greet the eye after Stockport is passed. There were weirs, it is true, in which trout might have gambolled had the water been less like coal-tar, and there were eddies and ponds where pike might have lurked had they been born poison-proof. My heart sank within me as these prospects passed in review, and I fancied the very porters smiled at the fishing-rods and basket amongst my luggage. At that time, however, the angling spirit was so strong upon me that, failing better game, I believe I should have devoted myself to crooked pins and sticklebacks, or even to globes and goldfish, rather than be altogether deprived of my favourite amusement. But, happily, I was never reduced to that ignominy. On all my journalistic expeditions, I made enquiries respecting every bit of water that came in my way, and by and by I had a decent catalogue of places worth trying.

The public parks I abandoned after a few trials. Once, at Phillip's Park, I took half a dozen dingy roach, but the noisy crowd that gathered to see the unwonted sight, effectually stopped me from paying a second visit. In Queen's Park, odds and ends used to take a housefly whipped over them; but they were so infinitesimal in size that for very shame I left them alone. In the suburbs of Manchester, at Gorton, there is a fine reservoir that supplies the city with water, and this I found to contain sundry fish not to be despised. Such gudgeon, for quantity and quality, I have never seen elsewhere; at spawning time they came into the shallow water as thick as swarmed bees, and I caught one that measured a good eight inches in length. Roach also were plentiful, but there was no boat; and as the banks were formed of great blocks of stone which sloped away far beyond the limits of a rod and line, the fish somehow always had the best of it. By this time there ought to be some heavy fish in Gorton Reservoir. The people used to talk of carp and tench being there, but I never saw them. I know of no more suitable water for introducing the black bass, of which Dr. Henshall's book (published by R. Clarke and Co., of Cincinnati) gives such exhaustive and appetising particulars.

In the meres and dams within a radius of twenty miles, there was excellent bottom-fishing, the waters being as a rule strictly preserved. The tench in particular seemed to run very large. Opposite Smithy Door in Manchester, there were several fishmongers' stalls, which have since disappeared, and I often saw there stores of live tench in small tanks under the counter—fish of two, three and four pounds—which I strongly suspected had been netted from these preserves. Bait for pike was difficult to obtain, and the jack-fishing was accordingly very unsatisfactory, for the fish could seldom be taken with anything artificial. Permission was also hard to obtain, thanks sometimes to the indiscretion of anglers. A Macclesfield man, I remember, once received an order for a day's pike-fishing at a mere belonging to Lord de Tabley, and caught nearly a hundredweight of fish. He must needs chronicle this exploit, with all details, in the local papers, and for weeks the noble owner was pestered with hundreds of applications, In sheer defence, therefore, he was driven to answer every applicant with a decisive refusal. The shifts to which you were put to secure a few hours' fishing, the expedients necessary for getting bait and transit, and the difficulties of the operations when once you reached the waterside, were very amusing; but they gave zest to the sport, and the trips out of the smoky city into rural Lancashire—which, if destitute of the softer features of southern England, has a loveliness all its own—are amongst the brightest of these Manchester memories.

In course of time I had a tolerably long list of private waters, whose owners had kindly made me free of such fishing as was to be had in them. But they were waters of a peculiar kind; being, in short, the small artificial reservoirs, locally termed "lodges," attached to the cotton mills. They were never of great area, and often were ridiculously small. The still water was generally confined within mason-built embankments; and was of no depth to speak of. At times, a portion of the water in some of these lodges, into which hot water would run from the works, would be considerably more than lukewarm; and in the vicinity of the in-pouring stream you might often pick out any quantity of tench, averaging three to the pound. What other fish there might be I should not like to say; but the owners generally turned in a few gold and silver fish, and some English and Prussian carp. The latter throve amazingly in bulk, and became disgracefully fat. But that many of these lodges were overstocked, it would have been too bad to catch these domestic breeds; and I am free to confess that I never landed a goldfish without serious qualms of conscience. The carp generally took good care of themselves, and were as wide awake as fish could be, Sometimes you caught them, but oftener not. And the fish, when taken home, were not fit for the table; nor, under their peculiar conditions of life, could they be expected to be. How they manged to survive those streams of hot water always puzzled me; but I have since seen the same phenomenon in the hot lakes of New Zealand. I once saw a Lancashire lad fishing with a porcupine float, off which the varnish had been melted in its frequent swims from the mouth of the pipe into cool water. On another occasion a brook, running from a bleaching factory, was emptied, and I happened to pass by as the last water was rippling away. It was very turbid, and the mud at the bottom was black as ink, and fœtid with slime. In a pool left by the retreating stream, I noticed something floundering heavily, and after much trouble I managed to get that something into the landing net. It turned out to be a large tench, which was uncommonly vigorous, but as black as the mud.

During the cotton famine, when the works were stopped, many of the lodges were, by fair means and foul, cleared of their fish. One instance I can recount. There were 150 feet long by 50 feet wide, and of a uniform depth of six feet. There were fish there, but what they were nobody seemed to know. A young brewer obtained permission for an afternoon's angling; and he caught a dozen fish, which probably were carp, though they had become, through residence in the water, rather like a coarse kind of rudd. The young man came again, and, by a liberal use of ground bait, got a tremendous haul. The fish averaged a third of a pound, and half filled a sack. The stoppage of the mills and non-disturbance of the water must have had something to do with this excess of sport, for such success had not been previously known. One of the proprietors, knowing my weakness, informed me of what had happened, and drove me over in his dog-cart to see what I could do. We sat smoking together under the wall, and after half an hour's angling I landed a three-quarter pound roach, the gauntest, palest roach mortal ever saw. Next came a half-pound tench, dusky, but lively; then a brace of the rudd-like carp. Then a long blank. My friend, after an hour of conversation, drew my attention to a movement of the quill, which had assumed a slanting position. Before I had taken up the rod, the float sailed off obliquely under the water, and I struck what felt like a bale of cotton, only that a bale of cotton would not have tacked about the lodge. There could be no question that it was a heavy fish; but it was quite a quarter of an hour before we could see it. It moved about leisurely, but steadily, and kept heavily to the bottom. At last I brought him to the top, with a ponderous wallop of protest. It was a carp. There it floundered, as if perfectly indifferent what fate might befall. My friend produced the bucket, upon which he had been sitting, and we at length got our lethargic friend out, and bore him to the cook's steelyards, where he did us the honour to register eight pounds honest avoirdupois. The fame of this monster was at once noised abroad; and when, next day, brimful of hope, I returned to the lodge with a supply of wasp grubs, I was informed that, during the night, Messrs. Nobody Brothers had effectually netted both lodges. No fuss was made about the theft and trespass, for the poor people around were living upon very short commons in those times. So we drew off the water, and found only a few eels and a large number of medium sized tench.

My Manchester angling introduced me to three fish of which I had previously but a theoretical acquaintance. 1st, the loach. I found him in a brooklet, carrying of the overflow of a mill-tail; and though he did not attain the size we read of in "Lorna Doone," he made a serviceable bait, and gave me a two-pound trout, muddy and shabby, as pond trout generally are. 2nd, the pope, or ruffe. This fellow was a nuisance. There was an election at Newton-le-Willows, midway between Manchester and Liverpool, and I seized the opportunity, travelling down by a midnight train, to snatch six hours' fishing, by way of fitting me to report the speeches of two windbag Parliamentary candidates. A bushel of grains, a bag of scoured lob-worms, and a couple of rods, not forgetting myself, were deposited by the side of a large lake, with a fine sandy bottom, an hour before the midsummer sun rose. At the first dappling of dawn the lines were out, and for awhile one rod seemed to attract nothing but pope. They could not take the big mouthful, and I could not take them until I had affixed roach tackle, and then the little beggars came out fast enough. It was a terrible waste of time. With the other rod, however, I did execution amongst the bream (No. 3); and when the pope ceased from troubling, and the heavier tackle was replaced, both floats were perpetually coming flat and going down, as they will do when the bream are biting. At nine o'clock I left off, with three-and-thirty bream, between one and two pounds' weight. It was my first venture with bream, and a capital show they made.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

We beg most particularly to call the attention of our readers to the letter of Mr. Fred. Clench, chairman of the Richmond Piscatorial Society, and hon. secretary of the London Committee of the Edinburgh International Fisheries Exhibition. We are glad to see that, thanks to the exertions of the London Committee, there will be a fine show of London club and private specimen fish at Edinburgh; and the clubs and private individuals who are sending them deserve the hearty thanks of the angling community.

We English have never been afraid of meeting our Scotch neighbours, either on the battlefield or in friendly rivalry in those national sports which, as Lord George Hamilton said at the Gresham Dinner the other night, are the best security for the healthy vigour of the nation. We feel sure that the English specimens at Edinburgh will beat anything our Scotch friends can show as a result of their skill in angling.

THE HELGRAMITE OR DOBSON.

Some one asked about this the other day. We find from that most valuable book, Halleck's "Sportsman's Gazetteer," that "the helgramite is the larva of *sialis lutarius* found under stones near rivers. It looks like a modified centipede, and is a good bait for black bass." In another place he says: "What are known as helgramites in the southern States and dobsons in the north are the fully grown larvæ and pupæ of several aquatic species in the *sialina* family of insects. Their feeding ground is chiefly in sluggish rivers. They are rare in mountain streams or head springs. They will be found in the shallow parts of the stream, under stones or submerged driftwood, or buried in the soft mud along its banks."

To Keep dead Minnows Fresh.—Pack in wet sawdust and salt or brine, adding a little saltpetre. Coarse straw dampened is also a good packing.—*Halleck.*

George James Eaton, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[Advt.]

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

The extraordinary fine weather of last week has induced trout to show themselves at most of the weirs, and in many other likely feeding grounds of the upper and mid Thames. I hear of some prime fish having been spotted at Sonning, Hambleden, and Great Marlow; but the cold weather of the past few days has given them the sulks and rendered this class of stock of a less buoyant character, indeed they have sunk rapidly, but, with the sunshine, will rise again. Anglers should be on the *qui vive*, and carefully mark down the feeding grounds, so as, on the 1st of April, to be comfortably sure they are not flogging and combing untenanted water. The *Daily Telegraph* does not often indulge its gentle readers with angling information, but on Saturday last it broke out with a violent irruption of scaly news as follows:—"Maidenhead, Friday.—River in beautiful condition. Trout angling can hardly be said to have commenced yet, though they are well on the feed. Sunday should see some of the most experienced of anglers down here." I have not as yet heard of any too confiding reader of this startling information being summoned for illegal fishing.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Ballynahinch (Ireland).

For this last fortnight we have had real "March" weather, never two days alike; still, on the 14th, 3 salmon were caught on Ballynahinch lake and river, 10, 11, and 14½ lb. The waters were not again tried until Monday 20th, when Mr. R. Mecredy, sen., got three on Lough Inagh, weighing 10½, 12 and 13 lb. respectively. We have quite a change to-day, north-west wind with strong sunshine.—WALTER BLACKADDER.

Coquet (Weldon Bridge).

On March 20, the Rev. Mr. Oliver, curate, Longhorsley, killed two dozen trout; on the 21st, Mr. Dixon, Newcastle, one dozen trout; Mr. Sharp, Newcastle, caught five trout; Mr. Thatcher, Sunderland, seventeen trout; Mr. Thompson, fifteen trout. On the 22nd, at daybreak, the ground was covered with snow, a bitter cold wind blew from the north, and showers of snow continued throughout the day. This made the anglers late of starting. Mr. Dixon killed thirteen trout; Messrs. Thatcher and Thompson from three to five each.—A. GLASS, the Angler's Inn.

Dove.

Salmon angler will rejoice to hear that there are great numbers of the royal fish this season in the Trent and Dove. There can be no doubt that many salmon enter the Dove from the Trent rather than remain in the latter river to be poisoned by the masses of filth which emanate from the Burton Breweries. We have a large and increasing number of salmon and trout rods on the Dove every year, and I am glad that sport this season promises so well. Since my last communication "rude Boreas" has been raging with truly March-like violence. We have had snow, too, and sleet, and altogether, since Monday particularly, fishing has not been pursued under the most favourable conditions. In fact, the cold winds have settled a good deal of the early fly on the river, and trout have not been rising with an unwonted degree of freedom. I can hear of seven and six trout falling to two rods, but no heavier take has come to my knowledge. The cockwing dun, the bumble and the March Brown are killing best. The Derby killer has again been used with good effect on the brooks, the biggest fish almost invariably falling to its attractions.—THE SPLODGER.

Exe (Tiverton).

The river is fast pitching and will soon get low. Should this weather continue (a cutting north-east wind), very little will be done. During the past week, the fish have taken rather small flies, viz., iron blue, blue upright, hare's flax upright, and halfstone.—WM. MUDFORD.

Findhorn.

Rod-fishing in this river has been prosecuted intermittently within the past week, owing to a variable, and at intervals, strong wind. Average baskets were, however, made when the weather was favourable, and with a change of temperature it is anticipated that good sport will be obtained. Fishermen report the pools well stocked with strong, healthy fish. Salmon fishing has proved particularly successful since the opening of the season. Some 500 have been already netted by the several crews on the river. The fish are all clean, well-developed, and unusually fine specimens. Last year's total catch fell considerably short of the yield during the six weeks just gone. The late severe storms have sent the fish into the beds of the river, and with better weather the results, it is believed, would be eminently satisfactory.—J. B.

Nairn

So far as the season has yet gone it may be almost pronounced a blank on this river, the total catch being a few odd baskets of indifferent weight. To the recent unsettled state of both the wind and weather this must be entirely attributed, as it is believed that abundance both of salmon and trout are in the pools, where they have been driven from the sea for shelter. The fish are also believed to be strong and healthy, although it was at one time generally reported that salmon disease was prevalent in the river. A return of fine weather would do much towards good sport, but to-day is more stormy than any day during the past winter, several inches of snow being on the ground. J, B.

North Lincolnshire.

I had a day on Saturday last on one of the North Lincolnshire trout streams, and caught sixteen, four of which I returned to the water as under size. The others were fair-sized fish. The day was brilliantly fine, more like June than March, and the water clear as Old Tom, and moreover very low in temperature, so that very few aquatic flies were hatching; but the land flies were very numerous, and I might perhaps have done somewhat better with imitations of them, but I almost discard these casual palmers, &c., and stick to the water born specimens. The best fly was the March brown, next the willow fly, and thirdly, the early brown (woodcock and yellow). By the way, Laceby Beck has been taken up by a party of influential gentlemen and landowners, who are determined to put a stop to the wholesale poaching which has of late prevailed. I would give their names, were it not that such a course invariably sends applications for tickets. The fishing in this beck is almost the only really open piece of water in the immediate neighbourhood on which one can comfortably throw the fly, and with proper cultivation would make a good stream. The upper parts are nice and rocky, and form good spawning beds, but the lower reaches are infected with eels, which run up from the sea and help themselves to the trout *ad lib.* On one occasion I took out a monster of above 2 lb., which had just choked itself by swallowing a lamprey 15 inches long. It had it tail first, and gorged it all but the head and shoulders. Yesterday we had heavy snowstorms accompanied with thunder, so fly-fishing is at end for a time.—THOMAS FORD.

Severn (Shrewsbury).

There have been very few fish taken this week, there having been snow above, otherwise the water would have been in grand condition for trout-fishing. One angler took three last Saturday in the Verniew, and I have heard of one or two being taken round Shrewsbury; I also heard of a party of netters taking two salmon on Thursday, and the same number on Saturday, in the upper water.—F. H. M.

Suir (Clonmel).

The cotmen here got only fourteen salmon last week. There was excellent rod-fishing up the river. On Lord Donoughmore's preserves, Thomas Phelan killed four fish, weighing 23 lb., 10 lb., 10 lb , and 14 lb.; Mr. R. F. Hutchings, two salmon, heaviest weighing 25 lb.; Dr. Campbell, two salmon, largest weighing 24 lb.; Mr. Smith, three salmon, at Kilcommon demesne; Mr. Quinlan, at Suirmount, four salmon, largest weighing 15½ lb.; Miss Wise, one salmon, at Rochestown; Mrs. Grubb, one salmon, at Ballybrads. Price of salmon last week, 1s. 3d. per lb.; this week, 2s. 3d. per lb. Not much trout-fishing likely, owing to a little snow-water in the streams.—DORA.

Swale.

Mr. Barker, of Reeth, and a few other local anglers, were out before the adverse change in the weather, and were successful in catching fair dishes with the fly, the chief killer being the March brown.—THOMAS FORD.

Taw, &c. (N. Devon).

High wind, north, with hail and snow, not much use for fishing for the next few days if wind does not shift to a warmer quarter. I fear, if the moon rules the weather, that no hopes can be had for the next week, as likely enough there is snow out north, and the water will be full of snow broth. It is to be hoped we may get some floods, that the water may be right for Easter, which is looked upon as a fishing week. I heard of a basket in the Muddiford water, two or three dishes in the Yeo. Two or three gentlemen caught some fish in the Bray, but fish were small. I heard of some sport in the Taw and Torridge, but the old kelts were taking the fly and causing many breaks. The salmon rise to the March brown, and rusty blues with silver twist. A gentleman told me he took up a salmon killed by an otter, 40 lb. in the scales, an old kelt. What would he have weighed four months ago? The kelts are moved down to the lower water. I hear a portion of the Taw, shut up and netted for some years, is to be opened by £2 2s. tickets; and it is not unlikely great demands will be made for them, as it is on the lower water and no nets are to be suffered, and well watched.—RUSTY GAME.

Thames (Walton).

Nothing to report, except that in the early part of the week George Hone saw some very fine trout on the feed, and anticipates a good time of it after April 1. Weather very cold, with snow and sleet.—HENRY E. WOOD.

Thames (Windsor).

Before this rough and cold weather came down on us, trout were moving about in all directions, and I was daily receiving news as to the whereabouts of the beauties; and as I am aware a great many London men who visit Windsor will like to know where they stand a chance when trying them on the first, in order to escape being made a fool of, I will endeavour to point out where some of the sturdier sorts reside—not Wycombe trout, but good old-fashioned Thames trout. To begin with, the pool at Surly has a rare old fish which, I am sorry to say, has been pricked more than once, but by this time he will have forgotten his sores. Just below Boveney Chapel, a few yards in front of the danger-board, another good fish may be seen when it is a little more balmy than at present—he is put down at 8 lb. In the weir at Boveney several have shown themselves, and although no very big ones have been seen, still it is an excellent shop for good fish. Below this, on the shallows, a nice fish has been seen, and in the Athens Reach two or three have been playing about. Lower down, at Clewer Point, several decent fish have been seen by old Joe Butler, one of the most reliable men about; but should that shark of a 20 lb. jack close over the fine trout tackle, there will be something like sport for someone, but please do not pocket him. Just opposite the Clumps that rare old stager has been seen rolling about. I have seen him several times, and whoever does get a good hold of him I promise them some sport. At Fireworks Eyot another nice fish has been seen, and round Windsor Bridge we have a brace, one, I dare say, will go 5 lb. In the Windsor Weir stream several small fish have been seen, but at the back of the lock keeper's garden is a good fish, and lower down, at Newark's Hole, is a perfect snorter, which one of our local anglers has promised himself. Next week I hope to give the whereabouts of a few in the Datchet waters. Have not been that way for some time.—B. R. BAMBRIDGE.

Test (Hampshire).

River in first-rate order, and wind changed round to the south-west to-day. Fish rose from twelve to three at dark olive dun. Fishing commences on most of the rivers on the 25th. Some very fine fish were taken on the Chilbolton water on Sunday last by three gentlemen from London. A worthy parson was looking on, and, much to his disgust, saw two fish pulled out from almost under his feet. Has the lord of the manor power to prevent persons from fishing on Sundays?

Tweed.

Since our last paragraph on the angling in the river Tweed and its tributaries, the takes in this neighbourhood have been very fair. On Friday last Mr. Pringle Elliott, angling in the Hendersyde water, caught one salmon, but the other casts were fished blank. During the end of last week no captures were effected on the Ednam House water, and not a fin has been recorded up to date. During the last week the casts on the Floors Castle waters have yielded most satisfactorily. His Grace the Duke of Roxburgh, angling on Tuesday last week, killed two salmon of 7 lb. each. On Wednesday no sport was had, but on Thursday his grace had three nice fish to his rod, weighing 12 lb., 10 lb. and 8 lb. respectively. On Friday his grace had the luck to kill three other excellent salmon, one of which scaled 17 lb., another 15 lb., and the third 8 lb.; and on Saturday his basket again consisted of a trio of handsome fish, whose weights were 16 lb., 13 lb. and 7 lb. On the Hendersyde water, on Saturday, Mr. Pringle Elliott caught one clean salmon. On Thursday, Colonel the Hon. William Home, caught a couple of clean salmon. Salmon have been observed in considerable numbers in the Melrose district. On the Pavilion water on Friday Mr. Bain, Galashiels, killed a clean fish weighing 6 lb. In consequence of a slight rise in the rivers on Monday last no angling could be prosecuted, and the weather since has not been favourable. Last week trout anglers in the Kelso district obtained some good takes. At the netting stations in the Coldstream district of the river some good takes were got in exceptional cases last week. At Lennel Haugh and Tweedmill 39 salmon were brought to bank. More than the half of the salmon got with the net are those returning to the sea, being unable to baffle against the stream, in consequence of their weakened condition through disease, and all are fish of a large size, from 16 lb. to 20 lb. Sea trout are almost blank. During the spring months and up to the end of May, salmon usually take kindly to the waters of the historic Till, a tributary of the Tweed, and recently some very good takes have been got from that river with the net. —Maxwheel.

Wye and Derwent.

The first day of spring, viz., the 21st inst., came in with a vengeance; for all our Derbyshire hills were covered with snow on the morning of that date; in fact, snow has fallen at intervals ever since, up to this afternoon, when the wind changed, and we are now having a little rain falling. Sport both on last Saturday and Monday were first-class, and some good baskets of fish have been killed on the Wye and Derwent, both with artificial flies; also off the Derwent with fly and trolling. This day (Thursday) I have just seen six brace of good trout that have been killed with the Derby trout killer, between Derby and Matlock Bath, not a fish under ½ lb. each, and the largest 1 lb. The fish were in splendid condition. The bottom fishers on various parts of the Derwent have killed a nice sample of trout during the week, with small red worms for bait. I hear that Mr. T. Walters killed a very nice eel of over 4 lb. on one of his night lines, at Oaker. Trout have been rising freely on the ponds the beginning of the week, and several nice baskets have already been taken. Bumble, February red, and furnace flies are killers for any of our Derbyshire rivers. Both rivers are now in splendid condition for fly fishing.—George James Eaton.

Yore (Yorkshire).

The commencement of the trout season in this district has not been remarkable for its great success, but rather to the contrary; the first few days were brilliantly fine, weather which every one enjoyed in a general sense, but not that soft warm spring weather, half sunshine and half clouds, that is so dear to the heart of the fly fisher. Very little good was done by those who did turn out; and since the 21st, on which day we were treated to an alternation of snow, hail, and rain, culminating in thunder and lightning, I have not heard of a single trout being captured. A nasty cold N.E. wind has been blowing for the last two days, accompanied by keen frosts at night, so that a change will have to take place before any good can be done. The flies that I recommend to begin the season with on the Yore are the woodcock hackle, with orange body, dark snipe and yellow body, black spider, Mr. Stewart's pattern or water cricket, Ronald's pattern, not forgetting the March brown as soon as the natural fly is seen on the water. I have received to-day the latest issue of Mr. Cummins' (of Bishop Auckland), price list. It is got up in his usual style, and reflects credit on both compiler and publisher. Should any of your readers meditate a visit to any of our northern trout streams, they cannot do better than write for a copy; and should they favour Mr. Cummins with an order, I feel certain they will not find reason to regret it, as he is most obliging and prompt in the execution of orders, and everything that he supplies is of the very best quality and moderate in price.—Francis M. Walbran.

DEATH OF MR. JAMES LAMING.

It is with deep regret we record the death, in the prime of life, of one of our most valued contributors and respected personal friends, Mr. James Laming, of Berwick House, East Finchley. Mr. Laming has at last succumbed in the brave fight he for many years made against a cruel bodily infirmity. Young, talented, beloved by all who had the pleasure of knowing him, his loss will long be felt by many outside his family—with whom we deeply sympathise.

The Growth of Trout Fry.—Mr. Thomas Ford, of Caistor, Lincolnshire, caught a magnificent Wickham trout of 20 inches long and weighing 3 lb., in a beck close to the town, on Saturday last. Before, in 1878, there was not a trout in this stream; but through the efforts of Mr. Ford, by stocking the water, the promise is that it will presently vie with most trout preserves in the kingdom, as the soil and food agree well with these fish. A second trout of 1¼ lb. fell to his rod on the same occasion, and others of smaller size, doubtless the produce of fry subsequently introduced. Great praise and warm thanks are due to Mr. Ford for setting so laudable an example in a county which hitherto has taken a very poor estimate as a trout-breeding part of England.—Creel.

THE RIVERS OF ENGLAND.

By "Creel."

We earnestly request our friends, should they be able to question, or supplement the facts contained in the description and capabilities of these rivers with any information of value to the angler, to forward such to the Editor, Fishing Gazette, 12, FetterLane, Fleet Street, E.C., as it is his intention to publish the whole, when of sufficient bulk for a volume, at as cheap a rate as will meet the wants and pockets of our many readers.

One hundred copies will be issued upon large paper, and will be delivered in due rotation as subscribed for.

To show that our undertaking is not one of such apparent ease as may be generally considered, we may mention that in collating the material for the river Aire, which appeared in our last issue, we made reference to the works of D. Whitaker, White's, "Yorkshire," Cook's "Yorkshire," Daye's "Picturesque Tour," Armstrong's "Scenes in Craven," Lortwell's "Geology of Yorkshire," and the "Wonders of Nature and Art." Yet, a resident well acquainted with the Aire, writes to say that Malham Tarn is not embosomed in cloud-capped mountains, hills would be more appropriate; yet Lewis's "English Rivers," a comparatively modern work, but long out of print, is responsible for this. The series of waterfalls of Malham Cove only occurs after very heavy and long-continued rains: in dry weather the river issues from the base only. As to the "one-eyed perch," which is found with such seriousness in the "Wonders of Nature and Art," the monkish legend which gave rise to it appears to be no longer traditional in Yorkshire. Perhaps the good conduct of this fish in more modern times has induced some other pious Elfrida to give them absolution for their sins, and restore their truant pupil at the same time, as those caught in the present century have been complete in their visual features,

The following errata also occurred in the same article. For "Bell Buck" read Bell Busk; for "Isholt" read Esholt; for "Horseforth" read Horsforth; for "Kirkley Malham" read Kirkby Malham; for "Kildruk and Streton" read Kildwick and Steeton.

TROUT ANGLER'S SONG.

I.

Stern winter is over—ablaze is the vale
  With the golden Lent lilies we anglers all love;
The violet's fragrance is scenting the gale,
  And soft fleecy cloudlets are sailing above!
Then, brothers, away! We can promise you fun
With the merry March Brown and the bonny blue Dun!

II.

The fishing boots staunch from the toe to the heel,
  Invite us, my brothers, to don them again.
Pull down yonder weather-stained wonderful creel,
  And look up the flies that so often have slain!
Then, brothers, away! We can promise you fun
With the merry March Brown and the bonny blue Dun!

III.

Now on with your hat which the collars entwine,
  And draw from its covert your favourite rod!
Next pocket your winch with its waterproof line,
  And step gaily riverwards over the sod.
Yes, brothers, away! We can promise you fun
With the merry March Brown and the bonny blue Dun!

IV.

Hurrah! for the swirl of the streamlet once more!
  'Tis just the right tint, and the wind's in the west.
A pounder—"first blood!"—drag him slowly to shore!
  A tap on the head, and your beauty's at rest!
Then, brothers, away! We can promise you fun
With the merry March Brown and the bonny blue Dun!

V.

Then on by the stream, casting hither and there,
  Your ears charmed with song, and your cheeks all aglow!
Till your creel is a burden right heavy to bear,
  And wearily, cheerily, homewards you go!
Then, brothers, away! We can promise you fun
With the merry March Brown and the bonny blue Dun!

Bradridge House, F. B. Doveton.
near Ivybridge, Devon.

Captain Etheridge has secured twelve Thames Conservancy warrants or deputations for as many of the police force of Oxford, empowering the holders to seize illegal nets and enter boats, &c., when suspected. The captain has distributed these, with the sanction and request of the Oxford magnates, to two inspectors, four sergeants, and six police constables. The anglers certainly have no better friend than this sterling old salt!

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. W. M., Knaresborough.—If the water you refer to is a private water (and there seems no doubt about it), you can angle during the fence months; the Act only applies to public waters.—Ed.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

EDINBURGH AND THE LONDON CLUBS.

Sir,—The Edinburgh Fisheries Exhibition opens on the 12th of April, and the London committee will send away their exhibits *on* or about the 8th of April. Up to the present time the clubs have not responded quite so generously as my committee would wish, but there is time even now for any hesitating club to send me full particulars of what they would desire to send. My committee would particularly call the attention of clubs to the fact that all possible care will be taken of their cases of fish. We will call for them at the club house, pack and carry them to Edinburgh, and return free of any expense; and prizes in the shape of gold and silver medals and diplomas of honour will be offered for competition. It may be interesting to know that the exhibitors up to the present will be the Piscatorial Society, the Richmond Piscatorial Society, the Silver Trout Angling Society, Reform Angling Society, Good Intent Angling Society, and others. The private exhibitors will be Mr. Brookewell, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Winton, Mr. Wright, Mr. Starkey, Mr. Cooper, Mr. Geen, Captain Alfred, Mr. Wheeldon, &c., &c. We hope that our exhibit will be a source of pleasure to our brother anglers across the Tweed, and give them some idea of what our rivers hold in the shape of sporting fish. The committee, therefore, desire me to make a last appeal to the clubs to send their specimen fish, and to thank you, sir, for allowing me to make this appeal.—I am, &c., Fred. C. Clench, hon. sec.

March 22.

TROUT IN THE THAMES.

Sir,—I do not think the remark of Mr. Marriott in last week's Fishing Gazette, in reference to "the attempt to propagate trout in the Thames as a great folly and an utter failure," is at all courteous to Mr. James Forbes, of Chertsey Bridge, who is at his own cost doing the work, as he hopes for the benefit of anglers. The charge of being "an utter failure" is negatived from the fact that last year, when the rearing pond at Sunbury was emptied, 278 beautiful trout up to six inches in length were found there and placed into the river. In addition to this Mr. Forbes at the present time has some beautiful and healthy fry of the famous Thames trout in his fish-house at Chertsey Bridge. Mr. Forbes rejoices, and will continue to rejoice in this "great folly" and that without taking one penny out of the funds of the Thames Angling Preservation Society. The rearing pond at Sunbury is now full of young fry of trout, as I have previously said the liberal gift of Mr. Byram Littlewood, of Huddersfield, and who is ready again to assist the society by a gratuitous supply of 10,000 more; and he tells me this year his success in fish and oyster culture is of the most perfect and satisfactory character.—I am, &c., B.

THAMES TROUT *v.* BROOK TROUT FOR THE THAMES.

Sir,—I agree with your correspondents, L. B. and A. H. Marriott, that the attempt to propagate trout in the Thames has hitherto been an utter failure, but it must be clearly understood that this failure has been with brook trout. The trial has extended over a space of twenty years, and has been pursued against the protest of many experienced anglers and persons well acquainted with the kind of fish most suitable for the river. The cultivation of the real Thames trout has never been properly attempted, and, if carried out, would, as I have before stated in your paper, make this fishery one of the best trout rivers in the kingdom, as no other river in England can produce trout of such great weight and beauty. The purity of the stream above the tide-way is capable of maintaining the best species of our freshwater fish. There are plenty of anglers who keep down the jack and perch, and the Thames trout would, to a great extent, if given a little artificial encouragement, take care of themselves, as those persons who have angled for them are well aware. An organised appeal to the angling public for the purpose of establishing a society for the breeding of Thames trout has never been made. The proposed Great International Fishery Exhibition of 1883 will, no doubt, draw the attention of those who are interested in the fish produce of public and private waters to the neglect hitherto shown in this country; also how far we are in arrear of other countries in the very simple and economical pursuit of fish culture. We shall then, probably, have placed before us, by practical demonstration, that an acre of water, properly cultivated, is more profitable than an acre of land, and that in all streams, ponds, lakes, and rivers, where there is a constant supply of unpolluted water, trout, and other valuable species of fish, may be successfully and profitably cultivated.—I am, &c, R. D. E.

[We agree with R. D. E. that the Thames trout proper is the one to cultivate.—Ed.]

NETTING THE RESERVOIRS.

Sir,—Referring to your report of the netting of the East London Waterworks reservoir, I would observe that the capture of fish was something over 5 cwt., that is to say, taking them at an average of 2 oz. apiece all round.

Of the 5000 taken, I should think that 3500 were roach from 1½ oz. to 4 oz. and some even 6 oz. each; about 1000 were perch from 1½ to 2½ oz. (these, I was told by the netsman, were full of spawn); the remaining 500 consisted of dace, chub, and a sprinkling of bleak and pope, and one large bream.

The strangest thing of all was the entire absence of jack, not the smallest specimen being found in the catch.

All these fish having the fence months before them will soon grow to a fair size, and gladden the heart of many an adept in the punts and small boys on the banks of our beautiful river.—I am, &c. R. S. F.

NETTING OF RESERVOIRS.

Sir,—There can be no estimate formed from the netting of the East London Water Company's reservoir last week what the notable contents of the other reservoirs will be, inasmuch as it was dragged about nine months ago to get out all the large fish, and it was known to contain nothing but small perch and other smaller species of fish. In the reservoirs of one of the other companies to be netted next, the manager has stated there will not be less than four tons weight of good fish, and the water will be so reduced that not a single fish can escape. It is well known from those who have angled in them there are any quantity of perch up to 2 lb. each, plenty of fine jack and bream, and of barbel there were one thousand placed in the water, and there they remain. The opinion of those who know something of these reservoirs is that four tons weight of fish will be found under the estimate. One of the reservoirs of another company, which is going to be thoroughly emptied, is said to hold an equal quantity of good fish, and the whole are to go in the Thames, and, in addition to this, they have another reservoir that will next year share a similar fate. There can, therefore be no exaggeration in the statement that the reservoirs will produce tons upon tons of fish for the Thames. Other waters and other reservoirs are being placed at the disposal of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, therefore the work which the committee have in hand for increasing the stock of fish in the river is immense, and the necessary expenses attending the same will require some additional funds. It may also be mentioned that in the first reservoirs to which I have referred as coming on next, the mesh of the gratings has been so reduced that it will be impossible for any fry to get through; but the idea which emanated at the Gresham Angling Society three weeks ago was somewhat opposed to a reduction of the gratings, provided the water companies would allow the society to net the reservoirs from time to time, and so make first-rate nurseries for the rearing of coarse fish. B.

[We must wait until the netting is done, and we know exactly what it has produced and what it has cost, before we endorse B,'s views entirely. Every fish put in the river adds to its value, and we sincerely hope B.'s "tons upon tons" may be realised; this is far more useful work than putting char or brook-trout into the Thames, except as food for the other fish. We sincerely hope Mr. Forbes will succeed in his experiments with Thames trout; there is good ground for increasing this fish, and no reason why it should not be as plentiful as salmon used to be.—Ed.]

PIKE AND HOOKS.

Sir,—Fishing in private water on February 9th of this year I hooked and lost a good pike owing to the fraying of the line at the float. Fishing with a friend in the same water on March 15 he caught the same fish with my line hanging out of its mouth, and the hook fast in its gullet—weight 17½ lb. This shows what little trouble it must have caused the fish.—I am, &c., Hook.

Norfolk.

EYED HOOKS.

Sir,—In answer to a query about eyed hooks and flies tied on them, I hope to give the readers of the Fishing Gazette full particulars next week.—I am, &c., H. S. Hall.

HALL'S EYED HOOKS.

Sir,—In answer to a question in the Gazette respecting Hall's eyed hooks, we are now dressing a large quantity of May flies on these hooks, to order, at the present time. Our charge is the same as the hooks to gut in May flies. I am, &c., James Ogden.

28, Winchcomb Street, Cheltenham.

ANGLING MATCHES.

Sir,—Every angler who has the welfare of the gentle craft at heart must feel greatly indebted to "Kingfisher" for his very sensible letter in your last issue.

Only last week I was talking to Captain Seppings, a gentleman I sometimes meet when pike-fishing, and he told me two years ago he was fishing in the Thames, when an angler accosted him, and, after making himself very agreeable, succeeded in begging a capital dish of dace the captain had caught. The angler had scarcely been gone ten minutes when another gentleman appeared on the scene, who asked the captain if he had given away any dace; and, on replying in the affirmative, the upshot of the affair was, the captain accompanied Mr. D. to town, and just as the agreeable gent. was about to weigh-in some "splendid" dace and receive the congratulations of his friends, the captain stepped into the room and the "agreeable" gentleman, much to the surprise of all present, stepped out, and is not likely to step in again in a hurry.

So much for the honesty of these competitions. The practice is as stupid as it is selfish. It destroys all future prospects of the angler; to wit, on one portion of the Trent, where these matches, competitions, &c., have been taking place some four or five years, twelve or fifteen years ago I could go and catch from 25 lb. to 35 lb. of splendid roach with either creed wheat or malt, and at the present time I could not catch 25 oz., the result of private and club matches and public competitions. It is unsportsmanlike; the greatest pleasure an angler can experience is in catching a fine specimen of any particular species, but this horrid system of wholesale slaughter is simply detestable.—I am, &c., Mark Antony.

[We *quite agree* with Mark Antony.—Ed.]

DACE, GRAINING, OR WHAT? AND A NOTE ON THE BREAM.

Sir,—I am very much obliged to "Mark Antony" and E. Gosling for their very interesting notes on the above question. I have received a reply from Mr. Keene in answer to my query about this fish, and he says that he is distinctly of the opinion that the fish is a graining, from my description of it. I suggested to Mr. Keene that it might be a Pomeranian bream, but after carefully looking up the evidence, and examining the plates in the possession of Mr. David Slater, I am still inclined to think the fish a graining. Mr. Gosling says it certainly is not a graining, but does not say why. According to my opinion the graining is a species of dace, for it has several characteristics of the dace, in both its external and internal formation. I have had the true dace from the Witham, and they had 52 scales on the lateral line, and were both longer and thinner than the odd, peculiar specimen that I believe to be a graining. These peculiar fish differ from the dace by having a larger and bolder eye, and the back fin is situated nearer the head of that fish I examined than it is in the true dace; while the most distinguishing feature, in my opinion, was the fact that that fish had about six scales less on its lateral line than a true dace. In fact, according to the scanty evidence in my possession, and the plate of the fish we had when it was examined, I shall still say it was a graining until convinced otherwise. I believe the fish to be a hybrid—a cross between a dace and a white or silver bream, and not, as suggested by "Mark Antony," a cross between a white bream and a roach. The true dace of the Witham have fins tinged an orange red, a peculiarity that the dace of the Trent lacks. The next time I drop across one of these peculiar fish I shall have pleasure in sending it up to Mr. Keene in company with a true dace from the Witham. I should very much like to hear further on this subject.

With regard to the white or silver bream (*Abramis blicca*), and the relation it bears to the carp bream (*Abramis brama*), I shall not just now attempt to hold a discussion with that great triumvirate of modern science, Messrs. Darwin, Tyndall and Huxley, as to whether these fish existed in streams that have been wiped from the face of the earth a few thousands of years before the Bible account of the Creation; or whether they came out of the depths of the Euphrates to be named by Adam; but my private opinion is this: I believe the silver, or white bream, is the true species, and the carp bream is a cross between the common carp and the white bream. My study of natural history, and my knowledge of the nature and habits of these fish, seem to point me to this conclusion. The largest white bream I ever saw weighed 1 lb. 6 oz.—I am, &c.,

March 14. **The Trent Otter.**

A DIFFICULT QUESTION.

Sir,—Our members would feel obliged if you would let them know whether they can fish our water in the close time. Our fishery is at Binton, near Stratford-on-Avon, our side being in Warwickshire; the opposide side being, part of it, in Gloucestershire, and another part in Warwickshire. If you could put us right we should feel greatly obliged.—I am, &c., **T. Dear,**

Secretary Bordesley Waltonian Society.

44, Kelynge Street, Cattell Road, Small Heath, Birmingham.

March 22.

[The case you refer to is somewhat complicated. (1) So far as the Avon in Worcestershire and Gloucestershire is concerned, the Severn Board of Conservators has exempted the pike from the operation of the close time clause of the Freshwater Fishery Act, and it is legal to fish for pike there all the year round. (2) The Severn Board has also exempted other parts of the district from the operation of this clause, so far as regards all fish except grayling, but this exemption does not apply to the Avon in Worcestershire and Gloucestershire. (3) No fish, therefore, except pike, can be fished for in close time in the Avon in Worcestershire and Gloucestershire, except with the leave of the owner of the fishery, which, we presume, is a private fishery. If it is a public fishery, the Board alone has power to give leave. (4) The Avon in Warwickshire is not under the jurisdiction of the Severn Board, and no freshwater fish can be caught in close time, except with the leave of the owner. (5) In any case the close time does not apply to the owner of a private fishery where trout, char, or grayling are specially preserved; killing freshwater fish other than grayling; nor to persons taking fish for scientific purposes, or for use as bait. We imagine our friends do not intend to catch fish out of season.—Ed.]

DO FISH GET NEW TAILS.

Sir,—Will you kindly settle for me a vexed question? Does the tail of a fish grow again after having been cut? For instance, suppose a jack of 1 lb. was caught, his tail cut, and the fish put back into the water; if left in the water until it attained the weight of 15 lb. would his tail grow? Because a pike weighing 13 lb., which was taken by one of our party on the 24th ult., had a piece off his tail, clearly showing that it had been caught when a youngster, its tail cut, and put back into the water.—I am, &c.,

Keppel H. Gifford.

["The power of reproduction of lost parts is limited to the delicate terminations of their fin rays, and the various tegumentary filaments with which some are provided. These filaments are sometimes developed in an extraordinary degree. Both the ends of the fin rays and the filaments are frequently lost, not only by accident, but merely by wear and tear; and as these organs are essential to the preservation of the fish, their reproduction is necessary." So says Dr. Günther in his most admirable and charming "Study of Fishes," which we reviewed so favourably last year. It is evident that serious injury to the fin rays is only partially repaired by these filamentary growths.—Ed.]

FISHING AT CHRISTCHURCH (HANTS.)

Sir,—Can any of your readers give me particulars of the fishing near Christchurch, Hants? How far from the town is there free fishing on the Avon and Stour? Can any of the preserves be fished on payment, day, week or month? If so, where; and what are the terms? Is the sea-fishing good?—I am, &c.,

G. N. R.

[Mr. Newlyn, of the King's Arms Hotel, Christchurch, has the right of fishing, but not for trout or salmon. Indeed, there are no trout at Christchurch. There is good sea-fishing in the summer. The "Angler's Diary" gives full particulars about the rivers in neighbourhood, but is wrong about the trout.—Ed.]

THE NEW (SEVERN) SHREWSBURY FISHING ASSOCIATION.

Sir,—I was pleased to read in the Gazette of last week that an association had been started at Shrewsbury. It is an old saying that this town is twenty years behind the rest of the world, and this in the case of the Severn and its fisheries is truly applicable. We are possessed of the finest water in England, and were it not for the netting, which is carried on to a most damaging extent, the trout and grayling fishing would be second to none; chub, roach, perch, dace and pike would be in abundance and of the finest description. At present, fishing in the neighbourhood is a very poor business, and one seldom comes home after a hard day's fishing with anything approaching a respectable basket. Consequently fishermen turn their attention to other streams, where the prospects of sport are far better than on the Severn. This should not be so.

I trust the new association will be well supported, and that eventually the river between Montford Bridge and Atcham Bridge (about 20 miles of water) will come under their control. This, properly preserved, would prevent the necessity of the Salopians seeking other fishing-grounds.—I am, &c. **Peck.**

[We heartily agree with 'Peck,' If the Severn, near Shrewsbury, were well looked after, it would soon yield the finest all-round fishing in England.—Ed.]

DEATH OF MR. GEORGE ORAM.

Sir,—It is with deep regret that I have to announce the death of our much respected friend George Oram, hon. fishery bailiff of the river Lea, after a very distressing illness; he was one of those anglers who has always worked hard to protect the interests of the anglers of London; he was also one of the committee of the Anglers' Benevolent Society from its formation. He leaves a widow and four young children. The funeral will take place on Sunday next, March 26th at Manor Park Cemetery, Ilford, at 2.30 p.m. **R. Ghurney.**

March 22, 1882.

EAST LYN FISHERY, LYNMOUTH.

Sir,—Doubtless many of the readers of the readers of the Fishing Gazette will be glad to hear that under the above title we have formed a fishery committee at Lynmouth, where some sort of organisation has for so long been needed.

I enclose you a copy of our rules.

Through the kindness of Mr. W. H. Halliday, of Glenthorne, the present high sheriff of Devonshire, and the largest riparian proprietor on the Lyn, and especially through the laudable enterprise of Mr. John Heywood, of the Bath Hotel Lynmouth, who well deserves the patronage of all anglers, we have been able to put under the control of our committee over seven continuous miles of most excellent fishing.

The great desire of our committee is, while endeavouring to give limited free fishing to the local fishermen, at the same time to preserve the river for visitors, and to give them good sport without fear of too much interruption. The splendid scenery of the valley of the Lyn is justly celebrated; but, alas! as generally happens in this world, in the most favoured places contentions most easily arise, and Lynmouth has been no exception to this rule. However, under the present management, the chief objects aimed at will be fair fishing and good fellowship in a river where, without question, very good sport can be obtained.—I am, &c., **C. F. Wade.**

Temple, March 16.

[This is good news. Many a glorious day have we had on the East and West Lyn.—Ed]

THE GIMP QUESTION.

Sir,—I am much obliged to you for your notice of my stained gimp last week. I have paid a deal of attention to the gimp question for some years, and I find if you use *pure* silk, and not the abominable mixture of cotton and silk (sold by some to get more profit) you will have all the firmness and strength; and if you stain your wire by the gas that I use the wire is not injured at all. I agree with your correspondent, A. R. H., that fiddlestring is stronger, but I think he will find it about four or five times the price of the sample I sent you last week. We often have our lines for whipping entirely of gimp, so as to do away with leads. So fiddlestrings would not be practicable, not being long enough. I think a stained gimp at 1½d. per yard, that stands 30 lb. dead pull, is good enough for all ordinary purposes. I send you a sample of an extra strong gimp I make for cod and conger fishing that will lift an enormous weight, and has a flax core. **William Hearder.**

Plymouth.

HYBRIDS.

Sir,—If the peculiar fish caught in the Witham is one of the family of soft-mouthed and soft-finned malacopterygidis fishes of which the cyprinus or carp is the genus, and might have been imported from Pomerania with the carp, what has my good friend, E. Gosling, Esq., to say about the rudd? Let him turn to chapter xvii., and dear old Isaac there says:—"Roaches be accounted much better in the river than in a pond, though ponds usually breed the biggest. But there is a kind of bastard small roach that breeds in ponds with a very forked tail, and of a very small size, which some say (you observe he won't be responsible for it, any more than Mr. Buckland, when he said, referring to the one caught by Mr. Gosling, "it may be a hybrid,") is bred by the bream and right roach (may not the wrong roach be the identical Witham singularity?) and some ponds are stored with these beyond belief, and knowing men that know the difference call them rudds. They differ from the true roach as much as a herring from a pilchard, and these bastard breed of roach are scattered in many rivers, but I think not in the Thames."

Since this account was written they must have considerably improved, as I myself have caught them close on 2 lb. weight, perfect beauties.

For my part I see no reason why such hybrids should not be greatly increased.

If, as we have been told, every variety of pigeon now known sprang originally from the common blue-rock (though this I doubt very strongly), why should not similar experiments be made to obtain as many varieties amongst the finny tribe? All that is required is the necessary breeding grounds and the brains.

The apparatus would cost a mere trifle. In proof of this, I refer you to the trout-breeding establishment in the Wandle, at Mitcham, which I have seen.—I am, &c., **Mark Antony.**

NOTES AND QUERIES.

Sir,—Will some one enlighten me on the following subjects?

How can I produce the necessary hole in the bottom of a clear glass bottle to convert it into a minnow trap?

What are the most favourable conditions under which to use David Foster's red-haired caterpillar, and the "Alexandra"?

I find it extremely difficult to procure gentles at this time of the year; can any one tell me where I can buy some?

I saw some flies beautifully tied on the eyed hooks at Messrs. O'Handlen and Co.'s, Bristol, last year. The bittern fly, noticed by you in Mr. Ogden's notice last week, is by no means new. I have used him for more than ten years, and a rattling good one he is when the rivers are full and coloured. I killed thirty-four fish with it last Good Friday, dressed thus:—Body—yellow mohair or wool-gold, twist ribbed; legs—very light blue hackle; wings—bittern wing feather put on sparingly; hook, No 4.

I should be glad to hear of any one having some bittern feathers to sell.—I am, &c., **Caerdydd.**

[You can get a glass bottle minnow trap at Mr. Alfred's, 20, Moorgate Street, E.C. You would have to use a diamond glass-cutter if you make one yourself. If you write to Mr. D. Foster, fishing-tackle maker, Ashbourne, Derbyshire, for his "Entomological List of Flies," you will find full instructions in the use of his capital caterpillar. Fishing with the "Alexandra" was described last year in the Gazette. Gillett and Co., of 40, Fetter Lane, will send you gentles at any time. Many thanks for address of fly-tyers on the eyed hooks.—Ed.]

LARGE CARP.

Sir,—The taking of a fine carp of 12 lb. is reported in your Walton news of last week as unprecedented.

That is not so. About two years ago, at Maidenhead, I was present at the taking, and assisted in the landing of a carp of 12 lb. 14 oz.; and in the evening I saw it weighed by Mr. Cleare, of the Dumb Bell, Taplow. Clark of Maidenhead was the fisherman engaged.—I am, &c., **H. M. P.**

FISHING AT SELBY (YORKS).

Sir,—I shall be much obliged if you can inform me if there is good trout or salmon fishing at Selby, and if so, whether it is free or preserved? Selby is on the Ouse in Yorkshire. Also if it is necessary to have a license for salmon fishing under any circumstances?—I am, &c. Walter Stead.

136, Woodhouse Lane, Leeds, March 11.

[We are not aware that there is either trout or salmon fishing at Selby. You require a salmon license before you can fish for salmon.—Ed.]

SOUTH OF IRELAND.

Sir,—In your issue of March 4th, headed "South of Ireland," I see reference is made to me and my fishery on the Lee. The letter is very evidently written by a fishing-tackle vendor in Cork, who has been good enough to take upon himself to publicly contradict the letter in the *Field*, which he terms "a pure fiction." I beg to state that it is perfectly true in every detail, and if any further corroboration is wanted, he had better communicate with the police at Carrigadrohid, or with S. Piersee, postmaster, at Macroom. The one-handed Kinnealy, who is mentioned on March 11th as "such a successful fisherman" is simply one of the men who defied me before the Sub-Inspector of Police, and said that he would not only fish my preserves but would throw me into the river, and get twenty men from Kilmurry to help him, if I tried, to prevent him fishing. So the river is now well poached by him and his relatives, who are tenants *on* the property, and therefore have a better chance than those who pay and have to come a long distance for the sport,—I am, &c., Duncan Dunbar Abbott, Capt. R.C.C. Artillery.

[We can assure Captain Abbott that the letter was *not* from a fishing-tackle maker.—Ed.]

BOOK ON GROUND BAITING.

Sir,—Would you be kind enough to tell me which you think would be the best book on angling for me to buy? I want one that refers more particularly to ground baiting in ponds and rivers. Apologising for thus troubling you, and wishing you every success in your paper, I am, &c. G. H. S.

[Perhaps "Otter's Modern Angler," or "Pennell's Bottom or Float-Fishing" would suit.—Ed.]

CLUB REPORTS.

ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Since last report I beg to acknowledge the receipt of the handsome donation of £5 5s. from the Richmond Piscatorials with thanks. I have great pleasure in announcing that the committee of the International Fisheries Exhibition, Edinburgh, have generously granted permission for donation boxes in behalf of the funds of the Anglers' Benevolent Society to be placed in the exhibition. —R. Ghurney, sec.

March 22.

BRENTFORD PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Since my last report the following gentlemen weighed-in for the week ending March 14. Mr. W. Turner, nine roach, 4 lb. 3 oz., the heaviest 1 lb. 2 oz.; Mr. J. Allen, perch, 4 lb. 8 oz.; Mr. Mounstephen, pike and perch, 14 lb. 4 oz. Mr. J. Allen took first prize in the pegged-down competition for roach. Mr. T. Taylor the second one.—J. H. White, hon. sec.

March 23.

BRIGHTON ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

The competition of the 14th was almost a blank; only two prizes were taken. Mr. G. Saunders first, and Mr. A. Thompkins second, both with perch. Since that date the jack have been well looked after, but to no purpose. We have come to the conclusion that they are now spawning. From the Adur, Mr. Edwin Gates, of Steyning, in two days took 41 pounds of carp, the three largest weighing 8 lb. 9 oz., 7 lb. 12 oz., 7 lb. 5 oz. I am sorry to record the death of William Ingram, an old angler, age 75 years, who had fished up to the last, and succeeded in taking a prize on March 4th. He will be taken to his last resting place on Saturday next, followed by the members of the association.—Groundbait.

BURTON-ON-TRENT ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

March 14th being the last day of the open season for general fishing, a few members spent the day on the waters of the Upper Trent. The weather was beautifully fine and warm, which made the "out" as enjoyable as possibly could be. The temperate March wind blowing lightly across the valley from the sunny uplands of Cannock Chase, and just sufficient to cause a ruffle on the surface of the Trent rendered it such a prospect as makes the angler think there is no other sport or pleasure equal to his own, and I think there is a spice of truth in the remark. The takes were not large—three brace and two brace of trout being the best. A member of the association killed a nice pike, 15 lb., latter end of last week in the Trent, close to Burton.

March 17.

CHICHESTER ANGLING SOCIETY.

The first annual dinner in connection with this society was held on Tuesday evening at head-quarters, the Globe Hotel, when about forty brothers of the angle assembled to discuss the merits of an excellant repast provided by host Purchase. Among the company were Messrs. Bracey (president), Tranter (secretary), A. L. Emmanuel, Hollander, Dyer, Redward, and Warden of the Portsmouth Waltonians, while the Cicesterians composed Messrs. W. W. Baker (president), W. Ferwood (vice-president), W. C. Cooke, jun. (hon. sec.), Captain R. Purchase, Parker, Inkpen, Field, Cover, Salter, Whitehead, G. Young, S. Young, Summers, Robinson, &c. The Chairman (Mr. W. W. Baker) in commencing the after-dinner proceedings gave the toast of the evening, "Success to the Chichester Angling Society," remarking that although started in September last, more than ninety members were already enrolled. The main objects of the society were to compel all anglers to fish in a sportsmanlike manner—(in seasons past there had been unfair fishing, but he hoped that would be stopped)—to prevent the deterioration of fish in the canal by introducing fresh stock from other waters, and clear the canal of weeds and other obstructions, and to hire neighbouring waters for the use of the members. The president concluded by proposing the health of his Grace the Duke of Richmond, patron of the society. The toast being heartily received, Mr. G. Young, in responding for the society, wished members would take more interest in proceedings by attending the meetings where it was intended to invite members to read essays on different kinds of fish and fishing, and hold discussions, it would tend to bring anglers together and increase their knowledge of the gentle art. Mr. Kerwood, vice-president, proposed "The Visitors," coupled with the name of Mr. Redward, to which that gentleman briefly responded. Mr. Dyer proposed "The Chairman and Vice-Chairman," Mr. Baker and Mr. Kerwood responding. In reply to the toast "The Officers and Committee," Mr. Emmanuel, in speaking of Mr. Mundella's Freshwater Fisheries Act, said it was in the power of any one to prosecute a person found angling in the close season; he trusted an Act would soon apply to private as well as public waters. Mr. Kerwood proposed "The Press," coupled with the name of Mr. G. F. Salter, who, in responding remarked it gave him great pleasure to forward the interest of the society and angling generally, to chronicle the takes of members, although, when localities were named, it often gave offence. Anglers were, as a rule, jealous of their swims. He thought a good motto would be, every angler on his own hook, and may his lines lie in pleasant places. Mr. Baker proposed "The Host and Hostess," to which Mr. Purchase responded, and trusted on the next occasion he was favoured with their patronage he would be enabled to provide the members with better accommodation, and if pleased on this, they would be doubly pleased on the next occasion. Mr. G. Young proposed "The Health of Captain R. Purchase," and felt sure all members would join him in a hearty vote of thanks to that gentleman for his great kindness and courtesy to all anglers. The toast was heartily received, Captain Purchase in reply stating he was always pleased to do anything to encourage legitimate sport. Some capital songs were given during the evening by Mr. Fielder, jun., Mr. Read, Mr. Cover and other gentlemen; Mr. S. Young's comic effusions sharing the honours of the evening.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members met, as usual, on Thursday evening, but, as might be expected, after the great gathering at their banquet on the previous evening, the attendance was rather limited. Mr. Neville was in the chair. The hon. secretary stated that the society's fishing rights at Thorney Broad were about to expire, and the question of renewal would be brought under consideration next week. A further addition to the International Exhibition Prize Fund was announced. After the routine business had been transacted, the meeting adjourned.

THE HOXTON BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

In consequence of the club house, the Jane Shore, High Street, Shoreditch, being required for extensive alterations, the above society will remove to the Cherry Tree, Kingsland Road, one minute's walk from North London Railway, Shoreditch. Due notice will be given when the removal is completed.—R. Ghurney, sec.

JUNIOR PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

We had a very fair show of fish on Tuesday for the wind up of the season. Messrs. Woodman and Palmer, fishing at Sonning, caught three chub 8 lb. 9 oz., heaviest one going 3 lb. 10 oz., roach 5 lb. 1 oz., and perch 1 lb. 3 oz. Mr. Hubbard, fishing at Twickenham, caught eleven roach 6 lb. 6 oz. During the season Messrs. Palmer, Woodman, Mills, Harvey, Hewitt, and Hubbard have weighed into this society 192 lb. 10 oz. of coarse fish.—Alfred H. Bisley, hon. sec.

March 23.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our general return visit on the eastern list took place on Tuesday last, the 21st inst., when a thorough enjoyable evening was spent by every one present. The harmony of the evening was well represented with some capital songs, recitations, and overtures on the concertina and banjo by Messrs. E. Barr and J. Taylor. Messrs. Rooke, Lucy, Neale, Frost, F. Moore, Whiteman, Lancaster, Drew, Fitch, jun., Allard, Norris, Campley, Tanner, Loomes, and G. Bently also took an active part. The number of clubs present was small, but we presume it was owing to the bad state of the weather; but our local visit takes place shortly, when we hope we shall have the pleasure of a good muster on that occasion.—H. Moore, sec.

March 23.

NATIONAL ANGLING CLUB.

National Competition on Lochleven.—The committee appointed for arranging the National Angling Club's competition—viz., James Wilson, of Banlaskine, of the West of Scotland Angling Club; Bailie Hall, of Edinburgh, of the Walton Angling Club; and Provost Bogie, Kinross, of the Kinross-shire Angling Club, have made all the necessary arrangements, and fixed the competition to take place on Lochleven on May 24 next. The entries are limited to thirty-six, and the tickets have been distributed over twelve of the principal clubs in Scotland. There are a limited number set aside for English clubs; and any of those clubs who wish to be represented must make application to Alfred B. Macgregor, the secretary, in Glasgow, not later than April 1. The demand for tickets this season is much greater than on any of the previous occasions on which the competition has been held. This competition is deservedly reckoned the best of its kind that takes place, and excites a great amount of interest among anglers.

ORIGINAL ALEXANDRA SOCIETY OF ANGLERS.

Our Anglers Benevolent concerts have commenced, and Mr. W. High will take the chair, faced by Mr. C. Newton. A host of talent has promised to attend. Anglers are especially invited.—E. Dymond.

PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

There was a large attendance of members at the weekly meeting at Ashley's Hotel, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, Mr. R. B. Marston in the chair. Amongst the visitors was Mr. Leo Bonvoisin, of the West Central Association. Mr. Thomas Huggett registered a salmon of 12 lb. 4 oz., and a brace of trout 1 lb. 12 oz., from Ireland. Mr. Lander showed 10 ib. of roach from the Colne, and Mr. Pattison 18 lb. of roach, the largest 1 lb. 7 oz. Dr. Brunton presented to the library "The True Enjoyment of Angling," and Mr. Gray "The Sports and Pastimes of England," and thanks were given to each for the same. Arrangements being now perfected by the London Committee of the Edinburgh Exhibition, it was decided that a large collection of fish specimens from the museum be forwarded in a few days. Mr. Thomas Crumplen, the honorary secretary of the Gresham Angling Society, was proposed as a member by Mr. W. B. Adlington, and seconded by Mr. Bates. Votes of thanks to the successful anglers and the chairman concluded the meeting.

SIR HUGH MYDDELTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above society went to Taplow on the 12th inst. for a series of prizes. The weather was all that could be wished, and the water, to all appearance, was in good order for roach-fishing. We all felt sanguine of getting good baskets of fish. Still our hopes were not fulfilled. We found the roach right off feed, consequently our takes were very small, and the prizes were not all won. Mr. E. Smith would have been at the top of the list, but unfortunately lost the train by a few seconds. Mr. John Sanders caught the specimen roach, which took a handsome diamond pin; the same fish also took a money prize and a Notts winch. G. Caborn took a money prize with first gross weight, and a smoker's companion with the greatest number of weighable fish. The above society will distribute their prizes, between forty and fifty in number, to the successful members on the 29th inst, (Wednesday) when we hope to see as many of the lovers of the gentle art as can make it convenient to attend. We are promised some select harmony on this occasion.—J. CABORN, sec.

March 20.

SOCIAL BROTHERS.

The members of this club went to Pangbourn on the 12th inst., to compete for prizes and wind up the season. The four prizes were taken by Messrs. Bromhead, J. Flyn, Freeman, and Underdown, in the order named. I hope all members will strain a point and try to attend on Sunday evening next, as very important business will be discussed. The gross weight of fish taken this season by this club of sixteen working members is 488 lb.—J. GOUBOT.

UNITED BROTHERS.

On the last Sunday before the fence months the members went out in full force, and succeeded in filling our trays with some capital fish. J. Warren, a nice show of roach; W. Tyler, jack; H. Tyler, roach and bream from Pulborough; J. Payne, roach and dace; E. Currants, roach; W. Belton, roach and dace; H. Muggeridge, dace; A. Smith, roach; G. Robinson, roach from the Lea. Saturday the 1st of April is our quarterly meeting night, when all members are requested to attend for important business.—W. T. M.

WINDSOR AND ETON ANGLING CLUB.

The members of this club met at their quarters, the Royal Oak Hotel, Windsor, on the 17th inst., to award prizes to the successful competitors for the season 1881-82. Mr. B. R. Bambridge, of Eton, secured first and second prizes, consisting of cups for the heaviest jack and heaviest barbel. No member being allowed to take more than two prizes, Mr. Parsons came in for the prize for the gross weight of barbel; Mr. Way, of Windsor, came in for the largest roach prize; Mr. Parsons the prize for the gross weight of roach; Mr. King, of the Royal Oak, took the heaviest chub prize; Mr. Way, of Windsor, the heaviest perch prize; and as Mr. Parsons could not take the gross-weight chub prize, it fell to the next best member, who is a London man. Taking it right through, the last season for sport has been very poor. Jack have been small, whilst barbel, perch, chub, and roach have been scarce, compared with a few years back.

EXPENSES AND RECEIPTS OF THE BERLIN AND NORWICH FISHERIES EXHIBITIONS.

NORWICH ought to be proud, for out of the late Fisheries Exhibition held in the Drill-hall has arisen the project of holding an International Fisheries Exhibition in London, under the patronage of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, with State recognition and the powerful co-operation of the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers. There was no doubt about the movement from the first; it enlisted Royal sympathy at once, and is now on the high road to a brilliant success. The first exhibition of the kind was held in Berlin in 1880, which, being an experiment, although successful in a monetary sense, was not satisfactory as a practical display. An able article in the *Standard* on Monday deals with this exhibition, and shows that the Americans were well represented, and are far ahead of England in all that relates to fish-culture especially. The writer takes a deep interest in all that concerns fish, either for sport or as a food supply. The total receipts at the Berlin Exhibition were £19,116, and the expenses £17,304, leaving a clear surplus of £1812. It was open ten weeks, and was visited by no fewer than 483,000 persons. The Norwich Exhibition was a less ambitious effort; it was especially tentative, and therefore the results were more encouraging. It was open for three weeks only, and during that time 70,000 people visited it. When the facts are considered, no wonder need be felt at the high praise that has been bestowed upon Mr. E. Birkbeck, M.P., the president, and Mr. Oldham Chambers, the secretary. Donations reached the amount of £1588 12s., and the whole sum received was £5132 4s. 7d. After providing for prizes and paying all expenses, there was the handsome balance left of £983 9s. 6d. What is of no less interest and importance is the mode of disposing of the surplus. This feature of the matter is worthy of all praise, and again proves that the committee and chairman of the late exhibition at Norwich had a just conception of the work they took in hand, and an honest desire to discharge it faithfully. They have awarded £400 to the Norfolk and Suffolk Fish Acclimatisation Society, £200 to the International Exhibition of 1883, and various sums to the local preservation societies. The whole thing was carried out with rare judgment and success, and now the workers are receiving their reward in the applause of their fellow men, and in imitation, which is the sincerest form of flattery.—*Norwich Argus*.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1882.

A WEEK AMONG THE DEVON TROUT.

FEW sensations can compare with that experienced by the enthusiastic angler when he feels the train move off which conveys him to the scene of his favourite sport. This must be mainly due to the force of imagination, for, as to material comfort, the railway traveller is seldom to be envied.

Anglers, however, and especially trout-fishers, are an imaginative, as well as a contemplative race; and can enjoy their sport three times over; once in anticipation, once in reality, and again in retrospect. Some thoughts like these passed through my mind as, in company with a kindred spirit, I started for Devon one evening in June. The night soon wore away, and by four or five in the morning we found ourselves at Teignmouth, watching the sun rise over the glorious expanse of sea.

A plunge in the refreshing waves soon removed the grimy feeling so well known to the traveller by rail; and we felt thoroughly ready for our first day among the trout. A few more minutes by rail brought us to Totnes, at which point we had arranged to commence operations. Descriptions of Devon scenery, and especially of the dale of the Dart, are already exhausted; and so suffice it to say that we were not insensible to the beauties that surrounded us. That we did not delay putting our tackle together does not show us to be Goths, but only proves the sporting instinct to be stronger, for the time, than the æsthetic. As we were favoured by cool breezes, whipping was the order of the day, to our great satisfaction; for what true angler does not prefer to use the artificial fly, when it is at all likely to be of use? And our choice was quickly justified, for, before making many casts, I was fast in a good trout. After a little play his mouth proved too tender to resist his frantic struggles; and, though I gave him line, we had to part company.

By a curious run of ill-luck this performance was repeated several times. Fish after fish, some half-dozen or so, served me in the same way; and, though sport was plentiful, our creels remained empty. After a time we became more used to their playful ways, and struck less quickly; and soon the first trout, a good one for Devon, was safely landed. This was owing, in great part, to my friend's exertions, who waded promptly into the water to secure the fish. Before long he had his turn; and indeed performed the unusual feat of taking two trout in rapid succession out of one pool. This was an exceptional occurrence, because the capture of a good fish, accompanied as it is by wild leaps into the air, and various other antics, generally scares all his neighbours for some time.

All through this summer's day the trout continued to rise, though seldom actually taking the fly; and still more seldom coming to bank. Those we did secure were good fish for Devon, only one being under half a pound. A landing-net would have been of great use. Indeed, for want of it, we were continually in and out of the water, only one of the fish being landed without wading.

Our previous experience having been chiefly with smaller fish, had caused us to deem a net an unnecessary encumbrance, as indeed it is in mountain streams; but now we realised the mistake we had made. Towards evening the trout, contrary to their usual habits, went off the feed; so we hastened on, leaving the further end of our six miles of water scarcely touched, and reached our quarters (to which our luggage had been sent) before nightfall. Such was our first day, and my Scotch friend, who was irreverent enough to scorn the hills around us, as compared with his native mountains, became enthusiastic over the Devon trout, and did not know in which character to admire them most—when accepting our line of invitation sent across the water to them, or when actually giving us the benefit of their company at supper.

The following day was Sunday, and the calm restfulness of our surroundings formed a strong contrast to the bustle we had left so lately. Not only were we fortunate in our position on the bank of this lovely river, but even in a matter in which the country sometimes shows its seamy side. Within a short walk a miniature church had just been completed, built in exquisite taste, and finished in every detail in the most artistic manner. Even the peal of bells had a silvery cadence, such as is seldom heard; and altogether the day was so soothing and delightful that we felt but little impatience for the morrow's sport.

On turning out early next morning, imagine our feelings at finding a steady and hopeless-looking downpour had begun. Indeed, it seemed inclined for a week's rain. However, there is no accounting for Devon weather, and by nine o'clock the prospect had much improved, and we started off up stream to try the "dirty worm." He proved as useless as dirty, and we gladly discarded him, on finding the water was but little discoloured. On this day, though the weather soon cleared, we had but poor sport, the fish being quite determined to show us how sulky they could be. Nothing but troutlings would rise, and even these confined their attention to my friend's fly, perhaps liking his driving better than mine. About mid-day the keeper, coming for our licenses, caught us some flies for "dapping," and accordingly we "dapped," and not without some success, at least as to hooking good fish. It was a mode of fishing to which I was not a stranger, and after losing a large trout, I secured some smaller ones. My companion took to the new style with great perseverance, getting one good fish and losing several others.

As dapping may not be a form of fishing familiar to my readers, a short description may be useful. First, the line is shortened to within two feet of the end of the rod ; then a large fly or other insect must be impaled as gently " as if you loved him " on the hook, In Devon the oak fly—locally called " the up and down fly," from the position it always assumes on the tree trunk—will be found most killing. The green caterpillar, used as a fly, is also good. The next proceeding is to walk along the bank, several yards from the edge, looking carefully for a likely spot, such as a quiet hole or eddy, with trees or bushes over it. On finding such a place, you do not walk forward and look to see whether there are fish there, as that would effectually drive them away ; but lie flat down and crawl carefully till near enough to the edge to drop your fly gently on the surface. If the weather is calm and bright, which is best for this style of fishing, you will probably be able to see the trout sailing about, almost under your nose—that is, provided you have crawled up as quietly as a snake, and hidden yourself behind the stump of a nettle, or some such cover. You will find sometimes great difficulty in getting your fly on the water without scaring the timid trout ; and practice alone will teach you to manœuvre the rod in a sufficiently quiet and gentle manner, and to humour the line between the boughs and over the herbage, growing at the edge, in spite of all obstacles, and without a jerk Even when this feat has been accomplished, the trout is often provokingly deliberate in his movements, and will come and inspect your arrangements time after time without interfering with them ; and if, finding your cramped position no longer tolerable, you alter it ever so slightly, he will make off with a contemptuous wag of his broad tail. If all goes well, however, his suspicions will be allayed after a short survey, and he will startle you by dashing suddenly at the tempting morsel. When once he feels the steel the fun begins. Up into the air among the boughs he jumps, to the jeopardy of your tackle, and if the hook still holds he darts across to the opposite shore, making your winch whistle again. On being checked he will often rush straight back, under the bank at your feet, to find refuge among the roots.

This manœuvre frequently results in his escape, as it is extremely difficult to prevent the line from becoming slack. Even if you keep a tight line, his hold will give way in two cases out of three ; and if it doesn't, it is still a tough job to land a large fish in deep water, and especially as you are generally hampered by overhanging boughs. Often did we lament our absent landing-net on seeing a good fish wear out his hold and float slowly off at the last moment. One trout in particular, which my friend had been playing with skill and care for some time, behaved in a very aggravating manner, lying in apparent exhaustion till within an inch of my hands, and then giving a little jerk which loosed the slender hold, and lost to us the best fish yet hooked. We had generally taken these little mishaps philosophically ; and indeed, being used to such things, I had on a previous occasion rather surprised my companion by my stoicism on seeing a good fish slip from his hands and off my hook. This time I fear we were tried beyond our patience ; and it was time before our equanimity was regained. Owing to bad luck of this sort we brought home but light baskets, and on consulting over the matter, decided to change our tackle a little on the morrow.

Accordingly we took the train to Totnes and paid a visit to the local tackle maker, to get some larger hooks. The cool of the morning being over by this time, we began dapping as soon as we reached the river, and before many minutes had each hooked a good fish. After some half-pounders had been secured, by dint of much crawling, and some patient waiting in cramped attitudes, I heard an unusually thundering yell from my companion ; and, rushing to his assistance, found he had hooked a splendid trout, which was doing its utmost to become a free fish once more. It had already made some mad rushes across the stream, and leaps into the air, but was gradually getting exhausted and allowing its golden sides to be seen near the bank. Knee deep in the stream I waited for the fish to be played within reach, and then quickly but steadily placed both hands round him, and before attempting to lift him tightened my grip, and then threw him out on the bank, to my friend's undisguised triumph. Our elation was not without some cause, for this was the finest fish we had yet taken, and a very handsome one, graceful as a salmon, and even more brilliant, in his livery of gold and scarlet. The delight of the captor was a treat to witness ; even patriotism had to yield to truth, and the Scotch trout were voted small by comparison. One or two more half-pounders rewarded our efforts, to say nothing of those played and lost ; and early in the evening, we turned our backs on the river, bearing on them fairly heavy creels.

After some refreshment near Totnes, we went to pay a promised visit to a friend. A short run by train, and a delightful ride on the box of the coach, brought us to the home of our hospitable host. Here, in pleasant society, enlivened by the presence of the fair sex, we dined : and only retired to rest in the small hours, with the prospect of having to rise before the sun. After three or four hours' rest we all sallied forth, to try our hands at a mild form of sea-fishing. Angling for smelts is not, perhaps, a very noble sport ; but it is amusing enough, and requires no sea legs, or stomachs ; as it can be practised from a bridge over an estuary, in certain states of the tide.

Our trout-tackle answered very well for this sort of sport, all the change required being the removal of the flies from the cast, and the substitution of small hooks, baited with tiny bits of dandelion stalk. These seem queer bait for sea fish, but they proved effective, soon bringing to our basket some of the bleak-like fish which could be seen playing on the surface of the water. As soon as a few were caught, we cut them up, and used little bits of fish instead of our former bait, and then the little cannibals came to bank, or rather to bridge, thick and fast. By breakfast time we had caught over a hundred of these dainty fish ; and, though small, they made together a heavy basket, especially when assisted by some bits of rock, slily slipped in by the wag of the party. We had some of the smelts cooked with the trout, and the show of fish on that breakfast-table would have been worthy of a gastronomic fish exhibition. That is, before breakfast—afterward they had a very different appearance, and would have been chiefly interesting to a student of bones.

Just as we regained the house a timely shower came on, and kept us, willing prisoners, in agreeable company for a few hours. After lunch, the weather cleared, and we went to try our fortune on a tiny trout stream not far off. Here, for a while, we had some lively sport—a good trout coming to my fly at almost the first cast. Four more followed within the space of twenty minutes ; and even after that the sport continued, though more slowly. My friend took some also before long, and soon we had made up a dozen. By this time the inhabitants of the little brook were too much scared to rise, and we returned, well satisfied with our sport ; for the trout, though mostly small, were lively. We reached the town in good time for the evening coach ; and after having taken leave of our hostess, mounted the box once more to return to Totnes. In the train we met an officer who had been trying the Avon for trout, but without success. We reached Totnes in time for a few casts near the salmon weir, but found the fish off the feed ; so took the train to our old quarters ; having spent about thirty-six hours in such a variety of angling as seldom falls to one's lot in that space of time.

On the following morning we *did* sleep late, I must admit ; but there were extenuating circumstances—four or five hours' sleep to make up for, among other things. After breakfasting about nine, we resumed our fishing ; but perhaps we were somewhat lazy, as we took but one (which fell to my companion's rod) that morning. About noon rain came on, and we were thoroughly soaked, and returned to change. After lunch the sun came out again, and we followed his example after a little rest. It was evening by this time, and such an evening ! But no need for a long description —" Sunshine after Rain " will bring it all to the minds of those who have seen such scenes in Devon ; and, to others, words were useless, unless it were to say " go and see."

After some patient fishing, and several disappointments, my friend managed to secure one more shy beauty, but I still remained with an empty creel, and felt somewhat snuffed out by my hopeful pupil. Fish after fish did I lose till night closed in, and I made up my mind for a blank day. There was a lovely moon, and even the daylight seemed to linger at a quarter past nine, so we determined to try a few more casts in a fresh pool before packing up. In rushing, somewhat impatiently down the precipitous bank to reach the shingly beach from which we had to cast the fly, I caught my foot in a root, and went down head foremost, even more quickly than I wished, nearly breaking my neck, and quite my rod.

Now was the time to prove my mettle ; so, instead of sitting down to nurse my bruises, I carefully spliced my rod, to do which it was necessary to use the running line, as the wax-end had been lost.

In five minutes all was ready, and in two more the thrilling sensation of the struggling of a good trout on my fly rewarded my patience. He felt securely hooked, so I gave him no quarter, and, instead of reeling in, ran backwards up the beach and grounded him on the shallows. This plan is not usually advisable, being hazardous and likely to scare other fish ; but in this case time was of more importance than any other consideration. And the end justified the means ; for, after barely allowing myself time to note that he was a half-pound fish, I made another long cast, and immediately hooked his brother, and brought him to bank almost as quickly as the first, and with less risk, as by this time my friend had come up with the landing-net.

Just as I had made another cast, and was straining my eyes to note the course of the fly on the dark water, a shout from my companion made me fling down the rod and rush towards him with the net. But what was our disgust at finding he had been playing a floating bough, which, being in a rapid stream, had almost seemed alive. This warned us 'twas time to cease astonishing the bats and owls, and make ready for a start. So, with a hearty laugh at our mistake, we took our rods to pieces and turned our backs on the moonlit river. But now came an unlooked-for difficulty. The river, which was deep in places, was skirted by a thick wood, and the path, at the extreme edge, practicable enough by daylight, was now really dangerous. Knowing the locality well, I had to lead the way, and by keeping a hold on the trees managed to progress safely, though slowly, for a time; but at last, after various tumbles and narrow escapes from a ducking, we came to a point where the path, such as it was, branched into the woods. The difficulty of finding the way was now much increased, and we were beginning to wonder what "camping out" would be like, when we discerned an opening in the trees, and found ourselves, after an hour's scramble, in the park-like fields near home; and glad we are to see the hospitable lights twinkling before us.

It was after eleven when we sat down to supper, not without that hearty appreciation of the same which is one of the advantages of an angler's life with which even outsiders can sympathise. On comparing our respective creels we found that victory had been snatched from my companion at the last moment; the brace of trout which had fallen to my rod in the last ten minutes being heavier than those he had taken during the day.

On the next day we were on the river in good time, and took some fair fish by dapping, but nothing noteworthy occurred till evening; when, on reaching a smooth rapid we had not before tried, we found it dimpled all over with the rises of trout. Our mouths fairly watered at the prospect, and soon our flies were imitating the antics of the myriads of living insects on the stream. Rise after rise broke the surface close to our flies, but not a fish was touched. We changed our lures again and again, trying everything in our fly-books, but without result; and at last we were forced to conclude that the epicures were feeding on midges, too small to imitate. It was now late, and having had fair sport previously, we decided to start for home, but before doing so it was necessary to cross the river. Boots in hand, I waded in; and, whilst about midway across, noticed a tempting rise up stream, and tried a cast over the spot. Contrary to my expectation the fish came fiercely, and after a good fight was duly netted; and so ended our last full day on the Dart. We now walked along the railway which, on this side, runs close to the river, and found our path much pleasanter, though less romantic, than on the previous evening. Even on this prosaic walk, incident was not wanting, for numbers of glow-worms had chosen the railway as a promenade, and their amatory beacon-lights were sparkling in every direction. We bottled three or them, two of which lived for weeks, in captivity, on lettuce leaves. As we had to return to town on the following afternoon, we took the train to Totnes in the morning, and, booking our luggage, went to pay the trout a farewell visit.

Our fortune did not quite desert us; for, after losing, as usual, some splendid fish, one of which, I think, was a peal, we landed a brace of beautiful trout, scaling about 10 oz. each. These, with two smaller ones, and our previous day's sport, made a capital basketful to take to town. The best fish were caught with the green caterpillar, used as a fly; and only by dint of careful crawling, for the day was bright, and whipping would have been useless. We noticed two or three fish of unusual size in one particular spot, and one of them, of fully two pounds, made us almost wild by darting at the fly, and then contemptuously sheering off again. We did not see any salmon, nor their enemies the otters, though both are common, and on my last visit had been "at home." After weighing our fish, we took tea, and the train for town, much pleased with our varied and never-failing, though moderate, sport; and determined to repeat our visit at the earliest opportunity. Whilst being whirled on our homeward way, our reflections consisted much of pity for those misguided beings, whose education having been neglected in their youth, cannot appreciate the pleasures of angling.

J. PAUL TAYLOR.

P.S.—The River Dart can be fished from the bank next the railway by a moderate payment, in addition to the licence. Full particulars can be had from Mr. Tope, Dart View, Staverton, who will also make anglers most comfortable, at very moderate charges. Wading is not generally necessary. Seven or eight miles of water can conveniently be reached. As a rule, the trout become larger and more wary as you approach Totnes. Fly-fishing, either artificial or natural, according to weather, appears to be most effectual. I never took a trout with worm, and only one with minnow; but a skilful worm or minnow fisher might tell a different tale. The licences are as follows:—Trout, 10s. 6d. the season, or 2s. the day; salmon, 7s. 6d. the week. For a week's fishing, therefore, a salmon licence is the better, as it includes trout, of course. As the other stream alluded to is private, and difficult of access, I will say no more of it, except that I took thirty-two trout there with fly, in one afternoon, a short time since. All fair-sized fish, from two to nine ounces, The Dart will occasionally yield almost as well; twenty-eight trout was my best day, but they were rather small for that river. The months of March, April and May are the best for this neighbourhood; but I believe the season does not end till October.

PRIVATE WATERS.

I HAVE often written about fishing in private waters, and given what I considered good advice to anglers; but I still find it necessary to return to the subject. First of all, there is nothing of greater importance than to conceal where any private waters are situated when giving information as to great captures of fish. One of my friends, the other day, remarked to me not publish where the fish were caught, or everybody would be wanting to go there, and the place in a little time would not be worth fishing. My reply was, "I simply use the words 'private waters,'" and it is of very little consequence, so long as the result is made known. It is at the same time desirable not to give a clue to the whereabouts of any private water, and my request is to friends I take to private waters, when weighing the fish in at the club-room, not to say where they have been caught. All that is needed is to say "caught in private waters." But I can imagine there may be those who would like to know *where*, and any angler satisfying their curiosity is guilty of great wrong to the proprietor of the fishery, for it has often caused a plethora of applications to fish, which has frequently resulted in the fishery being closed altogether. There is another evil which I wish to point out, and that is the greedy desire to retain fish that are caught, irrespective of size or condition, a wise rule being to return to the water all fish under four pounds, and even then, if the sport is unusually good, some very large specimens being taken, the largest only should be retained, as, I believe, was the case in the recent great captures of Messrs. Alfred Jardine, John Knechtli, and Alfred Nuthall. With the exception of the takes of these gentlemen, I have not heard of any great results in fishing private waters this season among pike. In one of Mr. Alfred Jardine's late expeditions I hear he had the misfortune to lose a larger fish than he has lately taken, but his promise that he will capture a big one will, I am confident, be realised this season.* Few anglers possess greater energy, perseverance, and skill than he does, and if there is a 40lb. fish to be got anywhere, I would, if I were a betting man, lay any amount of odds in favour of his getting it. I know many good anglers, but from long experience, I never was out with one who works so hard. There are often great disappointments in fishing private waters by the loss of good fish. Only the other day Mr. Beasley, who is a skilful angler, had the misfortune to lose a pike that would probably have weighed 30lb.; the fish was got partly into the landing-net, but it was too big for it, and it got away. Then again the water often gets suddenly out of condition, or a frost sets in the previous night, and has iced it all over. The fish are sometimes in no humour to feed, and nothing can induce them to take the bait; they will play with it, the float goes down, it soon rises again, and remains stationary; the cry is, "the fish has left it." There are other disappointments, as was the case recently. I took Mr. Arthur Josling and Mr. Beasley to some private waters, and when we got there we found the water was three feet below its usual height, and this was totally adverse to good prospects. I will give these good anglers all the credit they deserve, they did all they possibly could; there they were, working as perseveringly as possible, and it was only by dint of hard work that they succeeded in catching a brace of fish each.

B.

SILK-WORM GUT, HAIR LINES, &c.

THE following letter has been received by me from a Spanish merchant, who largely imports silk-worm gut, is an experienced fisherman, and delights in preparing the materials for and making his own tackle.

"I have known fishing lines made of a variety of materials. In North-West America a particular kind of sea-weed is greatly used by some of the natives. They likewise utilise the wild hemp for this purpose, and the Esquimaux devote narrow strips of hide, and in tropical climates pine-apple fibres are rendered useful to this end. The second or inner coating of trees, the hair of horses and other animals, including that of both men and women, are likewise called into requisition. The very best lines I have ever had, were made by myself. This may be vanity, or arises from that faith and fondness, in which is included scrupulous care for what we ourselves create. But at the time I speak of, anglers almost invariably made their own lines. I have now three tapered fly-lines which consist of hair from an Abyssinian woman, from whom I saw it cut as a punishment for some religious offence, and which, when unshackled, reached to her knees and averaged four feet in length. To make this serviceable, I used quill sticks. The quill sticks are made thus: piece of quill are cut to receive wooden pegs to accurately fit them—three of these will be enough. Divide the number of hairs you intend to use into three, and having knotted the ends of the whole length, cut the other separate ends into unequal lengths. You have now, say four hairs in each quill, secured by the pegs. The knotted end is then fastened to the knee of your trousers or a table cover, with a pin, and the sticks or pegs laid on your left hand in rotation. Now take up the right hand one by the forefinger and thumb and twist it; this being done, place it where the first one was. The second stick is then taken up and the same twirl given to the hair, then comes the third, and keep on repeating this until a single hair is nearly exhausted. Then insert another in its place, seeing that the uneven order of all the strands is preserved. When you have made a sufficient length of line, begin to taper it by dropping a hair occasionally, until the line is strong enough, when the protruding ends are cut off. Many descriptions of fibres can be twisted by the same means.

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* Since we received the above, Mr. Jardine *has* taken a big fish—one, in fact, of 27½ lb.—ED.

"There are an endless number of vegetable fibres from which very strong and useful lines can be fabricated; by soaking the inner bark of trees, or the stems of plants, and then combing them. Travellers tell us that the Indians often twist their lines under the hand on the thigh. Any undue twist or incipient kink, may be taken out of lines by fastening one end to a tree or other fixed point; and then, taking a turn round a piece of smooth stick, holding the stick by each end and hand, walking backwards until all the line has undergone a moderate strain. Wire, if not too thick, may in this way have all the irregularities removed and rendered as straight as when it came from the wire drawer.

"You ask me what is my knowledge of silk-worm gut? There is little more to be known respecting it than was patent half a century ago or more. You will find that W. B. Lord, in his "Shifts and Expedients of Camp Life," page 599, quoting from previous writers upon the subject, says "Silk-worm gut can also be obtained wherever silk-spinning worms are met with. To make it, a number of caterpillars are to be collected just prior to their time of spinning. They are to be placed in a pot or other convenient vessel, containing a mixture of vinegar and water in equal quantities; they are then to be covered down and allowed to stand about twelve hours. A worm may be then taken out, opened, and tested as to its fitness for drawing. If on pulling the yellowish green coils, which will be found within it, to their full extent and extreme length, they break from softness of texture, the worms must be allowed to remain in the vessel some time longer, temperature having much to do with the condition of the pickled insects. When the coils are found to be tough, and stand stretching fully out, one end of the strand must be placed in a slit at the end of a thin board or sheet of bark prepared for the purpose. The strand is now to be drawn and evenly stretched to the ends of the board, to which corresponding slits have been made, and the extremities of the gut secured in one of them. When all the worms are thus treated, the stretching board is to be placed in the sun, in order that the gut may dry, which it usually will in about twelve hours. It will now be found that a considerable quantity of the yellow substance will remain adhering to the gut. This must be removed, and, in order to do so, dissolve a piece of common soap about the size of a musket ball in a gallon of rain-water. Place this, with the gut in it, in a boiler and boil it for ten minutes, when the gut must be turned out on a cloth to drain. Before cooling, each strand must be lightly and smartly drawn through a pledget of cotton, held between the finger and thumb, which will at once strip off the yellow coating; but great care must be taken not to press the softened strand hard enough to render it flat or curled, which the application of the nail with force will do. As fast as the strands are run through the cotton, they must be replaced on the board and again dried in the sun, after which they can be selected as to size, quality, strength, &c., and packed up in hanks by twisted cotton, or any other kind of thread round them.

"I note what you say about the waste which apparently occurs in the attachments to dry the strands. This used to result from pins, instead of slits in the wood, being used to fasten the ends, the comparative unimportance of the material once only used for stringing religious paternoster beads, &c., and the careless manner of manipulating it by the natives. I have heard nothing whatever of the improvements and suggestions you allude to, but agree with you, that a very little encouragement, by offering rewards for the best samples, would ultimately tend to the getting a very far superior article than any that we have ever had; and I further consider with you that the quality of this animal product is greatly, if not wholly, dependent upon the vegetable food of the silkworm. The mulberry leaf, the best regimen yet known for the creature, is full of fibre; and if we contrast the resulting gut with that of the worm fed upon lettuce-leaf, the difference will be as between good and bad. I recollect that some years ago there was a talk of introducing silk-worms into this country, and the Bombax—a very large species—was to produce not only salmon-gut of an enlarged size, but gut to come into competition with the entrails of the cat for violins and other stringed musical instruments."

I have taken the liberty to reply to this, and tell my friendly correspondent that I consider the application of soap, as an alkali, and boiling, objectionable (from the reasons I have elsewhere given); and suggested that if the strands were passed, instead, over or through indiarubber, so arranged as slightly to pinch the substance, the same result of removing the objectionable film would follow—if not too rapidly effected to engender undue heat—without the removal of the gum, upon which both the strength and coherence of the fibres consist.

I shall be better able to more fully speak upon the matter as I have induced a celebrated analytical chemist to confirm, qualify, or refute, the results of my experiments upon the matter of boiling, which is simply that it has the same effect as it has upon isinglass, Iceland moss and other dissolvent substances, namely, to convert the water into a more or less condition of soap, which slightly congeals and has an adhesive character when cool.

Creel.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

The general angling season has come to an end, if not amid a blaze of piscatory triumph, at least amid, and made pleasant by, genial warm breezes and bright sunshine; while the final efforts of many piscators, previous to putting their rods down for three long months, were, here and there, as testified by the reports, rewarded by some very decent takes. As the legitimate season for luring the scaly ones from their native depths closes, it must not be supposed the angler entirely loses for the time being his interest in the sport he has so ardently followed during the preceding nine months, and among club men at least, some of the causes of this sustained interest are not far to seek. During the close time are almost invariably held the annual meetings of societies, at which officers, committee, &c., are elected for the coming season; then, too, are held all, or nearly all, the societies' annual dinners. And the glories of those dinners! of all kinds and degrees—from those boasting a recherche *menu*, perfect marvels of culinary art, to the plain, wholesome feeds; yet all having certain leading features in common.

There is no doubt that with almost every society, the annual dinner is the event of the season. There sit the chairman and vice-chairman, all smiles, perfect paragons of urbanity, with a courteous greeting for every one, yet keenly alive to the responsibilities of their office. Well they know the representatives of the press are present; that by and by, after the good things have been done full justice to, the cloth removed, the usual loyal toasts duly honoured, will come that of the "Undaunted" Piscators Angling Society; that scarcely has the ringing three-times-three with which it is greeted subsided, before the hardworking secretary, upon whose individual exertions the success of the society in great measure so much depends, will, in response, rise and give a brief resumé history of the past season, increase in number of members, weight of fish taken, specimens added to other trophies already possessed by the club, the balance in hand, &c.; generally winding up with that pardonable little bit of romance that the "Undaunted Piscators," as a club, is second to none. A little bit of romance which, however unorthodox it may seem to say so, I hold to be positively praiseworthy, if it influences, as no doubt it does, those to whom it is applied to act up to it. Then there are all the officers of the society to receive the meed of praise they have so honestly earned, and each in turn rising and beamingly returning thanks. Presently the prizes won during the past year are distributed, consisting in the case of a few societies of cups and money prizes; these last-named most objectionable, and, as a fact, not tolerated among amateurs in any other branch of sport. But in the majority of clubs the prizes are composed of the most miscellaneous articles. Rods and tackle, and other fishing gear, are, of course, well represented; but among the favourites are copper-kettles, teapots, boots, cigars, tobacco, bottles of rum, gin, &c.; watches, rings, clothes, books, beef, a goose, ingredients for a pudding, a ton of coals; the last few generally to be fished for just before Christmas, and be presented at that time. Then when the prize-takers, amid the cheers of approving brother-bobs, have all been up and received their trophies, the secretary will have a busy time of it for half-an-hour—more or less—jotting down the names of prize-givers for the coming season. There will be two or three toasts more, including, in all probability, the host and hostess; the Associations, if a representative is present, the chair, the vice-chair, &c., interspersed with a few songs and recitations; God Save the Queen, and the annual dinner will be over. I fear I have gone a long way round, but what I intended to convey is that there are several other matters of importance which, if I may be allowed to suggest, should not be allowed to pass unnoticed on these occasions, and foremost among them is the "Anglers' Benevolent Society;" next the River Preservation Societies and their work; the Thames Rights Defence Association, and, indeed, any organised movement having for object the relieving of distressed piscators, the maintenance of undoubted rights, or the bettering of angling prospects (as to the amending of laws relating to coarse fish). Rarely do better opportunities offer, than at these well-attended festive gatherings, of impressing upon our brothers of the rod the necessity of every one of them assisting, by his moral and, where needed, pecuniary support in carrying out the above desirable object, not depending entirely upon a few chosen leaders, but working as if the success of them depended solely upon the individual exertion of each one of us.

A report to hand from the "Battersea Friendly" and another from the "Watford Piscators," both of which I subjoin.

No. 3 District Visit to Battersea Friendly Society.

Tuesday 14th March, 1882. Mr. F. Webb, in the chair. Mr. Boisseau, in the vice. No doubt owing to the visit falling upon the last day of the fishing season, there was a very small attendance. Only three clubs represented, viz., Clapham Junction, Anglers' Pride, and Battersea Friendly, nevertheless there was some capital harmony, the following gentlemen contributing:—Mr. Webb, "The Stirrup Cup"; Mr. Boisseau, "I love my Native Country"; Mr. Ford, "Midshipmite," encore, "The Land called England"; Mr. W.

Brice, "The Chinaman"; Mr. G. Webb, "Welcome ever Welcome"; Mr. G. Howell, "I begin to feel much Older"; Mr. Newton, "When Noah hung out in the Ark"; Mr. Gloucester, "Rio Fal Da"; Mr. Sewell, "Golden Slippers"; Mr. Payne, "Gooseberry Wine," &c., &c., after Mr. Hoole had called the roll, he spoke at some length in reference to the renting of waters and propagation of coarse fish, informing his hearers that the "Joint Committee" had determined not to spend any of the funds for trout culture, he also exhorted the members to instruct their delegates to attend all meetings and render assistance in the many schemes the association have in hand for the benefit of anglers and angling. A special vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Hoole for his attendance, every member, rising, drank his health and prosperity to the association. A most pleasant evening was brought to a close by those assembled singing "God Save the Queen."

THE WATFORD PISCATORS.

On Friday, 17th inst., a meeting of anglers was held at the Commercial Inn, better known as the Leathersellers' Arms, High Street, Watford, to consider the advisability of forming an angling society in that town. The chair was taken at half-past eight by Mr. Horn, who in opening the meeting, explained that it had been the intention of a few gentlemen in Watford, to start a society and rent a piece of water for the use of the members, and as now the anglers were thrown out of work for a few months, he thought it a golden opportunity to gather them together. A proposition was made by Mr. Lucas, and seconded by Mr. Vincent, that an angling society be started and that it be called the Watford Piscators. Carried. The difficulty of securing a good club-room was very quickly and satisfactorily got over by the great kindness of the worthy landlord, Mr. Griffiths, who offered the room the meeting was held in, rent free; and as the river Colne runs at the bottom of his garden, he promised to keep bait for the club. I need not add the kind offer met with loud applause. A committee was then elected, Messrs. Horn, Lucas, Allen, Cutchee, and Vincent, who, of course, have power to add to their number. Mr. Vincent was then elected as sec. pro. tem. A vote of thanks was passed to the worthy chairman, for his kindness in calling the meeting and for the able manner in which he had filled the chair that evening.

On Thursday evening, March 23rd, a West Central Association (No. 2 district) visit was paid the Amicable Waltonian Angling Society, Horse and Groom tavern, John Street, Clerkenwell. Their comfortable little club-room being fairly filled with representatives from fourteen societies, eleven in the district and three out of it, viz. Amicable Brothers, Amicable Waltonians, Bloomsbury Brothers, City of London, Metropolitan, Reform, St. John, Sir Hugh Myddleton, West Central, Convivial, and Trafalgar, and the Bridgewater Brothers, North-Western and the Original Clerkenwell Piscatorial. Mr. Vanhagen occupied the chair and was faced in the vice by Mr. Fowler. After some capital songs and recitations from Messrs. Hamilton, Lewis, Scott, Whitehead, Bonvoisin, Gill, Roberts and others, the roll was called shortly after eleven by Mr. L. Bonvoisin, the district visiting officer, who took the opportunity of making a feeling allusion to our brother worker, fearless, zealous George Oram, who has so recently passed away from among us. The next visit in this district will be paid the Bloomsbury Brothers Angling Society, Rose and Crown, Broad Street, Bloomsbury, on Wednesday evening, April 5th, when a good muster of piscators is anticipated.

The Waggon and Horses Tavern, at Ware, Herts, has been taken by Mr. E. Hilliar, who, I am told, is prepared to cater for anglers at a considerably reduced tariff.

The Hoxton Brothers' new address is the Cherry Tree, Kingsland Road. I hope this famous, club and its equally well-known and respected secretary, will find this latest swim to their liking.

A new station is about to be opened on the Great Western Railway, between Pangbourne and Reading, the name of which will be Tylehurst, or Tilehurst. I am not sure of the orthography of the word. There is no doubt it will prove a great boon to anglers, who, at present, to fish the grand stretches about Mapledurham, are compelled to undertake a long tramp there and back, either from Reading or Pangbourne.

Mr. Hoole, the secretary of the West Central Association, some time since, wrote a letter *re* gross weights in angling clubs. I wondered for a long time what meaning the words "gross weights" conveyed to the minds of those readers of the FISHING GAZETTE who were not members of angling societies. From personal enquiry of several such gentlemen, I find it is—or, I should say, was (as I, of course, took care to undeceive them)—believed to mean the retention, showing, and weighing-in of all fish, quite regardless of size or weight. Now, of course, this is altogether wrong. There is no greater respecter of undersized fish than your clubman; the printed rules of his society, which invariably include the scale of takeable fish, strongly impress this upon him, while in many societies any breach is further brought home to the offender by the infliction of a fine. I sincerely wish anglers who are not members of angling societies would follow the good example thus set them. I have over and over again been laughed at by local anglers in many parts of the country for returning the babies to the water.

Now several societies have lately gone in for the abolition of "gross weights," all prizes being given for specimen fish only, yet we are almost every week startled (in my case, I own it, made piscatorially envious) by the record of one or more magnificent takes of roach, jack, &c., shown and weighed at these very societies; 80 or 90 lb. of roach and between 100 and 150 of jack at one weighing, to my mind look marvellously like gross weights in practice. Whether these fish are weighed-in for prizes or not does not matter a jot, nor does it affect the principle at stake; and, indeed, if they are not, only makes the anomaly all the greater and lays the members and framers of the rules open to a charge of inconsistency between their theory and practice. Of course it can be pleaded that the minimum scale of weighable fish in these societies is much higher (it had needs be); however, that is a matter of detail and does not in any way affect the principle at stake. Poor Joe Smith or Bill Brown, whose slender means and life of almost constant toil only allow of his having a few hours' angling once a week, perchance at Tottenham or Richmond, is just as true a sportsman, though he does only weigh-in half-a-dozen roach of four or even five to the pound avoirdupois, as his wealthier brother-bob, who shows half a hundredweight of grand roach from the Avon, averaging from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. I sincerely hope we shall have an expression of opinion from our friends who have lately made such a dead set against gross weights, but, first of all, let us have a clear understanding of what they mean by gross weights and by specimen fish only.

Re Thames trout. I sincerely regret Mr. B. has used Mr. Forbes' name in the discussion of this subject. I question the good taste of having done so, as it has nothing to do with what Mr. Marriott and myself referred to, viz., the stocking of the Upper Thames with expensive Wycombe bottlers. An attempt to propagate trout from our real Thames fish is altogether another affair; and, without venturing to offer an opinion as to the probable chances of success or otherwise, would not, if kept within reasonable proportions, I feel sure, meet with the disapproval the expenditure, on little strangers, of comparatively considerable and otherwise sadly-wanted amounts, has done on the upper reaches of the river.

William Wilshire and William Nicholls, on Tuesday 28th, at Ware, before a full bench of magistrates, pleading guilty to netting and illegal possession of fish during close time (jack, roach, chub, gudgeon, &c., about 12 lb.) were convicted, and ordered to pay 10s. fine and 9s. cost in each case, and the net to be forwarded to Mr. Corble on behalf of the Lea Conservancy, prosecuting.

PECKHAM BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The annual dinner of this society took place at the club house on the 21st, A. Brodie, Esq., was in the chair, H. T. Reed, the treasurer, in the vice; covers were laid for twenty-six. The dinner was served up in the best style, and after every one had done justice to the good things placed before them, the chairman proposed the toast "The Queen and Royal Family," and in doing so spoke of the interest taken by the Royal Princes in matters piscatorial. A song written and composed by W. G. Weber, "The Jovial Peckham Brothers," was then sung by the author and received with a round of applause, after which the toast of the evening, "Success to the P.B.A.S." was given. Responding to the above, the hon. sec. spoke in glowing terms of the state of the club, and ending by advising all who were not already members, to join at once, and partake of the pleasures of angling. A song by Mr. Deeke, and then the presentation of prizes by Mrs. Reed, who with kindly words greeted each winner as they passed before her. "The prize donors," was replied to by Mr. Fell; "The Prize Winners," by Mr. Garrard; "The Officers," by Mr. Reed; "The Visitors," by Mr. Tickle, and the toast of "The Chairman," drank with three times three brought the list to a close, after which the evening was spent in harmony, the following gentlemen singing:—Mr. Bignall, "Full Inside"; Mr. Reed, jun., "The Powder Monkey"; Mr. Page, "Four Jolly Smiths"; Mr. Gendle, "Home Once More"; Mr. Palmer, "The Vicar of Bray"; Mr. Stidolph, "Saving them all for Mary"; Mr. Jones, "The Death of Nelson"; and so a pleasant night was passed, and at 3 a.m. we parted, with a wish from the chairman that we may shortly meet again.—W. H. PAGE, hon sec.

THE SOCIETY OF CAXTONIAN ANGLERS.

The first annual general meeting and dinner of this influential fishing society took place on Monday, the 27th inst., at the club house, the Falcon Hotel, Gough Square, Fleet Street. Mr. W. Cate, the president, was in the chair, faced by Mr. G. Esson, the vice-president. A most récherché dinner was partaken of by a numerous company, and the evening enlivened by some excellent singing contributed by Messrs. J. H. Stead, W. Cate, jun., Reeves, Esson, Matthews, Little, and others, was most enjoyably spent. On the removal of the cloth the usual loyal toasts were given, as were also "Prosperity to the Society of Caxtonian Anglers," "Health of the President," "Vice Presidents," "Committee," "Secretary," and the chairman said that he could not allow this opportunity to pass without proposing success to the "Great International Fisheries Exhibition, 1883," all of which were received enthusiastically, and responded to in a short but happy manner. The prizes won during the fishing season were distributed by the president to the various winners, Mr. A. Wayman proving himself the most successful competitor by winning no less than seven prizes, including the club prize of a silver cup. This society, although having been only nine months in existence, has proved remarkably successful, the social position of the members, coupled with the indefatigable exertions of the executive, bringing it in the foremost rank of the piscatorial world. The prizes, amounting to nearly £40, were awarded as follows:—Mr. A. Wayman, 7 prizes for the largest trout, barbel, chub, and gudgeon, and the heaviest weight of roach, dace, chub, and gudgeon; Mr. T. Matthews, 3 prizes for largest pike and heaviest gross weight of jack; Mr. W. Cate, 4 prizes for largest roach and bream, and heaviest gross weight of roach; Mr. C. Millbourne, sen., 2 prizes for largest dace and tench; Mr. G. Reeves, sen., 2 prizes for largest perch and heaviest gross weight of perch; Mr. W. Pyne, 1 prize for largest fish taken with a fly; Mr. A Brooks, 1 prize for heaviest gross weight of barbel.

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

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SPECIAL NOTICE.

NEXT Friday being GOOD FRIDAY, the GAZETTE will be published at 3 o'clock on Thursday afternoon.

TO OUR RIVER REPORTERS.

NEXT Friday being GOOD FRIDAY, the GAZETTE will be published on Thursday, and all river reports must reach the office by 9 a.m. on Thursday morning.

RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

" And when the timorous trout I wait
To take, and he devours my bait,
How poor a thing, sometimes I find
Will captivate a greedy mind."—WALTON.

To-day (Saturday) trout fishing commences on the Thames, and I sincerely hope many a timorous trout will be greedy minded enough to take the bait offered to them by purely philanthropic piscators. The river this time last year was only just out of flood, but now it is in excellent trim as to colour and temperature, and sport will accrue to the toiler and spinner, especially if beforehand he has marked down his game, or has reliable information of the whereabouts of the spotted beauties. At Streatley, Goring, and Maple Durham I hear of some things of life which may be made fools of on the 1st. Marsh Pool, near Henley, has a tenant or two at will; and Hambledon waters are a sure find to those in the know of the bits to be fished. Newlock, Hurley, generally has a fish or two about its clothes, but is somewhat disturbed now with the making of the new weir. Marlow waters are always good, and the same may be said of Maidenhead and Bray. The wind has been chopping round from north to south but now seems stationary at the latter quarter. So what can a troutist want but good luck, and that one and all may have it is the wish of—MARLOW BUZZ.

Ballynahinch.

The angling on the above has been very good for this last week. On the 23rd, Mr. J. C. Deverell, two salmon, weighing 12 and 14 lb.; same date, Mr. R. Mecredy, sen., two, 9½ and 10 lb. On the 25th, Mr. J. C. Deverell, three salmon, 12, 12, and 16 lb.; same date Mr. R. Mecredy, one, 10 lb. On the 27th, Mr. J. C. Deverell, one salmon, 18½ lb.; same date, Mr. R. Mecredy, senr., one, 10½ lb. On the 28th Mr. J. C. Deverell, one, 10 lb. Total for the week:—two rods killed 11 salmon, weighing 134 lb. Weather still stormy, with occasional hail showers.—WALTER BLACKADDER.

Chichester.

The lowering of the water necessary for the repairing of Birdham Lock will commence on Monday, April 3. The main body will be lowered 18 inches, a dam put in at Donnington Bridge, and the canal between the dam and lock emptied. There will still remain a full reach to the outer lock. Active arrangements are being made on behalf of the United Brighton, Portsmouth and Chichester Clubs to secure and return fish to the upper water, clear away weeds, and watch the canal night and day during the progress of the work. The large pike, whose loss by a Portsmouth angler we chronicled a few weeks since, was found in the lower waters, dead, with the hooks firmly embedded. It is surely high time gorge tackle should be abolished.—GEORGE SALTER.

Coquet.

On the 24th, Mr. Wood, of Lindon, killed a good basket, 5 lb. On the 25th, Mr. Hedley, Felton, a good basket, 4½ lb. On the 27th, Mr. A. Hutchingson, Bukenfield, killed a splendid basket, 8 lb.; Mr. J. Wear, of Felton Mill, a splendid basket, 8 lb.; the Rev. Mr. Oliver, curate, Longhorsley, good basket, 4 lb.; Mr. Row, Moleshaugh, 5 lb. Monday being the first of the red fishing for salmon, Messrs. Morlee, Young, and Rough were fishing for salmon, and had very poor sport. J. Young landed one little over 2 lb. There has been no fishing for the last two days, the wind blowing strong from the west.—A. GLASS, The Angler's Inn

Dove.

There is very little angling news stirring this week. The wind and weather have since my last been dead against trout-fishing, and next to nothing has been done. We are sure to have plenty of good sport when the elements become less boisterous and milder, but not till then. The best killing flies have been the cockwing dun, the cowdung, and the bumble. The artificial minnow has proved the most destructive in the brooks. Salmon have been running up the Dove all the week in abundance, but I don't hear of any being killed with the rod and line. Some of the locals were busy on the open lengths last Saturday, but they might as well have stopped at home for any success they had. Grayling keep rising, but if caught must now be thrown back again into the water.—THE SPLODGER.

Exe (Exeter.)

Up to within the last few days sport has been excellent, both for salmon and trout. The cold winds, accompanied with snow, have backened sport most materially. The fish are lying in threes and fours in numerous parts of the river, and, although the casts have been beautifully made, but very few runs have been the reward, the minnows actually passing in front of their nose, and, with an insignificant look, they turn upon their sides, and allow the line to be drawn over them without taking the slightest notice. Messrs. Lee, Pearson, and Goucher, considering all obstacles, are doing well. The neap tides have been very low, and the spring tides have not been up to the average. Gravelling are most abundant and of good size, 6 inches being the average. Parr-marked fish are not so plentiful, the majority seem to have put on their silver coats, probably; being last year's smolts, and are on their way down. The parr-marked will follow later in May, no doubt. They are looking for mackerel in the estuary, but at present the fishing is confined to flat fish. Lobsters and crabs are plentiful and fine from off the Exeters, which are rocks some few miles off Budleigh Salterton. Some fine ballan wrasse and a few bass have been landed; the former, as a rule, are used for crab and lobster bait, the same as dog-fish. The wind is blowing strong from N.N.W. and every indication of rain.—FRANK GOSDEN.

[How is the bait you send used? There seems nothing new about it.—ED.]

Exe (Tiverton).

The water at present is in very good order for fishing, some very good baskets have been made during the past week; at times fish sported very well. The largest trout that has ever been killed with the artificial fly in the association water fell a prey to Mr. Frank Folland on Tuesday last, in the lower portion of the water about two miles below Tiverton, Mr. Folland, who was fishing with very fine tackle, and who well knows how to handle a good fish, played him about twenty minutes, and followed him about 500 yards, having to take to the river up to his waist to pass trees and bushes, at length succeeded in killing him in grand style; it was a male fish in splendid condition and beautiful in shape, weighing 5 lbs., to use a local phrase "a whacker;" the fly it was taken with was the hare's flax upright. The March browns have now come on in swarms, and fish are taking them very greedily. Flies that have taken best during the past week are the hare's flax upright, blue upright, halfstone, and iron blue.—W. MUDFORD.

North Lincolnshire Trout Streams.

Most of the becks in this neighbourhood pass through private grounds, and the proprietors are exceedingly chary in granting permission to angle. One can hardly be surprised at this, as the fishing, though generally good in quality is deficient in quantity, and it would be no easy matter for some of the smaller streams to be fished out. The Bain is, without doubt, the finest trout stream in the county. But little has been done with the rod during the past week, owing to adverse weather. It is now showing some improvement, and anglers may again take to the March brown, light and dark woodcocks, and olive drake.—THOMAS FORD.

Severn (Shrewsbury).

The river has been very high this week, but has gone down just as quickely and one of our members has weighed a very fine trout of 1½ lb., caught with a minnow. The water will not be right until about Tuesday next for fly-fishing. —F. H. M.

Swale.

Nothing of note has been done on this river during the past week, owing to rough and cold weather. Many local anglers say no fishing ought to be allowed on this river during any month with an "r" in it. Of course, your correspondent is not at one with them.—THOMAS FORD.

Suir and its Tributaries, Clonnel.

The cotmen did badly last week, getting only 11 fish. This week they are doing better. The fish at present are running very small, averaging about 10 lb. We had a thick flood on Sunday, which ran down in two days. On Lord Donoughmore's preserves Thomas Phelan a fine salmon, Mr. Edward Quinlan 2 on Thursday weighing 22½ lb. and 10½ lb. On Saturday he landed one weighing 15 lb. Mr. N. Bagwell got one salmon weighing 6 lb. Mr. J. Leslie Worrall, jun., on Saturday, after ten minutes' play, landed a beauty of 10 lb. The trout fishing is slightly improved since last week.—DORA.

March 30th.

Taw and Tributaries (N. Devon).

Water lately has not been in very good condition, the road washing discoloured it. The high, cold winds keep many gentlemen home. The weather is warmer, and no doubt some good fishing, especially kelt hooking, may be expected next week. I have heard of one dish of good trout, eighteen fish, caught when the sun was up, and I have heard of three or four catches to-day. The river Yeo has been well fished. Thursday being Bank half-holiday, six or seven of the clerks are out somewhere. The lower Taw is to be opened, tickets £2 2s., which will be a great boon, as their was no fishing to be had for paying, and season tickets are only to be issued.—RUSTY GAME.

Thames (Goring).

Water a little thick now, but will be in good order by Sunday, if it keeps fine, for trout. There has been a trout feeding here for the last day or two of about 5 lb. weight. Roach and chub are coming up to Goring Bridge to spawn.—JOHN RUSH.

Tweed and Teviot.

The rivers have for the past week been in fair angling order, and some good takes of trout have been got. Salmon fishing, however, has not been so successful, and on all the casts the reports are to the same effect, *i.e.*, very little doing, and those that are killed have either the disease on them or have recovered from it. Of course there are exceptional cases where really good fish were got, such as have been killed in the Hendersyde water during the past week; but there is not the slightest doubt but that the disease is still in our rivers, although not so rampant as it was some months ago. On the Hendersyde water, Sir George Waldie Griffith, of Hendersyde Park, has killed no fish up to date, although he has angled every available day. On the Junction water Mr. A. Steel lost a nice fish of 8 lb. On Monday, on the lower Hendersyde water Mr. Pringle, fish merchant, Kelso, killed three very handsome salmon, one being 11 lb., the others less; he also lost a fourth fish. The fish killed had all tide lice on them. On the Ednam House water Mr. Pringle Elliott landed a kelt, but all the other waters in the neighbourhood were fished blank. Tuesday was not a good angling day, and little was done, the only fish killed being one on the Sprouston waters, the successful angler being Mr. C. Kerss. On Wednesday, on the Hendersyde water, Mr. Pringle Elliot killed one salmon, and one kelt was landed on the Sprouston fishery. His Grace the Duke of Roxburgh had poor sport on his waters during the end of last week, and none on Monday. Trout-angling has been much prosecuted during the week, and fair good baskets have rewarded the angler. On the Teviot, at the Ninewells, Mr. G. Turnbull killed 9 lb. of trout, one of which was 2¼ lb.; on the Junction water 7 lb. were got by one gentleman, and on the Maxwheel Pool, from the boat, Mr. Horrocks killed 9 lb.; while, on the Junction and down below Kelso Bridge, Mr. P. Elliot had between 8 and 9 lb. On the Sprouston water, J. J. E. Brown, Esq., of Rosebank, killed a good heavy dish, and on the Hendersyde water, Sir George and Mr. Waldie Griffith each have had rare sport with the speckled beauties. On the Teviot Mr. R. Robertson had a capital basket, and on the Tweed, Mr. James Pearson, Coldstream, had 9 lb.; Mr. A. Guthrie, 8 lb. 10 oz.; Mr. G. Guthrie had 6 lb. 12 oz.; Mr. George Pearson, 5 lb. 5 oz., and many other smaller baskets have also been got. On Wednesday Mr. John M'Kie Walker killed a very heavy basket, the fly he got them mostly with being the Digby Cayley. The waters are in good ply, and, as the weather is mild, with a few showers now and again, fair trout angling may be expected for some time to come.—Maxwheel (Kelso),

Wye and Derwent.

Last Saturday, the 25th inst., was the opening day for to commence trout-fishing on the Darley Dale Fishing Club waters, between Rowsley and Matlock, and a fair number of anglers have been out on this part of the Derwent trying their skill with both fly, trolling, and bottom-fishing; and I am pleased to say that there have been some good dishes killed chiefly with the Derby trout killer; one person taking five brace of good trout in about three hours last Monday afternoon, and several other anglers have also killed some nice well-fed trout with both the fly and by trailing the worm in the steams. The killing flies have been the claret body bumble, furnace, and February red flies. Sport on the ponds has been good, and some excellent creels of trout have been killed, chiefly with the fly, and by bottom fishing with worms for bait. Next Saturday, the 1st April, is the opening day for trout to be taken on the Wye and also on the Derwent Chatsworth Fishery. The keepers employed say there is every appearance of a good trout-fishing season, as there is a good stock of fish in both rivers.—George James Eaton, Starkholmes, Matlock Bath.

TO CLUB SECRETARIES.

Next Friday being Good Friday the Gazette will be published on Thursday, and all reports must be sent in by Wednesday, or, at latest, by Thursday morning.

CLUB REPORTS.

GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

We have completed our season for fishing, except trout. The total weight of fish weighed on Sundays, bank fishing, from public waters, is 968 lb. 2 oz. Our concert on Wednesday last was well attended. The chair, as occupied by Mr. G. Bentley; vice, Mr. J. Fitch. The following gentle men contributed to the harmony of the evening:—Messrs. Bentley, J. Fitch, C. Watling, sen. and junr., E. Barr, Jackson, Neale, W. Parkin, Harradine, and H. Hopton. The chair will be occupied on Wednesday by Mr. Hornfeck, faced by Mr. C. Watling, senr.—J. A. Fitch, junr.

March 30.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this society met in large numbers on Thursday evening; W. B. Adlington, Esq., in the chair. After considerable discussion, it was decided not to continue either of the waters which the society had arranged for a year ago, the feeling being that however good these waters might be in themselves, the society would do better to obtain water for their own exclusive use, which it was thought they might now do. The Waltham water was highly spoken of for future use, as, by the care now bestowed upon it, it was certain to answer expectations. A sub-committee of five was afterwards appointed to arrange for any suitable water that might offer. A number of valuable prizes were offered during the evening, of which we must defer details until next week. After an appeal by Mr. Crumplen, seconded by Mr. Field, the Angler's Benevolent box was handed round, and received a considerable addition. Another new member having been proposed, the proceedings closed with a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Adlington, who had occupied the chair during one of the most important meetings yet held by this society.

HAMMERSMITH UNITED ANGLING SOCIETY.

The return of Mr. P. Geen to the neighbourhood of Hammersmith has received a hearty welcome from the members of this club, in which he took so personal an interest at the time he was a resident in Hammersmith. The association of this gentleman's name with that of Mr. Thomas Hoole, who were at one time in official connection with the club and the West Central Association, was always regarded as resulting in success. Mr. H. G. Penney is now the active secretary of the society, and right heartily does he labour for it. The annual dinner of the club is fixed for Thursday, April 27, in the club room at the Builders' Arms, where the members are always well catered for by Mr. and Mrs. Green. The chair is to be occupied by Mr. P. Geen.—B.

JOVIAL ANGLERS.

On Thursday last, 23rd ult., the above club met under the presidency of Mr. T. Lomax, who presented the prizes to the following members:—Mr. Steade won the medal for the greatest weight, from the bank, presented by T. Hoole, Esq.; also a large metal box for keeping fishing implements. Mr. Clarke won the club prize for the largest Thames roach, weight, 1 lb. 13½ oz.; also a fishing rod, presented by a member. Mr. Newell won the club prize for the largest dace, weight, 6½ oz.; and Mr. Kollmann, for the greatest weight taken in punts; both of these prizes were fishing rods. The chairman, after a few appropriate remarks, presented the prizes, and the remainder of the evening was enlivened with harmony, in which Messrs. T. Lomax, Hirold, Keep, Clarke, &c., distinguished themselves, and made the evening pass right merrily. We have now arrived at the end of our first season, and after paying all claims upon us, have still a balance which, would be larger had all the members paid up.—H. W. Platt, sec.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our members wish to inform all brother anglers and friends that our local visit takes place on Tuesday next, April 4th, at the club house, Russell Arms, Bedford Street, N.W., when we hope to have the pleasure of as many as can make it convenient to attend. We also have the room open for harmony on Saturday evenings, when we shall be happy to see all smiling faces who wish to spend a happy evening.—H. Moore, sec.

PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

There were about thirty members at the weekly meeting at Ashley's Hotel on Monday evening last, Mr. J. G. Andrew being voted into the chair. Mr. Thomas, who is now on a visit to the Irish lakes, registered five salmon from Lough Melvin. Dr. Brunton also registered four trout weighing 8 lb. 11 oz., caught with the fly from private waters. Mr. James Pattisson showed 10 lb. 13 oz. of roach from the Colne.

ST. JOHN'S.

The members of this social club met at their headquarters, the Three Compasses, Cow Cross Street, on the 22nd, to enjoy a leg of mutton supper that had been fished for on the last Sunday of the season. Mr. Woolf, of the winning side, in the chair, Mr. Pledge, of the losing side, in the vice-chair. After the usual loyal and club toasts had been drunk, Mr. Woolf (with the consent of his party), challenged the losing party to fish for another supper, and they accepted with right good will, the return match to be fished on the opening Sunday. Mr. Pledge having secured the services of two friends to play the piano and violin, some first-class music was enjoyed, while Messrs. Giddings, Burges, Woolf, Mathews, Pledge, Stevens, Leach, Heben, and Hunt sang some first-rate songs that brought to a close a most enjoyable night.—F. Thorling.

March 28.

PISCATORIAL SONNETS.

I.

A NEW TROUT STREAM.

"New love: new life!"—so sang a bard of fame;
And tho' the old, familiar face as dear
As ever, and as fair, *should* be, yet here
How newer features show strange power to claim
The homage of the inconstant heart! Thence blame
Comes, and confession sad to casuist's ear,
E'en if *such* lapse no penitential tear
Sees fall in sorrow—shed by erring shame.
And yet how winsomely in all its first
Fairness and freshness flows the new-found stream!
How the hills seem, heaven-kissingly, to rise!
How brightly beams the smile of the sun-burst,
Glinting o'er mount and mead! And how *they* gleam,
Those glancing colours of that glorious prize!

London, A.R.I.E.L.
March 25, 1882.

ANNUAL DINNER OF THE LARKHALL ANGLING SOCIETY.

This prosperous society is one of those clubs that rest their faith on the appointment of a permanent chairman, that is, one presiding genius who occupies the chair each meeting night if nothing in the way of business or serious indisposition prevents his attendance; and, taking this club and the Richmond Piscatorial Society as examples in this respect, there is the most substantial proof of its great value—it ensures a punctual commencement under a recognised head. What Mr. F. Clench has done for the Richmond Piscatorials, Mr. G. F. Spencer has previously achieved for the Larkhall Anglers. There are few clubs that have done more in the promotion of first-class "smoking concerts"—if it was not really the first to introduce them, as "musical evenings"—than the latter society; and altogether, under the rule of Mr. Spencer, no other club can be better conducted, or where success has been more conspicuously and permanently attained. It is one of those societies that holds its annual banquets away from the suburban club house; and although Mr. C. J Morris, the proprietor of the Larkhall, at Clapham, is one of the best of men and a thorough angler, and would do all he could for the members, the London houses, as he well knows, are more adapted for such entertainments; and, besides, in this case Mr. B. Boyce, the energetic host and proprietor of Mouflet's Hotel in Newgate Street, where the dinners have always been held, is an active member of the club and entertains his brother members in the best fashion, and personally superintends, The attendance at the eighth annual dinner on Tuesday evening last at Mouflet's Hotel was larger than usual. Mr. G. F. Spencer, as the ruling spirit, presided on the occasion, with Mr. Nicholson in the vice chair. Amongst the visitors were Messrs. Thomas Spreckley and W. H. Brougham of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, and Mr. P. Geen of the West Central Association. Of the members there were Messrs. E. N. Mallett (hon sec.), C. J. Morris (treasurer), J. C. Caplin, W. Perry, G. Nicholson, C. Davison, E. Nixon, F. Boyce, B. Boyce, J. Duck, James Halle, H. Lovett, A. Glover, J. Edmondson, R. Edmondson, C. Broadlake, W. Creake, F. R. Harding, W. H. Green, J. Kearne, J. W. Green, H. Beverton, R. Bruce, H. Kite, Gordon Laurie, T. Cranch, &c., &c. The cloth having been removed, Mr. G. F. Spencer proposed "The Queen and Royal Family," and said there was no greater loyalty existing in any other club, nor any larger desire for a long reign of Her Majesty. The dinner coming so early after the recent outrage, the large company rose and enthusiastically sang "God save the Queen," the solo parts being taken by Mr. A. Glover. The chairman then gave "Success to the "Larkhall Angling Society," which he regarded as the toast of the evening, The club occupied a most prominent position, and he had used all his influence to promote its success. In this the members had liberally and unitedly assisted him, and the result was that it had grown in strength, usefulness, and energy. He should couple with the toast the name of their indefatigable secretary, Mr. E. N. Mallett, who would be able to speak more in detail of the society's work.—Mr. Mallett on rising was loudly applauded, and thanked those present for their reception of his name. The society during the past year had been one of undoubted success, both numerically and financially. There had been an accession of twenty-three new members, and the balance-sheet exhibited an amount of £34 in the hands of the treasurer. The total quantity of fish weighed-in was 1327 lb. 3¾ oz., being more than double that of last year and the largest total ever weighed-in. The challenge cup for the greatest weight in one day had been won by Mr. G. Watkins with 35 lb. 5 oz. of fish. Prizes of the total value of £84 12s. 6d. had been won by the members. The chairman next proposed "Success to the Thames Angling Preservation Society, and in the association of Mr. Thomas Spreckley with it, whose presence they most heartily welcomed that night, he observed that that gentleman's heart and soul were in the work. Without a Thames Angling Preservation Society the fishing in the Thames would soon become a thing of the past; its success was greatly due to Mr. Spreckley, who spared neither time, money, or influence, let alone zeal and energy, to make the preservation a substantial reality, and as long as he continued president of that society, the anglers would, he was sure, have all their wishes attended to.—Mr. Thomas Spreckley, who was heartily received, expressed the great pleasure he felt in coming amongst them, and heartily thanked them for their kind reception. He believed the society was doing a great work for the river; he was supported by a practical committee, and to show how the meetings were attended, there were no fewer than seventeen present at the last monthly meeting and three hours were occupied in business. As regarded himself, the position he occupied had been forced upon him, and he believed that since his personal attachment to the society the fishing interests had been greatly extended. He had gone amongst the angling clubs and had identified himself with all classes of anglers. There were, he was assured, plenty of fish in the river; the dace had headed up in the largest quantities ever known, and the practice of snatching them has been prevented by the complete protection of Teddington Weir. The roach that were taken out of the back stream at Hampton Court last year were represented by thousands. So that all was done to assist nature in the movements of both dace and roach. He regarded the doing away with night lines as most important, as it was well known many fine Thames trout came to grief in that way. He was, himself, ready to work night and day for the anglers; he had on several occasions been out at night when the anglers were sleeping quietly in their beds. In referring to the reservoirs, he said that a practical calculation had been made of the weight of the 5000 fish taken out of the Sunbury reservoir, and it was within a trifle of half a ton.—Mr. W. H. Brougham gave "Success to the West Central Association," which had, during the last seven years, done so much for the London anglers, and he was quite sure they were, amongst others, very largely indebted to Mr. Geen, whose name he should couple with the toast, and who was always foremost in every good work that would lead to the interests of angling.—Mr. P. Geen was warmly applauded on rising, and said that on the first start of the West Central Association there was no other club that had rendered greater assistance, and paid a graceful tribute of respect to the memory of the late Mr. Beyer, their valued delegate at that time. He then referred in complimentary terms to the energy and perseverance of Mr. Spreckley as a gentleman who acted on broad principles, not working for one class but for all classes of anglers. There was nothing more enjoyable than a day's fishing on the banks of the river. He was bringing all his boys up to it. It would be a training point in fighting the battles of life. There was a Government Bill before the House in reference to the pollution of rivers, and there would shortly be another Freshwater Fisheries Act which would deal more generally with the interests of angling; but he should not rest satisfied until there was the Government appointment of a Freshwater Fisheries Inspector.—"The Committee and other Officers," proposed by Mr. Geen and replied to by Mr. C. Davison; and "The Visitors," responded to by Mr. W. Robinson, were the only remaining toasts on the list. Mr. J. Halle, formerly of the Westminster Aquarium, presided with great skill at the pianoforte. The singing, which is a great item on these occasions, displayed an array of talent amongst the members that could not possibly be excelled by professionals, and being so numerous it would, where all did it so well, be invidious to make a selection of names. The evening was one of perfect enjoyment, and the happy "Larkhall Anglers" did not separate until a late hour.—B.

Death of a Noted Fishing-rod Maker.—We regret to announce the demise, at Edinburgh, of Mr. William Dickson, fishing-rod manufacturer, at the early age of 44 years. Mr. Dickson came to Kelso some fifteen years ago, at which time he was in the employment of Messrs. Forrest and Son, with whom he worked nearly twelve months, when he started business on his own account in Roxburgh Street. While here his merits as a fishing-rod maker were at once recognised, and much admired by well-known authorities in the piscatorial art, none knowing better than he how to put "the pieces" together, and in the selection of the various woods used for manufacturing rods he was a thorough adept. On leaving Kelso he was entrusted with the entire management of the large fishing-rod manufactory in Glasgow owned by the Messrs. Jack, which establishment he remained in until compelled to resign through ill-health. Shortly after this he removed to Edinburgh, where he commenced business as a fishing-rod manufacturer, and so well known had "Billy Dickson's" rods become by that time, that he at once commanded a large and increasing business, which had, under his personal supervision, thriven well up to the time of his decease. As a hand fishing-rod maker he had no superiors, and but few equals, as those who are fortunate enough to possess one of his rods of this description well know. At the Paris Exhibition in 1878, Mr. Dickson's stand of fishing-rods was awarded a silver medal. Mr. Dickson was of a cheery desposition—a real angler's companion—was well known and liked in and around Kelso, and his early death will be greatly regretted by a large circle of friends and acquaintances in this district.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

THE FENCE MONTHS.

Sir,—It is with much pleasure I read Messrs. Atkinson and Hellewell's letter in last week' Gazette, and sincerely trust it may be read by many landed proprietors, who will instruct their keepers accordingly.

But my object in writing to you is that by publicity an evil that has come under my observation may be rectified. Last Sunday week, being the first Sunday in the fence months, I strolled along the towpath of the Bridgewater Canal, from Patricroft to Monton Bridge, a distance under a mile, and saw no less than seven men fishing; three of these, to whom I spoke, said they did not know that they were breaking the law; and a constable, whose attention I called to the men fishing and explained its illegality, coolly informed me "that he knew nothing about the Mundella Act, nor had he any orders about stopping fishing." Now, sir, should not the police be instructed to see that the law is enforced, especially in public waters, on whose banks they patrol? Then, again, cannot the Manchester Association do something, say, by putting up notices on the banks, &c., as done by the associations on the Thames? If not this, surely they can have some jurisdiction over the members of its clubs, as I am ashamed to say I recognised a late chairman of a local club among those I saw breaking the law.—I am, &c., A. S. W.

Eccles, March 27.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I hear that, through the instrumentality of the district secretary of the Manchester Association, the sale of between 30 lb. and 40 lb. of very small pike has been stopped in the market. This gives hopes of something being done under the other clauses of the Act.

THAMES TROUT—GRAINING—PIKE AND HOOKS.

Sir,—R. D. E. is, in my opinion, eminently in the right. By all means let us have the genuine Thames trout, and not Wick or any other small river fish introduced. For quite a dozen years, in one paper and another, have I been harping on this string. Thames trout are to me the Omega of Thames sport. I have watched, waited for, caught, eaten; I have dissected and skeletonised this fish; I have had him "my vision by the night and my dreaming by the day"; and I would wish for no happier fate than to go over to the majority with a fresh-caught beauty in my sight. Hence my extravagant enthusiasm and perfect accord with R. D. E.

But the Thames trout sometimes, and especially when he is in the proper season, *i.e.*, full of milt or spawn, refuses to be caught. At the same time when the fish is ripe the floods are usually high and netting becomes very difficult and unprofitable work. Mr. Forbes is certainly to be congratulated on his success as chronicled by B., but I could have wished that Mr. F. had preserved his fish for breeding purposes instead of turning them in, on account of the difficulties referred to. Depend upon it there is a peculiarity about this *poisson d'Avril* which accounts for its large size; *Salmo fario* it may be, but most certainly the variety is distinct from the trout of Devonshire and the Welsh pools. Let anybody prove me by comparing a specimen of these latter with the cast of that glorious trout from Reading exhibited in *Land and Water* window, which in the flesh weighed 15 lb. 16 oz. Old Walton's Fordidge trout—whatever it may have been—pales its ineffectual fires before such a beauty, or, as our American cousins would say, such a "daisy."

The can be but little doubt that this trout is decreasing in an alarming degree in the Thames. Captain Alfred has been credited with an enormous catch in days gone by. Where is a recent chronicle such as his, and that referred to by Yarrell, of eleven fish weighing 54 lb.? Echo answers—Where?

* * * * * * *

Re the graining. From the "Trent Otter's" description, as I before assured him, I am convinced that his nondescript fish is a graining. The dace, as he truthfully says, has fifty-two scales in the lateral line invariably, and my examination of the graining—and I had several sent me last year—agrees with what Yarrell says, namely, that the latter fish possesses only forty-eight. Besides, the scales of this fish are larger, and the radiating lines less in number. The fin rays are as follows:—D. 9, P. 17, V. 10, A. 11, C. 19, as against those of the dace as follows:—D. 9, P. 16, V. 9, A. 10, C. 19. Besides this is a true description:—Top of head, back and upper parts of sides, of a pale drab colour tinged with bluish red, separated from the lighter coloured inferior parts by a well-defined boundary; the irides are yellowish white; cheeks and gill covers shining silvery white, tinged with yellow, all the fins pale yellowish white. A Pomeranean bream (*cyprinus buggenhagii*) is an entirely different fish. The scales of its lateral line are fifty-two, and the following are its rays:—D. 12, P. 17, V. 9, A. 19, C. 19, besides the lower fins are more or less ruddy coloured.

In any case, I shall be happy to receive a specimen from the "Trent Otter," when he next obtains one, and I will carefully examine and report.

* * * * * * *

The capture of pike with hooks attached to them is by no means an unusual event. I am convinced that pike really do feel very little constitutional disturbance on being hooked. More than once I have taken the remains of hooks from the stomachs of jack in good condition. On one occasion a gorge-hook, the lead of which had been so oxydised as to crumble between the fingers on removal. This does not argue the cruelty of fishing, certainly. In the *London Museum*, 1822, there is an anecdote given, in which it is stated how the eye of a perch was accidentally torn from its head, and a few minutes afterwards it was brought to bank, having bitten at its own eye, still remaining on the hook. If I remember rightly, Mr. Pennell gives a similar instance of insensibility to pain in perch.—I am, &c., J. Harrington Keene.

EYED HOOKS, FLIES DRESSED ON THEM, &c.

Sir,—In the Fishing Gazette of March 18, mention was made of the eyed hooks for fly-fishing which I brought before the angling public two years ago. Since then several improvements have been made from time to time, and the latest shape has, I think, the chief advantages of the sneck and Limerick bends, with the disadvantages of neither. In default of a better name, my friends and I have christened the present pattern the "Snecky Limerick," and the makers (Messrs. Hutchinson and Son, of Kendal) will understand what is meant if the hooks are ordered by this name. I don't think a pattern has ever been made which will beat some of the hooks I have had recently. If anglers will give them a good trial, I feel sure they won't regret it. I have hardly used anything else for four years, and I find that flies tied on eyed hooks possess so many merits that it is with considerable eluctance that I ever put on a fly of the old sort. Generally I tie all my own flies, but when pressed for time I send my own hooks, and get flies tied for me either at Winchester or Edinburgh. Any one who wants to take your advice, Mr. Editor, on this point, cannot do better than write direct to the makers, and get a supply of hooks (4s. 6d. the gross, or 6d. a dozen), Send a sufficient number to Mrs. G. T. Cox, Parchment Street, Winchester, who will get flies very neatly tied to any pattern at 1s. 9d. per dozen, but not less than one dozen of a pattern. Mrs. Cox has a very large and increasing demand for flies, and anglers cannot expect to have their orders executed by return of post. Strangers should send a remittance (including the postage) when they send their hooks. Any one who is going in for Scotch fishing will get the best of flies from Messrs. Roderick Anderson and Son, Prince's Street, Edinburgh. I forget his terms, but he tied me some beautiful loch flies last summer.

It is not for me to sing the praises of these hooks, but, for the benefit of those who have not tried them, I should like to say that, amongst other advantages I specially draw attention to the following:—

(1) It is almost impossible to whip them off.

(2) Every hook can be tested by the angler (if he follows the plan I have suggested) before he gets his flies tied.

(3) After killing several fish on a choice fly the gut perhaps gets worn, and untrustworthy. If so, cut it off, and put on a new piece of gut. I have used a fly four or five days constantly, and I have some veterans which have done their duty on an occasional day for three or four years, and are still ready and good for use when wanted. This is the sort of fly an angler puts on with confidence.

(4) After a fly has been used as a dropper it can still be used as a point fly by changing the gut.

(5) The same fly can be used with different strands of gut, coarse or fine, according to weather and water.

(6) The economy is very great. Any one can work the sum for himself if he bears in mind that a dozen good flies on eyed hooks will last out any two dozen that were ever made in the old fashion. Of course I am not in the least interested in the sale of the hooks, but I do want other anglers to try what I am convinced many of them will think a very good thing. There is one very obvious reason why tackle makers don't like them. Here's another. Most professional tyers, I believe, put on the wings last, and tie off at the head; though I could mention a few exceptions among the best tyers, I could name thirty or forty who invariably tie every fly alike and finish off at the head. If this plan is adopted it tends to make a clumsy head on an eyed hook, though it need not if care is taken. Still, it gives trouble to avoid this clumsiness, hence one very general condemnation of eyed hooks. I never saw a professional tyer at work, but they mostly have their own stereotyped rules which they won't alter for any one; and if the hooks don't suit their style of tying they blame the hooks. Any one who can tie flies at all ought to be able to tie in four or five different ways, and for a floating fly there is no doubt that to put the hackle on last, and tie off behind the wings, is out and out the best way, and this suits the eyed hooks capitally.

Is the work by Ogden, which you lately reviewed, the little book written by the late veteran James Ogden, who died rather more than a year ago? There surely can't be another of "seventy years' experience" now to the fore. I understand that the business of "old James Ogden" is being carried on by his nephew. I possess a copy of the late J. O.'s book in which he states that he is the inventor of the "Multum in Parvo" trout rod, and also of the seat basket, both of which I have seen in use at Fairford. Is the treatise just out a new work, or the old one dressed up? Honour to whom honour is due.—I am, &c.,

H. S. Hall.

[It is the original work. We did not know the old man was dead, but his nephew is following up the old man's footsteps, and employs his fly tyers and rod makers.—We are heartily obliged to Mr. Hall for this description of his capital hooks. He has kindly sent us a few samples of flies tied on them, made by the two makers he names, and they certainly are first-rate. We should be glad if Mr. Hall will describe the best plan of knotting the fly to the gut. If our fly-fishing readers will only get a few flies dressed on these hooks and give them a fair trial they will speedily bless Mr. Hall for inventing them, and us for drawing attention to them. We have personally proved their killing powers, and could give long accounts of the wonderful catches made with them by Captain Turle, Mr. Hall, and other gentlemen anglers. One supreme advantage is that you can change your gut in a moment—every bit of it, down to the fly's head—when you find it getting worn. Another advantage is that the fly has a tiny head, formed by the eye. Now, every natural fly has a head, and yet how rarely do our fly tyers give the artificial one? Let our readers, then, get a few sample from Mrs. Cox, fishing fly maker, Parchment Street, Winchester, the samples of her make which Mr. Hall sends will suit our south-country waters best, and she knows the exact hook which Mr. Hall recommends. By the way, we ought to mention that one of the flies sent is a light dun, made by Mr. Hall himself. We never saw a fly more neatly tied, or so lifelike in appearance.—Ed.]

[P.S.—Since writing the above we happened to mention these eyed hooks and flies to Captain Alfred, of 20, Moorgate Street, and he said he would get some hooks and have some flies dressed on them.—Ed.]

LARGE PIKE KILLED BY EEL HOOK.

Sir,—Seeing in to-day's issue of the Gazette a few lines under the head of "Pike and Hooks," I thought it might interest "Hook" to know that I had last summer a similar experience to his. Whilst fishing in a large pond in Essex, I observed something very big suddenly rise in the lilies, which I at once knew to be a large pike. After vainly endeavouring to tempt him with a live bait, I came to the conclusion that he was dead, which afterwards turned out to be the case, as he had got a large-sized eel hook working out of his side, with about a yard of water cord attached. On weighing the fish he was found to turn the beam at 21 lb.—I am, &c.,

Essex.

GROSS WEIGHT *v.* SPECIMEN FISH.

Sir,—The difficulty I, and many other anglers, see in the substitution of the "specimen-fish" for the gross-weight system is, as I have endeavoured to show in my previous letters, that out of a number of men assembled at the water-side in a day's competition, the heaviest fish will as often as not be captured by the least skilful angler of the party; who, perhaps, in his eagerness to land that leviathan, or at some other period of the day, commits one or more of those errors which invariably beset the beginner's road to proficiency, and, in consequence, finds himself a long way behind his more experienced brethren of the rod in gross total on weighing-in at night. Let it be understood that these old hands have not so much objection to the beginner taking a prize for his specimen, as to the fact that, were the system to become general, angling skill would, in their opinion, be at a discount so far as competition is concerned, and prizes might just as well be abolished, or raffled for at the club room.

I am aware that in those clubs where specimen fish decide the contests, prizes are more often awarded for the greatest number of fish above a certain high standard; but what, after all, are these but modifications of the much abused gross-weight competition, and why does the addition of a few inches or ounces to the standard render a competition less a "specious form of gambling" or "temptation to commit fraud"? Will "Kingfisher" be good enough to explain this, and also state his reasons for thinking that the "money, time and knowledge" required to increase our common sport will be subscribed by only one class of the angling community. It appears to me that such an opinion could never be entertained by a constant reader of the Fishing Gazette.

With the belief and hope that the whole question will be further discussed in these pages, I am anxious to correct an apparent misrepresentation of my views in "Kingfisher's" last letter, when he asks what I should say in the event of quantities of undersized fish being shown in my own clubroom. Let me assure him and all others whom it may concern that I do not advocate the capture of fish under the present Thames standards, and that such a disgraceful show as he refers to would not be tolerated in my club; in fact, our rules as to sizes of fish in many cases exceed the Thames limit, and are in no case less. If "Kingfisker" knows a club where undersized fish are allowed, let him at once publish its name, in order that it may be deprived of all privileges.

Fortunately the character of my typical "sticker" for honesty and skill has been the theme of abler pens than mine, and is too well known and appreciated to be damaged one jot by "Kingfisher's" ungenerous and, in my opinion, totally inapplicable remarks; and, with regard to the hint respecting a certain and economical means of obtaining fish other than by fair angling, I can only state that as neither myself nor brother members are at all likely to make use of the information, I am willing to take "Kingfisher's" word for its accuracy.

"Mark Antony" is certainly consistent in wishing for the abolition of all angling competitions, but it is surely unjust to condemn a very large class on account of what I am pleased to think is a very exceptional instance of dishonesty. As to the supposed wholesale destruction of fish in competitions, is "Mark Antony" quite sure that the bad sport in the portions of the Trent he refers to is due to the absence of fish? I am acquainted with certain hard fished portions of the Lea, which very seldom yield a good take, except after a flood, and while the water is still coloured, when the employment of those niceties of the craft erroneously designated "coarse cunning" will still give surprising results both in quantity and quality. On another portion of the same river, near London, which was long since supposed to have been "fished out," a gang of poachers was lately caught, red-handed, having in their possession a very large quantity of good fish, including barbel and tench. I consider these facts tend to show that competitions do no more harm than any other form of angling, but that constant efforts to capture fish with rod and line, and the necessarily large quantity of food thrown in by numbers of persons in the shape of ground bait intensifies the natural shyness of the finny tribe, keeps them well fed, and comparatively indifferent to the choicest morsels on the hook, and sharpens their instincts of self-preservation. If what Walton said with regard to the shyness of the bream after a few days' continued fishing, was true in his time, will not the same apply with enormous force to all other fish in the present day, when anglers are numbered by thousands, and angling practically never ceases. I see Lord George Hamilton inclined to this view in his speech at the Gresham Society's dinner last week. Considerations of space, rather than "lack of argument," induce me to conclude for the present with thanks to you Mr. Editor for inserting my very lengthy effusions; the importance of the subject must plead my excuse.—I am, &c.,

J. M. D.

[If J. M. D. gave a prize for, say the three largest fish taken by any one angler, we think his objection that an unskilful angler might often get the prize would no longer hold good. We do not like the system of giving prizes for angling matches at all; but, as long as it is the practice, the best we can do is to try and get the specimen-fish system in vogue, as against the wretched gross-weight system.—Ed.]

DACE, GRAINING, OR WHAT?

Sir,—I did not see "Trent Otter's" enquiry about the strange fish described by him in your issue of 4th inst., or I would have written sooner.

I may at once say that Mr. Gosling was quite correct when he wrote that the fish was not a graining, and I am sorry Mr. Keene did not refer to his notes on the graining before expressing so decided an opinion, or he would have seen that "Trent Otter's" description and his own did not correspond.

For "Trent Otter's" information, the fish he describes is too deep in the body for a "graining," which is slenderer than the dace, its fins are all yellowish white, and the irides are also yellowish white; and, to assist him in arriving at a fair conclusion, I give Yarrell's description from "Couch's British Fishes" and Mr. Keene's from the Fishing Gazette. The last being from fish I had the pleasure of forwarding for his examination and report.

Yarrell says:—"That although similar to the dace in shape, it is distinquished from it by being still more slender in form. The graining has the top of the head, the back, and upper part of the sides of a pale drab colour, with bluish red, which is separated from the lighter coloured and inferior parts by a well-defined boundary line; the irides yellowish white . . . all the fins pale yellowish white. . . . The dorsal fin begins exactly half-way between the nose and the end of the fleshy portion of the tail; the first ray short, second shorter, last double, nine in all. . . . Gill rays, three; ventral fins on a vertical line, but little in advance of the anterior portion of the dorsal fin, with ten rays. The anal fin commences on a vertical line immediately under the termination of the dorsal fin rays when that fin is depressed, and has eleven rays; the first of these rays short, the second longest, the last double. The fleshy portion long and slender, the rays deeply forked, nineteen in number." See vol. 4, page 60.

Mr. Keene writes:—"Colour, a sort of drab in the upper parts; though of course it is possible that the original was, as Yarrell describes, of a reddish drab tinge. Fins, all of a yellowish white. General characters: The great distinguishing characters between the graining and other members of the Leuciscini, is that back fin (dorsal) commences exactly half-way between the end of the nose and end of the fleshy portion of tail; all the fins are longer than those of the dace of the same length, the scales larger and more pronouncedly striated. Yarrell says forty-eight in the lateral line; in the specimens I now refer to, I counted only forty-seven. . . The fleshy part of the tail and its fork are very like a bleak in slenderness and extreme bifurcation. . . . Now these fish could only be mistaken by the angler for dace; if these particulars are borne in mind, however, such an error cannot occur. In graining the fins are longer and yellowish white, the ventral fins of dace are greenish white with a reddish tinge; the dorsal commences in the middle of the graining, whereas in the dace it is further back, the nose is more rounded . . . lower edge of five gill covers less angular, and dorsal profile less convex than in *Leuciscus vulgaris* (dace).' See Gazette of 2nd October, 1880, page 487. Again, on page 383 of 6th August, 1881, "Mr. Keene says, the graining is a beautiful dace-like fish, &c. The fins are larger than those of the dace in proportion, and so are the scales, which are beautifully striated, and in the specimens referred to numbered forty-eight in the lateral line."

The "Trent Otter" will find a coloured plate in Couch's work, also in the Rev. W. Houghton's; the last being the better colour of the two, but still dark on the back. I would like to explain that Mr. Keene's description was given for the purpose of settling the question whether the "graining" was a distinct specie or a variety of the dace.

As I have never seen a specimen of the "Pomeranian bream," I am not in a position to add anything towards settling the question of "What?" but I am satisfied that "Trent Otter's" fish is not a graining.—I am, &c.,

W. R. R.

P.S.—In Mr. Houghton's work the dace and granining are on the same plate, thus giving an opportunity of comparing the two.

Manchester, March 28, 1882.

[We think this matter has been quite sufficiently gone into. We will reopen the subject as soon as the "Trent Otter" can send us a specimen of the fish in question. It must be a queer fish which is both bream-like and dace-like!—Ed.]

HYBRIDS.

Sir,—In the letter sent by the "Trent Otter" (to whom I cannot say how much I feel obliged) we have, according to his opinion, a grand hybrid in the shape of the carp-bream; and, according to the extract I sent you from dear old Isaac, we have another really handsome hybrid in the shape of the rudd; lastly, there is the graining, which is, as the "Trent Otter" observes, neither more nor less than a species of dace, and is, as far as he knows, a cross between a white bream and a dace. Presuming he is correct, we have two splendid hybrids produced from the white bream and two other different species. If it is possible to obtain this result from the white bream crossed with other species (and at present I see no reason to doubt it), what might not be produced from, say:—

The carp and barbel.
,, ,, chub.
,, barbel and carp-bream.
,, ,, ,, chub.
,, tench and dace.

The tench and carp.
,, white bream and barbel.
,, ,, ,, ,, chub.
,, carp-bream and tench.
,, ,, ,, ,, chub.

Before you laugh, do not forget what I said on a former occasion, and let those who love the science, and have the time and money to spare, give it their serious attention, and if the difficulties are great to arrive at the results desired, then greater should be the determination to surmount them.—I am, &c.,

Mark Antony.

[We have forwarded your request to Mr. Brougham.—Ed.]

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Sir,—A paragraph appeared in the *Sportsman* of the 25th, wherein it is stated that several members of the Original Clerkenwell Piscatorials had left that society, and were forming another at the Crown Tavern, Clerkenwell Green. Such a statement is absolutely false, and likely to mislead the angling community. Only one member has resigned, viz., Mr. Long, and two others have been expelled for unfair fishing; and also that Mr. Burwash, jun., never was a member of the above society, but belonged to the Clerkenwell Piscatorial Society, held at the Horse Shoe, Clerkenwell Close, of which Mr. Stebbings is the secretary. By inserting this you will be doing justice to the members of the Original Clerkenwell Piscatorial Society.—I am, &c., Thos. M. Lucy.

CAPTURE OF A LARGE TWAIT SHAD.

(Herring family. *Clupea alosa.*)

Sir,—The other morning I had a magnificent specimen of the above brought to me. It measures 19 inches from tip of nose to tail, and 10½ inches round the girth, and weighed 2½ lb. It is undoubtedly the largest one that has been taken. The friend that gave it to me, I am sorry to say, did not know it was one of rare size, and consequently the cook had been at work and cleaned out the inside and scaled it; but, nevertheless, I have managed to make a cast of it for my fish museum, where it will look nice beside my monster mackerel, which weighed 4 lb. 1 oz., and measured 2 feet 1 inch in length. I certainly now have the casts of the largest shad (which, by the bye, belongs to the herring family) and mackerel that were ever known.—I am, &c.,

Plymouth. William Hearder.

[We have an impression that in Mr. Buckland's museum at South Kensington there is a cast of a larger twait shad than this.—Ed.]

THAT GLASS BOWL.

Sir,—In responding for the Fishing Gazette on Wednesday evening last, you alluded to the "glass bowl" dodge as being a 'cute Yankee invention; let me correct you—it is as old as the hills. I tried it myself twelve years ago. Roach were placed in the bowl, which was covered with wire gauze. We tried it on a lake in a county which is familiar to both of us, and in which most of my spare time is spent.—I am, &c., R. F. Bright.

Conservative Club, Liverpool.

P.S.—I don't approve of this sort of fishing, any more than I do of your London habit of taking the gross weight of fish on "weighing-in," as you call it. I refer you to a previous letter—the only one I addressed before to the Fishing Gazette—in which I cut into Sunday competitions and "gross weights."—R. F. B.

["Nothing new under the sun."—Ed.]

PARASITES IN STURGEON'S GILLS.

Sir,—I have taken a number of these parasites; can any of your numerous correspondents give me local or scientific names of same? I have no books treating upon them, and I have made every enquiry at the Institute and Museum, but fail to find. Frank Gosden, Exeter.

FISHING NEAR LIVERPOOL.

Sir,—Permit me to thank G. P. and H. N. for their information and for the trouble they have been kind enough to take to furnish it. I trust I may before long be able to try some of the waters they are so good as to describe.—I am, &c.,

G. L.

Liverpool, March 25.

FISHING NEAR COLYTON, OR HONITON.

Sir,—Will any gentleman please inform me if I can get any trout-fishing near Colyton or Honiton, Devon—subscription or other. I find the Coly can only be fished by the residents, and to those only a limited number of tickets are issued. I believe the terms for the Axe are almost similar, but am not quite certain. Any information respecting water within 20 miles will be esteemed a favour.—I am, &c.,

H. H.

[Mr. Pulman, fishing-tackle maker, Axminster, or Mr. W. Mudford, Fore Street, Tiverton, can give you particulars. You can get fishing on certain parts of the Axe by day ticket.—Ed.]

THE FERRY-BOAT FISHERY.

Sir,—Could you kindly inferm me whether fly fishing is stopped on Day's water, the Ferry Boat House Fishery, Tottenham, during the fence months. and answer would oblige.—I am, &c.,

A. E. W.

TROUT-FISHING NEAR NOTTINGHAM.

Sir,—Can you or any of your readers kindly inform me where I can get some trout fishing (minnow and worm) within about twenty miles or so of Nottingham, and who I can apply to with price for day or season tickets.—I am, &c.,

A Constant Reader.

TROUT FISHING WANTED.

Sir,—Where can I obtain good trout fishing within twenty miles of London? and please state whether free or by subscription. The Thames, of course, excepted.

W. Bartlett.

47, Duke Street, Manchester Square.

CASSELL'S BOOK OF SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

We have received from Messrs. Cassell, Petter, Galpin & Co. Part I. of a new work under the above title, which is to be completed in fifteen parts (at 6d. each) and contain over 200 illustrations. It thus promises to be an illustrated cyclopædia of the subject; and if it is completed, as doubtless it will be, in the very excellent style of Part I., it cannot fail to be immensely successful. We hope the chapters on angling will be done by some competent angler, so that they may be valuable. In works of this kind, as a rule, angling is dismissed in a page or two consisting of generalities from Walton or some other of the ancients.

Illegal Netting at Ware.—On Tuesday Richard Nicholls and William Wiltshire were charged at the Ware Petty Sessions, before a full bench of magistrates, with illegally netting the river Lea on the 16th of March. Both the defendants pleaded guilty, but said that they did not know that they were doing any wrong. Mr. Corble, who appeared for the Lea Conservancy Board, pointed out the fact that the river was posted right along its course, therefore that excuse could not avail. Police-Sergeant Hammond said that his attention was called to the defendants, and upon he and Police-Constable Day detaining them they found the net all wet and about 12 lb. of freshwater fish, which had apparently only been just caught. This was not denied, and after cautioning them as to their future conduct, the Chairman fined them 10s. each and costs, giving one of them a week's time to pay it in.

Gregory's Spinning Baits. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[Advt.]

1st AWARD MELBOURNE EXHIBITION, 1881.

DAY, SON AND HEWITT'S
STOCKBREEDERS'
MEDICINE CHEST.
FOR ALL DISORDERS IN HORSES, CATTLE, CALVES, SHEEP AND LAMBS.

In this chest are the following matchless and world-renowned remedies, all that a Farmer can require to cure disease amongst his Stock and keep them in fine, healthy, and buoyant condition:—
"CHEMICAL EXTRACT," for Wounds, Swollen Udders, and Ewes Lambing.
"GASEOUS FLUID," for Colic, Scour, and Debility.
"RED DRENCH," for Cleansing Cows and Ewes, &c.
"RED PASTE BALLS," for Conditioning Horses.
"BRONCHOLINE," for Husk, Hoose, or Cough.
'GASEODYNE," for Heaving or Paining.
"ALCOHOLIC ETHER," for Colds and Chills.
"CARMINATIVE CHALK," for Diarrhœa in Lambs and Calves.
Price of Chest, with "Key to Farriery," £2 16s. 6d., carriage paid. Each article can be had separately.
Patronised by Royalty, and used for over 40 years by the Leading Agriculturists of the British Empire.

CAUTION.—See that the Name of DAY, SON and HEWITT is on all Bottles and Packets.

DAY, SON AND HEWITT.
22, DORSET ST., BAKER ST., LONDON, W.,
AND WANTAGE, BERKS.

GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY.

TWO MONTHS, FORTNIGHTLY, and FRIDAY or SATURDAY to MONDAY (first, second, and third class) TICKETS are issued by all trains, at reduced fares to YARMOUTH, Lowestoft, Walton-on-the-Naze, Weeley (for Clacton-on-Sea), Harwich, Dovercourt, Aldeburgh, Felixstowe, Southwold, Hunstanton and Cromer.

EASTER HOLIDAYS.

The cheap Friday to Monday Tickets will be issued on Thursday, April 6, and be available for return up to and including Tuesday, April 11.

Cheap Excursion Tickets will be issued as under:

To Broxbourne and Rye House by any train, before 3.15 p.m., from Liverpool Street, St. Pancras, Kentish Town, Bishopsgate, Bethnal Green, Cambridge Heath, London Fields, Hackney Downs, Clapton, Coborn Road, Stratford and Tottenham; and by Special Train leaving Liverpool Street at 10 a.m. on Good Friday, and at 9.20 a.m. on Easter Monday, calling at Bishopsgate, Bethnal Green, Coborn Road, Stratford and Tottenham.

To Woodford, Buckhurst Hill and Loughton, by any train before 3.45 p.m., from Liverpool Street, Bishopsgate, Bethnal Green, Coborn Road, Fenchurch Street, Stepney, Burdett Road and Bow Road; and to Chingford by any train before 3.35 p.m., from Liverpool Street, Bishopsgate and Bethnal Green.

On Good Friday and Easter Monday additional trains will be run.

To Walton-on-the-Naze, Dovercourt and Harwich on Easter Sunday by train leaving Liverpool Street at 9 a.m.; and on Easter Monday by Special Train leaving Liverpool Street at 8 a.m. calling at Stratford.

Alexandra Palace.—On Good Friday and Easter Monday trains will run every half hour between Liverpool Street and Palace Gates; and on Easter Monday every half hour between Fenchurch Street and Palace Gates.

WILLIAM BIRT, General Manager.
London, March, 1882.

ALFRED YOUNG

"The GOLDEN PERCH,"
402, OXFORD ST.,
London, W.
FISHING RODS and TACKLE
of every description.

TRADE GOLDEN PERCH MARK.

The Angler's Handbook and Catalogue of Prices, with Eighty Illustrations of Rods, Flies, Baits, Tackle, &c., post free, Three Pence.

INITIAL PIPES.

Important to Smokers and Smokers' Friends.

A first-class BRIAR ROOT PIPE, with any two Initials beautifully carved thereon, forming a beautiful and novel Present,

For ONE SHILLING, post free 14 Stamps

A fine MEERSCHAUM PIPE, with large Amber Mouthpiece (guaranteed real Meerschaum and Amber), with any two Initials, exquisitely carved, complete in Morocco and Velvet Case, price 3s.; post free, 3s. 3d.

I have recently purchased the Stock of a Manufacturer of above Initial Pipes at about one-half the cost of production, and can offer them at about one-third the usual retail price.

WHEN ORDERING, CUT OUT AND SEND THIS ADVERTISEMENT.
CHAS. WINDSOR, 124, Church Road, London, N.
ESTABLISHED 1857.

CHEAP EDITIONS OF

GEORGE MACDONALD'S *NOVELS.*

MARY MARSTON. Cloth extra, 6s.
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ROYAL AQUARIUM.

THE GRANDEST SHOW IN LONDON

ONE SHILLING.
ADMITS EVERYWHERE.

1.30, 3.0, and 8.—Grand Variety Entertainment.
2.0.—Professor Stokes on Memory.
2.45, 5.30, and 9.45.—Tattooed Prince.
5.30 and 9 45.—Miss Agnes Beckwith's Marvellous Swimming Entertainment.
7.30.—Instrumental Concert.

Host of Novelties. No Extras.

EASTER HOLIDAYS.—SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAY.—All Express and Ordinary Return Tickets for distances under ten miles, issued on April 8th and 9th, will be available for the Return Journey up to and including April 10th. Return tickets for distances over ten and under fifty miles, issued on April 6th, 7th, and 8th, will be available for the return journey by any train of the same description and class up to and including April 12th. The cheap return tickets issued on Week-days between London and Westenhanger, Hythe, Sandgate, Shorncliffe, Folkestone, and Dover, will be similarly extended.

The cheap Saturday to Monday return tickets to the seaside, issued on April 8th, will also be available to return on April 10th, 11th, and 12th.

This extension of time does not apply to the London and Gravesend cheap tickets, nor to those between London and Shalford and stations to Wellington College inclusive.

GOOD FRIDAY AND EASTER MONDAY.—Special cheap excursion trains from London and New Cross to Dover, Folkestone, Shorncliffe, Sandgate, Hythe, Westenhanger, Ashford, Margate, Ramsgate, Canterbury, Minster, Sandwich, Deal, Tunbridge Wells, St. Leonards, Hastings, &c. Fare there and back, 5s., third class. Children under 12 half-fares Also special trains for Blackheath, Greenwich, Gravesend (for Rosherville Gardens), &c.

Easter Holidays.—Seabrook Hotel, Hythe, table d'hote daily. Every comfort and convenience. Terms moderate.

GOOD FRIDAY, EASTER SUNDAY AND MONDAY.—Cheap excursion trains from country stations to seaside and other stations. Full particulars by handbills.

GOOD FRIDAY.—Cheap Excursions from Country Stations to London.

THURSDAY, April 6th, GOOD FRIDAY, and EASTER MONDAY.—Extra Trains will run. Various important special alterations and arrangements. All Extra Trains will be 1st, 2nd and 3rd Class. See handbills.

EASTER SUNDAY.—Cheap Excursion to Tunbridge Wells, St. Leonard's, and Hastings, leaving Charing Cross at 9.30 a.m., calling at Waterloo, Cannon Street, London Bridge, and New Cross. Returning from Hastings and St. Leonard's at 6.30 p.m., and Tunbridge Wells at 7.25 p.m. Fare, 5s., 3rd Class. Children under 12, half fares.

EXCURSIONS to PARIS and back by Night Services, via Folkestone and Boulogne. The cheapest, shortest and quickest short sea route, or via Dover and Calais. Fares, 3rd Class, 31s. 6d.; 2nd Class, 47s. Available for fourteen days, from Charing Cross and Cannon Street Stations.

Tidal and Mail Services as usual.

For further particulars see handbills, &c.

MYLES FENTON, General Manager.

VASELINE SOAP

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Made from Pure Vaseline (petroleum jelly) the purest and most healing substance known.

SIX PRIZE MEDALS.

Recommended by all Medical Authorities throughout the World.

Sixpenny and Shilling Tablets Stamped.

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TWICKENHAM.
Close to River and Church, and six minutes' walk from Railway Station.

A DESIRABLE COPYHOLD DWELLING HOUSE, containing Eight Rooms, known as No. 9, Sion Row.

Key to view house at the Lion Tavern, close by.

Price, £350.

Apply by letter, A. S., 40, Canonbury Road, Islington, N.

LONDON and COUNTY ADVANCE and DISCOUNT COMPANY (Limited).

Cash advances from £10 to £500, without preliminary fees, or deduction for interest, for short or long periods, repayable by easy instalments, at moderate rates, upon personal security, life policies, furniture without removal, deeds, shares, bonds, &c., Bills discounted. Forms gratis. Offices, New Courts, Chambers, No. 57 and 58, Chancery Lane, E.C.

JOHN STONE, Secretary.

The Norfolk and Norwich Angling, Boating & Pleasure Ground Company,

LIMITED.

For the purpose of providing a place of resort for the Public desirous of Fishing, Boating, etc.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862, 1867, and 1877, whereby the liability of shareholders is limited to the amount of their shares.

CAPITAL, £5000 in 5000 Shares of £1 Each.

First issue at par, 2500 shares, payable as follows:—2s. 6d. on application, 2s. 6d. on allotment, 2s. 6d one month after allotment, and 2s. 6d. two months after allotment, leaving 10s. per share unpaid, which at present it is not intended to call up.

Provisional Directors:
Mr. Thomas Isley, 14, Chapelfield-gardens, Norwich (Chairman).
Mr. George Thirkettle, White Lion Street, Norwich (Vice-Chairman).
Mr. Moses Rogers, Post Office Street, Norwich.
Mr. James J. Hosken, 1, Grove Place, St. Giles' Road, Norwich.
Mr. Jethro J. Rice, Wensum Street, Norwich.
Mr. William Parker Tupman, Ber Street, Norwich.
Mr. Mansfield John Bailey, Unthanks Road, Norwich.

Bankers: Messrs. Gurney, & Co., Norwich.
Solicitor: Joseph Stanley, Esq. Bank Plain, Norwich.

Consulting Engineer:
P. P. Marshall, Esq., C.E., Norwich.

Auditors:
Mr. T. R. Tallack, Heigham Grove, Norwich.
Mr. R. W. Hoddy, 4, Oxford Street, Unthanks Road, Norwich.

Secretary:
Mr. A. West, Alexandra Road, Norwich.
Chief Office:—14, Chapel-field Gardens, Norwich.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed for the purpose of providing a Fishing and Boating Station on the River Yare at Brundall, together with Recreation Grounds, as a place of resort for the general public.

The enormous and rapid development of the pursuit of fishing as a popular and remunerative recreation in all parts of the United Kingdom, and the fact that similar schemes have, wherever established, proved successful, are a sufficient justification for the sanguine hopes of the Directors that a Company formed to meet the requirements of the Norfolk and Norwich public must prove a profitable concern.

It is proposed, therefore, to offer only 2500 of the 5000 Shares to Members of the various Angling Societies in Norwich, and others for subscription at par, as it is more than probable that the remainder will command a fair premium, and as the expenses of the Company will not be great, a large capital is not required.

The increasing interest taken in fishing matters by the general public was clearly demonstrated by the enormous success of the National Fisheries Exhibition lately held in Norwich, and is further shown by the existence in our city of more than thirty Angling Societies, numbering some 2000 members.

Brundall as a Fishing Station is unequalled, situate as it is between "two broads"—Rockland and Surlingham—two prolific nurseries for the breeding of fish.

The scenery is most charming, and it is there the real boating and yachting facilities on the magnificent River Yare begin.

Brundall is about seven miles from Norwich, and can be reached by rail in less than fiteen minutes, and by road or river in one hour.

The Great Eastern Railway Company has agreed to extend the platform at Brundall Station, and to build a bridge over the line, thus giving direct and safe access to the grounds of the Company.

The Norfolk and Suffolk rivers being exempt from the working of the Mundella Act, angling may here be indulged in without restrictions throughout the year.

The supply of fish in this river is almost inexhaustible, mainly owing to the successful exertions of the Yare Preservation Society during the past few years.

Every facility for Fishing and Boating will be provided at the proposed Fishing Station—Fishing Tackle, Baits, Angling Suits, a good supply of Boats, Punts, and an hotel for the accommodation of gentleman from a distance.

Pleasure-seekers, who in a city of 100,000 inhabitants are numerous, will also be provided with Recreation and Garden Grounds.

With a view to carrying out the above objects the Company have entered into a contract for the purchase of a suitable piece of land in Brundall and next to the River Yare, which contract bears date the 11th day of March 1882, and is made between George Thirkettle, of White Lion Street, in the City of Norwich, Confectioner, of the one part; Thomas Islay, of the said City, Postal Telegraphic Superintendent; Moses Rogers, of the same City, Provision Merchant, and James Jabez Hosken, also of the same city, Postal Chief Clerk, of the other part.

The Norfolk and Norwich Angling, Boating, and Pleasure Ground Company Limited. First issue of 2500 shares of £1 each.

Form of Application. (To be retained by the Bankers.)

To the Directors of the Norfolk and Norwich Angling, Boating, and Pleasure Ground Co. Limited.

Gentlemen—I beg to enclose herewith the sum of being a deposit of 2s. 6d. per share on Shares of the Norfolk and Norwich Angling, Boating and Pleasure Ground Company, Limited, of £1 each, which I request you to allot me; and I hereby agree to accept the same, or any smaller number that may be alloted to me, and to pay the balance in respect of the same upon the terms of this Prospectus.

Name (in full) ....
Address ....
Profession (if any) ....
Date........................1882
Signature........................

ANGLING QUARTERS & WATERS.

EDINBURGH.

PHILP'S COCKBURN HOTEL,
(Adjoining Fisheries Exhibition),
WAVERLEY BRIDGE.
In connection with
PHILP'S COCKBURN HOTEL 141, BATH STREET, GLASGOW.

ROACH & BREAM FISHERS

Should try a day's fishing in the 350 acres of water strictly preserved, belonging to

THE WELSH HARP FISHERY.
CAPITAL ACCOMMODATION AT WARNER'S.
BOATS, PUNTS, &c.

"Pike, perch, roach, &c., are numerous."—Angler's Diary.

Frequent Trains from all Metropolitan stations to Welsh Harp.

(Book for the Welsh Harp Station.)

DULVERTON, SOMERSET.

FREE TROUT FISHING.

RIVERS BARLE and EXE. Superior Furnished Apartments on Moderate Terms, with or without Board. Can accommodate Large or Small Parties.—Address, Mr. W. BABB, Melton House, Dulverton.

TROUT FISHING

IN THE PRIVATE WATER
OF THE
EARL OF CARNARVON.
Rivers EXE and BARLE.

FREE to Visitors staying at the Carnarvon Arms (and his Hotel being also nearest to Tiverton Association Water), DULVERTON STATION.

The trout fishing has just opened on

THAT FAMOUS TROUT STREAM, THE COQUET.

Visitors at the Angler's Inn, Weldon Bridge, near Morpeth, have the right of fishing some miles of splendid water both for salmon and trout. Mr. A. Glass, the proprietor of the inn, has a horse trap which, by arrangement, will meet visitors at any of these stations:—Morpeth, Brinkburn, or Acklington. Reference as to accommodation and charges is kindly allowed to the Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE. (Fly, Minnow and Worm allowed).

COUNTY GALWAY, IRELAND.

TO BE LET for the Season, or on Lease for a Term of Years, the Salmon and White Trout Fishery of Gowla, which comprises both Lake and River Fishing. Also Lodge and Shooting attached. Is situated about two miles from the sea, where there is splendid Anchorage and Shelter for a Yacht; also some good Sea Shooting in the neighbourhood, Seal being numerous in the season.—Application to be made to GEORGE J. ROBINSON, Esq., Roundstone, co. Galway.

PARTICULARS AND CONDITIONS

Of setting the Angling on

BALLYNAHINCH FISHERY.

The fishing extends from Lough Inagh to the sea, a distance of fifteen miles, and comprises the rivers and lakes of Inagh, Derryclare, Ballynahinch, Ballynafar, Glendalough, Attery and Orrid, The season commences on the 1st February, and closes on the 31st October. The stock of fish, which has been largely increased, is now most abundant.

Tickets will be issued at the following rates by G. J. Robinson, Esq., Roundstone, via Galway. Tickets for the whole season £50, tickets for the lunar month, £8; ticket for the week, £2 10s.; ticket for the day, 10s. Tickets are to be paid for when taken out, and are not transferable. The price of a ticket includes the use of a boat, but not the wages of boatmen, which are not to exceed 2s. per day each.

Applications for tickets will be treated according to priority, but a preference will be to applicants for "season tickets." Boats for angling and stands on the river will be allotted by the head keeper, and no angler will be permitted to use a boat or fish a stand that has not been so allotted. Superior accommodation can be had on application to Mr. T. MULLARKEY, at Glendalough Hotel, Recess, Galway. Anglers are requested to take out their licences in the Ballynahinch district, as by doing so they increase the fund for the preservation of the district.

No men can be employed as boatmen except the Water Bailiffs as arranged by head keeper.

Application to be made to

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Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 1882.

A SNOWY DAY ON THE TAMAR.

By Redspinner.

At Bath we suddenly missed the sunshine. It could not be that the weather, which had been so long at set fair, should select this particular day to change? The phenomenally fine spring had been prominently commented upon in all the papers, and every day there was a new paragraph chronicling the arrival of some bird or flower, or butterfly, that had mistaken March for April. Now that I had set forth on a journey of 240 miles, for a bit of trout-fishing, surely the elements were not so cruelly to turn against me! Yet it was so. There could be no mistaking the woolly-looking clouds rolling down from the north-west over the ancient city of Bladud, nor the general overcasting of the sky. A clergyman in the train said it would be a good thing for the country if we had rain, and, remembering my inveterate luck in such matters, I grimly assured him that the mere fact of my starting on a fishing expedition would be enough to open the sluices aloft, and send the wind into an unfriendly quarter. We saw the sun set over the Bristol Channel, somewhere abreast of Burnham, and it was the most gorgeous spectacle I had ever seen in this country. A finer I could not remember, even under the Southern heavens, or in tropical latitudes. Picturesque layers of lake, saffron, orange, primrose, amber, green, blue, and violet, stretched horizontally across the sky, and, between the fantastic clouds, changing colour and form every minute, were tints of indescribable delicacy. Flushes of gold and flakes of silver seemed to follow each other, and, after the sun had gone down, there formed along the horizon a lurid background with a slaty bank of clouds, edged with glowing copper, spreading slowly upwards.

In the night I could hear the decided sharp-shooting of hail upon the window-panes, and the rude howling of the blast. The morning sky was blood-red. Even after I had booked for Tavistock, I half determined to forfeit my ticket, stay at home, and not go through the farce of travelling to the waterside. But between the storms there were glints of watery sunshine, and the wind, after all, was north-west. Had it been north or east I would not have ventured. The Devonshire anglers have great faith in the early spring fishing, yet on this morning not a representative appeared in the train. Marsh Mills is one of their favourite stations, and Bickley is another. But the infant Plym to-day tumbled down from its moorland birthplace untroubled by footstep of angler. It was, in a word, a bad lookout, figuratively speaking. Literally speaking, the lookout is always a striking one along this valley. Desolate and defiant in winter, smiling and tractable in spring, and altogether lovely in summer, this is one of South Devon's best known tourist routes, leading, as it does, to big Dartmoor, looming high away to the north-east. The hills were at intervals hidden by the passing storms, swiftly sweeping to sea, but, between whiles, they stood "dressed in living green." It had hailed and snowed a dozen times by the time I had reached quiet and pleasant Tavistock. While the light four-wheel was being got out, I paid a visit to the tacklemaker's, and selected three sets of flies—a large March brown, with a long tail, a blue upright with silver twist, and a brown palmer, with bushy black body laced round with gold. The Tamar is one of the major rivers of Devon, and the favourite flies are considerably larger than those used on the countless lesser streams and brooks. In another hailstorm off we drove in the teeth of the wind, which, as we mounted up on to the hill country, became downright biting. In these higher latitudes the hedgegrowths were backward. The gorse was in full bloom, but only here and there a primrose rose amongst the half-opened buds. The old trees were grey with lichen, or green with ivy, and along the hedges clumps of last year's brown beech leaves rattled dismally. It was a welcome change when we began to descend into the valley of the Tamar, and be confronted by the Cornish mines on the other side. The landlord of the hotel, the driver of the light four-wheel, the tacklemaker, and now the gentlemen to whom I had introductions, were unanimous in warning me that my chances were *nil*.

Nevertheless, the attempt had to be made; albeit I shivered as I got together my rod, and donned stockings, socks, and brogues, sitting the while in a bed of bright daffodils, and watched by a flock of ragged ewes and sportive lambs, under the lee of the hedge, far from the turnips upon which they had been feeding. Strange, but true, the only warm place that day seemed to be in the water, for while the face was iced, and the finger ends blue and numb, the immersed feet and knees were delightfully warm. Having waded out to the edge of a stream, I had to wait until a roaring blast permitted me to manage my cast, and ultimately to retreat to my daffodil cushion, in the shelter of an alder bush, out of the hail. In the succeeding lull, however, I got my chance, and at the first short cast—the experimental and careless throw with which every angler, I suspect, commences operations—I saw a small trout turn at the March brown. Fortunately the gale was good-natured enough to blow straight up the reach of the river from my chosen standpoint. This was not an unmixed advantage, since the best water lay towards the middle, just beyond the scope of my powers, and the stream ahead was running swiftly.

Still, I basketed a brace of small fish, of the not uncommon Devonshire size of five to the pound, and had the amusement of observing a trout rise at a snowflake. There was no possible mistake about it. The flake was descending slantingly and leisurely, and when it was within a quarter of an inch of the surface, Master Trout popped his snout up and shattered it. Twice during the day I saw this action repeated, and on the second occasion there were plenty of nice little brown flies scudding along the water, without a movement of the fish towards them. If the vision of fish resemble ours, a falling snowflake will, of course, be to them, looking upwards, a dark object, and may present itself to them as a luscious-bodied insect, to be grabbed, if possible. Nor am I aware that there is anything novel in trout rising during snow and hail, provided there be no snowbroth in the water. In Lake Ogwen, North Wales, many years ago, I remembered, the fish rose madly during such a storm, and not one was taken before it came or after it ceased. At the same time, as our usual associations of trout fishing are with balmy summer, hawking swallows, and resplendent dragon flies, there undoubtedly is something comic in the notion of fly-fishing in a snowstorm.

By and by a welcome lull came, and I waded out to a dark brown reef of rock, round which the water swirled, and from which I could cover a dozen eligible streams, here roughly rippling, there regularly flowing, and anon softly gliding. While the sun was out the fish rose short, but on the instant the clouds obscured it, they became business-like. The March brown did all the work, however, save in the case of two silvery smolts, that seemed to be quite ready to go down to sea, and that were returned with no more damage than the rubbing off of a few of their delicate scales. These were tempted by the silver twist of the second fly. During the first hour the larger trout were resting in fishy meditation, March-brown free. The small fellows—"six-inchers" if a name may be coined—seemed to be aware of this, and I had to return several, though the Devonshire anglers are in the habit of taking them from most of the streams much below that size, On Dartmoor, for example, I have seen a dish of trout, not one of which was six inches long, and have learned from experience that the more diminutive they run, the more delicious they are, fried with egg and bread crumb, and served up on artistically scolloped paper. But at last a timely turn of the wrist revealed something better. I saw him go down like a curved bar of refined gold, and he leaped thrice out of the water, brilliantly beautiful, and bold as a lion. Not more than a third of a pound was he, but for all that a good trout even for the Tamar, and more gamesome than many treble his size. For some time all the fish were on this pattern, running as like as peas in weight, and every one of them in the pink of condition. In administering to one of them my customary *coup-de-grace* with a short stick, carried for the purpose, the blow caused him to shoot out a freshly gorged stone loach of two inches in length. Had I been a little sooner, I verily believe I might have been able to rank that humble member of the carp family with the prophet Jonah himself, who lodged in the stomach of a fish and yet came forth alive. After taking some three brace of these handsome trout, the next contingent were quite as uniformly a size smaller.

I tried the river higher up and lower down, but was always glad to return to my friendly reef of rocks, and fish over the same ground again. It was eleven o'clock when I first waded in, and at half-past two the sky had grown very dark, and a new gale, with a fresh supply of snow, seemed to have made an end of all sunshine for the rest of the afternoon. Wherefore I gave up, and floundered ashore to find that, snow or not, I had, considering the turbulence of the wind, had, after all, a very successful time of it on the Tamar on that March day. Lighting a carefully-filled pipe, so that I might gloat becomingly on the sight, upon that before-mentioned bed of daffodils did I outpour the spoil, making them eight brace and a half by the generally received rules of computation. Yet I was not happy. Nothing but an even nine brace would serve my turn, and so back again for that, too often, most tiresome thing, "one fish more." Which fish I soon caught by a fluke; for being utterly unable to keep my cast upon the water, I winched in, the flies dabbling at their will, and close at hand a fierce fish seized the fly, and accommodatingly hooked himself, before I was exactly aware of my good fortune. This made up the full tale of a dozen and a half, just turning the scales at five pounds and a quarter. In the return train I encountered a local angler, who had been trying a Dartmoor stream, and he had in his basket a score of trout that could not, all told, have weighed two pounds. Some of them were like the smaller fish I had returned, rather dingy coloured. And I noticed that during the day, the brawny shoulders of lonely Dartmoor had been draped in a robe of pure white.

So far as I am aware, there is little, if any, open fishing on the Tamar. The river, during the greater part of its course, of some 60 miles, divides Devon from Cornwall, rising on the moors not far from the sea in the north-eastern corner of the former county; and not far from the source of the Torridge. Both are good trout streams, but while the Tamar takes a dignified south-westerly direction to Plymouth Sound, the Torridge, after pretending to follow suit, doubles round and makes for Bideford on the northern shore of the county. Fortunately for the angler, the Tamar, except at one or two points, is not tapped by the railway; and to the few miles of cross country between it and the line below Launceston, it owes more immunity from over-fishing than many of the Devon streams. Some of the landowners will generally give a day's fishing to gentlemen making proper application; but it is a good thing for the water, perhaps, that permission is not indiscriminately granted. Since the Tavy, which runs through Tavistock, has been so well cared for by the local association, the trouting has much improved, and the peal-fishing, late in the season, is sometimes remarkably good.

THE BLACK BASS.

IN a recent article in the *Daily News*, Mr. William Senior—whose charming writings, under the *nom de plume* of "Red Spinner," are so well known—advocates strongly the desirability of introducing the American black bass. We quite agree with him; in fact, more than three years ago we did so, as the following extracts from our account in the GAZETTE of a visit to Mr. Buckland's museum at South Kensington in January 1879 will show.

"Mr. Buckland then drew the attention of the company to the small specimens of American black bass, which he has in good health in one of the glass tanks, and said he hoped to introduce them to some of our English rivers. The black bass is a very handsome well-made fish, a bold biter, a plucky fish when hooked, and very good eating; with such a character as this we are sure English anglers will welcome the stranger; and, now we are about it, we may as well give Mr. Charles Hallock's description of the fish, which we take from his invaluable "American Sportsman's Gazetteer," a work which is in itself a perfect cyclopædia of information respecting American sport of every description. Mr. Hallock says, p. 273:—

> BLACK BASS (GRYSTES NIGRICANS; MICROPTERUS NIGRICANS).—*Gill.*
>
> Among the various candidates for popular favour, for introduction into new waters, the black bass has always deservedly occupied a very high place. The excellence of its flesh, its rapid growth, its endurance, and its game qualities, all contribute towards this appreciation. Little by little, this fish has been carried from one part of the country to another, until now there is no part of the United States; east of the Rocky Mountains, where it may not be found in greater or less abundance. *Its great merit in this connection lies in the fact that it requires no care in the way of culture*, since a few pairs transferred bodily will, in time, furnish a numerous progeny. In consequence of its habit of making a nest and guarding it against intruders, the fish is enabled to secure the perpetuation of its race.
>
> Much uncertainty has existed until recently as to the number of species really entitled to be called black bass, many having been described and supposed to be peculiar to particular waters. Professor Gill, of the Smithsonian Institution, has made a critical and exhaustive investigation of this subject, and with the aid of the large amount of material belonging to the institution and that of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Cambridge, he has come to the conclusion that there are really but two distinguishable forms; the one, the *micropterus salmoides*, or the small-mouthed bass; and the other, the *M. nigricans*, or the large-mouthed variety."

"After referring to the various local names given to the fish and the districts in which it is caught, Mr. Hallock describes its action when hooked.

> When hooked, the first move is into the air, and it is continued, more or less, principally more, until the struggle ends in the death or escape of the fish.

"Most of Mr. Buckland's visitors noticed the curious way in which the little three-inch specimens were huddled together in the corners and along the sides of the glass tank, and that in doing this they are only carrying out their natural instinct is proved by the fact that bass 'undoubtedly hybernate and are not seen or caught in winter.'

> The fish begin to spawn about the middle of May. In two or three days after hatching the young fry scatter mostly into deep water, and are not seen again until September, when they come in shore, having grown about two inches in length. If well supplied with food they grow about four inches the first season. When two years old they reach a pound in weight, and after that grow about a pound each year, until they weigh six or eight pounds.

"Black bass rise to the fly well, and are also taken with minnow, spoon, and a great variety of baits. Live bait is probably the best method; but some of the finest specimens have been taken with worm in fifty feet of water, and of his merits from a gastronomic point of view, Mr. Hallock says:—

> Few better pan-fish are known to epicures. He is thick, solid, and heavy, has little waste and few bones about him, is sweet, tender, and juicy, and, when well cooked, makes a dish fit for a king.

"In concluding this very interesting article on this fish, of which we have only been able to give a very small portion, Mr. Hallock says:—

> Valued as the brook trout is for its game qualities; widely distributed as it is; and much extolled in song as it has been; the black bass has now a wider range, at least, of latitude, and being common to both cold and warm waters, and to northern and southern climes, seems destined to become the leading game fish of America, and to take the place of the wild brook trout which vanishes, like the red man, before civilisation and settlements.

"From the above description it will be seen that Mr. Buckland will be doing English anglers a good turn if he can introduce the black bass into this country as he proposes. The only possible objection that occurs to us is, how will our English trout and grayling like him? He is not particular as to what he eats, but prefers, we are told, one of his own relations to anything else. Two or three six-pound bass would, we fancy, make sad havoc in a grayling colony, and even trout would live in fear and trembling. There is something so gentlemanly about a trout, something so ladylike in a grayling, that whatever the merits of the black bass may be—and we have shown they are not few—we had rather his room than his company if our trout and grayling are to disappear before him. Shade of Isaac Walton! the very thought is almost enough to make us hang our rods on the willows—instead of our flies, as we do sometimes. But Mr. Buckland is too great a friend of our trout and grayling to think of introducing any fish that could prove such a Vandal! Nevertheless, this fish would be invaluable in lakes and ponds, and at this time some twenty or thirty of them are thriving in an ornamental pond in Lord Exeter's park at Burghley, Stamford."

Our views respecting the black bass have not altered since the above was written; on the contrary, the more we learn about this fine fish the more we hope to see it introduced into suitable rivers, lakes, and ponds in England. The only reasons that it is not already introduced are, first, and most important, the expense attached to importing it, and, secondly, the fear of its voracity. We regret very much to see from a recent number of the *Field* that Mr. Francis Francis seems to share this fear; he says great things were expected when *salmo fontinalis* came over, but it has never done well here, and he appears to infer the same fate may await the black bass. Even supposing it a desirable fish to introduce, we do not think the inference is well founded, because the *salmo fontinalis*, or American "brook trout," is a true char, and we know how very few of our waters suit even our own native char. Even in the States the range of the *salmo fontinalis* is strictly between the parallels of latitude 50 degrees north and 36 degrees south. Now, the black bass is a summer-spawning fish of the perch family, and, as we have shown above, thrives in all parts of America east of the Rocky Mountains, it is found in abundance from Canada in the north to Florida in the south.

Black Bass in England.

We take the following from "Little's Angler's Annual:—"The Marquis of Exeter has introduced black bass into England, and is the first and only person who has been successful in the venture. There is a large lake, called Whitewater, about a mile southwards of Burghley House, in which specimens of this fish are now located. This lake is over half a mile long, and from three to four hundred yards wide. It is admirably suited for the purpose, and from present report the fish have now become acclimatised. Mr. Silk undertook the transmission of specimens across the Atlantic. The first attempt failed, but so much experience was gained in this venture, that the next time, out of about three hundred fish which started from Montreal, all but forty or fifty were safely deposited in Whitewater. When it is remembered that the water in the tanks in which the bass were deposited had to be kept at an even temperature day after day for over a fortnight in changing climates, the immense amount of trouble taken by Mr. Silk can safely be imagined. Happily, he proved successful, and it is pleasing to know that so great a venture has turned out so fortunate. As black bass usually grow to above twenty pounds,* and when hooked are most game and resolute, their value as

All honour is due to the Marquis of Exeter for introducing the black bass. In a conversation we had with his lordship recently about his experiment, he informed us that it had cost him some hundreds of pounds. His attempt to import ova had signally failed in consequence of the rotting of the water-weeds to which the eggs were attached. We suggested to his lordship that it might be possible to substitute fir-boughs for weeds (as they would not rot), and it would be no difficult matter to do this we feel certain. We hope Mr. Silk will consider this suggestion.

In order to give our readers the fullest particulars respecting the black bass, with the hope that they will thus be led to recognise its value, we will now give some extracts from the recently-published

Book of the Black Bass.†

By Dr. James A. Henshall, of Cincinnati, a copy of which has been sent to us for notice by the American publishers. All the American sporting papers speak in the highest terms of the book, and we can heartily endorse their praise. The fact that such a large volume as this, entirely confined to the black bass, has been published in America proves the great esteem in which the fish is held there. Dr. Henshall even claims that, as a game fish, it is superior to the trout and salmon.

Appearance of the Fish.

We have written to America for an engraving of the black bass, but it is not to hand yet. In appearance it may be said to resemble our English perch, only the body is longer and not so deep, and is not hog-backed. The anterior spinous portion of the dorsal fin is much smaller than in the perch, the posterior portion being, on the other hand, larger. It is an extremely handsome fish, and its immense fin-power shows at a glance that it is a fish of prey. In colour it is generally a dark olive green on the back, with a "gradual shading or paling towards the belly or abdomen, which is always white or whitish."

Spawning and Hatching.

Dr. Henshall says:—"Black bass are very prolific, the female yielding fully one-fourth of their weight in spawn. The period of spawning extends from spring to midsummer, according to the temperature. . . . They select suitable spots for their nests, usually upon a gravelly or sandy bottom, or on rocky ledges, in water from eighteen inches to three feet deep in lakes and ponds; and, if possible, adjacent to deep water, or patches of aquatic plants, to which the parents retire if disturbed.

"The nests are circular, saucer-like depressions, varying from one to three feet (usually about twice the length of the fish) in diameter, which are formed by the bass by fanning and scouring from the pebbles all sand, silt, and vegetable débris by means of their tails and fins, and by removing larger obstacles with their mouths. This gives to the beds a bright, clean, and white appearance, which in clear water can be seen at a distance of several score yards. I have seen hundreds of such nests, in groups, almost touching each other, in the clear water lakes of Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota.

"Sometimes the nests are formed upon a muddy bottom, with a pavement or foundation of small sticks and leaves, from which the mud and slime have been washed and scoured. The females deposit their eggs on the bottom of the nests, usually in rows, which are fecundated by the male, and become glued to the pebbles or sticks contained therein. The eggs are hatched in from one to two weeks, depending in the temperature of the water, but usually in from eight to ten days.

"When hatched the young bass are almost perfectly formed, from one fourth to one half an inch in length, and cover the entire bed, where they can be easily detected by their constant motion. After hatching, the young fry remain over the bed from two to seven days, usually three or four, when they retire into deep water, or take refuge in the weeds, or under stones, logs, and other hiding places.

"During the period of incubation the nests are carefully guarded by the parent fish, who remain over them, and by a constant motion of the fins create a current which keeps the eggs free from all sediment and débris. After the eggs are hatched, and while the young remain on the nests, the vigilance of the parent fish becomes increased and unceasing, and all predatory intruders are driven away."

We shall next conclude our account of the black bass by giving further extracts from Dr. Henshall's valuable work, and we shall then have presented our readers with the most complete description of this magnificent game fish which has ever been published in any English paper. We do not advocate placing the black bass in salmon; trout, or grayling rivers, but we are convinced it would prove a splendid addition to our sport-giving coarse fish. **It can be taken with any kind of bait—fly, worm, minnow, gentle spoon; in fact, it will dash at anything in the shape of food.** It would be a splendid addition the Norfolk Broads and rivers, as it would thin out the too-numerous small fry which now threaten to spoil the fishing.

A DAY ON LOCH AWE.

"PUT a little more whiskey into my glass, and fill my pipe again, boy," were the words which roused me from a pleasant day-dream one very sultry evening in July, 1880. The speaker was my father, a hale, well-preserved old gentleman of sixty or thereabouts, with a keen appreciation of all creature comforts, and an old-fashioned devotion to the "churchwarden" which nothing could shake. We were sitting in the garden, with a table before us, well supplied with the necessary ingredients for the production of cooling drinks; we were grumbling and growling at the heat, abusing the climate, suggesting the universal use of boating costumes, &c., when all at once the senior started up with unusual energy, and said: "David, my boy, what do you say to a month in Scotland?"

What could I say? I jumped at the offer, made all my arrangements in one day, packed up the next, and, on the third we started by the evening train from St. Pancras.

Blessings on the head of Mr. Pullman, who has changed the dreary night journey into a positive pleasure; even the most obstinately wide awake cannot resist the drowsy influence of that gentle, undulating movement of the sleeping car.

Morning found us in Edinburgh, and after a sojourn of some few days in the beautiful city, we set off once more on our travels, and eventually arrived at the little village of Dalmally, situated upon the shores of Loch Awe. We arrived at the hotel in the afternoon, wet, tired and hungry; but in spite of the adverse aspect of the heavens, I persuaded the Senior (after a plain but substantial luncheon), to accompany me to the river. Our guide informed us that the best pools were about three miles beyond the village, and when we looked very dismal at the prospect, he told us that the rain was nothing but just a "Scotch mist." Heavens, what a mist! We were drenched to the skin in less than a quarter of an hour, and then the Senior grimly said: "Well, we may as well get on, for it is impossible we can be wetter than we are, and perhaps we may stumble across a whiskey shop presently." With this extra inducement, we rallied our energies, and after an hour's walk over the most swampy and forlorn-looking country, we came to our fishing ground. I produced my fly-book, and put up two likely-looking flies selected by our guide, and commenced operations. "Fine and far off" is my motto, and I carefully fished every inch of fishable water for a good hour without the slightest result. Vainly I tried all that art could suggest, vainly I changed and changed my flies until the patience of the Senior was fairly exhausted. At last he growled out, 'You might as well throw your hat in; this is another specimen of Scotch fishing. I'm off; are you coming, or not?"

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* This is an exceptional weight. The average is about five pounds, but two and three pounds are considered good weights by American bass anglers.—Ed.

a sporting fish is proved, and I sincerely hope the present Lord of Burghley will live long to enjoy the pleasure of their capture."

† The "Book of the Black Bass," comprising its complete scientific and life histories, together with a practical treatise on angling and fly-fishing for it, and a full account of the necessary tackle. By J. A. Henshall, M.D. Crown 8vo., 460 pages, fully illustrated, price 12s. 6d. R. Clarke and Co., Cincinnati. London: Crosby Lockwood and Co., 7, Stationers' Hall Court.

Sorrowfully I reeled up, and turned with a reproachful air to our guide and demanded an explanation; the invariable reply, common to all Scotch fishermen, came forth, "Ah, sir, you should have been here last week, everybody had sport then." There was no whiskey shop within miles, we had not brought a flask, and we turned our weary steps homeward without a word, and the silence remained unbroken until we saw the welcome porch of our hostelry. Then did the Senior's pace sensibly increase, and a gleam of joy illumined his dripping face as he strode into the little bar and ordered, in a loud voice, two steaming glasses of toddy—and how they disappeared! We dined, and retired to the smoking-room, and there meet one of the most extraordinary characters it is possible to imagine.

He was a tall man of sixty or seventy, hard-looking, and with a a very strong Scotch accent; his special peculiarity will appear presently.

We all entered into conversation, and our friend informed us that the river was never much good for trouting, but there was good all-round fishing in the loch, and when he mentioned that pike and perch were plentiful, the Senior became quite enthusiastic, and said, "Ah! that is more my form; I like something to pull at. Give me a good strong line and a stiff rod, and then when Mr. Pike comes along it is 'pull devil, pull baker,' till my gentleman is landed or the line breaks."

Our friend was a most sociable fellow, and beguiled the time with some of the most racy anecdotes ever related, and we were quite oblivious of the clock; but the most remarkable part of it all was this: *twenty-six* glasses of whisky toddy were consumed by the Scotchman between the hours of eight and twelve (this we learned afterwards of the waiter), and when we rose to seek our respective chambers, the old fellow walked out of the room with a step as firm as that of the Senior. We were up betimes in the morning, and after a hearty breakfast, and taking care of the flask this time, we set off for the loch.

Three miles walk, and we were at our point of embarkation. The morning was all that could be desired; the sun was shining occasionally as the fleecy clouds drifted across the sky, a beautiful warm summer breeze was just wrinkling the placid surface of the lake, and, as we stepped into our boat, the Senior said:—"This is better than the office, my boy," and I heartily concurred with him.

The old boatman was not a hard-working man, but we did not mind that; and merely telling him to paddle away from the shore, we prepared for action. I gave the Senior a short stiff rod, with one hundred yards of stout line, at the end of which I fixed an American devil, and set him to work forthwith. Lazily he placed his rod in the stern of the boat, and betook himself to tobacco and meditation. I fixed myself up with an artificial minnow, and likewise partook of the fragrant weed. The old boatman pulled steadily round a pretty little bay, the shores of which were fringed with tall waving rushes—a very pikey place indeed.

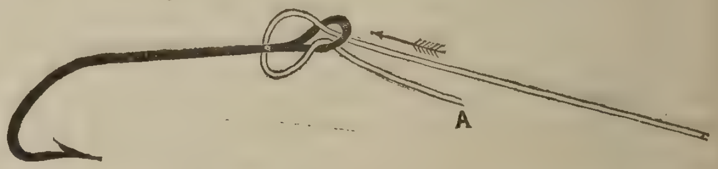
I was just remarking that we were having our usual luck, when whirr! went the Senior's reel, and the convulsive twitches of his rod gave evidence of the proximity of a big 'un. The Senior was equal to the occasion; he relinquished his pipe, seized the rod, and struck with all his might. Praise to Allah! the line stood the shock, and thereupon ensued the most amusing struggle I have ever witnessed. Not an inch of line would the Senior yield to the struggling fish, notwithstanding the excited utterances of the boatman, who shouted, "Give him leene, surr, give him leene; ye'll lose him sairtainly!" Thanks to the enormous strength of the well-made line, the fish eventually was gaffed, and the Senior, with a face as red as a turkey-cock, said, gaspingly, "There, that is the way we fish down south. The more a fish pulls at you, the harder you hold on." With this piece of philosophy, he showed his appreciation of the contents of the flask, and the fish, having been duly weighed (11 lb.), we again went to work. Twice more while we were in the little bay the Senior was lucky, and secured a brace of pike, 4 lb. and 3 lb. respectively. I began to think that the Fates were against me, when I felt the welcome tug at my rod. I struck gently, and, after some play on my fine tackle, I landed a very handsome perch. We were passing the ruins of an old castle, and just opposite this place the perch came in shoals.

I have never seen anything like it. I changed my artificial minnow for worm tackle, rigged the Senior up in like manner,, and having anchored the boat, we caught fine perch, from ¼ lb. up to 1½ lb., literally as fast as we could put our lines in the water. "How some of our Thames fishermen would enjoy this," I said as I landed a green and golden beauty of a pound weight, and tossed him into the well to join his companions; and really such a show of perch has, I should imagine, never graced the club trays of any London angling society. Two hundred and seventy odd fish were in the boat at the close of the day, and even then the Senior was loth to leave off; but the rain began again, and we had a long drive before us, so we looked lingeringly and lovingly at the grey old castle and its surroundings, and paddled to the coach, which was waiting for us on the shore.

Quill Gnat.

H. S. HALL'S EYED HOOKS FOR FLIES.

We have received from Mr. Hall, in answer to our request, a description of how the eyed hooks should be knotted to the gut, and also a sketch to explain it. The accompanying engraving is a copy of the sketch, and shows very clearly the extremely simple and only proper way in which the fastening should be made. If the gut is simply passed through the eye, and knotted without being first made to embrace the shank, the hook will hang limply and loosely. By Mr. Hall's plan the hook stands out straight from the end of the gut. Messrs. Hutchinson of Kendal make these hooks specially from Mr. Hall's designs, and have taken the greatest pains to get them correct, and they may be said to be perfect in shape and temper. Messrs. Alfred and Son, of 20, Moorgate Street, have, at our suggestion, decided to make flies on Mr. Hall's hooks (Mr. Hall, by the way, has no pecuniary interest in them whatever), and say they do not see any difficulty in selling them at their regular price for their best trout flies, viz., 2s. per dozen. The illustration is drawn on a large scale in order to show details more plainly; the smallest midge flies are dressed on these hooks.



Method of fastening Hall's eyed hook to the gut.

Directions.

Take the hook between finger and thumb of the left hand, and push the gut through the eye *upwards* (as shown by the arrow); take a turn round the shank, and back again through the eye *downwards*. The end A, which should be not less than 1¼ inch long, is then tied in a single knot *round* the long end of the gut. If the gut is well wetted, and a gentle pull given, the single knot will slide down to the eye, and form a perfectly secure and rigid fastening, and the gut will stand out in the direction of the shank of the hook. The superfluous end of A may be cut off quite close to the eye.

THE EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION.

As will be seen from our advertisement columns, this fine exhibition will be opened on the 12th. The efforts of the London Committee of the exhibition have resulted, we are delighted to say, in securing between two and three hundred cases of specimen fish from London clubs and private anglers, and also the cream of the fish collection bequeathed to the nation by the late Frank Buckland, which has been kindly lent by the authorities. Both the London and Edinburgh Committees are indebted to Sir Philip Cunliffe Owen, C.B., Director of the South Kensington Museum, for the trouble he has taken in securing the loan of the exhibit.

When seeing Sir Cunliffe about the matter, he informed us that China was going to send a magnificent and most expensive exhibit—connected particularly with pisciculture—to the London 1883 Exhibition. We look forward to this exhibit with the greatest interest.

SALMON WEIGHED-IN AT THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

In the account of the Piscatorial Society's last meeting, published last week, it was stated by an error that Mr. Thomas weighed-in salmon. It should have been Mr. Thomas Huggett, as this gentleman was the captor of several fine Irish salmon. He has sent us an interesting account of his trip, which will appear next week, under the title of "Angling in Ireland."

NOTICES OF BOOKS, &c.

HANDBOOK TO THE RIVERS AND BROADS OF NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK. By G. Christopher Davies, Author of "The Swan and her Crew," &c., with large map.

MESSRS JARROLD AND SONS, 3, Paternoster Buildings, London, have sent us an early copy of this work, which they are publishing at the very moderate price of one shilling and sixpence. With each copy is given a large coloured map of the rivers and broads, and we can assure our readers that this map is alone well worth the price charged. A year or two ago we suggested to Messrs. Jarrold, that a good map and guide to the Norfolk and Suffolk waters was much wanted, and we congratulate them on securing the services of Mr. Davies, an enthusiastic angler and lover of nature, and a most charming writer. It is not too much to say that never before have all the delightful attractions offered by the endless streams and broads of East Anglia, been so pleasantly described.

Comparatively few anglers are aware of the superlative ease and comfort with which they may get first-class angling in Norfolk and Suffolk. Mr. Davies has done good service in so clearly describing the various fishing-stations, the pleasant rural inns, the kinds of fish to be met with, and we can testify from long experience that his book supplies a want. Often have we had to answer inquiries about the fishing he describes both in the GAZETTE and privately, and in future we shall simply refer inquirers to his excellent book. Any one who has not had the fortune to stay for a week or two amongst the broads and rivers of Norfolk and Suffolk, can have no idea of the manner in which they grow upon and charm one. Taking advantage of the facilities offered by the Great Eastern Railway, in a very few hours the London angler finds himself getting out of his train at some rural spot on the banks of the Yare or Bure or Waveney. A few minutes' walk brings him to the river-side inn, a quiet comfortable house, where, in most cases, he will get all the accommodation an angler requires. When strolling out whilst the ham and eggs and tea are being prepared, he probably makes inquiries about the swims, and from his front door our host can point out half a dozen noted swims to him. Over there, under that high bank of reeds, he will find from five to ten feet of water, frequented by heavy roach and rudd; a little higher up opposite the water-mill, is a grand place for perch—but you cannot go very far wrong, fish where you will, as long as you get a quiet deep place out of the way of the wherries and yachts. Having ordered a boat and some groundbait to be got ready, you do justice to the homely but fresh fare, and then step into the boat with your friend, and pull off to the spot you may have selected. Getting one of the long poles down well into the ground, about twelve or fifteen feet from the hedge of tall reeds lining the bank, you fasten one end of the boat to it, and then put down the other pole at the other end, and a like distance from the reeds—for you fish broadside to the stream—a few balls of ground-bait are thrown in, the rods are got ready, pipes lit, and in a few minutes down goes the heavily shotted fine line into ten feet of water; and when you commence very shortly to catch heavy bream, or roach, or rudd, you wonder why you have wasted so many holidays, and paid so much, to get the poor sport which is, as a rule, afforded by our metropolitan over-fished streams. Here your fishing costs you nothing but 1s. or 2s. a day for the use of the boat; the scenery is lovely; the air comes fresh from the North Sea, which is only a few miles off; and you will probably be often treated to one of those glorious sunsets which seem peculiar to this peculiar country, with its immense expanse of sky always in view. Fish of all kinds are so abundant in these rivers and broads that they have been wisely exempted from the operation of the Freshwater Fisheries Act, so that the fortunate anglers of this favoured region can go out any day in the year and fish for fish in season. But we hope we have said enough to send our readers to Mr. Davies' invaluable guide, and would merely remind them in conclusion, that if they do go and fish in this paradise for anglers, they must not forget to contribute something to the Preservation Associations, through whose exertions netting has been made illegal, and the interests of all fair anglers are so well looked after.

THE ANGLERS' POCKET DICTIONARY OF TROUT-FLIES, AND THEIR SYNONYMS. By William Sang. Published by W. Ward, Printer, Barnard Castle. Price 6d., post free, 7d.

THIS is a second and enlarged edition of a most valuable little work, which we noticed last year, and which, we are glad to hear, has been in great demand. It cannot fail to do much to reduce the confusion which at present exists respecting the names of trout-flies, and every trout angler should keep a copy in his fly-book, for which purpose the small size of the dictionary well adapts it. But it is not a mere list of flies under their various names—Mr. Sang gives useful advice as to best time of year and kind of weather to use the flies, and other valuable notes.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

THE London Committee of the Edinburgh International Fisheries Exhibition have received application for space for between 200 and 300 exhibits, including specimens from the Piscatorial Society's splendid collection, samples from the Hammersmith United, from the Hoxton Brothers, the Good Intent, from Messrs. Brookwell, Da Casta, De Winton, and many others. First-rate arrangements have been made with a well-known firm of Messrs. Lickfold and Co., who will collect and pack the fish so that the vans can be placed on the railway trucks bodily, and the exhibits need not be touched till the exhibition buildings are reached; they will be duly returned in the same manner and are full insured against all risks by the Edinburgh Committee. The authorities of the South Kensington Museum, in answer to an appeal from Mr. R. B. Marston have generously consented to loan a portion of the valuable Buckland collection, so that altogether the metropolitan contribution will make a very decent show. I almost forgot to mention that Mr. S. Morgan goes down in charge—not merely to prevent the scaly ones, in their glass and wooden homes from feeling lonely in a strange land—but to represent the London exhibitors generally.

The members of the Hammersmith United Angling Club are to have their annual dinner at their club house, the Builders' Arms, Bridge Road, Hammersmith, on the 27th—Mr. P. Geen in the chair. Several gentlemen, well known in the piscatorial world, have accepted invitations to be present, and a goodly muster of members is confidently anticipated.

A special meeting of the committee of the West Central Association will take place at the Portman Arms, Great Quebec Street, Baker Street, on Friday evening, April 14, and in view of the important business to be transacted on the next meeting night (annual) committeemen are earnestly requested to attend.

On Monday evening, April 3, the usual monthly meeting of the United London Anglers Central Committee was held at the Bald Faced Stag, Worship Square, Finsbury, Mr. S. Morgan presiding. After reading and confirming the minutes of the previous meeting, the chairman handed over to Mr. W. H. Brougham, who attended on behalf of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, the sum of £10 10s., being this committee's annual donation to the funds of this important society. Mr. Brougham duly acknowledged the same in a practical speech, during which he briefly noticed some of the principal tasks recently accomplished by his society, or at present engaging their attention, and requiring their utmost efforts to carry to a successful and practical result.

The secretary, Mr. R. Ghurney, next gave a brief report of the capture, through the instrumentality of the police, of two netters at Ware, and their conviction and fining by the magistrates. The sum of £1 each, being unanimously voted to the two constables concerned.

Mr. Chambers was next elected, by a large majority, to audit the accounts of the Anglers' Benevolent Society.

Mr. Kidd, the delegate from the Dalston Angling Club, followed with some remarks about the advisability of making a fresh application to the authorities of the South-Eastern Railway, with the view of obtaining concessions for cheap travelling on that line. The recent formation of a preservation society at Maidstone—the Maidstone and Medway Angling Preservation Society—being also touched upon, and several letters put in and read.

Mr. R. Murphy gave notice of motion concerning a stretch of water extending from Carthagena Weir to Smith's Lock, formerly rented by Mr. Benningfield. Some discussion also took place concerning the dates of the Eastern local and general visits.

The election of an honorary London bailiff, to replace Mr. George Oram, deceased, was adjourned till next monthly meeting night.

A committee of twelve was next elected to meet an equal number from the West Central Association to take into consideration the question of yearage for the coming season; invitation to send representatives to the meeting to be also issued to No. 3 association. A vote of thanks to the chairman concluding the proceedings.

Mr. R. Ghurney had brought up a portion of the net recently captured at Ware, which, amidst much fun and laughter, was cut up into small portions, many piscators taking away scraps of it as trophies. Apropos of this net, in my Notes last week I should have written "forfeited," not "forwarded;" also the words "Mr. Hoole recently wrote a letter," which immediately precede "*re* gross-weight," should have been followed by "to the authorities of the Great Western Railway, asking that the privilege of cheap travelling to this station (Tylehust) might be granted the London anglers; but the company's answer is not yet to hand." I think the mistake is entirely mine this time, not the printer's.

The annual supper of the Cambridge Trinity Angling Society will take place on Thursday, April 13th, at the society's club house, the Rent Day, Cambridge Street, Edgware Road.

The No. 2 District West Central Association visit was paid the Bloomsbury Brothers Angling Club, the Rose and Crown, Broad Street, Bloomsbury, on the 5th inst. The chair was occupied by Mr. Seymour, faced in the vice by Mr. L. Bonvoisin. Some capital songs were well rendered by Messrs. Scott, Morley, Tarling, Raynor, White, Sherman, Pink, Sawyer, F. Pink, Davidson, and others. Upon the roll being called by Mr. Bonvoisin, the district officer, it was found seven clubs in the district were represented, viz.:—Amicable Waltonians, Bloomsbury Brothers, City of London, Good Intent, Reform, Trafalgar, and West Central; and three out of the district, viz.:—King's Cross United, Westbourne Park Piscatorial, and North-Western. Full notice of next visit will be duly given. A vote of thanks to the chair and vice bringing a most jolly evening to a close.

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

"None but the brave deserve the fair."

The opening day of trouting was simply a howling one of wind and hail from the east, but for all that a brave or two turned out at most stations to do battle with the spotted beauties, which for days and days had been flashing their comely outlines before envious and jealous wooers. At Maidenhead Harry Wilder, sen., got four decent fish—his son three fish, and G. Wynn two others of takeable size. At Marlow Mr. C. Foottit got two fish, and Dr. Bloxham one trout of 4½ lb., and therewith a rod offered for the best fish of the day taken in the association's water. At Henley a fish of 3½ lb. has taken flight, and the whereabouts of two or three screamers marked down. Weather fine, with wind shifting from the east. Marlow Buzz.

Dove.

We have had rain and cold east winds all the week, and, consequently, there have been but few anglers out. Sport has been of a moderate character and that is all. Trout are not rising so freely as one could wish, but they are sure to improve in this respect immediately the weather mends, which may now be expected every day. There is very little fly on the water, the cold winds having swept it into the water, drowned, or killed it outright. The best basket I can hear of this week was secured with the cowdung and cockwing flies on the length below Ashbourne. I see an effort has been made to place Mr. M. J. Ellison on the Trent Fishery Board, but Mr. Nesfield, the gentleman who acts as agent to the Duke of Rutland, and holds many of the rights over some of our Derbyshire waters, objected, and the result is that Mr. Ellison has not been elected on the Board. For my own part, knowing the interest Mr. Ellison has (as the agent of the Duke of Norfolk) in the various waters over which the Trent Fishery Board have powers, I don't think any gentleman was more fitted to occupy a seat on the Board, and it would have been better if Mr. Nesfield had not acted so objectionably.—The Splodger.

Ilfracombe.

A gentleman lodging here brought with him, from Southmolton, on Monday, a basket of splendid trout; and Mr. Slack, a visitor, took from the reservoir, on Wednesday, one very large trout. Sea fishing—A pilot, whiffing off Lundy last week, caught a quantity of mackerel, in fact the sport was so good that he forgot all about his piloting. We hope soon to hear of some good sport off Ilfracombe, when the weather is moderate enough for boats to go out, they get fair catches of tamlin, cod, whiting, pout, and pollack. On Saturday night last it blew a heavy gale from the N.W. On Sunday morning our lifeboat put out to try and rescue some of the crew of the s.s. *Pelton*, that had sunk between Lee and the Bull; however, their efforts were fruitless. They succeeded in getting two life-buoys, one marked s.s. *Pelton*, of Newcastle, the other *Uzziah*, of Salcombe; in the latter was the body of a man dead but quite warm. Some good sport has been had this last week from the jetty with rod and hand lines for small whiting and dabs.

Streams are now in good condition for trout fishing, I heard of a trout 3 lb. weight being caught last week from a stream that runs from Longleigh through Forrs Park, the rod was broken in landing it. Three boys, on Saturday, caught forty trout, and on Tuesday eighty, averaging about five to the lb., these were all caught in the streams leading from Chambercombe through Francis bottom. Sea-fishing is very slack at present, only a few tamlin, cod and whiting being caught. There is some good sport to be had of an evening with rod and line from the jetty for pollack and whiting pout. Weather at present very mild.—E. Comer.

Medway (Tonbridge).

Dragging a Lake with the Tonbridge Angling Club.

With a view of providing sport for the devotees of the gentle art when they are precluded by Act of Parliament from following their charming recreation, the committee of the Tonbridge Angling Club have inaugurated a series of days out, pond dragging, in order to obtain stock fish for the waters of the Medway. Various landed proprietors in the neighbourhood have kindly placed old ponds and lakes at the disposal of the committee, which have not only provided several pleasant days in the country, but have yielded a valuable stock of fish to add to the sport to be obtained in the club waters. On Friday last a visit was paid to the North Frith Estate, near Tonbridge; E. Hale, Esq., having generously given the club permission to drag his large lake. The party, a right merry one, started from the Rose and Crown Hotel at 10 o'clock, and arrived at the water at 11 o'clock. Here Grounds and Son had placed one of their largest nets in the water ready for a start. As one side of the lake was fringed with willows there was only one way in which to get the net along, and that was to go in for it. Mr. Flood, one of our members, who is ever to the front, at once plunged in, and after an hour's hard work the net was hauled up on the other side. There was great disappointment—as it was supposed that there would have been a very heavy haul of fish—when it was found that there was only some two or three hundred bream, roach, carp, and perch. After the net had been prepared for dragging through again, a call was received for luncheon, which had been laid out in a wood close by. The repast was generously provided by Mr. E. Greenwood. We need hardly say that ample justice was done to the viands, which were washed down by an excellent glass of ale. Away we went to search again, and dragged the huge net through the lake again, with, however, only the same success as before—hundreds of small fish, but not a large one. Mr. Hale was very much surprised, and came to the conclusion that the lake, which is in a very isolated position, must have been terribly poached. After another draw the work was given up. The result was the capture of 1005 fish, the majority being bream; and these were safely conveyed to Tonbridge, and turned into the river opposite the castle. The result, from a stocking point of view, was unsatisfactory, but all enjoyed the outing, and many were the hearty thanks expressed towards Mr. Hale for his great kindness, for it was felt that nothing would have given him greater pleasure than to have seen a big haul. We may mention, in conclusion, that Mr. E. Greenwood, as usual, lent all the necessary apparatus and canvas for the removal of fish.—Ye Medway Otter.

Norfolk.

The magnificent weather of the past few weeks has greatly encouraged and tempted anglers from their homes, and fish have been well on the feed, for even those who have been heartless enough to try for jack have so far succeeded wonderfully well, as I have just heard that a gentleman belonging to one of the piscatorial societies in the city caught no less than ten fine fish with the spoon between Horning and Ranworth on the Bure. This is most unsportsmanlike, and certainly does not reflect much credit upon him. There is a deal of revision required respecting the laws relating to the taking of jack from our waters, as has been evinced by the controversy which has of late been carried on through our local papers. "Out of evil cometh good," and thus so far the members of the E. A. P. S. have achieved a success, for it has resulted in the owner of Horeton Broad giving his promise to put a stop to all illegal fishing on his preserves in future. But what of Wroxham Broad, where this kind of thing is practised so extensively? Surely Mr. Chamberlin must be cognisant of the fact, and as he is one of the secretaries of the "Bure Preservation Society," he certainly ought to set his face very decidedly against this nefarious practice. As many as a hundred liggers have been floated in one day during the past season by certain gentlemen from Norwich, but whether by permission of Mr. Chamberlin or his worthy son I am unable to state; but certain it is, if one attempts to angle on the Broad it won't be more than ten minutes before he is requested to hand over 2s. 6d. for his "little go." I am sure Mr. C. will not object to inform your readers what these liggerers pay for their day's sport; and, as the money goes to the funds of the N. and N. Hospital, I trust he did did not forget to lay it on. However, in the interests of all anglers, I am sure Mr. Chamberlin will do his utmost to preserve Wroxham Broad from the ravages that have of late been carried on. Those gentlemen who are amongst the favoured few who have done their utmost to destroy, are well known to me. I shall watch them very narrowly when the season comes in; and should I by any chance meet with them in their cowardly avocation, I shall certainly expose them. Also a little more straightforwardness of speech at the next meeting of the Yare Preservation Society from a certain gentleman would be more satisfactory, for although he has very rightly designated those who used liggers as "thorough scamps," possibly he might have forgotten what a "jolly" day he had on Horeton Broad soon after the E. A. P. S. got themselves into notoriety, and although he, with his two friends, did not "collar" any fish, yet his intentions were just the same. But I trust, like the members of the E. A. P. S., he is reformed, and that, ere this, his liggers have been consigned to the flames. There is good perch-fishing now to be had on the Bure, and I saw a very decent lot shown one day last week. The best class of fish I have seen were some roach taken by a member of the Loyal Beehive Club. There were about nine fish, each averaging 1¼ lb., and in splendid condition. Some good bream are also being got in the vicinity of Norwich, but what I have seen are rather sickly, apparently without any amount of life in them. The prospectus of the New Boating Station has been issued, and the shares are being rapidly taken up. Undoubtedly the venture will develop itself into something of greater magnitude, as the company propose not only to make it a fishing station, but also pleasure gardens; and they also propose to establish a gun club, a want that has long been felt by the sporting fraternity of Norwich. A smaller concern has, I believe, been started near the company's grounds; but I am informed their object is more for the purpose of advertising than anything else.—Angler.

North Lincolnshire Trout Streams.

The prevalence of cold easterly winds since my last report has been against the hatching of spring flies, and but few anglers have visited the water-side. I had about two hours one evening after tea and caught six, the largest of which was seventeen inches long, and weighed a good 1¾ lb., two others were about ¾ lb. By far the best fly just now is the March brown (male), dressed as follows: body, grey hare's ear ribbed with straw-coloured silk; legs, partridge's back feather; wings, grey partridge's tail; tail, two fibres of the same; hook, No. 3 sneck bend. The following flies may also be used as soon as the weather moderates: Royal Charlie, blue dun, iron blue, drake, checkwing and saw fly. They are all standard killers.—Thomas Ford.

Severn (Shrewsbury).

The river has been in very poor condition for angling, there having been rain on Sunday, which coloured the river a little, but it is now getting into fly-fishing order again, and I hope that by Friday it will be in such a condition as to amply repay anglers for their patience. Only three of our members have weighed anything in since I last wrote. Mr. Ellis, sen., showed three good trout, weighing respectively 1 lb. 2 oz., 1 lb. 9 oz., and 10 oz.; Mr. Ellis, jun., one of 6 oz. Mr. L. Price has just weighed three nice dace weighing 1¼ lb. I hope to report some heavy baskets next week.—F. H. M.

Severn and Teme (Worcester).

The Severn is in good order for angling with the worm or minnow; it is rather of a whey colour. It may do at the head of the river for the fly. The Teme is fine, also the brooks, and many of our local anglers are looking forward to a day or two's good sport the coming holidays. There is a good chance, for it is the opinion of many that the trout are forward this season and in numbers upon the small streams. An angler who is known as the "Otter" took thirty-two brace upon a small stream with the fly. The fish run small. Mr. Joseph Thorne and a friend caught with the worm twelve perch, some weighing over 1 lb.; the worm brandling was the bait used. Amos Bosworth landed a few trout and chub. I may here say that the Teme is exempt from the Fresh-water Fishery Act, those fishing with a trout licence can take any kind of fish, except salmon and grayling, all the season. Wind north-east and cold.—J. A. Griffin.

Swale.

The weather has been too cold for fly-fishing, but a few local anglers have been out with the minnow and worm. Mr. Barker, of Reesh, caught the finest dish since my last report, namely, 24 good fish, all with the minnow. Hackled flies kill well on this river—notably, woodcock and orange, snipe and purple, snipe and crimson, dotterel and yellow, snipe and orange, &c.—Thomas Ford, Caistor.

Taw and Tributaries (N. Devon).

Water risen considerably; large streams too thick; east wind. Good fishing if not too heavy rains in three days. Easter week water will be in better condition than for years. Some good trout fishing has been had in the Lynn, Yeo, Bray, and Mole. One catch in the Yeo forty-six, another three dozen. Sir W. Williams got two dozen and six fish Monday, Mr. Dennis two dozen, Mr. Paine two dozen. Now the salmon fishing is in. Water on Saturday, although high, not too much discoloured; some salmon were caught. One or two fresh run fish at Southmolton Road; eight salmon landed. A salmon was caught in the tidal water with fly and gut collar attached; the owner can have it by applying to me. Trout catching with rusty red, blue upright, March brown; salmon with large cow hair and rusty blue tackle, and the minnow.

Thames (Goring).

Water in good order. Could not be better for trout-fishing. Nothing has been done here. No one has been here to try for trout. At Pangbourn they are doing well. On Saturday last they took thirteen trout, one of 6 lb.—JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Windsor).

The east wind which has favoured us since the opening of the trout season has been greatly against the chance of a good run with decent fish. Out of seven fish taken in this neighbourhood the largest only scaled 2½ lb. In Windsor Weir, a fish supposed to be about 6 lb. was run but lost, and on Tuesday a good fish was lost in Boveney Weir. As I mentioned some weeks back, this weir certainly has a good stock of trout, for all seven fish mentioned above were had in it, and a little below, James Gray had a nice little fish on Wednesday of 2½ lb., with a patron; and he tells me he saw several feeding in the open. These, of course, with a little patience and livebait fishing, are to be had, but to throw a spinning bait about in quieter waters than a weir the chances are against the angler, not that I am an advocate for livebaiting, far from it, but at present they will have it no other way. At the Ferry, Windsor side, an old acquaintance of mine has been showing himself—lucky is the man who gets him—I have never been favoured with a run from him, but should I get one, doubtless your readers will hear all about it, as I only know of one fish in the neighbourhood that will come anywhere near his weight. Should the wind alter, some good fish will be had if anglers try them, at least, this is the opinion of your correspondent,—B. R. BAMBRIDGE.

P.S.—The two first trout taken at Boveney Weir were caught with Bambridge's split tail spinner.

Wharfe.

The trout-fishing opened here 1st April, in the river Wharfe, under bad circumstances for fly-fishing, the river being more suitable for minnow and worm. There were a few tried fly, the takes being about 6 brace each. A few trout were also killed with artificial minnow brags and Devon. The killing flies were March brown, waterhen, partridge, freckled dun, and snipe.—W.B.

Wye and Derwent.

Both the Wye and Derwent have been well patronised by anglers during the past week; and I am pleased to say, as a rule, there have been some excellent baskets of trout killed lately in the Wye, and also off the Derwent, chiefly with the artificial fly and by trolling, with the well-known "Derby Trout Killer," on the Derwent. This is the very best bait out for taking large trout, especially when the water is slightly discoloured. One angler here, in Matlock, has already this season killed over thirty brace of good-sized trout with it. The worm is still followed, with good results, in various parts of the Derwent, the streams being the best places to kill fish in; and both the small cockspur and brandlings are the best kind of worms that can be used. Bumble point furnace 1st drop, and February red 2nd drop, are killers. I hear of several good trout being killed in the deeps at Matlock Bath with tight lines, baited with both minnows and lob-worms. Both rivers are now in first-class condition for angling, and there is every appearance of the Easter holiday piscators having a first-class time of it.—G. J. EATON, Starkholmes, Matlock Bath.

CLUB REPORTS.

ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this society met in good numbers on Wednesday, the 29th ult., Mr. C. Daniels in the chair. After a long discussion it was decided to abolish Rule 22. During the evening the quarterly prizes were distributed, the following being the successful members: Mr. A. Glass, gross weight of jack and largest roach; Mr. A. Shakel, gross weight of roach, &c.; Mr. W. Streeton, handsome timepiece; Mr. R. Smith, superior fishing, box and tackle; Mr. B. C. Booth, a very pretty teapot; Mr. D. Davis, fishing tackle; Mr. T. Bowling, fishing tackle.—D. DAVIS, sec.

April 3.

ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

At the request of several friends of the above society, the drawing for the picture presented by Greville Fennell, Esq., will be postponed till after Friday. April 21st. Tickets not paid for by that date will not be drawn for.—R. GHURNEY, sec.

April 5.

CAMBRIDGE FRIENDLY ANGLING SOCIETY.

The annual dinner of the above society will take place on Thursday, the 13th inst.—W. SUTOTN, sec.

April 5.

CROWN PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

This promising society held its first meeting on Thursday, March 30, the comfortable club room being fairly filled with brothers of the rod. There were fifteen members made; five of these were members of the Original Clerkenwell Piscatorials. The two members that were expelled from that society have nothing whatever to do with this new club; and if Mr. Lucy, senior, secretary of that society, intended justice to the angling community, he should have inserted the names of those members that were expelled for unfair fishing, viz., Mr. Lucy, junior, and his friend, Mr. Burke. By inserting this you will be doing justice to the anglers at large.—W. H. BURWASH, jun., sec.

April 5.

DE BEAUVOIR ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. G. Colls weighed a trout from the Thames of 7 lb., and Mr. Starkey a fish of 1¼ lb. from the Lea.—A. Z.

April 4.

DUKE OF CORNWALL.

The next return visit of No. 1 District will take place at the Duke of Cornwall, Lismore Circus, Haverstock Hill, N.W., on April 11 (Easter Tuesday) when the members will be pleased to see the representatives of any society in or out of the district. Midland trains to Haverstock Hill, North London to Gospel Oak, King's Cross trams and 'busses from the West End, will bring members within two minutes of the club house. —J. HECKFORD, sec.

April 4.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The meeting of this society on Thursday last, which we briefly reported last week, was of exceptional interest, many useful suggestions being made in the course of the customary discussion on the society's work. The society is now thought to be sufficiently strong to rent water, in addition to that at Waltham, and Messrs. Alfred, Frost, Jardine, Brett, and Godwin were chosen as a sub-committee to look after the society's requirements. Mr. Jardine offered a pike rod and Nottingham reel, Mr. Brett giving other accessories for the best pike caught by a member in public waters next season, an offer which was received with much applause. The attention of members just now is of course more specially devoted to the trout, of which it is hoped some good shows will be made. Mr. Wheeldon, whose genial presence is ever welcomed at the society's gatherings, presents "the best rod that money can buy for the largest Thames trout caught spinning this season," and to make the equipment complete Mr. Frost adds the line and winch, and Mr. Field the landing-net. Dr. Brunton followed with the gift of a fly-rod for the largest trout caught with a fly, and landed without net, gaff, or other assistance. Mr. Jardine, Dr. Brunton, Mr. Wheeldon, and others, gave interesting details of their piscatorial experiences, for which they were heartily thanked by the members present. The society will be represented at the national competition on Loch Leven next month by Messrs. Frost and Slater, than whom it would be difficult to find more skilful representatives. Mr. Frost presented the society with a very handsome and valuable fac-simile copy of "Ye Art of Fishing with an Angle," by Dame Juliana Berners, for which a vote of thanks was also quickly passed. The respect in which the society is held in the provinces was shown by the warm and hospitable reception accorded to Mr. Crumplen, in company with Messrs. Jardine, Brett and Towse, at the meeting of the Reading and District Angling Association, held at the Great Western Hotel, Reading, on Saturday last. "Prosperity to the Gresham Angling Society" was duly given and honoured, coupled with the names of Messrs. Jardine and Crumplen, to which both gentlemen made suitable replies; Mr. Jardine very ably pointing out the necessity of doing away with gross-weight competitions, the injurious character of which he thought beyond question. Mr. Crumplen followed, explaining some of the purposes of the Gresham, and thanking the society for their very friendly greeting. "Success to the International Fisheries Exhibition, 1883," followed, to which Mr. Towse responded; Mr. Jardine advocating the claims of the exhibition upon the angling world with his accustomed eloquence and wit. Considerable interest was evinced in the particulars given by Mr. Towse, whose earnest work in furtherance of the objects of the exhibition cannot be too highly commended. The Reading Association will be sure to respond liberally to such an appeal. Several important papers will shortly be read before the Gresham, and these, with sundry modifications of rules and other matters, will fully occupy the society during the next two or three months.

HOXTON BROTHERS.

The above society have now removed from the Jane Shore, High Street, Shoreditch, to the Cherry Tree, Kingsland Road, one minute's walk from the North London Railway Station, Shoreditch, where the members will be happy to receive a visit from their brother anglers to inspect their handsome and commodious club room.—R. GHURNEY, sec.

LENTON ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION, NOTTINGHAM.

The half-yearly dinner and distribution of prizes of the above association took place on Saturday last at the house of Mr. John Walker, the Black's Head Inn, Lenton, when about twenty-four members sat down to partake of a substantial repast provided by the host and hostess. After the cloth was drawn the prizes were distributed as follows:—Chub.—Mr. Geo. Tilley, 1st prize, 5 lb. 12 oz.; Mr. Miles Leake, 2nd, 3 lb. 3½ oz.; Mr. Thos. Sylvester, 3rd, 1 lb. 15 oz., two shot. Bream.—Mr. Hy. Hudson, 1st prize, 3 lb. 15¼ oz., three shot; Mr. E. Tomlinson, sen., 2nd, 3 lb. 11½ oz.; Mr. E. Perry, 3rd, 3 lb. 2¾ oz Roach.—Mr. A. Hazard, 1st prize, 1 lb. 7½ oz.; Mr. T. A. Hudson, 2nd, 1 lb. 7½ oz., less one shot; Mr. Thos. Stevenson, 3rd, 1 lb. 14¼ oz., less three shot. Dace.—Mr. F. Ludwig, 1st prize, 1 lb. 6¾ oz.; Mr. S. Mather, 2nd, 1 lb. 6½ oz., two shot; Mr. W. Mathews, 3rd, 1 lb. 5¾oz., one shot. Perch.—Mr. E. Tomlinson, jun., 1st prize, 1 lb. 12¼ oz.; Mr. J. Walker, 2nd, 1 lb. 7¾ oz., less one shot; Mr. J. Roper, 3rd, 1 lb. 4½ oz., two shot. After the prizes were awarded to the successful members the remainder of the evening was spent in harmony, and a hearty vote of thanks accorded to Mr. G. Tilley, the hon. sec., Mr. F. Ludwig, the president, and the host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. Walker, brought a very enjoyable evening to a close.

P.S.—It should he mentioned that Mr. Miles Leake, a member of the above association, caught a barbel while chub-fishing at Shardlow on January last, which weighed 9 lb., and in splendid condition. The fish has been set up by Mr. Stanley, of Nottingham, and is now on view at the club-house.

GEO. TILLEY, hon. sec.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

On Monday last a concert took place at the above society under the management of Mr. Willcockson, and they will be continued during the fence season, commencing at eight o'clock. Hoping to have the pleasure of meeting old faces.—THOS. WM. LUCY, Sec.

April 4.

SHREWSBURY SEVERN ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had a very full meeting last week, at which it was decided to have our first outing on Easter Monday, when there will be several valuable prizes fished for. The inaugural supper will take place the same evening, when we shall, I have no doubt, spend a most enjoyable time of it. I am happy to say that the society is increasing daily, and that by the end of the year I hope we shall form a strong club.—F. H. MORGAN, hon. sec.

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

V. August, Newcastle.—We wrote to address given in yours, but letter is returned "not known." You can have it if you send correct address. We insert no annonymous correspondence.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

CULTIVATION OF GRAYLING AND TROUT.

Sir,—It may interest some of your readers to have an account of an attempt to introduce grayling into the Colne, which I believe is likely to prove successful. Last year I obtained from the Peak Forest Club, Leeds, two thousand grayling fry, on the 28th May. The fry were delivered at King's Cross, were taken in a cab to Paddington, from thence by rail to West Drayton, and were then driven two miles to Delaford Park. On arriving at the riverside not one single little one was found to be dead. The fry were at that date certainly not three quarters of an inch in length, and they were introduced into a side ditch from whence they gradually worked their way through a grating into the main river Iver, which is a branch of the Colne. During the winter a keen lookout has been kept for the youngsters, and the keeper and several sharp-eyed piscine amateurs at various times declared that they could distinguish grayling amongst the young trout, dace, and minnows, which abound in the Iver; nevertheless, positive proof of success was wanting to my mind. The keeper, however, on March 18th endeavoured to catch a small jack with a cast net, just in front of the Delaford Manor House, and to his great delight brought to land a grayling, which on the following day was exhibited alive to the admiring eyes of Messrs. Victor Emanuel, Ernest Turner, and Edwin Gosling, all well known fishy enthusiasts. The fish was in splendid condition, and when placed on a piece of paper proved to be exactly five inches long, which all present considered to be a wonderful growth to have taken place in less than ten months, and which I think proves that the Colne and its branches are probably, as I have long thought, well adapted for that handsome, elegant, and toothsome fish, *salmo thymallus*. I need not point out that it would prove most important and interesting to all lovers of fly-fishing if the grayling could be introduced successfully into the many admirable trout streams which exist within a radius of thirty miles of the metropolis. Our keeper, Sergeant Beck, has this season erected some hatching boxes on a small branch of the river, in which he has just succeeded in bringing to life some 150,000 young trout, which I am sure he would willingly show to any of your readers who may be interested in pisciculture, and who may happen to be in the vicinity of West Drayton. These young trout are all obtained from Colne and Wycombe fish, and as they are all born in a natural running stream I expect very good results. It is proposed, however, not to permit them to escape into the main river until they are six or eight months old. Should any one desire to obtain any of these fine strains of fish for stocking, there will probably be more than will be required for the Iver.—I am, &c., Llewelyn Thomas.

[We most heartily congratulate Dr. Thomas on the gratifying success which he is able to describe already in connection his attempt to introduce grayling into the Colne. We know the water, and feel sure the fish will prosper.—Ed.]

TROUT IN THE THAMES.

Sir,—Your correspondent B. has misapprehended my remarks. Far be it from me to behave uncourteously to a gentleman like Mr. Forbes, who has spent time, labour, and money in endeavouring to benefit anglers. My remarks were intended for those preservation societies who apply to the general angling public for subscriptions to preserve the rivers, and then spend the money in purchasing trout fry. I am sorry to be obliged to differ from your correspondent B. when he tries to prove the success of trout rearing from the fact that 278 were turned into the river. No one disputes the turning of trout into the river. To prove the success, it is necessary to show how many come out of the river. Your correspondent R. D. E. says that during twenty years the experiment has been tried, and he admits that, as far as brook trout are concerned, the experiment has been a failure. What would be the simplest and most effectual way of propagating the Thames trout proper? Next to seeing a great improvement in keeping the Thames free from impurities, it would be necessary to net out jack and perch as far as possible. Now I always endeavour, as far as I can, to conscientiously represent the opinions of the great body of the club anglers, and I think I don't misrepresent them when I say that what gentlemen may do in the way of trout rearing at their own expense, they (the club anglers generally) have no wish to interfere with; but they don't want to see any fish netted from the Thames to make room for trout, nor to see funds they subscribe for the preservation of the river applied for the propagation of trout of any description.—I am, &c., A. J. Marriott.

March 30.

[The Thames trout can take care of itself as far as pike and perch are concerned, and no one would dream of attempting to make the Thames a trout preserve. If Mr. Forbes can rear Thames trout and place them of a good size and in any quantity in the river, he will be doing all anglers a benefit. We presume no angler considers a trout beneath his notice if he happens to catch one when perch or roach or barbel fishing, and the more trout we have the more chance will there be of all getting a share of them.—Ed.]

THAMES TROUT-FISHING.

Sir,—Could you, or any of your readers, kindly inform me whether the weirs on the Thames are all free for trout-fishing, and whether spinning a dead bleak, or fishing with a live minnow or worm, can be used; or is the angler strictly confined to artificial bait-spinning and fly-fishing? If dead bleak may be used for spinning, is it illegal to angle for bleak in the Thames for bait, or where can they be obtained?—I am, &c., Z. A.

[Most of the Thames weirs are open to the public. You can angle for Thames trout in any way you like, but spinning a dead or artificial bait, or fly-fishing, are the only sportsmanlike methods in our opinion. Nearly all the fish are, however, taken by live baiting—a monstrous method. You can spin a sprat as easily as a bleak. The fisherman can generally procure you bait. It is not illegal to take bleak for bait, but you must be able to prove convincingly that you are doing so for that purpose.—Ed.]

LINES MADE OF HUMAN HAIR, THE ACME LINE, &c.

Sir,—Will "Creel" give some further information concerning the fishing qualities of his friend's lines, made from human hair (*vide* the account of those made from the hairs of an Abyssinian woman). I have in early days made for myself several lines by the method he describes, which is very good, but very slow work; yet where the superior quality of a particular line is a consideration, the time is not wasted—especially as it will be impossible to purchase such lines as he describes made from human hair.

Will "Creel" kindly say (1) What relative strength a human-hair line bears to ordinary fine trout lines made of eight-plait silk, and waterproofed? (2) How it is for stiffness in casting the fly. (3) How does it wear as regards the chafing consequent upon friction through the rod rings—which is almost incessant in fly-fishing? (4) Its weight per yard as compared with lines above mentioned. (5) Its tendency to rot from age or long use. The great desideratum in a perfect line for casting the fly is permanent stiffness in use, and a constant given weight. In silk and horse-hair lines this is constantly varying in proportion as to whether the line is wet or dry, and is a great hindrance to correct casting. The waterproofed eight-plait silk lines vary less in this respect, but they often soon lose their protective covering, and the denuded silk line becomes soft, limp, and "waterlogged," and soon ceases to answer to the spring of the rod as when new. The new "Acme" lines brought out by Mr. Foster (at the original suggestion of the writer) are a great improvement in this respect over any other lines I have used, they are very fine eight-plait silk lines, waterproofed, but stiffened by a fine softly annealed copper wire plaited into the body of the line. This gives the desired permanent stiffness, no matter whether the line be wet or dry, old or new, and the further advantage that a thinner line can be used, giving the same weight for casting with less resistance from the air, and a greater power of throwing the fly in the case of adverse currents of wind. As a new article, it remains to be proved by use whether these lines will wear as well as the old ones, but I see no reason why they should not do so. They are exceedingly strong and pleasant to fish with, and the "cast" can be made much longer than with any other line, an advantage where fine and far off fishing is necessary.

As the lines are advertised in your paper, anglers can try them for themselves.

I have an idea that a good tapered line made from rather coarse human hair might, however, prove the finest article in existence for fly-fishing, and I should feel obliged to "Creel" for any information on the subject.

The Hampshire system of fishing with the dry-fly, as in common use on all chalk-stream trout fisheries, would probably be improved by the light floating property of lines made from human hair, as a line which lies lightly on the water is less calculated to drown the dry fly than a line which sinks quickly under water,—I am, &c, March Brown.

Leicester.

EYED HOOKS, &c.

Sir,—I am glad you liked the patterns I sent for your inspection, and I am much obliged for your favourable notice of the hooks. As to the knot, it is the simplest thing in the world, when seen, but it is not easy to describe it on paper without a sketch. If the enclosed description and diagram is of any use, I shall be glad if you will kindly make it known. I have had numberless letters on the subject, and I have met with anglers who strongly condemned the hooks because they could not tie them on properly. At Winchester, I once met a stranger who held up to scorn and ridicule my pet hooks, and I was greatly amused at his emphatic condemnation of "these beastly things," as he called them. As soon as I tied a fly on for him and showed him the knot, the case was quite altered. Last year, too, on the Usk, I met an angler, who had only one thing to say, and that was—"They must be very bad." If so, I have been wilfully using very bad hooks for four years, and I hope to persist in the same folly for a good many more seasons yet.

Since writing my last letter, I observe that one of your correspondents mentions Messrs. O'Handlen and Co., of Bristol. I know the shop well, and Mr. R. D. Frost, who is the manager of the business, has carried out many orders for me in the most obliging way. I so rarely buy flies anywhere, that I have had no dealings with Mr. Frost in this department for a long time, but he is largely patronised by anglers in the West of England; and I expect he would be found a good authority on Devonshire flies.

When I wrote before, I had no idea that flies on the eyed hooks were to be obtained in Bristol, or I should certainly have mentioned Mr. Frost. I have had large stores of choice hackles and other feathers from him, and amateur fly-tyers will find his table-vice a very cheap and handy little tool. I have recently got three of them for different friends.

Mr. Frost's address is 48, Victoria Street, Bristol, and he is a practical angler of wide experience. No one can go into the shop without admiring his beautiful preserved fish—nearly all captured by himself.—I am, &c.,

H. S. Hall.

Clifton.

[We have had a woodcut made of the sketch, showing how the eyed hook is knotted to the gut, and print it elsewhere, with Mr. Hall's description. It is the simplest thing, when once known, but no other knot answers the purpose of keeping the hook standing out stiff on the gut.—Ed.]

SPECIMEN FISH AND GROSS WEIGHTS.

Sir,—L. B. asks for a definition of the terms "specimen fish" and "gross weights." I understand "specimen fish" to be fish of exceptional size or weight, shown to a society by a member as the best samples of his take, the smaller fish being returned to the stream. Societies adopting this principle fix their minimum standard higher than ordinary, that no inducement may be offered for the depletion of our rivers by the capture of small fish.

By "gross weight" I understand the system which encourages a member to weigh-in every fish coming up to the society's scale, however low their standard may be; a system which, to my mind, is injurious to the true interests of anglers. This, however, is a matter of opinion, on which L. B. and myself must agree to differ at present. Time will inevitably show which is right.

I fully agree with him that "poor Joe Smith or Bill Brown" is as true a sportsman as may be even the wealthiest member of any angling society in existence, subject only to one proviso. That proviso is, that "poor Joe Smith" fishes for the love of the sport, and not for the sole object of beating his neighbour and taking a prize. I have met many a true sportsman among ordinary club anglers, and I know that their leaders have the best interests of the craft at heart. They are worthy of all honour, but I do regret the tendency which now and then unconsciously appears (in one or two instances only) to set class against class, instead of uniting heartily for the common benefit of all.—I am, &c., T. Crumplen.

ANGLING CONTESTS AND ANGLING CLUBS.

Sir,—In reply to J. M. D., I can assure him that the bad sport in the portion of the Trent to which I referred is entirely owing to the gross-weight system, and public and private competitions.

By private competitions I mean two or more members of any given club pitting themselves against each other, or against members of other clubs, for the express purpose of seeing who can kill the greatest weight of fish in a given time for a small stake—literally, for a small steak. Why cannot these ambitious gentlemen go in for sticklebacks and minnows, numbers only to count?

On many days throughout the season from 80 to 100 so-called anglers visit this part of the Trent, and are called "club" men; many, I have no doubt, very decent, respectable, and fair fishermen, but by far the greater portion what I should call the stickleback and minnow brigade, their great ambition being to clear the expenses of their outing by selling the fish on their return to town. Before doing this, they of course, weigh-in the best at the club, keeping back the small fry.

And I simply say—after fishing this part of the Trent for thirty-four years, and after having noted every species of club men, from the old general who would throw you off the scent as to where he caught such a number of barbel, to the most inexperienced recruit—I can say, without the slightest hesitation, they stick at nothing to gain this object. I believe the great mass of the London club men are quite above this kind of thing; but J. M. D. must know there is a good deal of betting going on as to the result of these individual and club competitions, for which the poor finny tribe in the shape of the "small fry" have to suffer

How often we read in a certain paper (at least I have):—"The long talked-of roach match for £10 a side came off on Thursday last in the river Lea, between Messrs. Perch and Dace; and, after a rare struggle, Mr. Dace proved successful by 9 oz. N.B.—It is said a good sum of money changed hands over the affair." I suppose you know why a good sum of money changed hands over this affair, Mr. Editor? Of course you do, though J. M. D. may plead ignorance. I will quote the same paper on another of these occasions, and perhaps that will enlighten him; "a good deal of surprise was expressed at Mr. Eel being so easily defeated." Upon my word it is most amusing.

"But," says that all-powerful and wonderful potentate, the secretary, when you approach him in all the majesty of office, "undersized fish are not weighed-in on these occasions, sir." All I can say is, I am very glad to hear it, Mr. Secretary; but, if they were, I suppose you could make a rule to prevent such competitions taking place between members of YOUR club, or between *your* club and other clubs. If you could, why, in the name of all that is wonderful, don't you?

I am told that *some* of the London clubs give prizes to be fished for every other Sunday throughout the season. Where does the money come from to pay for all these prizes? I dare say this question will raise a laugh; but you see I am labouring under great disadvantages; I never belonged to an angling club; *ergo*, perhaps, I am not a fit and proper person to talk about such matters. Rather green, in fact, and mayhap prating about that of which I know nothing. But on the principle that those who look on see most of the game, I have ventured to make these few observations.

I say "ventured," because we know what to expect when we begin to knock over the idol a man worships, no matter how imperfect it may be. I can tell J. M. D. one thing, the stickleback and minnow brigade have made it so very warm one way and the other on the portion of the Trent to which I refer, viz., between Carlton and Crunwell, on the western side of the river, that the land owners—who were glad to see me in days of yore—now not only refuse to smoke a pipe with me, but charge me one shilling for a day's fishing; with strict injunctions (delivered in tones "not loud, but deep") not to break down the fences. J. M. D. can draw his own conclusions. In conclusion, let the secretaries and committees of all fishing clubs (1) prevent members making gross-weight matches with each other; (2) prevent members making gross-weight matches with members of other clubs; (3) stop the excessive teapot, tobacco pipe, German flute, and tin whistle prize gifts; (4) publish the name of any member obtaining a prize unlawfully; (5) only give prizes for specimen fish, and those but seldom. Hoping J. M. D. and others will profit by these remarks, is the earnest wish of yours truly, MARK ANTONY.

[Quite right, "Mark Antony"; anglers must set their faces against the prize-fishing, pot-fishing, and betting elements.—ED.]

ANGLING DURING THE FENCE MONTHS.

SIR,—I should feel obliged for your opinion of the following affair:—I am a member of an angling society not 100 miles from the Old Kent Road, and last week it was coolly proposed, seconded, and carried that the following rule be abolished:—"Any member found fishing during the fence months shall be excluded and forfeit all moneys paid." The reason given was that one or two members had chances of some fishing in private waters. My contention is that public or private waters make no difference. Fish are in the same unhealthy condition during this part of the season, and it is a most unsportsman like proceeding on behalf of the club abolishing the best law of the society. I think, if the association with which we are connected knew of such a proceeding, they would certainly interpose in the matter. I shall decline having anything to do with any angling club which allows such a state of affairs.—I am, &c.,

JAMES BODELL.

147, Farmer's Road, Wyndham Road, Camberwell.

[As far as our experience goes, we should say the fish will always be in a very much more unhealthy condition in June than they will be in March or April. The only fish which spawn early are the jack, dace, and perch. In our opinion there is nothing "unsportsmanlike" in fishing for roach, chub, bream, carp, tench, gudgeon, &c., fully a month longer than the Act allows. It is much more unsportsmanlike to take them in the condition they usually are when the fence time ends.—ED.]

THE WELSH HARP.

SIR,—Will you kindly inform me if the Welsh Harp fishery is open to the public during the close season or not, and, if so, please inform me the fee for bank-fishing a day.—I am, &c., C. J. TURNER.

[It is open. The charge is 1s. per day. Bream are the chief fish, and they will be in season for another six or eight weeks.—ED.]

Re THE WARWICKSHIRE AVON.

A DIFFICULT QUESTION.

SIR,—Many thanks to your reply to my query of March 22.

Your closing remark, "you hope we do not wish to take fish out of season," is exactly what we are most anxious to avoid; but as the Act stands we are positively compelled to do so or wait four months before commencing to fish. For when June 15 arrives all or nearly all the fish we catch will be in a wretched state, hence our desire to know if we may avail ourselves of the alteration. If so, we should simply make the close time a month or six weeks later, leaving us the two best months of the year. As regards our water, we are still in doubt as to what constitutes a private fishery. Our landlord holds a lease for one side of the river only, the opposite side belonging to a different owner; that being the case, has he the right to give us permission to alter the time? An early answer will oblige.—I am, &c., T. DEAR.

[The landlord has the right over the fishing from his side to the middle of the stream only.—ED.]

YARE PRESERVATION AND ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

SIR,—The annual dinner of the above society will be held on Wednesday, May 3rd, at the Royal Hotel, Norwich; C. L. Buxton, Esq., president, in the chair. As the number must necessarily be limited, the committee have agreed to confine the sale of tickets to members only until April 19th, after which date tickets undisposed of may be obtained by any gentleman desirous of attending the dinner.—Yours, &c., C. J. GREENE, hon. sec.

54, London Street, Norwich, April 3rd.

THE OXFORD ANGLING SOCIETY.

SIR,—On Wednesday evening, March 29, a meeting was held at Mr. Beckley's, Pheasant Inn (Mr. Sheriff Wheeler in the chair), for the purpose of forming an angling society for the city of Oxford; when, as about seventy gentlemen intimated their willingness to join, it is hoped to make the affair a great success. Several rules were carried by the company, but it was suggested, before printing them, I should write to you to allow us, through the medium of your capital paper, to ask any member of a fishing club if he would favour us with a copy of rules, as we wish ours to be as perfect as possible.

If any gentleman will so oblige us, we shall be very grateful, as one of our difficulties will then be smoothed over.

Apologising for thus troubling you.—I am, &c.,

The Pheasant Inn, St. Giles, April 3. THE HON. SECRETARY.

[Some time ago we printed fifty or sixty rules, which we selected from the books of rules of the chief angling clubs. We afterwards gave a prize at the Norwich Fisheries Exhibition for the best essay and code of rules for management of an angling society; and we afterwards printed the prize essay in the GAZETTE.—ED.]

TROUT FOR CEYLON.

SIR,—I beg to send you a copy of a letter received from Ceylon giving an account of a box of trout ova sent to that island, which, under all the circumstances, I consider favourable. I now hope that the streams of Ceylon will be fully stocked with magnificent trout, and that this experiment will induce others in other parts to follow my friend's example; as I think it is now fully proved that eggs can be sent, with small loss, anywhere in the world.

Cray Fishery, Foot's Cray, Kent. CHAS. C. CAPEL.
April 5, 1882.

[COPY.]

"St. John's, Uda Paselava,
"Ceylon, March 4, 1832.

"DEAR SIR,—I have much pleasure in announcing to you the safe arrival of the trout ova they reached their destination on March 1, in what, I imagine, would be considered a wonderfully healthy condition.

"On unpacking them, we threw away not more than 8 per cent. of the whole number. We have placed them in our troughs; which, however, were not quite large enough to receive the whole amount, and we therefore have distributed the surplus (about 1800 ova) part in two boxes placed in running streams, and part we placed in the main stream itself, leaving them to take care of themselves. The second day we threw away fifty dead ones from the troughs, the third day fifteen.

"I will give you further news of them as we go on; in the meantime, you are welcome to make any use of this letter you please.—Yours sincerely,

"(Sig.) HUGH L. HUBBARD."

MARLOW TROUTING.

MORE enthusiasm was shown, and more sportsmen were out, on the opening day at Marlow than has been the case for years. A fishing contest had been arranged and a prize rod secured for the successful competitor. Terms—Two in a punt with fisherman, heaviest trout to take the rod. Weigh-in at the Complete Angler, 6 p.m. Some half dozen took part in the sweepstake and good luck visited most of those entering. A nasty east wind with choppy water prevailed all day, but neither prevented the lunch baskets and bottles coming back empty. Five good trout were taken and sundry little ones, while pike would hook themselves. Mr. Gus. Astley-Bloxam took the rod with a 5-pounder, closely followed by Mr. Bedford's 4½ lb.; Mr. Scott secured one up to this weight. Mr. Footlit was unfortunate with a 10 or 12 pound fish, after ten minutes' careful play in a strong stream. The party dined together with a contingent of friends at the Complete Angler, when Mr. Bloxam took the chair at a capital feed; the rod, which is a handsome one, by Young of Oxford Street, was duly presented and acknowledged. As this little matter brought several new members to the association, the dinner, sport, and all, was declared a success and conducive to the interests of anglers generally. Another fishing match has been started for June 16th, opening general fishing. The fishermen employed were not forgotten, but were provided with a dinner at which a convivial evening was enjoyed, as a good beginning after the inaction and consequent low funds of the fence months. Several good fish have been taken since the the first, and the water is in good condition.—SPOTS.

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

RAILWAY ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

THE Great Eastern Railway have made special arrangements for the convenience of holiday makers, as will be seen from their advertisements and programmes. The G.E.R. opens up the almost limitless angling facilities afforded by the rivers and broads of Norfolk and Suffolk; in fact, so abundant are fish of all kinds that these two counties were specially exempted from the operation of the Mundella Act, and rod-fishing can be enjoyed all the year round. Of course, no angler worthy the name would take fish out of season merely because the law allows it; but there can be no objection to fishing all the year round only for fish in season. For particulars of the fishing-stations on the G.E.R., we refer our readers to Mr. C. Davies' "Guide to the Rivers and Broads of Norfolk and Suffolk," which we have noticed elsewhere this week.

THE CANAL AND CONFLUENT STREAMS.

"CHUB CHAVENDER," allow me to extend a kindly greeting across the waters to one who has found the value of Hertfordshire fishing. We little dreamed, when we wrote of the splendid trout to be found in the little Gade, that another correspondent of the GAZETTE would so aptly describe the fishing in the vicinity of Boxmoor. Even our courteous editor feared we were drawing on our imagination, or the fishing had changed with the lapse of years, when we urged the claims of these waters as good fishing grounds; but memory has not proved treacherous, nor the esparto broth killed all the fish.

We know these waters; our boyhood and early manhood was spent in the vicinity of these streams, and for years we lived at one of these mills. Your description has brought back old memories in a long train. We presume "Absence has made the heart grow fonder;" yet there has crept into your letter some errors which may mislead another. We know every spring, every brook and beck, even many of the trout holes and the favourite spots where the big jack were found. We guess you will return to Boxmoor again when the season opens and circumvent some of those big roach and perch and bring them in out of the wet.

Suppose when you visit Boxmoor again you spend part of one day exploring the little Bourne, from the point where it strikes the fishery at the saw-mills (Foster's). It drops down and runs under the canal through a culvert; here, as long as memory stretches back, we boys used to go to catch minnows for bait, where these minnows are found there you may rely on finding trout in the vicinity. We have seen the lordly trout with his broad tail fin lying just under the shadow of the arch, lazily fanning the cool waters and remaining just stationary out of the sunlight. We have followed the brook down to the brick bridge that crosses here for the road to the station; under this bridge with its deep shadows, we have seen good trout lying; under the willows that grow on the far side of the brook from the moor, lay trout. We have crept softly on the little bridge (just opposite the Baptist Chapel) and lying down have espied trout lying along its dark cool shadow. Let a stone drop, and off they go, like a flash, up stream. Just below, between the meadow that is shut in with a brick wall (old C——'s we boys used to call him), and the point where you strike the moor again, was a splendid stretch of trouting water; often we have seen trout by the dozen. The property on either side was leased from Boxmoor trust We never knew this water fished by a fly, but it had the reputation of being fearfully poached.

From the point where the foot bridge crosses—this is a single plank—along down to Two Waters mill, is an open stretch of water, shallow and broad, not many fish here; but we have seen trout lying in hiding behind masses of dog-tail moss, waiting for some unsuspecting minnow to come along and provide him a supper. Where the two streams meet and form the head race of Two Waters mill, was always a good spot to make a long cast with live bait, either small dace or gudgeon. We have seen some fine long noses (jack) taken from this spot, but it was a great privilege to be allowed to fish this water. G. W. Hayes, Esq., sometimes permitted anglers to have one day's fishing there. For eels this mill-head was a fine place; when the sluice gates were open on Sundays to let the water pass, eels quite often washed down the sheeted sluice-way. Below the mill was a willow bed; along the roots of the large trees on a clear gravelly bottom have we seen trout lie, and remember seeing a London angler deftly sweeping his pliant rod and landing his flies close to the roots of the trees. His judgment was correct, and a few casts brought out as handsome a trout as ever swam the Two Waters.

Let the angler turn back with me to the towpath where the Gade crosses the canal, we will take the road until we reach the little bridge opposite Mr. Balderson's wharf. Use well your eyes as we skirt this stream; there has always been trout in it, and if this stream was provided with properly constructed fish-passes—the fish in the upper reaches of the stream would often be seen here, but a mill-dam shuts them all in the upper stream, thus giving the privilege of trouting to the favoured few. At Pottoe's Bridge it is open water. Under this bridge, was always a hiding place for trout; for years we saw them daily during the summer and autumn of each year.

From this point there is a culvert running under the moor which carries the waters of two or three springs under the wall and into the private grounds of Mr. Balderson. Here there was at one time a lovely fishpond; it was reported that at one time many trout inhabited it. This explains how the trout reached the waters in front of the Bell Inn. From the pond the water emptied itself into a deep walled drain, into a culvert that run under the canal. From this point it was a dark, sharp running creek, almost covered with willows to the point where it joined the water from the waste gate at Two Waters mill; here was another little bridge and a deep hole that every Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, was expected to contain one or two good jack. The stream ran behind some cottages, widening and deepening as it went; here under the wide spreading alders on the meadow side, and willows on the other, the trout often lay hiding, but the footsteps would start them out. We have seen them caught there and know they were trout.

In that hole at the foot of the foreman's garden at Frogmore Mills we have caught many a jack and some big perch; we used to fish and spark the foreman's daughter at the same time. She would be apparently working, while I would read to her, glancing occasionally at my float. It was the old story over again.

> "So we sat down by the sunny dyke,
>   Where the white pond-lilies teeter;
> And I went fishing like quaint old Ike,
>   And she like Simon Peter.
> And when the time for departure came,
>   The bag was as flat as a flounder;
> But I had neatly hook'd her game,
>   A hundred and seventy pounder."

While she, to-day, is as fond of fishing as I am, and isas proud of her own fishing tackle as a thorough going fisherman, and as eagerly looks forward to the opening season and the mid-summer holidays as the other half of the family do.

But "Chub" has got a little mixed when he says this hole can be reached from the public path, there was a meadow about 100 yards wide between the pathway and this hole. A pretty long cast, even for the longest tackle?

Did this gentleman know that within a couple of hnndred yards of him was a deep hole, where the waste water of the mill was discharged, that was rarely without a big fish in it. A lively little stream emptied into the same pool and kept the water in a regular swirl. Plenty of minnows came into it in shoals; then there was fun, to see a big trout dash into them and scatter them before returning to the big stones where he hid, to digest his supper and await the massing of the minnows again, when he would repeat the charge. Sometimes a long snoot would be found in the pool, then Salmo was missing. We have tried to catch him but failed, we saw one there that must have been nearly two feet long, and believe it was finally wired by a gang of men that were always looking for chances to get him.

If "Chub Chavender" or L. B. fishes in the neighbourhood of Boxmoor again, let them look out for those back cuts and small creeks; they often lead into some deep hole or quiet running stream that would pay for inspection. Above all, they should take down with them a pair of wading pants or long wading boots, and if they intend staying three or four days, spend a little time in getting better acquainted with every brook and stream, for some of them contain fish that fishermen never dream of.

I can endorse what your valued correspondent says about the beauties of this busy Hertfordshire valley, its fine scenery from the common, the many bye-paths through the fields and along the hill-sides, along which the lads and blooming lasses wander at eventime; the two streams meandering through the valley, looking like threads of spun silver; the quiet of these hill-sides relieved only by the bleating of some sheep, the chirp of the cricket, the evening song of the woodland thrush, or the trilling melody of the nightingale, until the big red-faced sun sinks behind the western hills, and a gloaming creeps o'er the valley below you. At this moment sharp and clear comes the chimes from the parish steeple, flooding the air with music.

> "Those evening bells, those evening bells,
>   How many a tale their music tells,
> Of youth and home and that sweet time,
>   When last I heard their soothing chime."

We have wandered far, and amidst many beauteous scenes, but prominent above them all comes the quiet memories of evenings spent on the hill-sides of this neighbourhood, or besides the stream or canal, attempting to beguile the fine fishes.

We have wondered why some fishing club has not discovered these waters before this time and secured a lease of them, and commenced stocking them with the fry of coarse fish, such as are found in the waters at this time. NORMAN.

Chicago, February 28, 1882.

VASELINE.

THE Cheeseborough Manufacturing Company, have sent us a box of their exquisite soaps, pomades, creams, sweets, &c., for notice. It is somewhat out of our line to criticise such articles, but these various preparations are so thoroughly genuine, pleasant to use, and inexpensive, that we can speak in the highest terms of them. The Vaseline ointment we have used for the last two years and found it invaluable for sun-scorching, bruises and sprains, or anything that requires a perfectly pure ointment which never gets rancid. The Vaseline Soap makes the best shaving soap we have ever used. The angler-tourist will find a tablet or two of this soap and a small pot of vaseline most useful. One of the best testimomials this Vaseline, or Petroleum Extract, could possibly have is the fact that since it was introduced, it has come into general use in place of lard as a medium for making ointments of all kinds. Messrs. Yarde and Dalton of 60, Lamb's Conduit Street, Holborn, keep all the Vaseline preparations in stock.

NEW "KATHLEEN MAVOURNEEN."

Kathleen Mavourneen, the grey dawn is breaking,
 The birds in the buckwheat are whistling "Bob White,"
The maids in the kitchen my sandwich are making—
 Oh, don't keep me waiting—it's hardly polite.
It isn't the day to be taking a nap on;
 The yellow leaves whirl in the pale, slanting sun;
And see, I have put my corduroy cap on,
 And am snapping the locks of my breech-loading gun.
All day we will roam through the mild autumn weather,
 And find in the gloaming the bonny brown broods
Of dappled-wing quail, as they huddle together;
 For I know that my beauty delights in the woods.
At the whirr of a partridge you'll half lose your senses,
 And when the moon rises, hungry and wan,
We'll eat the raw turnip on ancient stone fences—
 At least, I will eat it and you may look on.
You'll prove yourself worthy the bright silver whistle
 You took at the show; but I can't understand
Why you don't come a-dancing, like down of the thistle,
 And leaping around me and licking my hand.
Come out of your kennel! You'll find that you'd better,
 Or the whip in my pocket will cause you to wail;
Oh, Kathleen Mavourneen, my red Irish setter,
 I'm off for the uplands to knock down the quail.

—Selected.

1st AWARD MELBOURNE EXHIBITION, 1881.

DAY, SON AND HEWITT'S
STOCKBREEDERS'
MEDICINE CHEST.

FOR ALL DISORDERS IN HORSES, CATTLE, CALVES, SHEEP, AND LAMBS.

In this chest are the following matchless and world-renowned remedies, all that a Farmer can require to cure disease amongst his Stock and keep them in fine, healthy, and buoyant condition:—

"CHEMICAL EXTRACT," for Wounds, Swollen Udders, and Ewes Lambing.
"GASEOUS FLUID," for Colic, Scour, and Debility.
"RED DRENCH," for Cleansing Cows and Ewes, &c.
"RED PASTE BALLS," for Conditioning Horses.
"BRONCHOLINE," for Husk, Hoose, or Cough.
'GASEODYNE," for Heaving or Paining.
"ALCOHOLIC ETHER," for Colds and Chills.
"CARMINATIVE CHALK," for Diarrhœa in Lambs and Calves.

Price of Chest, with "Key to Farriery," £2 16s. 6d., carriage paid. Each article can be had separately.

Patronised by Royalty, and used for over 40 years by the Leading Agriculturists of the British Empire.

CAUTION.—See that the Name of DAY, SON and HEWITT is on all Bottles and Packets.

DAY, SON AND HEWITT.
22, DORSET ST., BAKER ST., LONDON, W.,
AND WANTAGE, BERKS.

GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY.

TWO MONTHS, FORTNIGHTLY, and FRIDAY or SATURDAY to MONDAY (first, second, and third class) TICKETS are issued by all trains, at reduced fares to YARMOUTH, Lowestoft, Walton-on-the-Naze, Weeley (for Clacton-on-Sea), Harwich, Dovercourt, Aldeburgh, Felixstowe, Southwold, Hunstanton and Cromer.

EASTER HOLIDAYS.

The cheap Friday to Monday Tickets will be available for return up to and including Tuesday, April 11.

Cheap Excursion Tickets will be issued as under:

To Broxbourne and Rye House by any train, before 3.15 p.m., from Liverpool Street, St. Pancras, Kentish Town, Bishopsgate, Bethnal Green, Cambridge Heath, London Fields, Hackney Downs, Clapton, Coborn Road, Stratford and Tottenham; and by Special Train leaving Liverpool Street at 9.20 a.m. on Easter Monday, calling at Bishopsgate, Bethnal Green, Coborn Road, Stratford and Tottenham.

To Woodford, Buckhurst Hill and Loughton, by any train before 3.45 p.m., from Liverpool Street, Bishopsgate, Bethnal Green, Coborn Road, Fenchurch Street, Stepney, Burdett Road and Bow Road; and to Chingford by any train before 3.35 p.m., from Liverpool Street, Bishopsgate and Bethnal Green.

On Easter Monday additional trains will be run.

To Walton-on-the-Naze, Dovercourt and Harwich on Easter Sunday by train leaving Liverpool Street at 9 a.m.; and on Easter Monday by Special Train leaving Liverpool Street at 8 a.m. calling at Stratford.

Alexandra Palace.—On Easter Monday trains will run every half hour between Liverpool Street, Fenchurch Street and Palace Gates.

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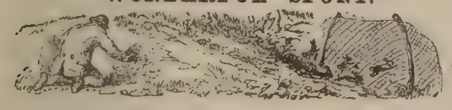

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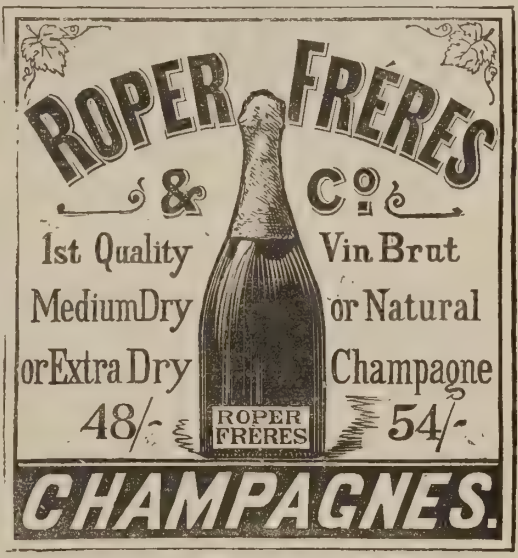

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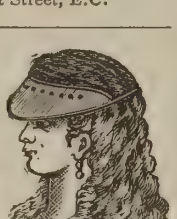

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 1882.

OPENING OF THE EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION.

THE International Fisheries Exhibition, in the Waverley Market, Edinburgh, was formally opened on Wednesday, under the most favourable auspices, the ceremony having been performed by the Earl of Rosebery. An hour before the opening took place, the public were admitted to the market, and in a short time several rows of reserved seats, placed on three sides of the raised platform, which occupied a central position, were filled, chiefly by ladies, and all the available space behind these seats was taken up by a large assemblage eager to secure the most advantageous position possible for witnessing the proceedings. During the hour also the band of the 3rd Royal Dragoons performed a selection of music, and twelve women wearing the Newhaven Fishwife costume took up a prominent position facing the platform, and their picturesque appearance seemed to attract the notice of the strangers present. The Executive Committee had issued a large number of invitations, and these were very largely responded to. The Lord Provost, Sir Thomas J. Boyd, and the Executive Committee received Lord Rosebery in a side room at a quarter to one, and precisely at the hour their lordships ascended the platform, preceded by the magistrates of the city, who wore their official robes.

The Earl of Rosebery, who was received with loud cheering, said:—My Lord Provost, my Lords, Ladies, and Gentlemen. It is a very high honour which you have thought fit to confer upon me, in asking me to open this most interesting and valuable exhibition, and here I cannot but express, what I know is in all your hearts, the regret that the Prince who takes his title from this city was unable at the last moment to perform the opening function as president. I can only hope humbly this, that though he would have done it with greater illustration and greater grace, he could not do it more concisely than I hope to do it on this occasion. ("Hear," and laughter.) In the first place, my lords and gentlemenn, it seem to me that we owe a word of recognition to your committee and its subordinates. It is only in consequence of their exertions by day and by night—I believe all through last night—that this exhibition has been brought to its present beauty and perfection. (Cheers). Now they have collected, as it seems to me in glancing over the catalogue, an unrivalled exhibition. They have got products from Siberia to Italy, from Sweden to America, and when I mention Sweden I must be allowed especially to call attention to that unrivalled Swedish collection which under the auspices of the distinguished Oscar Dickson has been brought to this country. (Cheers). In this exhibition, if it acts up to its promises—and eye-witnesses tell me it will act fully up to its promises—in this exhibition we shall see the fish, as it were, from the cradle—I was going to say to the grave—(laughter)—but I would rather say to the dish. (Renewed laughter.) We shall see the exertions of their friends, who bring them into life and preserve them when living, and more particularly preserve and tin them when dead. We shall see the enemies of fish and of fishermen in the shape of the fish-eating bird and the Belgian devil. (Laughter). I do not know if there are any products or specimens here bearing on the gradual disappearance of that doomed monster, the whale, or of the seals, but we shall have products bearing on the pestilence of the royal salmon, and on the increasing seclusion of the solitary and gregarious oyster. (Laughter and cheers.) Gentlemen, in this connection I must rejoice to see that there is a collection of the literature and the records of fishing. That literature is collected and devoured by a people who never saw a hook or a fly, but who simply do so that in those fresh pages they may breathe again the crisp air of the morning, and hear the whirling of the brook. There is further the more gloomy collection of literature connected with pisciculture and fishing. I mean those blue-books with an ancient and fish-like smell which are constantly produced for the benefit of Parliament. (Laughter.) I have no doubt the latest addition to that literature, the production of my friend who is here present, Mr. Duff, on the Herring Brand, will be in the collection, and all those annual volumes which are produced by the exertions of Mr. Huxley and Mr. Walpole, who have come from the south to give their blessing to this exhibition. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) Well, gentlemen, all this literature is interesting and fascinating enough, but there is a literature connected with fisheries of a more tragic kind. We see in this exhibition models for improving the homes and increasing the safety of fishermen. We none of us can forget n this connection that tragic blast which, coming to us n the middle of last October, made so many women widows nd childless. It will be the great object of this exhibition, if understand it right, to promote all that may increase the safety and well-being of those who go down to the seas and do their business in the great waters. Well, gentlemen, this leads me to conclude by remarking on what seems to me to be the two main objects of this xhibition. There is, firstly, the object of gratifying curiosity, of giving us some insight into what underlies the endless mystery of the sea, in giving us some knowledge of what the real inhabitants of the oundless ocean may be. But, secondly, there is the most serious nd the most weighty side of this exhibition—I mean the incalculable ractical benefit of it. We have developed much of our fisheries, but much remains to be done in the way of promoting and increasing the supply of fish, and in the way of preventing waste of fish. Already the rivers of different parts of the globe exchange their various fishes. Much remains to be done in that way; but besides all that we have to secure the swiftest means of transmission and the most available means of distribution for all the products of the wave, and above all and beyond all, as I said a moment ago, to secure increased and improved means of safety and refuge in the shape of boats of a superior kind and harbours of an improved model. (Applause). Well now, gentlemen, in the way of developing the welfare of our fishermen and those connected with them, in the way of developing for the increasing millions of the world the food that lies at present in the deep, in the way of supplying from the ocean the increasing populations that live upon the globe—I say in the work of making the products of the ocean subserve the inhabitants of the earth—in these ways there is ample scope for this exhibition, and none who consider it in that larger and wider and more useful sense can fail to see the world-wide importance of this exhibition which you, my Lord Provost, have called on me to open to-day. (Applause.)

The Earl of Stair, in moving a vote of thanks to the Earl of Rosebery, said he rejoiced that this exhibition promised to be a great success, and he trusted it might prove extremely useful, more especially to our gallant and hardy fishermen, whom he saw so beautifully represented in the front row. (Laughter and cheers.) They would find much that was useful in connection with the implements of their craft, so that for the future they might be able to carry on their dangerous calling with greater safety, and at the same time they might hope more profitably for themselves and families (Cheers.) He trusted, as he said before, that sooner or later some harbours of refuge would be given them in Scotland.

Three cheers were then given for the Queen. The band of the 3rd Dragoon Guards played the National Anthem. A procession was then formed of the noblemen and gentlemen on the platform who had taken part in the opening ceremony, and they visited the different sections.

THE LONDON EXHIBITS AT EDINBURGH.

WE are glad to hear that Sir James Maitland, Bart., and Mr. Cook, the hon. sec. of the Edinburgh International Fisheries Exhibition, have most warmly congratulated the London Committee on the "magnificent display" made by the cases from the London clubs and private anglers. It is the largest collection, it was the first completed, and every case is in its place without a single breakage. The Frank Buckland Collection from the South Kensington Museum, sent to Edinburgh through the exertions of the London Committee, is also attracting great admiration amongst our Scotch friends, who have really got a most beautiful and valuable exhibition together in a wonderfully short time. We shall keep our readers well posted in all that may be novel in the exhibition.

THE SPAWNING OF FISH.

SO many questions arise as to the period when fish spawn, it is desirable to give information when any particular specie begins to discharge its ova; but it is said much depends upon the mildness or severity of the winter. When the winter has been a mild one, like the last, the fish are expected to spawn very much earlier; but I do not think this has been the case with the perch, as, from past experience, they have usually spawned about this time of the year in the Thames. In "Otter's Modern Angler," the author says: "They appear to spawn at various times; in some places in March, in others not till May or June." They are never so late as the two latter months in the Thames, at least as far as I know: and I have known them to spawn at the end of March. At the end of last week, the perch commenced to deposit their ova on the boughs in the backwater at Walton; and that old and successful fisherman, George Hone, was full of excitement, for it is generally believed he never sleeps until the whole of it has gone safely into life and out of the reach of the swans. This is an example for other fishermen to follow who take an interest in the river, and are anxious to give their clients a good day's fishing. In addition to Hone's watchfulness, his efforts are admirably supplemented by Mr. H. E. Wood, the piscatorial proprietor of the Angler's Hotel, who is always on the look-out in his boat, and he has been seen in the small hours of the morning rowing about the river looking after the swans. I think we are improving very much in the angling character of the river-side hotel proprietors. The old house on the Egham side of the river at Staines, called the Swan Hotel, has lately changed hands, and the new host, Mr. Currie Banfield, has initiated his desire to look after the anglers by enrolling himself as a member of the T.A.P.S. This example has been followed by about three others during the last week. It is safe to predict from this movement, that if we get an earnest feeling amongst the hotel proprietors, for the protection and preservation of the fishery, they will in their own districts take an interest in looking after it: whether it is at the present time in protecting the perch ova; at other times in preserving the fish from unfair practices; and generally to uphold the true principles of fair fishing. And they may rest assured, so long as they do this, the anglers will accord them liberal support. B.

THOUGHTS ON THE THEORY OF FLIES.

By Robert Balderston.

ONE of the greatest points of disagreement amongst the angling brotherhood is the matter of flies; so much is this the case that very fiery episodes have at various times transpired between the advocates of rival theories. Head of his clan, the name of "Ephemera" may be ranked on the one side—a name that has won for itself undying laurels in many piscatory works—whilst, on the other, Stewart, Stoddart, Wilson and Pennell are found as the exponents of heterodox doctrines. This being the case, and as there are several various shades in the hues of falsity emanating from the different orbs of fluviatile learning, it may, perhaps, be as well to review the opinions flowing from these different centres.

I. The most deft craftsmen, almost with one consent, acknowledge that certain imitations are more deadly than others; whilst the lethal qualities of these vary with the season of the year, one fly being at times more deadly, whilst at others it is a distinct variety which assumes the killing qualities. In addition to this, it is held that the seasons during which any kind of fly manifests its slaughtering power are pretty nearly constant, each month of the year yielding its own peculiar insects; and the corresponding imitations being only useful during the time of existence of the real flies. These imitations are likewise believed to be true and good representations of the insects after which they are named. Shape, size, and colour are all closely copied; and in employing the bait the angler either endeavours to imitate the floating passive state of the insect, or may, by some of the actions of manœuvring, try to represent the struggling, darting, or fluttering movements of various flies when in or just over the water; and sometimes, in order more fully to depict these appearances, the fly is dressed 'buzz,' the hackles and wings being laid on the hook in a spreading manner, so as to be more easily acted on by the water, under the influence of which the feathery fibres open and close as if moved by a living power.

II. There are other anglers who uphold the opinion that the shape and size of the bait are the only matters worthy of attention, the colour and mottling of the wings and hackles being points of little moment.

III. Another group of the fraternity, especially found in Scotland, uphold the use of five flies only, these merely varying in size. Colour here is the all-important feature: a black, a red, and a light blue hackle being the three standard hues, to the two former of which a woodcock's feather may be attached for wings, making, in all, three hackles and two winged flies. A great point in this case is the material of which the flies are made; soft, yielding fibres of the starling or landrail, easily moving in the water, and not sheltering the point from impinging on the piscine jaws, being objects kept forcibly in view.

IV. There are, however, other Scotch anglers who, out of mere simplicity, rest their unswerving faith on the "harelug"—this being a very Protean organism: at one time it is the real blue dun of many shades; at another it is nothing less than a yellow dun; again it is the little pale blue of the same group which is depicted; whilst even the whirling and some of the smaller duns also find a place in the list—the blue tint of the wing and the amount of blue, yellow and ruddy silk, with the usual admixture of hare's ear fibres, being slightly varied. Even the March brown and other flies may be found amongst the number, if a wing of an entirely different shade be substituted. Thus all these glorious duns, and even other flies, may be represented, whilst still the lure passes by the vague name of "harelug," more or less varied by certain additions, as hare's ear and blue, hare's ear and yellow, harelug and partridge wing. Despite all this, the angler on whose cast such flies are found, may depose that he is an unbeliever regarding blue and yellow duns, March browns, and all the other mimic insects employed by anglers of more skill; albeit he is the same time using flies, the actual copies of the insects he abjures—dressed perhaps, more rudely than, and not quite so true to nature as, the patterns which he scorns, yet without doubt the same.

V. Some angling authorities have been bold enough to advocate the use of only three flies, maintaining that general shape, general colour, and size, are the conditions to be observed; that exact shape and colour cannot be imitated, and that it is, therefore, on this presumption, needless to attempt precise representations; especially as these opinionists conceive it impossible for trout, to observe all the minute shades, markings, and peculiarities of flies upon or below the water. Moreover, they maintain that such discrimination is contrary to known facts; for fish are taken by means of poor imitations, which are far worse representations of any known insects than any one of the three flies by which they swear. These flies—which, to the fishes, are meant to be as the three Fates, spinning the piscine destinies—have the general form of spinners, or duns dressed "buzz;" whilst the colours of each are unmixed, one being yellow, another claret-brown, and the third, a dark green.

VI. Lastly, there are a few altogether heretical anglers who presume to declare that trout do not mistake the artificial fly for any insect whatever, but are deceived by the life-like movements of the hackles into believing it to be something living, and therefore something suitable for food. This latter group of fly-fishers may be summarily dismissed; for, apart from all the many facts witnessed daily in the practice of the art, and which plainly, expose the absurdity of such a supposition, there are many anecdotes of casual mistakes which have been made by other animals, clearly showing that what appeared to be beautiful imitations in the eyes of the long experienced angler, are really no mean mimics, but actually assume the forms of the flies which they are meant to represent. Swallows, insectivorous birds, keen of sight and constantly seizing their minute prey when gliding swiftly on the wing, are not likely to be so blind as the prejudiced angler, or so foolish either, as to be deceived by the work of the practised fly-tyer, unless the workmanship be good and the thing of silk and feathers insect-like indeed. But it is undeniable that swallows are not unfrequently deluded by such a combination, and brought fluttering to the angler's feet after having seized the hook in mid-air, beguiled by its deceptive coverings. The strutting farmyard cock has gripped the feathery lure hanging from a rod left by its owner, reared against the wall of a house the angler had entered. The faithful dog, the sagacious companion of man, when plashing in the water and snapping at floating flies, has seized the hook, and, distraught with fear, rushed across river and fields beyond, with an obese and panting angler in full chase with rod in hand, who, fearing lest the fragile top succumb 'neath such a monstrous foe, lets line run from the whistling reel, whilst labouring with all the fund of hastily-summoned ingenuity to guide the terror-stricken brute clear of all hindrances in front, near which both man and captive had to rush. It is thus apparent that not only many human intelligent beings deem the artifice a good counterfeit, but also that brutes and different kinds of birds have been so deluded by it as to be hooked by the barb enclosed in the angler's lure. Is it, then, astonishing, when fish so wary as trout are daily caught by such baits, that the lover of the contemplative man's sport should at once conclude that the delusion likewise extends itself to fish—which are, without doubt, with one consent acknowledged to be lower in the scale than birds and beasts as well as human beings—particularly when that bait is specially contrived to represent a fly, the favourite food of trout, and is moved in a manner made to correspond, as closely as skill can devise, with that of the natural insect, in places where such creatures are habitually found, and where no other living organism for which it can be possibly mistaken is in the habit of moving. When, however, it is a well-known fact that fish often show a decided preference for some particular fly upon the cast, and when this is certainly due neither to the position on the cast nor the absolute colour of the bait—as may be proved, in the former case, by changing the relative places of the droppers and stretcher; and, in the latter, by removing the favourite and selecting some other good fly for the season, which happens to be of an entirely different colour—this second fly may be on the water at the time, and now being represented on the cast, may, like its predecessor, assert its pre-eminence above the other lures still left upon the link,

If trout were to take the artificial fly merely under the idea that it is a living thing, and therefore fit for food, they would show no preference whatever for any kind of fly, but would only seize those most readily perceived; yet this is not the case, for at times the colours most easily detected are rejected, and those not nearly so conspicuous are ravenously sought; whilst at others both display an equal amount of killing power.

It is thus sufficiently plain that fish do mistake the artificial fly for a living, drowning, or dead insect; and not only that they make an error, but also that they exert a considerable amount of selective power when rising at the angler's cast.

The fifth group of anglers who advocate the use of only three flies—green, claret-brown and yellow—whilst adopting no other form of body than that of spinners or duns dressed buzz, or rather without wings, and only keeping in view general colour, shape and size, with a great exaggeration in the intensity of hue and number of hackles, evidently make a mistake, depriving themselves of many first-rate killing flies belonging not only to the land but also the water. The blue dun and watercricket are discarded, and even a general form and colour for these two good flies is not spoken of, although the former is one of the very deadliest on the angler's list. The blue-dun shade, varying from pale to iron blue, and the black of the watercricket, therefore, pass unheeded, the latter colour being also characteristic of the black palmer and black gnat, two of the standard dressings on the list. A reddish orange shade is also neglected, and the general form and colour of such flies as the cowdung, cinnamon, sedge and sand flies, are likewise despised, the tint of the very best red or orange palmer hackle being amongst the same rejected hues. In fact, one form only is taken as the type to be used by such anglers, and three colours for this single shape; so that a single cast can likewise be made to include all the varieties employed, and half-a-dozen stintings will permit all the conceivable variations of position in which the limited number of baits can be arranged, as the anglers' whim, or that of the fish, may require.

This system of fly-fishing is delightfully easy; few troubles assail the angler; once the cast has been fitted up no more changes need be made; and the various manœuvres of the art are performed heedless whether the flies employed are really the best—but fondly hoping that this is the case. If fish do not come to the creel, it is the fault of the trout; if a fair burden is obtained, it is by the deadliness of the flies; but the innocent minds of such anglers seem never to suspect conditions the reverse of the foregoing.

The spinner form adopted for these flies is very good, but the want of wings is a defect, as the great abundance of hackles is meant to represent moving legs rather than flying organs. The colours assuredly are neither the most general or most natural; in fact, the dark green and claret-brown, are very uncommon hues, and cannot, therefore, be even spoken of as general. For deep water, the yellow spinner, which, though of a natural colour, is not very common, although more frequently met than the two other hues, may at times do well; as it is easily perceived, and trout may occasionally take it owing to its greater visibility, when some sombre and common fly is passed unheeded —overlooked, rather, because unseen, than because of inferior killing power; this occurs when fish are not ravenously on the feed, and are lying deep in pools or lakes; but during "the time of taking," the more faithful mimic will certainly assert its pre-eminence, although less gaudy or conspicuous; and, as a rule, this is the case at all times, and in all waters, where the latter can be clearly perceived.

The fourth class of anglers, who denounce all flies except the rude and rustic harelug, and who see in it no resemblance to insects on the water, or to the lures employed by their less bigoted brethren of the rod, are strangely blind; for not only is there a likeness to the natural food of the trout, but a still greater degree of semblance to the baits of their rival compeers; insomuch that the hare's ear, or hare's ear and blue, may fairly pass as a blue dun, the hare's ear and yellow as a yellow dun, the harelug and partridge wing as a March brown; and though these are not such perfect imitations as those which commonly bear the name in the angler's list, yet in colour and form they sufficiently approach their types as to pass muster with many anglers and fish for the insects so denominated. When, therefore, a man declares that trout will take fabrics unflylike and nondescript, whilst at the same time avowing he is in the habit of using such unlike structures—adducing these varieties of the harelug, the claret-brown, green, yellow, red and black hackles, as examples of the life-like organisms of some unknown or unheard-of group of animals—one may laugh at the folly of his declaration; knowing its untruth, one may perceive that he is the whole time employing rude imitations of real insects. So, whilst rejecting most of these caricatures as inferior patterns, or using them if no better be at hand, one may leave him to his own devices, as his mind is too dull and dark to allow truth to crush his long-cherished prejudice.

The third section, or other body of Scotch anglers which founds its faith on red, blue and black lures, or, in other words, the land-rail and light or dark starling hackles, either with or without the woodcock wing, seems equally anxious with the two foregoing groups to limit the varieties of flies to a number readily attached to a single cast; five is the number which finds favour in this case, whereas the hairlugists deem three sufficient—a yellow, blue and brown, the hare's ear and yellow, hare's ear and blue or partridge; whilst yellow, brown and green are the colours of the spinnerist fraternity. These three casts are made to suit the whims of the three idle sections of fly-fishers, each keeping in view one important point, the colour of the fly; and, on this account, the whole trio may not inappropriately be called colourists—numbers three and four considering form as a matter of little or no importance, in theory at least, though practically not quite so deluded; whilst number five adheres to one standard type, rejecting all others. Some of these colours are natural; others, if not unnatural, are, at least, very rare. Hues equally as good, and others much better, with various combinations infinitely more deadly, such as the black gnat, black palmer, red palmer hackle, cowdung, redfly, cinnamon, blue duns, dressed naturally, and not with hairy bodies, March brown, cochybonddu, hawthorn, orange dun, red and black ants, bluebottle, yellow and whirling duns, green drake and gravel bed, are abjured; each of these flies, when properly dressed on good hooks, far surpassing the foregoing imperfect and faulty copies of nature, even though the hooks be equally good, and the gut as clear and fine. How, then, is it that there are so many anglers who positively assert that one or other of the three combinations advocated, is all that is needful for securing for the fly-fisher the best of sport? The great reason for the number being so large, is the ease with which such vast quantities of small trout are caught in some rivers with very inferior flies; the employers of these patterns deeming, on this account, that no other lures could be more deadly, either in such waters or others in which trout are less abundant. The idleness of the anglers themselves partly explains the matter; for there are those who would be only too glad were there but one fly in the catalogue of insects, and that fly perhaps a red, a black, or blue hackle. In this case no uncertainties regarding the choice of baits would disturb the inert sportsman's serenity. With a dozen or more flies of this particular pattern in stock, two or three casts ready for work, the river's bank might be sought with no changes of lure needful till such times as the fly, worn out with work, should happen to be carried off by some more bulky trout than heretofore. What need of long experience when a tyro can discern the killing fly as easily as the old practitioner! To dispel such a grateful cloud of ignorance, from about unsuspicious youth or stubborn age, may be an ungracious task, but is an act which will no doubt in after years bear a more pleasant fruit. Few, however, have the presumption to assert that there is a single fly, an all-powerful kill-devil, a miraculous combination of silk and feathers that can, in all waters, and seasons, slaughter more fish than a judicious selection of standard imitations faultlessly suited to the water, hour, weather, and season. There are, however, many "general" flies which are named after some place in which, or some noted anglers by whom, the patterns have long been used. These flies need no special notice further than to show that many of the numbers are nothing less than patterns of the naturalist angler's list re-named; whilst others so closely resemble well-known orthodox dressings, that they may be esteemed mere varieties or bad pourtrayals of real insects. When a bait is fly-like and well manœuvred it is certain to kill fish where trout are numerous or hungrily on the feed. In such places, or at such times, few scruples on the part of the trout are entertained as to what is the exact species or genus of the individual presented to it, so long as it evidently belongs to some family or order in the insect world. It is not at such times that the fly-fisher's skill and discrimination are put to the test; for when fish are famishing their bellies must be filled, and any fly, or anything endowed with fly-like form and motions, will be greedily gulped down, unless very harsh experience in the shape of pricking hooks and thick glistering, affrighting gut, stir up unpleasant memories of "Auld lang syne;" aye, in forsooth, of perhaps a very recent date.

At what other times, then, is it that such knowledge and discrimination come into play? In many streams where the fly-fisher's avocation is in vogue, trout not only are scarce, but are also well-fed; besides this, there are so many daily presentations of the artificial fly for their inspection, that their knowledge of the properties of fishing tackle is not very limited, and the peculiarities of gut and hooks have given birth to memories, by no means vague, which linger in the piscine brain. Things are otherwise in the rapid mountain burns, becks and rivers of Scotland and Wales, where fish are numerous and unsuspicious, or are famishing, owing to their vast numbers; and where three struggling victims on a cast at once are no uncommon feat, whilst encreeling a hundred or two troutkins in less than half-a-day.

The deep and more sluggish southern streams, containing many coarse fish, much food of all kinds, and few trout, must not be compared with such mountain brooks; even if the fish are not more sought, yet there is no doubt they are poisoned to the same extent, and in most cases infinitely more. Having been pricked once or twice by the hook they are rendered cautious; there is an abundance of food, and no need for trout to be rash or uncircumspect; neither are they, for, once wounded, the second time finds them wary, and a third or fourth teaches them a not easily forgotten lesson, and afterwards a suspicious-looking bait is entirely rejected; even other objects are often carefully inspected before a decision on the matter is made. On the other hand, in rapid prolific rivers, the same fish may be raised and touched three or four times in succession, and perhaps, after all, take the bait in earnest. In southern sluggish rivers, therefore, fish are soon rendered extremely wary, and not only are they cautious, but there is no need for them to be rash, even though the likeness of the bait to reality be very great, as they are not brought to that extremity of hunger when the pangs of emptiness compel one, despite all warning or knowledge, to seize on something to fill the empty paunch; and, being wary, they only deign to notice the real fly, or something so nearly like it that a human being, not knowing what was placed before him, might, at the distance of a few feet or yards, make a mistake regarding its identity, and this when in a state of quiescence and not endowed with all the lifelike motions of quivering hackles and of moving wings.

(*To be continued.*)

THE LION, FARNINGHAM.

TROUT-ANGLING OPENING DAY, 1882.

LIKE many another toiler in the human hive of London, who had been waiting for the Easter holidays to arrive with a boy-like eagerness to indulge in some favourite pastime, I, a humble member of the "gentle craft," reached down the "Anglers' Diary" from its honoured shelf—where it associates with the writings of the immortal Father Isaac, and others of a kindred nature—in order to see where to go, having already decided that the *where* must be near to London, the fishing free, or nearly so, and the accommodation of such a reasonable character, monetarily, as to suit my not inexhaustible pocket. After wading alphabetically through that concise and very useful little work, I decided that Farningham should be scene, and the Lion the abode, from whence to commence operations, as I was informed, that it would meet all my views—the distance being only twenty miles; the return fare from Victoria, available for four days only, 3s. 2d.; the hotel charges most reasonable; and the fishing, especially early in the season, fairly good. Just the thing. I packed up my traps and started by the 9.15 p.m. train from Victoria, on Thursday evening, arriving at Farningham Road station, and from thence by 'bus to the Lion, in time for supper, and a peep at the river, before the hotel closed its hospitable doors. Although the worthy host, Mr. Scaddan, had a full house, and another angler besides myself attacked him so unexpectedly, and so late at night, he at once found us rooms in a neighbouring cottage, and did everything in his power to make us comfortable. There is a certain bond of goodfellowship existing among members of our craft, no matter of what degree, that cannot be traced in and other society or association, and mv late arrived companion and self were at once old friends, although strangers half an hour before. So we had a night-cap together, and retired, with a view of both being up first in the morning. The window of my room faced the east, and immediately overlooked the river, so that I got the first streak of dawn, when I awoke, and having donned waders and brogues turned out to work—and what a dawn it was—as I stood upon the old-fashioned bridge and gazed around. The sun was just peeping out as if from the bowels of mother earth, and the thrush, the blackbird, and the lark, warbled forth their welcome as if heralding its up-rising. The scene and the music to an hermetically-sealed town-bred bird like myself was most enjoyable. The situation of the hotel, nestling as it does at the foot of one of a range of surrounding hills, is most picturesque. The hill is surmounted by a magnificent wood, which takes its name from the village, and wherein the botanist may range and find some of the richest treasures of which his science speaks; or the victim of the *dolce far niente* may idly wander and cull at his pleasure some of the choicest of England's wild flowers; or the lovers may dally and listen to the thrilling note of the nightingale, the cooing of the wild dove (emblematic of themselves), or the warblings of all the other species of Kentish songsters. The stream skirts the lawn in front of the hotel for some hundred yards or so, and then meanders through meadow after meadow to Dartford. The fishing rights of the hotel are about three quarters of a mile in extent; the charge for a daily ticket is 2s. 6d., but free to those residing in the hotel itself.

Good Friday is the opening day, and I was the first on the lawn. The water was very low, and as clear as gin, and with a biting north-east wind blowing nearly half a gale. The prospect of getting fish was not very promising; so, choosing the finest collar of gut I possessed, and using a small-dressed coch-a-bondhu for tail, and a blue dun for drop flies, I wetted the first line of the season on that water, and was presently rewarded with the first fish of about three to the pound. The next was a trifle smaller, and then rapidly followed several brace, but all so small that they were immediately returned to the stream to "live to fight another day" to some more fortunate angler. I changed fly after fly in the hope of raising something better, but without success, and was about to give it up as hopeless, when a little fellow of eleven years appeared on the scene with his rod, and tried his hand for the first time with the fly. I remembered my first attempt, and watched him with great interest, and presently he succeeding in hooking, and I netted for him, a nice little fish under a quarter of a pound. As this was the little nipper's first trout, his delight was great, and it must have been an act of great self-denial to return it to the water, as he did of his own accord, and is worthy the emulation of anglers of maturer years. That youth took three brace that day, all of which had to be returned.

The wind got stronger and keener, and we gave up for a time and strolled through the village, when I was accosted by an old boy with "Any luck, Sir?" On telling him there were only minnows in the river, he said "There be plenty of fish, and big 'uns, as he had seed 'un; and one gent as always cum' down was a demon, and could ketch 'un." Being anxious to see the "demon," and get a wrinkle, I returned to the hotel, and hearing the bell-like voice of an old acquaintance, who turned out to be the demon; and if skill in handling the rod, with the finest judgment as to the likely haunt of the trout is requisite to gain such a reputation, the demon has fairly earned his title. But the personal appearance of the demon savours more of the camp than the stream, and the use of the Lochabar axe than the gentle rod. This gentleman is well acquainted with the Darenth, having fished it for some years, and he says it is almost impossible to catch fish on that river in such weather as we were then having; for there had been several degrees of frost during the previous night, and the meadows and hedges were bleached with it in the morning, added to which there was a piercingly strong east wind, with now and then strong gleams of sunshine, and that it was the worst weather for an opening day that he remembered. At dinner that evening, out of about twelve rods, only some six brace of allowable fish were found to have been taken; the largest, caught under the chesnut tree on the lawn, turning the scale at one and three quarter pounds; it was a long fish, and not in the best of condition, as for its size it ought to have weighed two and a quarter lb. The early morning of Saturday was better, and a few brace of good fish were taken, but, as the morning advanced, the wind increased, and put an end to all the sport.

In justice to the proprietor of the hotel, I must admit that many good fish were seen on both days, and as the season advances they must be captured by some more fortunate anglers who may try their luck. In the event of the elements spoiling sport for a time, there are many accessories connected with the establishment of the Lion to enjoyably kill that enemy, in the way of an excellent bowling-green; a well appointed smoking room, supplied with most of the leading daily, weekly, comic, and sporting papers; and last, though not least, a good billiard table. The local habitues of the hotel are always ready to give visitors any information, and try in every way to make them feel at home in Farningham. In the evenings, after dinner, the usual angling and other yarns are spun, at which the "demon" is an especial adept, his latest, called "Olivette," scoring tremendously. On our return journey, although the fishing was, on account of the weather, not a success, it was admitted by all hands that we had spent a most enjoyable holiday, and that the Lion Hotel, Farningham, was one of the best places to spend one.

The hotel changes hands on the 14th instant, when a complimentary farewell dinner will be given to Mr. and Mrs. Scaddan who retire, as a token of the respect and esteem in which they have been held by the local gentry and friends, and anglers from London and other parts, during their proprietorship.

Whilst regretting the loss of Mr. and Mrs. Scaddan, all angling friends will be glad to hear that good things are in store for them, as the new proprietor, Mr. A. B. B. Baker, has intimated that he will immediately re-stock the water with good-sized trout. Mr. Baker is a well-known cricketer, plays for his county, and is also one of the best rifle shots in the kingdom; late a lieutenant of the London Rifle Brigade, and one of Sir Henry Halford's English Eight who shot for and won the Elcho Shield, and other trophies. He will be assisted in the management by his fair young wife, who, I am sure, will leave nothing untried to make the inner management of the establishment conducive to the comfort of its patrons. May they be successful.

London, April 10, 1882. CHAPEAU ROUGE.

[We are very glad to hear Mr. Baker is going to stock the water, and I trust he will do so either with Cray or Wandle or Wycombe trout.—ED.]

NOTICES OF BOOKS, &c.

POCKET-BOOK OF ANGLING (TASCHENBUCH DER ANGELFISCHEREI). By Max von dem Borne. Second revised edition, with 291 Illustrations. Berlin: Paul Parey.

HERR MAX VON DEM BORNE, so well known as one of the most enthusiastic of pisciculturists, is also a most enthusiastic angler, and has done more to extend a love for angling amongst the German-speaking races than any one since Izaak Walton. In his preface to this new edition he says, "The first edition of this little book appeared, under the title 'Illustrated Handbook of Angling,' in the year 1875. The size is considerably diminished, the contents increased, as well as the number of illustrations, and the price reduced from ten to three shillings. The little work is no longer intended merely to have a place in the library, but also in the pocket of the angler, and to accompany him on his angling rambles on the plains, amongst the mountains, and on the sea. It is to be hoped it may also contribute to increase the love of sport amongst the educated and influential classes, and thereby create a general interest for fishing, and secure its protection and improvement."

The work is so complete in every way that it cannot fail to carry out the intentions of its author to a very great extent. The illustrations are very good indeed, and if many of them, as well as much of the subject matter, are taken from English and American works this is not to be wondered at, seeing that nearly all that is of value connected with the art of angling is of British origin. But the most skilful English or American angler will find this little work not only interesting but valuable. We prophesy for it a very large sale on the Continent, and congratulate German anglers, both present and future, on the appearance amongst them of such a trustworthy and useful guide.

GILLETT'S NEW LINE.

MESSRS. GILLETT AND CO., of 40, Fetter Lane, sent us, some time ago, one of their new dressed braided silk lines, and, after giving it a good trial both in spinning and fly-fishing, we can unhesitatingly recommend it as one of the strongest, smoothest, and best dressed lines we have ever used or seen. Messrs. Gillett have only recently introduced it, and we understand they have not a large number of lines made yet, though the stock they have is in all sizes, from salmon down to the finest trout line. An Irish salmon angler, who purchased one of these lines, speaks of it as "a superb line." The price is extremely moderate. We certainly consider it one of the best and certainly the cheapest line in the market, and would especially recommend it to fly-fishers. The dressing is smooth and pliant, and not in the least "cracky," so that kinking and tangling are almost impossible.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

THE subjoined letter from Mr. P. Geen, the president of the West Central Association of London and Provincial Angling Societies, to Mr. Walker, of the Sheffield Angling Association, seems to me of such importance that I have asked our editor to allow me to utilise the bulk of the space kindly placed at my disposal in this week's GAZETTE, to its reproduction:—

"Lowther Lodge, Lonsdale Road, Barnes, March 28, 1882.

"Dear Mr. Walker,—I was pleased to receive yours of the 27th February, asking for information respecting the proposed amendments to the 'Fresh Water Fisheries Act, 1878,' and suggesting certain needed reforms omitted to be considered by the meeting which I had the honour to preside over at the Society of Arts' room, on June 27th, 1881. I think we may now take it for granted that the anglers are all of one mind as to the necessity of some alteration in the laws affecting our waters and fish. Sir Joseph Bailey, Bart., M.P., who has given great attention to the fisheries laws, expressed the opinion, and the Right. Hon. A. J. Mundella concurred, that "The first object to be achieved by a new Bill should be to repeal those portions of the 1878 Act, which apply to coarse fish, and from thenceforth to keep our legislation separate from the laws affecting the salmonidæ.'

"The ground being thus clear, we have to ask ourselves what it is that we desire to achieve; and here we have for our guidance the experience gained by the working of the 1878 Act, and the resolution passed at the Society of Arts. But first, let me call your serious attention to the growing necessity of our following in the footsteps of many a smaller country than ours which has had for many years past a Fresh-Water Fisheries Inspector, whose duty it is enforce the laws and assist to make the inland waters as productive as possible. If this step was a wise one for any country to take, surely it must be a very important and necessary one for us, whose rivers are in many instances made filthy and poisonous to fish-life in direct defiance of our laws.

"The present Parliament is alive to the necessity of another Pollution Act and one is about to be brought before the House. I would suggest that we should press for the appointment of an inspector who would strive to purge our rivers of their filth and generally encourage the cultivation of our fish. The connecting links between such an inspector and our fisheries would be the various preservation societies that would spring up all over the country were the first of our resolutions to become law, viz:—

"(1) It is desirable to empower any fish protection society to appoint by writing, under the hand of their chairman, a sufficient number of water bailiffs who would be authorised to search, seize, summon, &c.

"The other resolutions are as follows:—

"(2) Netting should be abolished in all public waters; and in private waters it should be illegal to net without the written permission of the owner, such permission to have been signed and dated within three days, inclusive, of the day of netting. The possession of nets on or near any water should subject the nets to seizure and the owners to penalties.

"(3) Any one having in his possession a wire, spear, gaff or other like instrument at any time or place under such circumstances as shall satisfy the court before whom he is tried that he intended at the time to catch or kill fish by means thereof, shall be liable, &c., &c.

"(4) The period between the first day of March and the thirtieth day of June, both inclusive, should be the close season for pike and perch.

"(5) The period between the first day of April and the thirtieth day of June, both inclusive, should be the close season for all fresh-water fish other than pike and perch.

"(6) If any person during this close season buys, sells, or exposes for sale, any fresh-water fish, or has in his possession any fresh-water fish (unless he shall satisfy the justices that such fish in his possession were taken with the consent of the owner of a several or private fishery) he shall, on summary conviction before two justices, be liable to a fine not exceeding forty shillings.

"(7) After every conviction under this section, the person or persons convicted shall forfeit all fish so caught, bought, sold, exposed for sale, or in possession, and shall be liable at the discretion of the convicting justices to the forfeiture of all instruments used in the taking of such fish.

"(8) It is unnecessary and undesirable to interfere with fishing for eels and flounders with rod and line in tidal waters; but it should be illegal to fish for either of these two fish in any other than tidal waters. If any person or persons at any time or season sells, or has in his possession for sale any of the following fish, of less dimensions than—jack, 18 inches; dace, 6 inches; barbel, 13 inches; perch 7 inches; chub, 10 inches; carp, 8 inches; roach 9 inches; bream, 9 inches; tench, 8 inches—he shall be liable, &c., &c.

"Here will follow the exemption clauses permitting the capture and retention of bait and aquarium fish, &c., &c.

"We hold our annual meeting in April, when definite plans will be drawn up respecting the action to be taken.

"We have a number of M.P's. who have promised us their support, and as we appeal to both sides of the House we can select good men to undertake our little measure. Mr. Mundella told me that his official duties would prevent his undertaking it but that he would do all he could for us.

"I much regret that I have been unable to send you a more fully matured outline or draft of a Bill, but your interest in the subject will enable you to understand the objects which we desire to achieve. You will, I am sure, make allowance for my having recently removed from Addlestone to the above address; my papers, and, I fear, my thoughts, are somewhat mixed, and this I plead as my excuse for the delay, which shall not be repeated

"I am not yet sure that I shall not follow close upon the heels of this letter and be present at the meeting of your association. I should very much like to confer with your members upon other piscatorial matters, such as the propagation question; but failing my coming you will kindly remember me to Styring, Guest, and all Sheffield friends, and believe me.—Yours faithfully, P. GEEN."

A West Central, No. 3 district, visit will be paid the Brunswick Angling Society, Brunswick Arms, Stamford Street, Blackfriars, on Wednesday evening, April 19th.

The following circular has been issued by Mr. Hoole to the secretaries of all enrolled societies. It is hoped Messrs. Spreckley and Brougham will be present during the evening.

"West Central Association of London and Provincial Angling Societies.

"Portman Arms, Gt. Quebec Street, Baker St., W.,
4th April, 1882.

"Dear Sir,—I am instructed to inform you the yearly meeting of the association will take place on Friday evening, the 21st inst., when the following business will be brought before your notice, viz.:—

Election of officers for ensuing year.
Rewards to river keepers.
Subscription to the Thames Angling Preservation Society.
Propagation of coarse fish.
Renting private waters.
Enrolment of new societies, &c.

"Mr. P. Geen, Hon. President, will take the chair punctually at nine o'clock.

"As this is the most important meeting throughout the year, it is particularly requested that your society be represented; the committee will feel obliged by your instructing your delegates accordingly.

"Please make the following corrections in your new list of clubs:—Erase the Blackfriars, Barnsbury, Havelock Brothers, and Bolingbroke. Insert a * against the Kentish Brothers and South Essex. Hoxton Brothers' address is the Cherry Tree, Kingsland Road, N. Mr. J. J. Holmes, 104, Blackstock Road, is secretary to the Globe A. S. Old King's Head, Marsham Street, Westminster, is the address of South Belgravia. In the Society of Caxtonians please insert the letter *x* for *s*.

"The railway authorities insist that members, when applying for their railway tickets, must produce their tackle when required.

"N.B.—The fares to Yarmouth, Lowestoft, and Wroxham, quoted upon our list of fares, refers only to the summer months.—I am, &c.,
"T. HOOLE (hon. sec.)."

Re Gross Weight. I thank Mr. Crumplen for his courteous explanation in last week's GAZETTE; but, as he says, we must at present "agree to differ." One thing, however, must be clearly apparent to any one perusing the piscatorial reports—viz., that there is a vast difference between the theory and practice of some of the most zealous advocates of the abolition of "gross weights," if huge individual takes (albeit of all-sized fish), duly shown, weighed, and chronicled, count for anything. As for the accusation brought by "Mark Antony" against our Trent-side anglers, they are most serious, and, if proved, those who are guilty of such practices are not worthy the name of anglers, or to be admitted to the society of true Waltonians. I, however, hope we may yet have an explanation from Trent-side club-men, if such can be given; they owe it not only to us, but to themselves, and until an opportunity for giving such has been afforded them, I shall continue to hope "Mark Antony's" information has been derived from an unreliable source.

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

Thames trouting is jogging along in a little more satisfactory manner than usual, as several good hauls have been had at Windsor, Maidenhead (three brace here), Cookham, Marlow (seven brace being divided between Messrs. Foottit, Englefield, Bloxham and Co.). At Hambleden, as I anticipated, some half-dozen good fish have been taken, chiefly by strangers to the water. Thursday evening.—The river is now in grand trim. The wind got a little away from that horrid east; so fish should reward the toiler and spinner.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Ballynahinch.

The above waters have only been fished four days this last week. Mr. R. Mecredy, sen., on the 29th ult. caught four salmon, three of them weighing 12 lb. each and 10½ lb.; on the 30th Mr. J. C. Deverell caught two weighing 11½ lb. and 10¾ lb.; same date Mr. Saint George one 11 lb., on the 31st Mr. J. C. Deverell one 11¾ lb., same date Mr. Saint George two 11¾ lb. and 11 lb., on the 4th inst. got one on Derryclare Butt 10½ lb. Since Friday 31st ult. we have had a constant east and north-east wind, blowing quite a gale some days; water getting low.—WALTER BLACKADDER.

The above has again only been fished four days this last week. On the 8th, Mr. R. Mecredy, sen., got one salmon 13½ lb.; and on the 10th, two, weighing 10 lb. and 11 lb. respectively. Since last reports, we have had east and north-east winds, until yesterday, when we had it blowing from south and south-west. Water getting low, but every appearance of rain.—WALTER BLACKADDER.

Chichester.

On Good Friday a working contingent of the Brighton anglers joined the Cicesterians with nets and a large tank, the task of netting the lower pond commencing at noon. Some thousands of fish, principally bream and roach, were placed in the tank, and conveyed to the upper water. On Sunday night the dam gave way, but the outer lock gate at Birdham being closed the fish were prevented from reaching the lower reach. A new hurdle dam was placed across the canal at Birdham, and what fish came down were on Monday taken in landing nets and conveyed to Donnington. More than one hundred bream, averaging 3 lb. each; some fine fish of over 5 lb. among them. The canal is now clear of weeds and obstructions. The water will be let into the lower reach this week, the whole work being carried out in a highly satisfactory manner. A good season is anticipated.—GEORGE F. SALTER.

The piscatorial work in connection with repairs of lock is proving satisfactory. On Monday the water was let out from the dam to the lock, when nets were deemed impracticable owing to the quantity of drifting weed. After the first rush a dam was made with hurdles, but the majority of fish headed the stream or mudded. There still remains about eighteen inches of water in the channel, and from two to three feet in the bridge holes, which will obviate the necessity of removing the fish. Some heavy bream and carp are to be seen, and the fears entertained on Monday of a paucity of sport for next season entirely removed, the water teeming with life. It is proposed, with the consent of the landowners on either side, to net the lower reach this day (Friday) and thus secure what few fish have gone through. Mr. Kerwood has, with Mr. Richie, been indefatigable with the landing net, some thousands of good fry and large specimens being assisted over the dam. It is expected the work will be completed on Saturday, weeds removed, &c., when the water will be let in.—GEORGE FRANK SALTER.

Coquet (Weldon Bridge).

The wind changing to the east, very cold and dry weather. The sport has been very poor. On the 1st, Mr. Gillhespie, Morpeth, 1 doz.; on the 3rd, the Rev. Mr. Oliver, curate, Long Horsley, 2 doz.; on the 4th, Mr. Joseph Jobling, 1½ doz., Mr. John Jobling, 1 doz., both of Morpeth. Hofland's fancy, Hardy's favourite, and the blue upwright are the flies that have killed best this week. The Easter holidays brought us a great many old sportsmen, Messrs. Lang, Ismay, Milburn, J. Dixon, W. Dixon, from Newcastle, and Mr. Edwin Brown, of Burton-on-Trent, arrived on Thursday. At 5 a.m. on Friday the day was all that could be desired for angling, and about 7 the anglers began to arrive in conveyances of all kinds. About 8.30 the first start was made, and before 10 o'clock over forty anglers had left the inn to fish for the day, which was quite of a June character. All the anglers had very fair sport, the smallest take being five brace. Mr. J. Ashton, of Abbey Mills, took 9 lb. of trout, Mr. G. Lawson also had a good basket. On Saturday the takes averaged from six brace to fifteen brace. On Monday the Coquet was very low and bright, and a bright sun, not encouraging; but Messrs. Lang, Ismay, and Milburn had about eight or nine brace each, Mr. Brown fifteen trout, and Messrs. J. Dixon and W. Dixon fifteen brace each. On the 11th Messrs. Whalley and Marshall, from Dublin, had very fair baskets.—A. GLASS.

Dove.

We have had a great number of anglers out on our river during the holidays. Sport has been good, the weather being bright and warm, causing the trout to rise much more freely than I was enabled to report a week since. The water was in grand condition, and continues so at the time of writing (Thursday), though I fancy before long we shall have heavy rains, which may produce an alteration. The average of dishes this week amongst the expert rods would be about five or six brace. The most remunerative sport was obtained with the March brown, the bumble, the February red, the cowdung, and the cockwing, and the places where the trout rose best were in the five-feet-deep lay-byes.—THE SPLODGER.

Exe (Exeter).

Variety's the very spice of life
That gave it all its flavour.
—*Old Couplet.*

Considering the changeable state of the weather during the past week, sport has been by no means so very bad, viz., with regard to salmon. Messrs. Lee, Coucher, Pearson, and Baker, still keep well to the fore; Mr. Coucher, perhaps, being the more successful, having taken three splendid clean-run fish. Commencing at 1 p.m., by 4 p.m he had landed the above, weighing respectively 13½ lb., 7¾ lb., and 7½ lb. Unfortunately, he lost another after twenty minutes' hard fight, which was left in its native element. Trout-fishing has been very indifferent indeed, owing to the freshets from the late rains, and the water is still very dirty. Should the weather clear up, fishing will be in first-class trim for the Easter, when we hope to see many old as well as new faces whiping the streams of beautiful Devon as of yore.—FRANK GOSDEN.

[The minnow is not new in any way.—ED.]

Exe (Tiverton).

The river is in good order for fishing: the occasional showers we are getting will improve it, and good sport is looked forward to. Very little has been done during the past week, the weather has been so bright, except Wednesday, which was a cold raw day, with a south-east wind and drizzling rain; small dark flies killing best, halfstone, blue upright, and iron blue.—WM MUDFORD.

Ilfracombe.

Streams are now in good condition for fishing. Trout more plentiful than they have been for some time; the general run of them are small, though on Wednesday, the 5th, some fine trout were taken from the Wilder stream, weighing from half to three-quarters pound each. Sea-fishing this week. A few fine lobsters and crabs have been taken from the lobster pots, which they haul morning and evening. Very few fish have been taken this week with ground lines, though some nice pollack has been caught off the jetty with rod and line, and good sport with hand lines. On Wednesday our trawling skiffs returned from Barnstaple Bay; they report fishing very slack, a few pairs of small soles, some plaice, and a dozen or two of thornback, being all the fish they brought up. Weather at present very fine.—E. COMER.

Lee (Cork).

During the Easter recess there has been a great flight of Waltonians to the haunts of the trout and salmon. The river has been in very good order, and with favourable weather no reason for disappointment has been felt. Very good baskets of trout have been taken; one gentleman, on Good Friday, bringing home three dozen of good-sized trout. Salmon anglers have been also fortunate. On Good Friday the brothers Haynes succeeded in landing five, Mr. Dale three, Bill Connell two, D. Reardon two. A large number of fish were had during last week on Fargus, the preserves of Sir Oriel Foster.—ANGLER.

Lyn (Lynmouth, N. Devon).

Water rather too clear, but fair baskets being taken; one gentleman had 2½ dozen very nice trout yesterday. This water is now strictly preserved, tickets are now issued to visitors.

North Devon.

The east winds and frosty nights have not been any good to the fly fishing: On Good Friday and Bank Holiday many rods were upon all the streams, the largest catch I hear of is two dozen and eight, and the catches run from one dozen to two dozen and six. Major Lovell and Sir W. Williams had a good dish each last week. Mr. Payne caught two dozen last week. One gentleman, in a small brook, caught thirty fish, but the majority of the fish are small. Salmon fishing has been very good, and some fresh run fish have been caught, Mr. Batsom caught one 10¼ lb., with sea lice on it. One gentleman landed seven in one day (one a passable fish), many two and three, and I have heard of six good fresh-run fish up to date been caught. The salmon have been taken both with fly and minnow. The trout take to grannon, march brown, blue palmer, and blue upright.—RUSTY GAME.

Severn (Shrewsbury).

The river is now in very fine angling condition, but fish are not to be taken in any large numbers. The flies are on the water in immense quantities, the grannom having come out during the last three or four days; still it does not kill, owing, I should say, to the point from which the wind has been blowing, *i. e.*, north and north-east. I heard on Good Friday of a salmon netter having taken at Shrawardine, a spot that lies about 7 miles from Shrewsbury, five fine fish, one weighing 27 lb., between that date and the previous Saturday.

Suir and its Tributaries, Clonmel.

The river was in splendid order last week for the fly, and it is well stocked with salmon; we have a flood to day from last night's rain. Doctor Campbell got twenty-one salmon in twelve days. Thomas Philan, of Kilmanahan, on Lord Donoughmore's preserves, got three fish last week and two this week. Ned Butler got one 10 lb. at Dudley's, and lower down the river Ned Farrell got one of 9 lb.; several others were very successful. The trout fishing is very good. Mr. N. Bagnell had some good sport on the Anner. Major Herbert got fourteen trout at Grove yesterday, and Mr. Boyd seventeen on the Suir. We hear of good baskets got on the different streams.—DORA.

Test (Hampshire).

Rain commenced to fall this afternoon (Wednesday), and seems likely to last. The fish rose well in it, but were most difficult to please. It is the first time this season I have seen them well on the rise. How is it that one seldom makes a good basket when it is raining? Once only do I remember being able to make a bag when it was coming down a steady downpour: it is many years ago, but I recollect killing twenty-seven dace one afternoon, with an apple-green fly, on the Alresford water. Sport for the last week has been wretched. Weather bright and clear and not a fish to be seen. A brace and a half of fish was very good work. Next week I hope to send you a line as to the way I fasten on the eyed hooks. I think it is easier than Mr. Hall's method, and I find the knot never gives.—HAMPSHIRE.

Thames (Windsor).

Although weather has not been conducive to sport with Thames trout still those that have been had shown a marked improvement in weight to those had first week of the season. The best fish taken in this neighbourhood this season was had last week from Egham Weir, going 7 lb, another from the same place going 3 lb. In the old Windsor Weir, on 9th inst, a very nice fish was had, going between 5 and 6 lb. At the Eton Waterworks, Paice, jun., of Eton, had, on 9th inst., a pretty fish of 4½ lb., and the same angler secured another on 10th inst. at Boveney Bridge, going 3½ lb. Mr. Langfield, of Windsor, had a small fish with artificial bait in old Windsor Weir, going 2 lb. 2 oz. Several smaller fish have been had and duly returned. This morning, although wet and inclined to be rough, is better than the east wind we have had. Water is in good condition at time of writing.—B. R. Bambridge.

Tweed and Teviot.

The past week has been a most unsuccessful one for salmon anglers. On Wednesday last Mr. Pringle Elliot was successful in killing one fish on the Hendersyde water. On the Sprouston water, on the same day, Mr. C. Kerss killed one fish. Owing to rain in the west the Tweed came down on Thursday a little, but not enough to stop angling, and on that day, on the Hendersyde water, Mr. P. Elliot killed a very pretty little fish, but on Saturday the salmon fishing was *nil*. On Monday, on the lower Hendersyde water, Mr. J. Kerss killed one fish and landed three unclean ones. Trout anglers have, however, during the week, had a glorious time of it, and some really good baskets have been got. On the Junction and at Maxwheel on Monday, Mr. P. Elliot killed 9 lb.; on the Teviot, the same day, Mr. R. Robertson killed about 8 lb. On the Tweed, on Wednesday, Mr. John Walker, Kelso, killed a rattling good basket, nearly all his fish having been got with the 'Digby Cayley'—a splendid killer. On Saturday Mr. Thomas Pringle, Kelso, had about 5 lb., and a like basket was got by Mr. D. Brown (both killed on Tweed); while on the Teviot Mr. Richard Newton had also a very good basket—all got with fly. Mr. John Croall, Kelso, had a capital basket of 8 lb. on the Tweed on Thursday; and Mr. John Wood had 6 lb. on the following day; on Saturday he had 5 lb., while on Monday he again killed 5 lb. On the Teviot, on Tuesday, Mr. John Walker had about 9 lb., while Mr. John Ferguson had 5 lb. Mr. Brown of Rosebank, had a fair basket on Sprouston watar, and Mr. G. Allan, saddler, had 6 lb. on Tuesday. On Tuesday, on Teviot, Mr. J. Mechie, sen., had a very nice basket, the number was not large, but the trout were good, and in excellent condition As the weather is now getting milder, trout angling may be said to be fairly on for the spring months. These fish, however, notwithstanding the very open and mild winter, are far from being in good condition, being lean and lanky, and not such as one has been accustomed to handle at this time of the season. Smolts, the bane of the trout angler, are now in, and are greedily rising to the fly, and a rattling good flood is wearily looked for so as to remove in measure these pests by sweeping them off to sea. Angling on the Blackadder opened on Saturday. During the day a good number of anglers were on the water, and obtained several good takes. Mr. James Hislop, of Greenlaw, in the course of about three hours' fishing, secured upwards of 9 lb. of trout. Some time ago a riparian proprietor of the Blackadder, Sir Hugh H. Campbell, Bart., at the suggestion of the Greenlaw Fishing Club, adopted a close time, and the great advantage of this is now being seen in the numbers and quality of the trout. Not for a very long time has there been such a number of trout in the Blackadder as at the present.—Maxwheel, Kelso, April 5.

[Received too late for last week.—Ed.]

Wye and Derwent.

Both weather and water have been everything that anglers could wish for, but with it being Easter and bank holidays all our Derbyshire rivers were pestered to death with great quantities of both anglers and pleasure-seeking excursionists from all over the country, which causes the trout to rise very short at the artificial fly, and only small baskets were the order of the day. Both the bumble, furnace, duns, and sand-flies, also the February red, have all taken fish. The sand-fly is a capital good evening fly for trout the season through. It is made from the butt of the landrail's wing as a hackle fly, dubbed with small portion of hare's ear upon light orange silk, long Nos. 1 and 2 Kendal hooks. Some people wing it, using a red cock's-hackle, giving it two turns, and the same body. This fly kills well on the Dove this month and next, especially on rough, windy days. The following natural flies have been on both rivers during the past week:—Flat-winged browns, duns, cowdung fly, little black, cow-lady, or beetle. The last-named fly is my favourite fly to see it abundantly on the water. Trout are particularly fond of it. I make the imitation from the furnace hackle, orange floss silk body, ribbed with peacock harl, and sometimes a little gold twist in the body for bright days, dressing on No. 1 Kendal best hooks. A few good trout have been taken by spinning with the Derby trout killer between Darley Bridge and Whatstandwell, one fish weighing 1 lb. 6 oz. The bottom fishers have done but middling on the Derwent during the past week. I am truly sorry to say that the grayling have the fungus disease amongst them again, both on the Wye and Derwent. Several fish from half a pound each to a pound have been both picked up dead and dying of the disease. Sport with the artificial fly has been very good on the private ponds during the week. The March brown red and spider fly proving killers. To-day (Thursday) we have had a good deal of rain fall, which has caused both the Wye and Derwent to have a nasty white colour in them from the limestone roads. This rain falling will improve fishing much.—George James Eaton.

CLUB REPORTS.

THE BRUNSWICK PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

A visit will be paid the above society, which is held at the Brunswick Arms, Brunswick Street, Stamford Street, Blackfriars Road, on Wednesday, the 19th inst. The chair will be taken at eight o'clock. The presence of as many as can conveniently attend will be esteemed.—Esox Lucius.

DUKE OF NORFOLK ANGLING SOCIETY.

The above society had its return visit on Wednesday, April 5th, when a very pleasent evening was spent, our worthy chairman, Mr. Whitehall, in the chair, faced by Mr. Heckford, of the Duke of Cornwall, both dukes coming out strong in harmony. After several capital songs had been sung, especially one by Mr. Bernelt (our fishing tackle maker, of Church Street), Mr. Osmon, the district officer, called the roll, when eight clubs responded.—J. Amos, Sec.

April 12.

GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had a good attendance at our concert on Wednesday last, Mr. J. Obbard in the chair, Mr. Calder vice. Members of the following clubs kindly attended and rendered some excellent songs: Original Clerkenwell Piscatorial, Eustonian, Phœnix, King's Cross United, and Odds and Evens. Mr. G. Bentley will take the chair on Wednesday next, vice, Mr. J. Dingley.—J. Fitch, jun., sec.

April 13, 1882.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The meeting on the 6th inst. was thinly attended, doubtless in consequence of the proximity of the Easter holidays. Messrs. Ghurney and Field attended as a deputation from the Anglers' Benevolent Society to open the collecting box kept on behalf of that very deserving institution. This was found to contain about £2 2s., making, as Mr. Ghurney remarked, some ten guineas contributed during the year, being the largest amount yet given in that time by any one society. Mr. Jardine, Mr. Crumplen and other members put forward the claims of the society, to which all anglers and angling societies ought to subscribe, and the box was returned to the secretary with a substantial beginning for next season. There was a much larger meeting on Thursday, 13th inst., and the usual discussion on angling topics took place, Mr. J. F. Clarke efficiently occupying the chair. The members have so far been fairly successful with the trout, and it is fully expected that some good samples will soon be weighed-in. The evening terminated with an excellent musical selection, Mr. Jardine taking part in several duets, each being greatly appreciated. Mr. H. C. Brown presided very ably at the piano. It is intended to have a literary and musical evening on the occasion of the general visit of angling societies at the end of June, that the Gresham may hold out the hand of friendship in true piscatorial fashion.

SHREWSBURY SEVERN ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had our first outing on Monday last, when we went down to Creassage, starting by the 6.40 train, and I think a great many of our party envied those who were then comfortably sleeping in their cosy beds, and who intended following by the next train at 11 o'clock, for no sooner had we left Shrewsbury than we were surprised to see the fields covered with white frost, and a very heavy fog concealing the surrounding country from view. I must confess I did not much like the prospects before us, but in less than an hour after we had been on the banks of the river this had all passed away, and the sun began to remind us that the hour was still early. The fish did not begin to rise for a considerable time, but by the time the second party arrived they had shown some signs of life, but none of the party could find the right fly to entice them to the fray. Eventually Mr. F. H. Morgan captured a nicely-made fish of six ounces, which was the only trout taken by our party; but Mr. Ellis, sen., was waiting for our return with two very nice fish, one weighing about ½ lb., the other about 5 oz. The same gentleman on Wednesday last showed what I and most of our members call a grand dish of six trout, but he considered he had had very poor sport, which can easily be understood when we look back a few years and remember that he then invariably brought his fifteen and twenty pounds home as the result of his day's labour; but since the weirs have been built such baskets as those are a thing of the past so high up as Shrewsbury. We returned home by the 835 p.m. train, when the members sat down to a supper in the clubroom provided by the hostess, Mrs. Morgan, and every one testified their approval of the same by doing ample justice to it. After the usual loyal and patriotic toasts had been duly honoured, song and sentiment prevailed, and they kept it up until one o'clock on Tuesday morning when everyone went home thoroughly satisfied with the day's proceedings, and with the hope that it was the first of many more of the same kind to follow.—W. H. Morgan, hon. sec.

STAMFORD AND WARRINGTON ANGLING CLUB, STALYBRIDGE.

On Saturday, the 8th inst., the members of this club fished their opening contest of the season, in the preserve of J. J. Wilkinson, Esq., at Stayley. The fish were not particularly partial to the inducements held out to them, but the whole of the prizes were taken, and in the following order:—1st, John Thomas Abrahams; 2nd, Matthew Leigh; 3rd, John Shaw; 4th, John Simister; 5th, Samuel Greenwood; 6th, Thomas Hurst. Afterwards the member adjourned to the club house (the Guide Post Tavern), where, after full justice had been done to a substantial repast provided by the host (Mr. Simister), the remainder of the evening was passed in that good old recreation known only to the "knights of the rod," under the chairmanship of Mr. Wm. Thorpe, the president.

April 10.

FLIES ON THE EYED HOOKS.

JUST as we are going to press, we have received from Messrs. Alfred and Son, 20, Moorgate Street, several samples of flies dressed on Mr. Hall's "Eyed Hooks," including the various palmers, alders, duns, quill-gnats, &c. We may say at once that these leave nothing to be desired in the matter of dressing, and will certainly kill trout in any water. We intend to use them shortly, and will report further. In the meantime we advise our readers to call and see them, or write for samples. The price is only 2s. per dozen.

THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF THE FRESHWATER FISHERIES ACT.

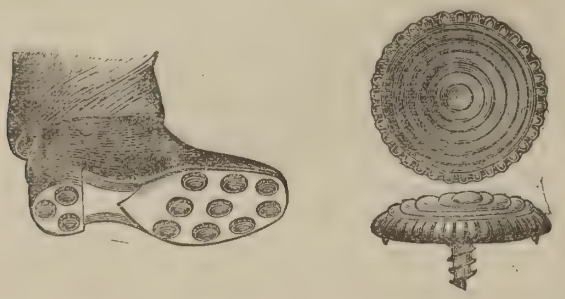
UNDER L. B's. "Club Jottings," this week, will be found Mr. Geen's letter embodying the views of the associations regarding the proposed alterations in the Mundella Act. The concessions made go a long way towards removing the objections we, in common with many others, have had respecting the present fence times. If the proposed Freshwater-fish Inspector is appointed—and if we all vote for him, he must be appointed—the whole of our machinery for preserving and protecting and increasing our coarse fish will be improved, and will run smoothly and easily.

If we were asked who would make the best inspector, we should say that, for practical experience, inexhaustible energy, and that all-important element, tact—it would be difficult to find any one to equal Mr. P. Geen.

Thames Rights Defence Association.—We beg to acknowledge with thanks 2s. 6d. from "Kingfisher" for the above. We will be glad if Mr. Crump will send us a few of the new window bill for distribution.

ELLIS'S PATENT BOOT AND BROGUE STUDS.

THE Ellis Boot Stud Company have sent us samples of their patent studs, for the protection of all kinds of boots—especially walking and fishing boots—and for brogues. They are undoubtedly a vast improvement over the old nails and screws, and will be found perfect for wading boots and brogues, for which purpose we recommend the smallest size. They are made of the hardest steel, combined in a most ingenious way with wood, leather, and indiarubber. The accompanying illustrations show the peculiar shape of the studs; the smaller sizes are all the same shape.



The advantages these studs offer are:—

1. The flat shape of the stud does away with all the side leverage which so frequently causes the old square brogue screw to work out.
2. The flat shape prevents their pressing through the sole of the boot—a great drawback with the ordinary screw, especially when the sole is soft from wading—causing corns on the soles of the feet, and frequently damaging the fishing stockings.
3. The ease with which they are put on, and their firmness and durability when on.

We can strongly advise our readers to give these studs a fair trial. Samples and prospectus can be had of the Ellis Boot Stud Company, Congreve Street, Birmingham, or they can be seen at Messrs. Woolgar, fishing brogue and stocking manufacturers, on Ludgate Hill.

OILING THE WATERS.—A HINT FOR ANGLERS.

IN the current number of the *Nineteenth Century*, in addition to an invaluable article in favour of vaccination by Dr. W. B. Carpenter, F.R.S., which ought to convince even Mr. P. A. Taylor himself, there is a most practical and interesting paper by Miss C. F. Gordon-Cumming, entitled "Oiling the waves—a safe-guard in tempest." The writer proves most convincingly that by the expenditure of a few shillingsworth of oil a vessel is enabled to ride out the fury of a gale, or make her way through the heaviest breakers and the wildest surf without shipping a pailful of water. It is only necessary to fill a few small canvas bags with oil, make a few punctures in the bags, and then hang them overboard astern of the vessel. The effect is magical, all around the ship the sea is lashed into foam, the enormous billows rush on threatening to break on deck and smash everything, but no sooner do they reach the thin film of oil which is spreading round the vessel, than their fury is taken out of them; they cannot form crests and break until they have passed harmlessly under the vessel and beyond the oil sheet. Every vessel—and especially every life-boat—should carry a keg of oil. The many marvellous facts which Miss Gordon-Cummings quotes ought to be published in every newspaper seen by seafaring men.

But may not we anglers take a hint from these facts? Try Dr. Franklin's experiment when next you are fishing in troubled waters on some lake, or pond, or river. Perhaps there is such a gale blowing you can find no sheltered spot, and you cannot detect a bite on account of the waves. Throw an ounce or two of olive oil on to the water, so that the wind will spread it over the space you wish to fish. Here is how Dr. Franklin did it.

Dr. Franklin observed that whenever whaling vessels were lying in Newport Harbour (Massachusetts) the water was always smooth on account of the leakage of blubber. He accordingly tried sundry experiments to test the working of this phenomenon. On a stormy day he went to a large pond, which was so much exposed to wind as to form waves, and on these he sprinkled a small quantity of oil. At first he took up a position to leeward, but observed that though the oil instantly spread in all directions it could not effectually work against the wind, as it was quickly driven back to the shore; so he went round the pond to windward, where he found that one teaspoonful of oil produced an instant calm over a considerable space, and, spreading rapidly, soon made an oily film over an extent of at least half an acre, which became as smooth as a looking-glass. One drop of oil forms a film of about four feet in circumference.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

FISHING IN THE ARDENNES.

SIR,—As a reader of the FISHING GAZETTE, I see that you give details concerning fishing of the different parts of the country. It will, perhaps, be interesting to your readers to know how fishing goes on upon the Continent. The trout season begins here upon April 1. The country I speak of is the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg, and there are here a great quantity of trout rivers, especially in the part called Ardennes, such as the Wiltz, Clerf, Our, Attert, &c.

Upon April 1 four gentlemen were fishing in the Wiltz and the Clerf, two little rivers that flow down through the Ardennes into the Sure, near the little town called Diekirch (in which place you have a very good accommodation at the Hotel des Ardennes; manager, Mr. Heck). These gentlemen left the hotel at seven o'clock a.m., and came back at six o'clock p.m. They took, in this time, with fly, 270 mountain trout, weighing exactly 80 lb.

In Ettelbruck, a little town about two miles from Diekirch, is a fish culture establishment, which furnishes every year a quantity of trout and salmon trout, which are put in these rivers.

If any of your readers wish to have more details concerning the fishing of this country, I should be very happy to furnish them.—I am, &c.,

ROBERT TUDOR.

Chateau de Rosport, April 9, 1882.

[We are sure our readers will be very glad to hear more more about such good fishing so near home, and we are obliged to Mr. Tudor,—ED.]

SPECIMEN FISH *v.* GROSS WEIGHTS.

SIR,—The difficulty J. M. D. and his many friends see in the substitution of the specimen-fish for the gross-weight system would vanish if they were content to fish for sport, and sport only. But the gist of the whole question is, in my opinion, contained in the first paragraph in J. M. D.'s letter of April 1. I thank him for the additional weight he has given to my description of angling competitions, viz., a "specious form of gambling;" and I cannot help thinking that it would be very much better for the fish, the inexperienced angler, and others, if the prizes were raffled or tossed for in the club room. Also that it is anything but a generous action to admit an unskilled person to any competition in which the chances of success are unequal. And I think it also shows, and very plainly, the desire to discount their superior angling skill for something more substantial and exchangeable. Yet I can well imagine the scorn and contempt these same gentlemen would bestow upon any person who might presume to offer to purchase a specimen fish, or fish caught by any of them in a competition before weighing-in. I contend that the person who can angle for and bring to bank an adult fish of 1, 2, 3 or more lb., is quite equal in angling skill to one who can grass a dozen babies of four or five to the lb. I have great respect for the Lea roach-fisher, and have often read, and more often heard, of their skill with the rod; and perhaps I may be pardoned for saying here that I am deeply indebted to one of them for any knowledge I may have of the gentle craft; but I have yet to learn that any Lea, or other fisherman, would not prefer to catch and show ten fish, averaging 1 lb. each, than forty fish, weighing altogether 10 lb. If the ten fish were preserved, would not the case be pointed to with pardonable pride? and might not the angler, who had the forty "set up" as a specimen of his skill in angling, be considered a curiosity? If J. M. D. and his friends will admit that as argument, I will ask them if it does not show that the reward (if one is necessary at all) should be given to the angler who captures the smallest number yet the heaviest fish—"the specimens"?

A very little knowledge of arithmetic should be sufficient to convince J. M. D. that, if prizes are given for, say, first and second largest fish of any species weighed in their club during the season, the "temptation to commit fraud" will be limited by the weight of the first specimens shown; small fish being of no value to the angler (so far as the prize is concerned), and there being no gross-weight prizes, it leaves to the member of the club the great pleasure of returning to their own element all but his two or three largest fish, and so proves that he has provided future sport for himself or brother anglers.

My chief objections are against the "go where you please," or "open matches," as they are sometimes called, and the prizes given by some clubs for the greatest weight of fish shown in the club during the year, or, in other words, "gross-weight prizes." I have very little to say against the so-called "pegged down matches," as they produce very little fish in more than one sense of the word—in fact, they are so small and so carefully weighed that they require an addition to our standard weights—viz., shot; but we are not told what shot they are, or their size? I will now endeavour, with our Editor's permission, to show J. M. D. and his friends why I think the first named match and the gross-weight prizes a specious form of gambling and a temptation to commit fraud. Perhaps I had better first describe the making of the match, so that all who read may judge.

Mr. Z., a member of some importance, will rise and say that he will give a sum of money to be fished for by the members of the club, and proposes that the club fish a match. Mr. X. seconds the proposition, with the remark that the club has not had a good show of fish lately, and he hopes they will agree to have an open match. Those members who subscribe a certain sum are then eligible to compete; the money is then divided into so many prizes, the day is fixed, and the intending competitors are much troubled in their minds as to which is the best place for this occasion—*i.e.*, where they can get the most fish; the man who can show the greatest weight to take the first prize, the next heaviest weight the second prize, and so on, until the number of prizes is exhausted. The day arrives, and within two or three hours of its expiration the members who have been out return, some to show specimen fish of one species, which for a short time are the admiration of the members and their friends present, until some one empties his bag and displays to the wondering gaze of those looking on samples of trout, perch, roach, chub, bream, and dace—changing the direction of one's thoughts to where the water can be that contained fish so kind, and so well mixed, and so very ignorant of the deceptive nature of the proffered bait. By the time that show has been weighed and duly entered, some of the—well, I'll call them the inexperienced members—show up, and emptying their bags into the trays, show conclusively that they have been where the fun was fast and furious; fast it must have been indeed, for there was no time to use the standard measure, or notice the difference between small chub and the dace; thus leaving this portion of their duty to their more experienced brethren, who know too well that they (the small fish) might have made good fish and good sport at some future time, and also see the wisdom and necessity for limiting the size of fish weighed-in. The time having now nearly expired, all present are in a state of excitement and anticipation, awaiting the arrival of Mr. So-and-So, the great ——— fisher, who has gone to his old spot. A few minutes more to pass away and he will be too late to weigh. There he is! shouts some one, hearing a footstep; no, it's only the waiter with the lubrication. Another minute, and a busy one it is, for the man in the corner who, unobserved himself, is taking stock of the anxious looks of the four or five prospective winners of the prizes. At last, just as the book is about to be closed, the door opens and in walks Mr. So-and-So from the seat of war, his weapons in his hands, and his wounded and stifled prisoners on his back. The dead and the gasping contents of this bag are quickly handed to the officer in command for description and weight, and the noble warrior is declared to be the victor and hero of the day by half an ounce. A vote of thanks to the gentleman who presides, and the meeting separates. We are then treated to a spasmodic report in our "own paper" of the great capture of fish by Mr. So-and-So, &c., &c., of the Undefined Angling Society. These contests are, I have no doubt, considered by some people very harmless, but my opinion is that in clubs where these matches are most popular the primary object of the members is good business—sport may follow.

The gross-weight prizes differ from the above-named matches insomuch that the competition will last throughout the season, and, although the excitement may not be so intense, the principle is the same, viz.:—A sum of money given to the member who weighs the greatest weight of fish during the year. Some time ago I saw a club list of twelve prizes for the heaviest weight of twelve different species of fish. Who, I ask, can say these are not inducements for the average angler to retain all the fish he may catch within stretchable distance of the standard? a premium for coarse cunning? a legitimate cause for complaint from the unattached angler? and diametrically opposed to the efforts of the leading men of the several angling associations who spend much time in obtaining permission, and, when obtained, in netting waters inaccessible to the general body of the anglers, and turning the fish into waters to which every angler may have access? I will venture to say, that, notwithstanding the efforts of these gentlemen to keep up the supply of coarse fish—and having in view the remarkable increase of the popularity of the gentle craft and the ever-increasing facility of reaching angling stations, also obtained by the same gentlemen, and there being no efficient coarse-fish culture scheme introduced to keep up the supply—I believe that at the end of the next twenty years or so specimen fish, now so called, will be very hard to catch, or, as my preceptor in piscatorial matters suggests, as extinct as the dodo.

But with the disappearance of gross-weight prizes and angling matches, the following may make their exit from all societies:—The man who thinks the fish shy that are left in an empty shop; the man who can imagine that waters are as inexhaustible as was the "widow's flask of oil and tub of meal;" the man who would weigh-in fish he had not caught himself; and, last but not least, the man who makes this complaint. In conclusion, may I assure J. M. D. that I have no wish to be ungenerous to his "typical sticker;" that I do not know of any club that would allow fish to be weighed that are undersized; but that I have heard of persons who think the standard too high, and seen many evils caused by the systems against which I write. Fears of lack of space induce me to withdraw, after thanking "Mark Antony" and you, Mr. Editor, for the support which you have given the question.—I am, &c.,

KINGFISHER.

GROSS WEIGHT *v.* SPECIMEN FISH.

SIR,—"Mark Antony's" account of Trent-side anglers, in your last issue, reveals a state of things which all true lovers of the sport must deplore; but, as our friend himself confesses, "the great mass of the London club men are above this kind of thing," and it is in defence of a large majority of that great mass I have "ventured" to speak. That there are black sheep among them goes without saying—we are told there are spots on the sun. These black sheep, however, are expelled whenever detected in dishonesty, and at once lose all the advantages of club membership, including cheap railway travelling; they have small chance of entering another club, from the difficulty they would experience in answering the two almost stereotyped questions, "Have you ever belonged to another club?" and, if so, "for what reason did you leave it?"

With the risk of being laughed at, I must give up the conundrum contained in the quotation from a certain paper respecting a roach match for £10 a side. I know that such matches are talked about a very long time before they really occur, and that in many cases paragraphs concerning them are inserted in some papers more for the purpose which they seem to have served in "Mark Antony's" case, viz., amusement, than anything else. On the other hand, it must be remembered that this is the age of competition, and that many London club men pride themselves as much on their power of detecting and killing almost imperceptible bites, as on their ability to turn out a good piece of cabinet work or carpentry. What is more natural than for one of such to talk rather loudly of his prowess with the rod, and to be overheard by another who considers himself his equal or superior at the game? The result is a match to decide the knotty point, and for my part I fail to see any great harm in such contests if betting is discountenanced, or limited to very small stakes, and so long as club standards are observed—as I am certain they generally are, "Mark Antony's" hint to the contrary notwithstanding.

In consideration of "greenness," which is, perhaps, more apparent than real, I must tell "Mark Antony" that it is almost an invariable custom for every member of a London club to give at least one prize to be fished for each season; of course, those who have most opportunities and perseverance take the lion's share on distribution night, but nothing at all equal in money value to the amount expended in the pursuit of their sport during the year; they are satisfied to have demonstrated to their brother members their angling skill and ability to find the fish in all the varying conditions of wind, water and weather incidental to this climate, and to be able to take home to their wives and children a few ornamental or useful articles as some small compensation for many Sundays' absence from home. This, I contend, is, in main points, a true account of the working of the prize system in most London angling clubs, and what, in the name of justice, is there to complain of in it? "Because thou art virtuous, shall there be no more cakes and ale?" especially when it is shown that the cakes and ale afford amusement and satisfaction to so many.

"Mark Antony" seems to lose sight of the fact that although a looker-on may see most of the game, he does not necessarily comprehend all its intricacies, and further, that my idol, as he terms it, has been in existence ever since angling clubs were started. Whether or not the knocking-over process has really commenced, is a matter of opinion, but, so far as I can discover, not even a small piece of paint has as yet been chipped off my idol's nose.

To return more particularly to the gross-weight *versus* specimen argument, I have a rather unpleasant task forced upon me by Mr. Crumplen's letter in answer to L. B.'s remarks on the subject. Mr. Crumplen says:—"I understand specimen fish to be fish of exceptional size or weight shown to a society by a member as the best samples of his take, the smaller fish being returned to the stream." The question I wish to ask is, are the smaller fish returned to the stream by all the members of the Gresham? My reason for asking is this: a member of my club, who also belongs to the Gresham, had a few days' fishing in Huntingdonshire last summer, and not only brought to our clubroom and weighed-in the gross total of one day's catch, and thereby secured a prize, but also weighed-in at the Gresham some of the specimens taken during his holidays. When I and my fellow-clubmen heard this, as we did for the first time last Wednesday, we were, to say the least, very much surprised; but when this piscatorial jack-of-both-sides informed us, in addition, that other members of the Gresham did the same, and that it was a recognised thing in that society, a much lighter missile than the proverbial feather would have been sufficient to knock us down. Now I sincerely hope I shall be acquitted of the slightest desire to set class against class, or to depreciate the good work which the Gresham society has done, and will without doubt continue to do, in the interest of all anglers; but it appears to me that a society aspiring to perform the same functions for fishing as the Marylebone club does for cricket, and declaring the abolition of gross-weight competitions to be one of its objects, should require all its members to uphold its principles, and especially this particular one, in practice as well as in theory, even at the risk of considerably reducing its muster-roll.

Personally, I shall be very glad to hear that I have been misinformed, but, judged by the light of the above-mentioned incident, the Gresham society, or at any rate some of its members, may be likened to a man who, while walking down Bishopsgate Street, loudly declares his honesty, and keeps his hands tight in his own pockets; but who, on turning into Houndsditch, shuts his mouth, and transfers his hands to the pockets of the passers-by. Rather severe, perhaps it may be said, but I consider the moral contained in the quotation "No man can serve two masters," will apply as well to this as any other subject.

Though last, not least, Mr. Editor, I must remind you that your suggestion as to giving a prize for the three largest fish taken in a day, although a very good one, is rather outside the argument, inasmuch as it has not yet been adopted, so far as I am aware, by even the most enthusiastic admirers of the specimen system, and if applied to our one-day competitions, would often leave the prize undecided, supposing the standard to be exceptionally high; indeed it would be well if the opponents of gross-weights could see for themselves how often such contests give ridiculously small results, and as to individual takes of 150 lb. of pike or 80 lb. of roach, many of my gross-weight friends would be perfectly satisfied with such totals for a whole season's fishing, and often enough put up with much less.—I am, &c., J. M. D.

Highbury Angling Society.

THE GRESHAM AND THE ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT.

SIR,—Being aware of the very great interest you take in the Anglers' Benevolent Society, I beg to inform you that on Thursday evening last, April 6, Mr. Ghurney and myself attended at the Gresham Angling Society to open a box which is kept there for contributions to the above society, and we were very pleased to find the sum of two pounds in it, which Mr. Ellis kindly made into guineas. This is not the first time we have had help from the Gresham since they were founded, now about twelve months. They have contributed in all over ten pounds to the funds of the Anglers' Benevolent Society.—I am, &c., G. H. FIELD.

P.S.—You can make any use of the above, and I hope it will be an example to other societies to lend a helping hand.

105, Camberwell New Road, S.E., April 10.

THE YARE ANGLING STATION.

SIR,—Whatever may be the piscatorial merits of your Norfolk correspondent "Angler," or however well acquainted with the mysteries of "liggering" on Hoveton Broad, he is either marvellously oblivious of what is going on at Brundall, or maliciously intent on misrepresenting facts. We trust to your sense of justice to enable us to give an emphatic denial to his statement *in re* the new boating station at Brundall, but especially the following:—"A smaller concern has, I believe, been started near the company's grounds; but I am informed their object is more for the purpose of advertising than anything else." Now, as our station is in course of completion, and that of the projected company not yet commenced, and as it has been for some weeks publicly notorious that the area of our ground is TWELVE ACRES, while the projected company is barely ONE! acre, we need not comment upon "Angler's" "belief" that the lesser is the greater, or the minor the major. The "advertising purpose" to which your correspondent refers relates to our large and valuable frontage next the railway (nearly a quarter of a mile) being offered as advertising sites; an advantage which the promoters of the company, having no frontage whatever, do not possess.

We have no fear of honourable competition, but we protest against being made the victims of misrepresentation; and that the readers of your valuable journal may not be hoodwinked, we enclose you our advertisement for insertion in your next and such following issues as we may hereafter require.—We are, &c., H. FLOWERS AND CO.

Brundall, April 12.

ANGLING DURING FENCE MONTHS.

SIR,—Having read a letter of the 8th inst. under the above heading, and being a member of the same society (the Anchor and Hope), I beg to inform your readers that the notice of motion was given in the usual way, and a special general meeting called, and it was passed unanimously that the rule be abolished, not because one or two members had the chances of fishing in private waters, as stated, but because the rule was a very hard and unjust one. Now, does it seem possible that such a rule should be abolished, for the benefit of one or two members, with a meeting of upwards of thirty members present? I fear that Mr. Bodell is labouring under some misunderstanding, as I do not believe that there is any member belonging to the club that would take fish during fence months from any public or subscription waters, more especially as fish are not acknowledged in the club during fence months. If a member could get permission to fish a private water, and the fish were in good condition—and I believe carp are in their prime in the months of March and April—I fail to see where the brotherly feeling is that is supposed to exist amongst club members if one member would envy another the sport which he is unable to obtain himself.—Apologising for having trespassed so much on your valuable space, I am, &c., DANIEL DAVIS.

350, Rotherhithe New Road, April 12th, 1882,

TROUT IN THE THAMES.

Sir,—I am very glad to find from Mr. Marriott's letter in the Fishing Gazette of Saturday last, and from the remarks of L. B. in the previous week, that the Lower Thames is free from the imputation inferred in Mr. Marriott's letter on the 18th of March. I can assure him that the opinion was not altogether my own, but that of others, that, as no one else on the Thames was engaged in "trout propagation," it appears to point distinctly to Chertsey Bridge. From what I have heard since, and from the letter of last week, I am quite satisfied there was nothing intended for Mr. Forbes; and had Mr. M. used the term "Wycombe blue-bottles," which L. B. did, nothing would have been said, as I had not remembered that portion of the sound practical remarks which appears in the "Jottings" of L. B. in reference to that subject. I have always maintained that the Thames is essentially a jack river, and my ideas published years ago have always been that the real Thames fish are the only trout that should be propagated, and that they should not be put in the river until they are of a good size. I therefore quite agree with the opinion expressed by the Editor in his remarks in connection with Mr. M.'s letter. If my evident misapprehension has been felt in the slightest degree by either L. B. or Mr. M. I am truly sorry for it; and as I am sure all three of us are aiming at the full accomplishment of one grand object—the preservation of rivers and the true interest of anglers—I trust nothing in the future will disturb either of us in the unselfish desire of benefiting not ourselves but our brother anglers.—I am, &c.,

B.

FISHING IN SUFFOLK.—HINTS TO ANGLERS.

Sir,—Having booked from Liverpool Street to Bures, I felt at least that I could enjoy myself this journey. Arriving at Bures, piscators will find comfortable accommodation at Mrs. Parsons's, Croft House, Bures, or Mr. Thompson's, the Bells, who is an adept with rod and gun, and will take gentlemen out in his punt and devote his time to them if they take their abode there. Mr. Thompson knows every inch of the water, and a better fisherman it is hard to find. If anglers find accommodation at Mrs. Parsons', they will get permission, through Mr. Parsons, to fish a private lake, belonging to a gentleman. On my last visit I fished this lake, and in the space of four hours I took 112 roach, from a quarter up to three-quarters of a pound. There are many there of enormous size; the huge carp, bream, jack, and rudd I certainly think cannot be surpassed anywhere. The lake is teeming with fish. Peak and Frean's biscuit is the favourite bait for roach, worked into a paste. I should think King's natural bait would prove very destructive among them. The main river is the Stour, which is alive with fish of all kinds. It is very common for Mr. Thompson and his patrons to take a hundredweight of bream in a day. From the bridge to the mills one can find swims 14 feet and upwards at the tanworks. At Bures one can get quarts of gentles for a small sum.—Hoping I have not taken a great space in your valuable paper, I remain, &c,

A Wandering Piscator.

ANGLING IN IRELAND.

On a bright evening in March, I started with a good deal of pleasure from London for a visit to Lough Melvin, to try my hand for the first time this season at the salmon. I knew from the heavy rains of the previous few days, that Old Father Thames was somewhat out of condition, and as the close time would commence on the 15th, I thought ten days would be well spent in Ireland. The train leaves Euston at 6.30 p.m., and you arrive at Belleek, the nearest station. on the following day about 6 o'clock p m.; then a drive of five miles and you are at a nice cosy little hostelry at Garrison, on the borders of the Lough, kept by Mr. Archibald Scott, who in every respect is most kind and attentive to his patrons. A good dinner and a night's rest put me in good condition for commencing the attack; and while I was breakfasting the following morning, my two boatmen, whom Mr. Scott had engaged for me, set up my rods, put on the winches and made allready in a thoroughly competent manner. The weather was all that could be desired, but there was not sufficient ripple for fly-fishing. I therefore decided to troll. It was really so warm, it was more like midsummer than March, and my face was blistered through the sun and glare on the water. The first day neither troll nor fly had any effect and we finished that day with nothing more than one or two trout, caught on large salmon flies. I felt well satisfied that nothing had been left undone, either on my part or the part of the boatmen, and knowing how uncertain salmon are, returned to the hotel, hoping better luck for the morrow. The morrow came, weather again summer. On this and two subsequent days, making four days in all, I neither rose or ran a salmon. I decided that I had arrived at the Lough too early in the season and the boatmen thought so too, although they expressed themselves confident there were salmon in the Lough. With rather gloomy thoughts, thoughts of returning to London on the following or next day, I took down my salmon cast and put up a trout cast, so as to try and catch a trout while the men were rowing me gently to the quay. I do not think I had cast my flies more than half a dozen times, and being tired had done so in rather a leisurely manner, when, all of a sudden, I saw a salmon rise; I struck. Was in time and he ran off some twenty or twenty-five yards of my line. Something told me by his weight I should not get him as my flies were very small and my cast suitably fine. He stopped and gave himself a shake, then suddenly rose and sprang about a couple of feet out of the water; he was a fresh-run fish of some 12 to 15 lb. in weight. As he sprang I lowered the point of my rod. In another instant I felt him and then I put on a slight strain with my rod well elevated. I played him as gently as possible for between 15 and 20 minutes and then considered it was time to have a look at him. I put on the least extra strain to raise him, when to my great chagrin, the hold of the hook gave way and my first hooked fish was again free. This was a real disappointment, but it removed the impression I had previously entertained of there being no salmon in the Lough. We were out early the following morning, and by eleven o'clock I had the pleasure of securing the first salmon of the season in Lough Melvin, he weighed about 12 lb. I worked very hard the remainder of the day and caught two small brown trout and a small *salmo ferox*. The next day I got two salmon, the largest 16 lbs., he was in fine condition and they have duly sent off to be weighed in at the Piscatorial Society. The weather had become very stormy and I was prevented from fishing part of one day and the whole of another. The news had now got abroad that the salmon were taking and two more boats joined in the fishing. I stayed three more days. One day I had a blank. One day, one salmon, and the last day fortunately two salmon. I hooked several other fish, some of which were kelts and were duly returned to the water. The season is now full on for the spring salmon, and all fish you catch, you are at liberty to retain. Certain portions of the Lough are preserved and can be fished either by permission or payment of daily tickets; but the portion of the Lough where I caught my salmon was the public portion. The fish run from 8 lb. to 20 lb., in weight and they have often caught larger that that. Salmon fishing, we all know, has been and still is getting more difficult to obtain each season, and here by a twenty-four hours' journey you have good salmon fishing in public water.

Any gentleman addressing a letter to Mr. Archibald Scott, Garrison Hotel, Lough Melvin, Co. Fermanagh, Ireland, will receive full information and replies to any queries he may ask. The cost of living at the hotel is very moderate. The boatmen 2s. 6d. per day each, their lunch and their whisky. Should any reader decide to visit the Lough, he must not forget to make arrangements with Mr. Scott, previously to going, or he may find the hotel full on his arrival and I do not know of other lodgings to be obtained.

Thos. Huggett

George James Eaton, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices; Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies,. 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[Advt.]

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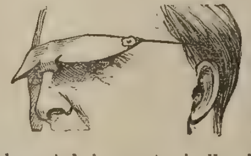

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 1882.

THE EASTER RAID: A LAY SERMON.

By Fay Ranglre, Esq.

USING the columns of the Fishing Gazette as a pulpit, perhaps I may be permitted to preach a short sermon to my brethren of the angle; to those of them, at any rate, to whom it will apply. My text is a certain holiday, not a hundred days ago. The application of my discourse, which, reversing the usual order, I will use by way of introduction, may be thus set down:—Even the humblest angler should consider, when he goes a-fishing, that he ought not to discredit the general body of which he is a member; ought not to offend, disgust, and defy landowners and occupiers; ought never to be guilty of unsportsmanlike practices, simply because there happen to be no penalties to enforce wholesome regulations.

It is necessary perhaps, brethren, for me to explain that when—signing the transfer which divorced me for ever from the business by long devotion to which I had at last secured a moderate income in four per cents.—I retired to this village, and christened my bit of freehold, in grateful remembrance, by the name of Cursitor Rise, I was as fond of a piscatorial outing, or country ramble, as town-born, town-bred man could be. As the years rolled round, a little rural trip at Easter and Whitsuntide seemed the proper thing to do. Thus did I foster that love for the country which has registered me, though in a modest way, one of the Home Counties landholders. The sight of the holiday-keepers turning the railway stations into a scene of confusion, crowding the omnibuses, overloading the steamers, and swarming to the suburbs, gave me lively satisfaction. To see so many people joyous warmed my heart. I blessed them, and wished them God speed in the woods and meadows, on river, sands, and sea, to which they were bound. But just now that we, in our later *role* of country residents, are suffering from a raid of town excursionists, the general question of holiday outings wears a different aspect. By the short single line which connects us with the main system of railway came, at nine o'clock, perhaps a hundred third-class passengers—men, women, and children—to taste the sweets of the country, no doubt, but also to invade our repose and ignore the sacred claims of property in a really alarming manner. No boy has a right to thrust his arm through the railings and grab at my lilies of the valley; nor should his father respond to my interruption by contemptuously referring to me as an "old bloke." By what argument, too, can the honest man who followed soon after, justify his two sons in pelting my pet spaniel, placed in the front garden to repel further inroads? Yet these things happened on this joyful holiday morning, as a small contingent of the invaders, bound for a canal a mile or so distant, passed along the high road, chivying the peaceful fowls right and left into everybody's gardens and yards, irritating the village dogs, and leaving in their wake quite a ground-swell of disturbance. The great feature of Cursitor Rise is the garden at the rear of the house, with its lovely lawn sloping down to a river, and an aspect that catches the morning sun. Across the river are meadows, beautifully green, and beginning to be gaily decked with flowers. It so happens that the further bank, for the distance of a quarter of a mile, was many years ago a towing path, and there has been for a long time a perpetual warfare as to the right of fishing between certain London anglers 'and the farmer who at present rents the water meads. There is no necessity for me to enter into the dispute, although during the past season I have been ashamed of the manner in which some London anglers have defiantly fished in waters which are undoubtedly private. One Sunday, three men used the foulest language to the farmer, and threatened to throw him into the water if he did not leave them. The three men are probably not aware that within half an hour of their departure by the train, the outraged proprietor appeared with a constable on the scene of their exploits. But let that pass. I would like, after all, to make my sermon as agreeable as I can, consistently with plain-speaking.

And now to return to our discourse. On the morning of the holiday to which I am referring, after being ruffled by the epithet "old bloke" and so forth, I retired to the rear, and took my favourite chair on the lawn, close to the river. Along the old towing-path the other side, four or five anglers were already at work throwing in groundbait and plumbing the depth. The women and children were dispersing to the hedgerows and over the grass land, pausing at the ditches and foraging along the margins of the watercress beds. There was no great harm in this, though, if the lessee of the land had not happened to be holiday-making on his own account, there must have been something in the shape of a collision between him and the trespassers. The excursionists, I have no doubt, enjoyed themselves in the fresh country air, and unbroken sunshine. The sights and sounds were all calculated to raise the spirits and charm the senses.

To people lately arrived from courts and alleys, what with the cattle grazing in deep content, the lambs frisking with the ewe-mothers, the birds in full song, and, pervading all, that gracious odour peculiar to growing grass and leafing hedges (though no perfume of flowers enters into it), every prospect must have pleased. Shall I add the rest, and say "Only man is vile?" That would be too harsh. Indeed, I would drop the subject altogether, but for the hope that my grumble may act as a warning. Why, then, O brothers of the angle, did you deem it worth your while to send your wordy, and sometimes vulgar chaff across the river to me, the harmless gentleman, perusing his paper on the lawn of Cursitor Rise? You friend, wearing the straw hat, seemed doubtless to make a telling point by your "He's got 'em on." But what did you mean? Your comrade, the red-haired fisherman with a cold in his head, must needs also indulge in occasional references to what he called my "'at," which, truth to confess, is a very respectable article of French manufacture, and only remarkable from its sensible breadth of brim. Judge, then, of my feelings when, at intervals, a strident voice would loudly enquire, "I say, 'ooze yer 'atter?" But I took no apparent notice of these unfriendly efforts at witticism, and, receiving no encouragement, you at length forbore to insult the meek individual who had not only given no cause of offence, but who was full of sympathy with you in your temporary escape from London. However, let me hasten to finish my catalogue of complaints.

My good friends, the excursionists, listen to me in all kindness. After an experience of some dozen holiday raids, I can understand the dislike felt by the countryfolks against the "Cockney excursionist." I grant that it is only a small percentage of your number that brings you into contempt, but always remember that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump. The character of the whole flock is generally estimated by the conduct of its few black sheep. So, the thoughtlessness of just a handful of your band at this Easter outing, stamps you all as selfish and ill-mannered. What will my neighbour of the water-meads say when, on his return, he finds the stakes torn from the hedge, paper and broken bottles strewed upon the grass, and the ashes of your camp fire staring him in the face? The chasing of the four white ducks out of the river and into the meadow I admit afforded the children plenty of fun, but the proprietor of the water-cress bed—along the whole length of which the heavy birds floundered in their anxiety to escape the sods so gleefully hurled at them—will pay for that amusement to the tune of fifteen or eighteen shillings, The damage will not be a farthing less. The water-cress was in its most tender stage, and of the rich brown tint so much admired by connoisseurs. It had been weeded and nurtured into an even, healthy, and extra valuable bed. In a few days it would have been cut and sent to London; and so superlative was its quality, that it ought to have been purveyed only amongst the nobility and gentry. But those four white ducks, having been driven into it by some of your children, remained there all day, paddling pleasantly to and fro, but trampling down the water-cress beyond redemption. Then again, there was the removal of the staple from the post. Believe me, that gate was not chained up as a joke, When the staple was hammered in, it was to signify to all comers that there was a special reason for keeping the barrier closed night and day. I am free to confess, my pale-faced friend with the baby in arms, that your wife could not clamber over those five bars, as you and the boys did. She looked much too weakly for that feat, I was sorry to note. But you surely could not be aware that the probable consequence of your battering out the staple with a big stone, would be an irruption of live stock into a meadow from which a particularly excellent crop of hay was expected? It was nothing, may be, but thoughtlessness on your part, though it did occur to me that there was an unnecessary fierceness in your exclamation, "What the doose do they mean by fastening up a gate in this way?" My advice is this:—Come into the country as often as you can, take your reasonable fill of its lawful pleasures; but *do* respect other people's property, rights, and feelings. In a word, on these excursions, simply do to others as you would others did unto you.

On the whole, worthy excursionists, you must have had a long, glorious day in the country. Will you bear with me further, while I correct a few erroneous impressions some of you formed? The blossoms which whiten my kitchen garden, as if a snow-storm had swept the trees, and which afforded so much delight to the anglers opposite, who kept summoning their non-angling friends to look at them, are not, as you supposed, those of the apple tree. They are cherry, plum, and pear blossoms. The apple trees will blossom later, with a pink and white bloom to which none else can compare. The flowering sprigs which, spite of prickles, some of the youngsters plucked out of the copse hedge, are not from the may, or hawthorn bush. The hawthorn is in full leaf when it flowers. It is the blackthorn which blossoms before the leaves appear, and they were blackthorn branches which the gatherers seemed so determined to preserve for introduction to their London neighbours as veritable may. There is really no resemblance between the two trees: the hawthorn, or whitethorn, being, if not imposing, still neat and compact; while the blackthorn, or sloe-tree, is a ragged, rambling bush of little account. I must put your women-folk and children right also as to the so-called buttercups. The glossy yellow flowers of which they gathered so abundant a store by the ditch-sides were the wild marsh marigold, which, as Tennyson truly says—

> " Shines like fire in swamps and hollows grey."

There are three other flowers which, from their family likeness, pass as buttercups, and our Easter visitors had a specimen of each. It is early yet for the buttercup *par excellence*, or bulbous crowfoot, which in June will powder your boots with its golden dust, but I fancy I saw one or two precocious specimens. Early also would it be for the greater celandine, or swallow-wort, were it not so forward a season, but they have this year hastened to open their petals as an Easter offering. Next we have the lesser celandine, or pilewort, which may be distinguished from the other by the number of its petals, which vary from eight to twelve, while those of the greater are four in number. The little shade-loving pilewort was in flower during the first week of February. If the two damsels carrying the small basket had crossed the plank over the brook, and pushed on to the open pasture beyond the clump of elms in whose tops they saw the busy rookery, they would have found some cowslips. Perhaps, however, it is well that they did not, for there are a few oxslips coming on, and they might have been sacrificed while yet in the bud. Finer primroses were never seen than those gathered during the Easter of 1882.

The jolly anglers opposite—to whom, in conclusion, I will call attention—seemed to have had a most indifferent day's sport, as indeed they were almost certain to do in the east wind, bright sun, and clear water. They fell into that very common fault of roach-fishers, and threw in too much groundbait. Nor did they appear to be at all aware that the shadows of their bodies and long bamboo rods were upon the water. I am aware that they could not have faced the sun without coming to my side; but they might have sat farther back. But for their ill-timed merriment over my broadbrim, I would in all kindness have informed them that to my knowledge a brace of jack were lying in the hole. The red-haired man found this out for himself in the afternoon, for, a small roach being hooked, one of the pike, tempted by the artistic manner in which it was played by the fisherman, made a dash, and broke away roach, tackle, and top joint. I forgive the angler for swearing so lustily; most of us might have done so under the circumstances. One word more. The two fish said by the oldest angler of the three to be dace were nothing of the kind—they were chub, as the black tail fins might have shown. Had they been dace they should have been returned to the water, such fish being, from their recent spawning, quite out of condition. The anglers were not overweighted with fish on the homeward journey; but the women and children had great quantities of such spring flowers as had come in their way, and they were all happy, and tired. Finally, brethren—good luck be with you. Ponder my sayings. Be happy.

THE EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION.

EVERY day that the exhibition remains open, greater interest is exhibited in it by the public, and the attendance on each day recently has ranged from seven to ten thousand; amongst the visitors from London are Messrs. F. C. Clench, Francis Francis, Brookwell, Sachs, Natrell, &c. We understand Mr. Morgan's time is fully occupied in answering questions relating to the London Angling Clubs' exhibit, which is admitted on all sides to be *the* show of the show.

From amongst the list of awards we select the following:—

Club Collections.

The Piscatorial Society of London.—Thirty-three cases of Thames, Collne and Wandle trout, Itchen grayling, Thames pike, Elbe pike, perch, Thames barbel, chub, carp, tench, bream, char, perch, Colne and Waveney roach, &c. Gold Medal.

The Good Intent Angling Society.—Thirty-nine cases trout, tench, roach, rudd, dace, perch, bream, jack, carp, and chub. Gold Medal,

The Edmonton and Tottenham Angling Society.—One case Thames perch. Diploma.

The Hammersmith United Angling Society, Bridge Road.—Eleven cases Thames roach, bream, perch, chub, barbel, and carp, Colne carp, Ripley jack, Elstree tench, Colne dace. Silver Medal.

The Reform Angling Society.—One case Thames carp. Silver Medal.

The Richmond Piscatorial Society.—Silver Medal.

Private Collections.

Mr. H. Brookwell, 4, 'Morpeth Street, Green Street, Bethnal Green.—Eight cases pike; three cases roach; two cases tench; one case barbel; five cases trout; two cases chub; one case bream; one case perch. Gold Medal.

Captain Alfred, 20, Moorgate Street.—Silver Medal for his exhibit of paintings of salmon.

General Exhibitors.

Conroy, Bisset and Malleson, 65, Fulton Street, New York.—Silver Medal for fishing rods and tackle.

W. Cochrane, 4, Grove Place, Edinburgh.—Diploma for fishing tackle.

J. Graham, 19, St. Giles Street, Edinburgh.—Diploma for salmon angler's case.

Magoria, Giuseppe, Locarno, Switzerland.—Silver Medal for assortment of rods and artificial flies, the latter are chiefly on the barbless hooks, as recommended by Seth Green (we fail to see the advantage in a barbless hook and have frequently lost fish on account of the barb being absent in some badly made hook); the flies are dressed nicely and small.

Hardy Brothers, Fenkle Street, Alnwick.—Silver Medal and Prize of £5, for fishing rods and collection of inland fishing-tackle.

Hearder and Son, 195, Union Street, Plymouth.—Silver Medal and Prize of £5, for sea-fishing tackle, mounted lines, &c.

C. Playfair and Co., 142, Union Street, Aberdeen.—Diploma for rods, reels, gaffs, and flies.

R. C. Steven, 15, West Street, Berwick.—Silver Medal and special prize of £10. The money prize being given by the Waverley Angling Club for the most complete outfit suitable for the Lochs and Rivers of Scotland.

W. Dickson and Co., 15, South Frederick Street, and Gilmore Park, West Fountainbridge, Edinburgh.—Silver Medal and £5 for fishing rods, reels, lines, and tackle.

Redpath and Co., fishing-tackle manufacturers, Kelso.—Gold Medal for exhibit, £10 of No. 12 prize for inland fishing tackle; prize 26 (£5 5s.) for collection of materials for flies; and £5 (prize 27) for collection of flies suitable for Scotch lochs.

D. Wells, Leith Street, Edinburgh.—Diploma for inland fishing tackle.

Wm. H. Wigley, Cheltenham.—Diploma for the registered Gloucestershire spinner for salmon, sewin, trout, bass, pike and perch.

Joseph J. Armistead, Solway Fishery, Dumfries.—Silver Medal and £7 10s. for various kinds of fish-hatching apparatus and plans.

Max von dem Borne, Berneuchen, Custrin, Prussia.—Silver Medal for deep and plain Californian troughs.

Howietoun Fishery, Stirling.—Gold Medal and £10 for models and plans of apparatus for transporting live fish; and £10 of prize 14 for fish-hatching apparatus.

Byram Littlewood, Cecil Street, Huddersfield.—Silver Medal and £7 10s. for apparatus for hatching and rearing salmonidae; and diploma for *Salmo Corpioni*, the first of the species in England.

Constantine Mussynki, 54, Nevsky Prospect, St. Petersburg.—Silver Medal for apparatus for transporting young fish long distances.

We shall next week describe the most novel and useful exhibits connected with pisciculture and angling, but may say at once that there is very little really new of importance.

A WATERPROOF KNAPSACK.

MR. W. BOSWELL, of 48, London Street, Norwich, sends us one of the bags which he is advertising in our columns. It is hardly a fishing-bag in the ordinary sense of the words, but any one who wants a thoroughly strong knapsack for an angling tour will find this the cheapest thing in the market; in fact it cost 18s. originally, and appears to be surplus stock from some Government army contract. The leather is worth the price now asked for the bag.

George James Eaton, of Sarkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard **FLIES** for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether the may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day, All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[Advt.]

PISCATORIAL SONNETS.

II.

Retrospect.

Upon the triumphs of the days of old
When memory turns her gaze what trophies rise
And bring the sparkle back into the eyes,
And stir the joyful tongue till it hath told
The tale of the good fight, how—brave and bold—
Game to the last—the noble victim dies!
On-wandering, under ever-changing skies,
Roaming the banks of rivers manifold,
The shore of many a lake, we take *our share*,
Full toll and tribute of the finny tribe—
Until not Egypt's highest pyramid,
And all its great gross-weight can *quite* compare
With the grand score we to our rod ascribe—
So wondrous doughty were the deeds it did.

The Fishery Hotel, Harefield, Bucks. A.R.I.E.L
April 18, 1882.

THE EYED HOOKS FOR FLIES.

FROM several letters we have received with specimens of night-line hooks, and other old-fashioned hooks with eyes, it appears that some of our readers consider there is nothing new about, the eyed hooks, made to Mr. Hall's pattern. If the eye were the only feature we should have no reason for calling attention to them; but it is the general shape and size and make that give these hooks so much value, as well as the fact that they are eyed. The wire is about a third finer than the ordinary wire, and yet strong enough for anything; the colour is a neutral tint—much better than the decided black or blue.

THE LONDON INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH presided on Thursday afternoon at a public meeting, assembled in the Egyptian Hall of the Mansion House, in support of the International Fisheries Exhibition, proposed to be held in London in 1883. Among those present were Earl Ducie, the Marquis of Exeter, the American Minister (Mr. J. Russell Lowell Mr. J. Pender, M.P., the Prime Warden of the Fishmongers' Company, and the Master of the Mercer's Company, Sir John St. Aubyn, Sir Henry Parkes, Professor Huxley, Mr. S. Walpole (Her Majesty's Inspector of Fisheries), Mr. E. C. Marjoribanks, M.P., Mr. Edward Birkbeck, M.P., Sir Brandreth Gibbs (director and secretary of the Exhibition), Mr. Towse (assistant secretary), Sir J.C. Lawrence, M.P., Alderman W. Lawrence, M.P., Professor Leoni Levi, Sir Alexander Gordon, M.P., Mr. A. Pease, M.P., Sir John Bennett, Mr. E. Collins, Mr. R. B. Marston, Mr. A. Jardine, Mr. J. Knechtli, Mr. Benningfield, &c., &c.

The Duke of Edinburgh, in opening the proceedings, said: In the absence of the Lord Mayor I have been requested to take the chair, and I do so with great pleasure, as the subject we are met to consider is one in which I take a very great interest. This meeting is held for the purpose of bringing the object before the notice of the City and I hope the result will be to help to secure the success of the exhibition. (Cheers.) This exhibition is one which it would be impossible to carry on without a guarantee fund, such as was obtained for the Great Exhibition of 1851, and that subsequently held in 1862, You will have to-day an opportunity of assisting in the formation both of a guarantee fund and a prize fund for the awards to be given to the exhibitors. I am empowered by the Prince of Wales to inform the meeting that he has every reason to hope that her Majesty will either inaugurate or visit early in its commencement the proposed exhibition. (Cheers.) I am careful in saying that the "Prince of Wales " has every reason to hope" that such would be the case, because it is utterly impossible for the Queen, at so long a time in advance, to tell positively what she would do. When Mr. Birkbeck (chairman of the executive committee) informed me that the exhibition was likely to be held on the lands of the Exhibition Commissioners of 1851 at South Kensington, my thoughts reverted immediately to the point to which I alluded in the address I had the pleasure of making at the inaugural meeting at this exhibition—namely, that I hoped there would be ample opportunity given for conversaziones or meetings for the reading and discussion of papers which are important in regard to fishery matters connected with the United Kingdom. I look upon this feature as one of the most important adjuncts to the Exhibition—(hear, hear)—and I hope many papers will be prepared, dealing with the improvements or extension of the fisheries around our coast, or with the condition and the protection of the lives of our fishermen. (Hear, hear.)

The American Minister moved: "That this meeting, having regard to the great and increasing importance of fishing industries throughout the world, cordially approves of the proposal for a great International Fisheries Exhibition, to be held in London in 1883, under the patronage of her most gracious Majesty the Queen."

Earl Ducie, in seconding, expressed the belief that the exhibition would be of scientific importance, and productive of great economic results.

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Sir A. Galt, High Commissioner of Canada, then moved: "That, in the opinion of this meeting, in order to ensure the success of the proposed exhibition, it is desirable to secure the support of those interested in the Colonial Dependencies of the empire, and cordially recommend its objects to the attention of those citizens of London, merchants and others, who are connected with the Colonies." He said he knew that the Government of Canada intended to do its utmost to give efficient support to the exhibition.

Sir H. Parkes, Prime Minister of New South Wales, seconded the motion, and pointed out that the fisheries in Australia had been neglected, and there was much need of improvement.

Professor Huxley (one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Fisheries) moved: "That this meeting, considering the great importance of promoting the fishing industries, and the welfare of the sea-faring population of Great Britain and Ireland, recommends the exhibition to the citizens of London for their cordial support." He remarked that, whether in regard to quantity or delicacy of fish, there was no parallel to be found to the fishing grounds around our own coasts and the western frontiers of Europe. There could be no question either as to the importance of the fishing industry to the country or as to the interests of the population engaged in it. As in the case of the land, there were three F's in the fish question—the first "Freedom," the second "Fair Play," and the third "Facility." If these three F's were carried out consumer and producer might well be satisfied. He had reason to know at present they were by no means satisfied, and he considered the only remedy for existing evils was to bring the full blaze of public opinion to bear upon the question, and that could be best done by means of such an exhibition as that proposed.

Mr. T. F. Brady, Inspector of Irish Fisheries, seconded, and the resolution was adopted.

On the motion of Sir J. Lawrence, M.P., seconded by Alderman Fowler, M.P., it was resolved: "That the citizens of London be and are hereby invited to contribute to the two subscriptions lists already opened, one for the 'General and Prize Fund,' of the proposed exhibition, and the other for the 'Guarantee Fund.'"

His Royal Highness then read a list of the leading contributions to the two funds.

Sir John St. Aubyn moved, and Mr. Oscar Dickson seconded, a vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor for convening the meeting; and, this having been accorded, a similar compliment, on the motion of Lord Exeter, seconded by Mr. Birkbeck, M.P., was paid to the Duke of Edinburgh for presiding.

Mr. Fawcett, M.P., and Mrs. Fawcett are spending a few days at Salisbury. During the past week Mr. Fawcett had some good fishing in the neighbouring streams. In Lord Normanton's water at Ipsley he caught a fine salmon weighing 18 lb. During his stay Mr. Fawcett has been waited upon by a deputation from the city Liberals and requested to attend a meeting of the Liberal association, but he declined, as he had promised to deliver no speech until after he had addressed his constituency at Hackney.

For the Little Readers of the Fishing Gazette.—What is that we see down by the stream? Is it a man? Yes, it is a man. What is the man doing? He has a fishing rod in his hand and he is looking up into the tree? What does the man see in the tree? He sees a collar, two flies, and about twenty-five feet of line, How came the collar and the flies and the line in the tree? The man saw a large trout rise at his fly and he gave a fearful jerk and thought he had the trout, but he has the tree. Is the man pleased with what he has got? Oh, yes! he is much pleased, but we will not go near him.—*Forest and Stream.*

Fresh-water Fish at the Aquarium.—An experiment which has never previously been made on any large scale is being tried at the Westminster Aquarium, under the superintendence of Mr. John Carrington, F.L.S. In the tanks, which until lately have been tenanted by various specimens of sea fish there have been placed a number of trout, pike, carp, and other species of fresh-water fish, some taken from the Thames, but the majority presented by Sir Robert Bateson Harvey, who allowed his lake at Black Park, Slough, to be netted for the purpose. Amongst the fish taken by this means are some splendid carp, the largest weighing upwards of 14 lb., and the smaller ones not less than half that weight. The pike comprise some particularly fine specimens, the largest being the 28-pounder caught some few years ago by the Duke of Edinburgh at Eastwell Park, and presented by him to the chairman of the Aquarium Company. All the fish appear in good condition, but, owing to the change of water, some are slightly affected by mould, which is rapidly disappearing under the treatment of Mr. Carrington. The trout do not show, however, any signs of this malady, and, despite the fact that many of them were caught by hook and line in the upper Thames, they have in no respect lost their colour, and to lovers of the piscatorial art they are well worth a visit. —*Morning Post.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

SPECIMEN FISH *v.* GROSS WEIGHT.

Sir,—In reply to L. B., in your last issue, that gentleman says:—"I shall continue to hope 'Mark Antony's' information has been derived from an unreliable source." Now, it is a most extraordinary fact that on the 5th of the present month (and before my letter appeared in your paper) I received a letter on this very question from a man who has lived near the Trent all his life, and he ought to know; and, without my having even referred this matter to him, he says (I enclose his letter). "they are going to charge 5s. for fishing in Bisthorpe Fleet, and the Trent here is entirely spoilt (*i.e.*, between Langford and Bisthorpe on the one hand and Cromwell and Sutton on the other); the banks are full of Nottingham men, who, when the season is on, not only net, but are up to all sorts of games to catch a basket of fish." Now, out of these, we will say hundreds, there must be scores of club men, and, as L. B. truly says:—"I, however, hope we may yet have an explanation from Trent-side club men." So do I with all my heart, and the sooner it comes the better; but let us have a thorough explanation. The question is a very simple one. Do the Trent-side club men push three or four good-sized dace into the stomach of a jack, or shove three or four ounces of swan or B B shot down the gullets of bream and dace, &c., to make them weigh heavier? Do all the fish weighed-in by members of the Trent-side club men or London club men, all through the season, always belong fairly and squarely to those members? Are these matches, &c., free from humbug? Are there never any fish purchased in town, or, for the matter of that, from puntsmen and others, and shown at the club as fish of members' own catching. If not, then I am very sorry I spoke. But, as "Kingfisher" truly says, "these contests are, I have no doubt, considered by some people very harmless, but my opinion is that in clubs where these matches are most popular, the primary object of the members is good business, sport may follow." Comment is really unnecessary. Certainly the implicit trust and confidence J. M. D. seems to place in members of fishing clubs is, knowing what human nature is, very remarkable.

Since January 1 of the present year, I think the "Trent Otter," in your paper, referred to the practice of netting in reference to some bream, and that they were shown at the clubs by certain immaculate gentlemen as their own catching. I think he said he was afraid this was the case.

In paragraph 2, what J. M. D. means when he says, "I must give up the conundrum contained in the quotation from a certain paper respecting a roach match for £10 a side," I cannot conceive. I know the match did come off.

I only wish I had all the money lost and won in fishing matches in one season in my pocket now. Well, never mind what I would do.

Does J. M. D. think the proprietor of a certain paper is in the habit of paying a gentleman to report imaginary matches? Or are his reports like, it seems to me, a good many things connected with clubs and club men—I cannot help saying it—rot, horrible rot?

Last Sunday week I read—J. M. D. can *rede*—in the *Referee* that the total weight of fish caught by the Larkhall Lane Angling Club for the season was 1327 lb. 3 oz. Will some member of L.L.A.C. kindly inform me (1) If these nearly 12 cwt. of fish were all above the club standard—how interesting to know how many of each sort and weight; and (2) if this is the usual weight caught by the London clubs in general? Because, if it is, I begin to think with "Kingfisher" that at the end of the next twenty years or so specimen fish, now so called, will be very hard to catch; or, as his preceptor in piscatorial matters suggested, "as extinct as the dodo."

Only last year, I recollect reading an account in the *Sporting Life* of a grand angling match that came off in the North of England. Now listen. There were 400 competitors—reaching over four miles—and the angler who took first prize in this grand affair weighed-in something like 4 lb. 13 oz.

But perhaps, as J. M. D. suggests, it was only inserted in the *Sporting Life* for amusement. I expect it was far from amusing to about 390 idiots who sent their halfcrowns and got a piece of pasteboard in return.

In one of these grand matches, one of his immaculate club men had got two fine bream covered over with pastry in a dish—nice pie that, sir! This was the very match that a near relation took the third prize.

In conclusion, supposing these 400 so-called anglers had not caught a single fish, will J. M. D.—upon my word, I am really obliged to J. M. D., for he has told me more about clubs, club men, prizes, specimen fish, gross weights, "typical sticker" (what a fine name), angling matches, competitions, &c., than I ever knew or dreamt of. I say, if these 400 anglers had not caught a single fish, will J. M. D. inform me who would have had those 400 half-dollars? I want to know. I shall be in the North of England, near a canal, in the summer; and if he reports well, I might do a leetle business myself.

Hoping J. M. D., L. B., and our good friend "Kingfisher" will forgive all the terrible shortcomings necessarily to be found in an unpremeditated epistle of this description.—I am, &c., Mark Antony.

[If "Mark Antony" were a club-man he would know that the Larkhall Anglers are, like his friend Cæsar's wife, "above suspicion."—Ed.]

GROSS WEIGHT *v.* SPECIMEN FISH.

Sir,—It so happens that there is very little in "Kingfisher's" letter appearing in your last issue, which is not answered by my own, which immediately follows it; there are, however, a few exceptions to which I should like to draw attention.

In the first place, the man who, according to "Kingfisher," "can grass a dozen babies," is quite as ready as any other to tackle and land any larger fish which may fancy his lure. Again, I must remind our friend that a competition decided by the two largest fish taken in a day is a different affair to the large takes fo so-called specimen pike and perch, which B. so triumphantly referred in this paper dated 28th January, as examples to be followed by erring gross-weight anglers. This letter of B.'s induced me to express my own ideas in print—ideas to which "Kingfisher" in his turn took exception.

I then thought, and am still of the opinion, that if after years of talk and persuasion, B. had no better examples of self-denial, or, I will say, of a higher sense of piscatorial duty to refer to than those he quoted, his theory stood very little chance of general adoption; indeed, if "Kingfisher" will only explain how a man in a day's competition is to tell whether a certain good-sized specimen fish caught in the morning will be the largest one of his take during the day, or how is he to keep alive all he catches to enable him to select the largest over a certain standard, and return the remainder to the water, which I take to be the great desideratum, to him, and to his club will belong the chief credit of popularising the theory, if it ever becomes popular, and will go further towards bringing it into practice than any reports of sensational catches from private or very prolific waters—catches which are gross weights in reality, if not in name. I am the more inclined to this belief after "Kingfisher's" assurance that the members of his club are working men, who, it is fair to assume, can rarely afford the luxury of a punt, from the well of which the smaller fish can easily be returned to their native element. To pursue this subject further, it seems to me a difficult matter to ascertain whether a fish weighs an ounce or so under or over a pound when first caught, and for the purpose aimed at by the specimen theory, it is no use trying to find it out when the victim reaches the club trays; in this connection perhaps I may be allowed to suggest that the system of measurement on the spot, in vogue among the misguided gross-weight men is far preferable, inasmuch as it affords no excuse to any one for taking undersized fish.

Let not "Kingfisher" and his friends, however, imagine that in giving prizes for the "first and second largest fish" they have found a panacea for angling dishonesty; I think I can show that to the few men whose motto is "prizes first and sport afterwards," it would simplify matters considerably, especially if allowed to go where they pleased. Take the following example, which I am afraid is not a solitary one. One day last summer I was plying the rod with scant success at a well-known spot on the Arun, when a slouching native came behind me, and asked if I wanted to buy any fish, adding that he had taken a fine lot of carp from a pond the previous night; of course I refused to deal with him, and very much regretted that my fighting weight comes under the denomination of 'feather,' and that in a fistic contest as arranged for endurance, Mr. Chawbacon would very probably have knocked me out of time. Now supposing I had been one of those dreadful individuals at whom both "Kingfisher" and "Mark Antony" have pointed the finger of scorn, how easy it would have been for me to have selected the largest of the countryman's carp, to have glorified myself therewith at my club, and to have secured the prize for the largest specimen, and all without the fatigue and trouble of carrying a large gross weight from my swim to the country station, and from the London terminus to my club house.

So far from the unattached angler having cause for complaint against the promoters and followers of gross-weight contests, I think the boot is on the other leg, for my own experience goes to prove that these same unattached anglers are far worse offenders in the matter of taking undersized fish than any club men, and that club men often come in for censure on account of offences for which unattached men are alone responsible. Again, I believe that the gentlemen who are now working so hard in the cause of anglers, obtaining railway privileges, &c., will be among the first to admit that, although they are perhaps devoting more time and energy to the matter, the idea originated with, and the working of it was for a long time confined to very humble members of society, many of whom were, and still are, gross-weight men.

In recording his opinion as to the class of men who will disappear with gross-weight competitions, "Kingfisher" has forgotten the advice of a famous man, "Don't prophesy unless you know," or, at least, I hope he is a false prophet in that portion referring to myself. Let me assure our friend—and I say friend in all sincerity, notwithstanding difference of opinion—that the love of the sport, which I imbibed at a very early, would not be affected in the least if I never take another prize for gross weight or specimens, and if all prizes are abolished I shall continue to visit my favourite swims, unless rheumatism puts in a stronger claim, until I "shuffle off this mortal coil."

Now, as to my thinking fish shy that are left in an empty swim—rather an Hibernianism by the way—I am still of opinion that many swims are credited with emptiness when the bad sport in them is due to the shyness of the fish from continued fishing, &c. Of course I may be wrong in this opinion, but if so, I am content to err in such good company as "dear old Izaac" in the past, and, among others, I will take at random Mr. Balderston in the present. Let any readers of this correspondence peruse the last two paragraphs of that gentleman's paper in this week's Fishing Gazette (April 15), entitled "Thoughts on the Theory of Flies," and then say whether many of the opinions there expressed are not equally applicable to coarse fish, and whether they do not in part bear out my theory.—I am, &c., J. McD.

GROSS WEIGHT AND SPECIMEN FISH.

Sir,—Just a few lines to endorse J. M. D's remarks in this week's Fishing Gazette. I am pleased to find the gross-weight system so well defended. I certainly doubt any one being found returning to the river every fish but a specimen, or even "Kingfisher" leaving off fishing when fish are well on. I never found the angler yet who would do it. If I do find such a man, I shall vote he be put into a glass case instead of the fish.

How few would believe what we did if we could not show the fish we caught. What man ever made a big bag but has said, or at least thought, "Ah, if I had only, &c., &c., it might have been larger."

If a man publicly states his intention to angle for specimen fish only, I venture to say he will think very little of himself when he finds his name at the bottom of the list, that is if he be a genuine working member. In all clubs there are a number of lazy members who would then have the opportunity of sheltering themselves under the specimen excuse. I venture to say these are not the sort of men we care to see in clubs. Fancy a namby-pamby fellow going out catching but few fish, and then saying, "Oh, I only fish for large fish." Paugh! I have just been informed—Mr. Editor—by an old angling friend of a recent take of trout (50 fish), weighing about 30 lb. I ask "Kingfisher" would he not feel proud to see his name to such a day's take. I fancy seeing him return the bulk to the water, selecting only one or two fish.—I am, &c.,

A Working Man Angler.

P.S.—Alter the size of takeable fish if they are found still too small.

[After all is said, we think this short letter of "A Working Man Angler" hits the mark; there is no end of truth in it.—Ed.]

GROSS WEIGHT *v.* SPECIMEN FISH.

Sir,—J. M. D. cleverly diverts attention from the point he professes to discuss by calling in question the consistency of a member of his own society, whose personal conduct can have nothing to with the principle at stake. Writing from (and I suppose, therefore, on behalf of) the Highbury Angling Society, J. M. D. asks a question I will endeavour to answer, and makes an assertion I desire to correct. He wishes to know "If the smaller fish are returned to the stream by all the members of the Gresham?" As a rule, I know they are, but I am unable to answer for every one of some two hundred or more individuals. J. M. D. is equally unable to answer any similar query for the members of even his small society, for he has but just discovered an incident which happened, he tells us, in the summer of last year.

So far as I can make out J. M. D.'s complaint, it is that a member of the

Highbury Angling Society, who happens to be a member of the Gresham, has, in strict conformity with the rules of both societies, taken a gross-weight prize in the one case and shown specimen fish in the other, these being two distinct takes, and weighed-in, in each case, to one society only. So much the worse for J. M. D.'s argument, because, on his own showing, it is quite possible for the prize winners of the Highbury Angling Society to take fish of a respectable size; a fact he appears elsewhere to question.

There follows an imputation I need not repeat, but which I repudiate in the plainest possible terms. The Gresham Angling Society offers no encouragement for the retention of small fish; but, according to J. M. D, the Highbury Angling Society does, and a number of fish below the Gresham standard have been awarded a prize by them.

The case quoted by J. M. D. is decidedly not "a recognised thing" in the Gresham Angling Society, for this is the only instance I have known or heard of. J. M. D., therefore, need not feel again in danger of being knocked down, even by the proverbial feather, and his respiratory organs may still perform their functions undisturbed.

J. M. D's fear seems to be that if all the members of the Gresham were to devote as much attention to the retention of the smaller fish, as they do to the larger ones, there would soon be many less for himself and admirers to take, and in this I cordially agree.

If all advocates of the gross-weight system would only be as logical as J. M. D., it would soon come to an end, and I thank him very heartily for again drawing my attention thereto.—I am, &c., T. Crumplen.

London, N.W., April 17, 1882.

AN EARLY STONE-FLY.

Sir,—On the 11th of this month I caught a splendid specimen of the stone-fly (*phryganea*). Is it not very soon for this fly to be out?—I am, &c.,

Shutterskelfe Hall, via Yann-on-Tees, April 17. J. Alison.

[Very early.—Ed.]

BLACK BASS.

Sir,—A great deal has been written lately about this fish, both for and against its introduction into English waters. The chief fear seems to be its voraciousness. This, to a great extent, is groundless; for five months in the year they eat little or nothing, remaining in deep water and feeding but very little; this is from the end of November until the following April. It is when they are recovering from spawning that they are so voracious; at this time nothing comes amiss. The way that they will rush off when hooked is a caution, and the chances are that the first one hooked by a novice will escape, leaving the disciple of Isaac Walton to deplore its loss, and very likely with a smashed rod and tackle.

There are really two kinds of black bass, the *grystes nigricans* (which I had the honour to bring from America for the Marquis of Exeter), and the *grystes salmoides*; the former has the largest mouth and is thicker in the body, but they are both equally game. It is when they are spawning that they differ generally from other fish. A male trout will ascend a stream and assist three or four females in making nests, and if any ova comes in their way it is eaten up. Now, black bass pair off by themselves, and take up quarters in some quiet nook where the water is about 18 inches to 3 feet deep, with generally a bunch of weeds, or a hole to retire into when disturbed. This generally takes place in May. They commence operations by rubbing off all the mud on the bottom of the nest. This is nearly twice the length of the fish. After the eggs are deposited, they stick to the stones or weeds that are nigh, and lay in rows, as if glued together. They will hatch out in from nine to twelve days, according to the temperature of the water. It is now that the conduct of a black bass is different from a trout. The bass will guard the nest night and day, until the eggs are hatched out and all the fry disappear under stones or into the weeds. When first hatched out they are nearly transparent, and appear like a thin gauze veil floating close to the bottom. In three or four days they rise and gradually spread, and it is not until this time that the old fish leave them. During all this time the fish do not feed, and all other small fish must keep a respectful distance. This duty accomplished, they sally forth to recruit, and it is at this time that they are so voracious; and no wonder, after their long fast. But still I would never advocate their being placed in either a trout or grayling stream. The trout and grayling being the weaker fish would simply have no chance with them; but where there are plenty of coarse and small, worthless fish, there would be plenty for them to eat, and they would replace a lot of small trash with one of the boldest and gamest fish that ever rose to a fly or snapped up a worm.—I am, &c., W. T. Silk.

Burghley Park.

FISHING IN SUFFOLK.

Sir,—The following is continued from page 178 of the Fishing Gazette, of April 15:—Anglers should not pass the mills, as excellent sport is to be obtained when the mills are working. The only advantageous place to fish from is off the mill-bridge. No float is required, but a small leger placed a few inches above the hook will be sufficient; running tackle is required, as heavy fish haunt the mill pool, such as perch, roach, bream, chub, jack, &c. When your fish is hooked, it is advisable to work it towards the shallows, some 30 yards on your left. Anglers who are having a week's holiday this summer I should advise to spend it in Suffolk. The scenery is beautiful, hilly and ancient. There is a piece of water up the river called the Decoy; traditions speak of this place, where entrenchments were dug out and a pitched battle fought. The main river has found its way into the entrenchments, and bringing fish as well, which have spawned. If you enquire for Mr. Birch, he is the keeper over this decoy, and it is only through him you can fish there. I fished there last August, and had capital sport; I caught the roach as fast as I could bait my hook, in fact I caught a whole swim numbering thirty-eight, the largest was $1\frac{3}{4}$ lb. My friend and the keeper were catching bream as fast as they could pull them out; the way the floats went down was a caution. I was fishing for bream with a tight line; to my sorrow, I learnt a lesson. I hooked a bream about 4 lb., when he made for the punt and went under, and sawed my line at the bottom of the punt, the consequence was I was left bemoaning a favourite 5-yard gut line. Anglers should take plenty of jack tackle here. My friend threadled a roach and dropped the line over the punt, and in less than five minutes he had a perch of 2 lb. I am happy to say the fence months are in force here. Another hint: the inhabitants don't care to see any one fishing in the river on Sundays. I must now conclude, thanking you, Mr. Editor, for your valuable space.—I am, &c.,

A Wandering Piscator.

[We like that expression, "the scenery is beautiful, hilly and *ancient*"; evidently none of your suburban landscapes.—Ed.]

THAMES TROUT-FISHING.

Sir,—You state that "most of the Thames weirs are open to the public." I have reason to believe that upon official enquiry you will find that without exception the lock-keepers have strict orders not to permit angling from these places, and that any departure from such instruction will be met by summary dismissal. I believe there is only one gentleman to whom the Board of Conservancy have granted this privilege, and this is likewise endorsed by Captain Etheridge, with special instructions to the lock-keepers, although I believe he has not as yet availed himself of this concession.—I am, &c., Creel.

[We did not say that angling was permitted from the weir itself. Our correspondent wished to know if he could fish in the weirs for trout. He can fish the weir streams from a boat or the bank.—Ed.]

THE BRACKEN-CLOCK OR FERN-WEB.

Sir,—I enclose the pattern of the bracken-clock which I mentioned. The dressing, taken from the "Northern Angler," published at Carlisle, is as follows: "Peacock with black ostrich-harle for body, and a black hackle for legs, and the red feather of the partridge's tail for wings" (query brown); "or it may be made of a fine brown feather from the cock pheasant's breast, with a little tip of starling's wing feather at the tail to represent the underwings. The red or upper feather must, of course, be tied down at the head and tail, to give it the appearance of a beetle. The body must be made full, as above described, with a black hackle for legs." This is the dressing which is appreciated in the north. Robert Balderston.

BIG MINNOWS.

Sir,—I send you by this post a few very large minnows, some of them over 4 inches long. Had not time to get the measurement. Will you please take them and publish the different lengths, as the sizes are something unusual—at least in this neighbourhood. S. Howard.

Burton-on-Trent.

[The longest is nearly $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches, the others vary from three to four inches in length. They are very fine minnows; but Mr. J. H. Keene, who has seen them, says he has seen and previously described a catch of this beautiful little fish, some specimens of which were quite $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length.—Ed.]

LINES MADE OF HUMAN HAIR, &c.

Sir,—Does "March Brown" realise the width and depth of the task he would set me? I am always ready to devote my time and thoughts to the service of my brother anglers, but to comply with the queries given *seriatim* by "March Brown" would involve, at least, an expenditure of two or more days. Moreover, "March Brown" is just as capable, and, mayhap, has more leisure to enter fully into such a question than your humble servant, Creel.

THE HELGRAMITE.

Sir,—I send you an imitation of the beastie called ye helgramite, about which Mr. Gosling makes some inquiries in the Gazette of March 11th.

Hallock, in his *Gazetteer*, says helgramite or dobson somewhat resembles a centipede.

Dr. Henshall, in his "Book of the Black Bass," defines them thus:—"Helgramite, *corydalis corunta*, belongs to the order of Neuroptera; vulgate, helgramite, dobson, grampus, dobsell, kill-devil, crawler; is a curious repulsive worm that exists a long time in larva state, and is found under stones, rocks, old roots in running streams, and in decaying timbers."

We fishermen call them part bug, part beast. They have a peculiar jumping way of getting through the water, by contracting their tails under them and then suddenly straightening out, propel themselves from stone to stone along clear running streams. Against the current they seem to crawl along the bottom with their many legs.

When a Bass is hunting a dobson it is good fun to watch him, but you must be quite motionless if you wish to do so. Mr. Bass elevates his broad tail-fin and roots with his nose. He is as quick as a terrier after a rat, and his continual pushing and fanning the water seems at last to frighten the dobson for he makes a bolt for a neighbouring stone, but Bassey is too quick for him and gobbles him in.

The imitation is made of hard rubber or gutta percha, and is not a killing bait as a rule. Bass take the bait fastened to a hook better than any imitation. He is generally hooked just above the two long legs, below the crablike head. I never handle them without a feeling of repulsion, and a cold chill somehow creeps down my backbone.—I am, &c., W. David Tomlin.

Captain Alfred, 20, Moorgate Street, has been awarded a silver medal for his exhibit of fish paintings at the Edinburgh International Fisheries Exhibition.

We learn that the annual dinner of the Yare Preservation Society is fixed to take place at the Royal Hotel, Norwich, on Wednesday, May 3rd, the president, C. L. Buxton, Esq., to preside. Preference for tickets is to be given to members up to April 19; after that date such of the public as desire to be present will be served according to the seats that may be vacant. The number of tickets must necessarily be limited, so that an early application to the honorary secretary, Mr. C. J. Greene, London Street, is advisable. We have no fear about the success of the dinner, for the society is large and influential; but we trust that interest in its work will be increased, and that it may be more generously supplied than it hitherto has been with money, without which its labours cannot be as effective as all true anglers desire.—*Norwich Argus*.

The International Fisheries Exhibition.—For the purposes of this exhibition, which is to be held next year, it is in contemplation to apply to the corporation for the use of the vacant land on the Thames Embankment at Whitefriars, it being one of the very few eligible sites which present themselves for such an object. The request, if granted, would have the effect of delaying the permanent utilisation of the land; on the other hand, it would draw attention to the spot, which seems to have escaped the attention of those who may have contemplated erecting large buildings on commanding sites such as this undoubtedly is. The corporation, by granting the use of the land, would be supporting an object of even more than a national character, and would add to its historic repute in lending a helping hand to movements which have for their aim the promotion of commerce and the good of the people at large.—*City Press*.

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

The river has been in prime fettle for trout work during the past week, and the wind, with only a few exceptions in the south-west. At Boveney and Bray some three brace of decent fish have been had, and at Maidenhead six or seven fish, amid which number was a beauty of 7 lb., taken by a patron of the veteran "Kingfisher," Harry Wilder. From Cookham two beauties, not quite in their teens, have eloped with separate gay Lotharic piscators, but there are plenty of spotted relatives who are not left lamenting, and who are only too eager not to "leave well alone." The Marlow fishermen have all been busy, and White is so far credited with the best take of the season, having had six fish from Hambledon and district, the best fish going 7 lb. odd. At Henley, I glean that Mr. Halcomb has taken a trout of 4½ lb. near Bolney Court, by spinning a lobworm, and Mr. A. C. Johnson lost a 9 lb screamer and another unguessed-at weight by his "Bell's Life" parting with its thread of existence at the last gasp of the fish. At Henley I hear lately there is every chance of establishing soon a perfectly sound and business-like protection society for those glorious waters—it has long seemed a sin that such a hiatus should have exieted on the Thames between such energetic associations as the Great Marlow and Reading. The High Wycombe Trout Preservation Association recently held its annual meeting, and has made new laws, regulations and subscriptions, and phœnix-like, will rise from the ashes of its great and recent loss. Thursday evening: weather glorious; wind—a glorious soft west; water—a glorious tint.—Marlow Buzz.

Ballynahinch.

This week has been much better for angling than the two previous. To-day we have quite a spate, and every appearance of more rain. Lord Douglas has fished these two days; got one salmon yesterday and lost another. Mr. R. Mecredy, sen., got one early in the week about 10 lb. Wind south and south-west since the 16th inst.—Walter Blackadder.

Coquet (Weldon Bridge).

On the 13th and 14th the river was flooded, running from bank to bank, and on the 16th came down to her level. On the 17th four fishermen started, expecting good sport, but about ten o'clock the river came down a black colour, with the snow melting on the hills; it made the sport very poor. The only basket was Mr. Oliver, the curate, Longhorsley, 7 lb.; Mr. Marsh, Durham, five and a half brace; Mr. Nelson, Newcastle, three and a half brace, Mr. Swinney, Morpeth, four brace. On the 19th Mr. Wood killed a good basket, 6 lb.; Mr. Murray, West Moor, six brace. The water is a good colour for minnow.—A. Glass.

Dove.

The weather keeps very unsettled but our river is not in bad order, and though sport this week has hardly been up to the average of previous seasons about this time of the year, still anglers have by no means gone unrewarded. The biggest dishes of trout have been secured in tributary brooks, the Manifold and Henmore proving the best. The apple-green shade of the olive dun, and the March brown have been the most destructive flies. The May fly is beginning to appear in sheltered places, but I do not think it will come out generally before the middle of May, especially should the present raw weather continue. There are a great number of salmon "picking" about at the Dove's junction with the Trent, and several have been captured lately in the Notts river; amongst others, Mr. John Heard, a well-known devotee in the "city of lace," getting hold and landing a seventeen-pounder the other day.—The Splodger.

Exe (Exeter).

Having been so much engaged during the past fortnight I really have been unable to send on reports; at the same time, no information has been lost sight of. We have had some heavy floods during that time, perhaps the heaviest we have had during the whole of the winter, if we may so call it, but of which, in reality, we have had none. These floods have completely swept all the ketts and slats seawards, and myriads of smolts, which previously were a great nuisance to the trout fishermen. Several fine salmon have been taken respectively by Messrs. Coucher, Pearson, and G. Lee; but during the past week sport has been at a standstill. A few trout have been taken from the dirty water with the worm and real good ones they were, averaging half a pound each. I was out on Thursday last with a friend fishing the Teign, who, in the short space of twenty minutes, secured six splendid trout, the largest weighing half a pound, when we were overtaken by a tremendous storm lasting over two hours, which completely spoilt the remainder of our sport, which probably would have proved a great success. As soon as the weather settles—which it is not likely to do for a few days from all appearances—we may expect something worth catching and recording; at the same time one need never be daunted whilst we have such comforts as "Strawson's waterproofing" and "Steed's invaluable corn killer."—Frank Gosden, Exeter.

Exe (Tiverton).

The river is now in excellent condition for fishing, and very fair baskets are being made. The flies killing best are the usual ones for this season of the year, viz., iron blue, blue upright, green tail, aller bud, and halfstone.—Wm. Mudford.

Ilfracombe.

There is good fishing now to be had at the reservoir, and the streams are in excellent condition for trout and eels. Sea fishing is still very slack, a few boats out, their catches of fish average about 10lb. per boat per tide of tamlin, cod and whiting. Sunday five crabs were taken from the rock at Killage. Monday, four crabs, two lobsters, from pots set outside the harbour, and nineteen crabs from holes, seven from the rocks between the jetty and Capstone Parade, seven from rocks between Rapparee and Hilsborough, and five from Beacon Point. Pollack are larger and more plentiful, and good sport can be had for them, also for whiting, pout and dabs from the pier and jetty with rod and hand lines; weather still very fine.—E. Comer.

Swale.

I was unable, owing to holidays and press of work, to send off my usual report last week. The loss to the readers of this journal will, however, be a slight one, as owing to the generally unfavourable state of the weather during the Easter vacation, the catches were very moderate. The best dish was by an old friend of mine, who, by request, shall be nameless. He had thirty one day, all taken with the fly; the best fly was the March brown, the others light and early browns and royal Charlie. He had other catches of two figures, these were all caught with a batch of flies that I sent him as an Easter gift. Your correspondents, Mr. Editor, often get into hot water. If we report anything good there is forthwith a rush to the place, or a dozen applications for permits to gentlemen named. A complaint comes from Swaledale that owing to my notes several anglers went that way last season, and some of them did not care what they did. They broke fences, trampled down mowing grass, left open gates, and defied the landowners. This is, to say the least, a very unworthy return for the trouble we take for their benefit.—Thomas Ford, Caistor.

Taw and Tributaries (N. Devon).

The small streams are in good condition. The Taw and Mole are too thick, and water high. It is almost impossible after the floods to find any kelts left. New salmon are in the Taw, and are daily seen trying the weirs. Good fishing will be had for some time, as the waters are up. Some good fish were taken in the river Yeo the last week. Mr. Dennis got two dozen and six; a gentleman fishing the higher part of the Yeo with minnow got two dozen. Some dishes, but small, were taken in Barle and Exe, but there has been too many rods out; this station seems to be overworked. Good fishing will be had in the Taw, either at Eggesford (Fox and Hounds Hotel) or Southmolton Road (Fortescue Arms Hotel), This station is on the London and South-Western Railway, and it is perhaps the best in the neighbourhood; tickets 2s. 6d. a day, landlord's name Harris. A Mr. Beagley got thirty fish from the Bray Monday and a dish since. I heard of a gentleman spinning with a leaded minnow in the Taw in thick water and got an hitch, but after hauling and tugging for an hour found he had hooked another minnow.—Rusty Game.

Test (Hampshire).

Wind very changeable, and rather too strong. Plenty of fly on daily from about twelve to two p.m. The grannom has been up strong at Stockbridge for last few days, and fish took them very well; to-day being very cold, not one was to be seen, consequently very little sport. A lot more rain is wanted before the weather becomes settled. Last week Mr. Fry had very fair fishing on Bransbury Water, in two days he killed seventeen fish, and put back several under sized.

P.S.—The printer made a bad error in my last, he makes me say I caught twenty-seven dace, instead of twenty-seven brace—trout, of course.

Thames (Maidenhead).

Trout have been showing themselves again; there has been a quantity of small ones taken, the greater part returned. Captain Haynes, with Harry Wilder, came down and took the trout that has been feeding so long at the top of the island. It was a beautiful Thames fish, all 7 lb. I saw him after it was taken. I believe there is another fish quite as large within twenty yards of the same place. I should think with nice mild calm weather there will be some good trout taken, for I believe there are as many trout in our neighbourhood now as there are jack, and some rattling good ones.—R. Plummer.

Thames (Walton).

The only take that I have heard of is one trout of 4 lb. by Mr. Luckin, at Sunbury Weir; but not only have I seen several disporting themselves, but I hear from several sources that there is every chance of getting a good fish for the trying. Geo. Hone says he knows where to put any clients on the trail, and only waits his time. Referring to the perch ova, I am pleased to say that it is now quite safe from its enemies the swans, and all anxiety on the part of that very energetic and painstaking fisherman, Geo. Hone, is over, and he has been enabled to take his nights' rest in peace. The weather is improving, and I hope to have a better report to send you as to the trout shortly.—Henry Wood.

P.S.—After sending you my report, I learn that Mr. Bishop, of the T.A.P.S., with John Rosewell, has hooked a fine trout of 5 lb., at the Tumbling Bay, after twenty minntes' play. J. R. says he saw three others at Walton Bridge.

Tweed and Teviot.

During the past ten days only some half dozen salmon have been killed—three on the Lower Hendersyde water by Mr. James Kerss last week, and one on Monday by Sir G. Macpherson Grant, of Ballindalloch Castle; and one by Mr. T. Pringle, Kelso. While on the Sprouston water a brace of fish fell to Mr. Charles Kerss. The Floors Castle waters have not been fished for a fortnight, and the reports from all the other casts are that salmon killing is *nil.* Trout anglers, however, have been getting rare sport, killing baskets of from 3 lb. to 12 lb., the best baskets, generally, being got in the Teviot, although one of fully 10 lb. was got with "creeper" in the Tweed. To-day angling has been put a stop to by a three-feet flood—much desired and anxiously looked for—and capital sport is sure to be got once the river subsides. The weather is fine and mild, with the wind southerly.—Maxwheel.

Wye and Derwent.

Both rivers are now in first-class order for all kinds of angling. Sport during the past week has been very good on both the Wye and Derwent, and baskets from four to nine brace per angler have been made off the Wye between Bakewell and Filleford Bridge. There has also been some good dishes killed off the private water (the Rowsley Meadows length). The fish have been killed chiefly with the claret body bumble, red and spider flies, the bumble killing the greatest portion of fish. The disease is still very bad in the Wye amongst the grayling; great quantities of fish, both dead and dying, can be seen all up and down the river; also a few trout are affected. We have very many anglers down here fishing on the Wye; last Tuesday I counted nearly twenty anglers on the Wye, fishing between Bakewell and Rowsley. The Wye gets sadly too much over-fished. Sport on the Derwent, from Baslow down to Matlock Bath has been very good, both with fly trolling and bottom fishing with the worm; and many trout over 1 lb. each have been killed, chiefly with the worm, one gentleman taking six trout that weighed over 6 lb., the largest fish nearly $1\frac{3}{4}$ lb.; these fish were killed between Rowsley and Darley Bridge. There has also been some good sport had by fishing off of Darley Bridge, with the worm; also down at Matlock Bath, in the deeps, one of the natives taking a fine trout of 20 oz., besides several other locals taking trout from $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. each to over 1 lb. Sport, both in the brooks and ponds, has been very good, one gentleman from Norfolk killing twelve brace of trout off of the ponds last Saturday afternoon. Then, again, on Friday evening, the same gentleman took six brace of trout, all with March brown and red spinner flies. —George James Eaton.

P.S.—Would you kindly inform me where I could get from 50 to 100 brace of small pike, from 4 to 8 inches long, for stocking a river with.

Yore (Yorkshire).

As usual in this district, anglers have held a great carnival during the Easter holidays, but I regret to say that owing to the rivers being exceedingly low and clear, bright sunshine, and cold easterly winds, the success of neither visitors or local fishermen has been remarkable. The best dishes have been made with the worm or the stone fly creeper, which has made its appearance sooner than usual this season; in fact, I have seen two hatched stone flies on the Yore this week, a thing I never remember seeing before so early in April; the trout, however, do not take the creeper yet as they should do, coming "short" at it; but a shower or two of rain would greatly improve angling generally, and to-night (Wednesday) there seems every prospect of rain, when rising at fly (which has only been for an hour or so in the middle of the day) the fish have showed a decided preference to March brown and "woodcock and orange," with which flies I made a fair dish yesterday. Mr. Wm. Pickard, of Ripon, and R. Coldbeck, of Tanfield, have also done pretty well considering the adverse state of both water and weather.—Francis M. Walbran.

CLUB REPORTS.

BOSTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 12th, Mr. Jennings was elected secretary to this society, to whom all further correspondence must be addressed.—J. Jennings.

DUKE OF CORNWALL.

The annual return visit took place to the above club on Tuesday, the 11th inst., and was well attended, seven clubs were represented, and under the chairmanship of Mr. Jennings, of the Bostonians, faced by Mr. White, of the Brentford, a very pleasant evening was passed; the chairman, vice, and Messrs. Holmes, Harold, Hyde, Carling, Brown, Amies, Heckford and others with the worthy host, Mr. McClure contributing to the harmony.—J. Heckford, sec.

GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS.

We had a good attendance at our concert on Wednesday last, Mr. G. Bentley in the chair, Mr. J. Dingley, vice. Mr. J. B. Leno gave some excellent recitations, and was greatly applauded. The following gentlemen also contributed to the harmony:—Messrs. J. Bentley, J. Dingley, Marley, C. Watling, Neale, J. Fitch, Littlewood, &c. Mr. John Bedford Leno will take the chair on Wednesday next, faced by Mr. Morley.—J. Fitch, jun., sec.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The usual meeting of this society was held on Thursday evening, S. C. Harding, Esq., in the chair. The secretary announced that Dr. Brunton had weighed-in five trout, weighing 12 lb. 13 oz., the largest 3 lb. $2\frac{1}{2}$ oz., all of them landed without net, gaff, or any artificial assistance. Mr. Young also weighed-in. Mr. Crumplen stated that he had attended a meeting of the Anglers' Benevolent Society's Committee on Wednesday evening, when two extremely distressing cases coming under notice, were promptly relieved, and all the members might be assured that the subscriptions really went in aid of the objects of this very laudable institution. Some additional contributions went into the society's box, and the hope was expressed that all angling societies would aid so good a work. Mr. Geen, who was present, having been introduced by Mr. Crumplen, was very warmly welcomed, and responded very kindly to the welcome he received. A letter signed "J. M. D." in last week's Fishing Gazette was referred to, a full and satisfactory explanation being given by the member concerned, and the subject dismissed amid much laughter. The proceedings closed (after a little music) with a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Harding, who was sincerely congratulated on recovery from his late severe illness.

KELSO ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

The annual spring competition in connection with Kelso Angling Association took place on Monday. The competition was confined to the open water on Tweed, Teviot and tributaries. The rains during the latter part of last week brought the rivers down in flood, but the dry weather of Sunday caused a rapid subsidence to take place, and on Monday morning the streams were in first rate condition for angling, although the air was very cold. In addition to the usual list of prizes, a reel and line and fishing-tackle book, valued at £1, were kindly given by J. J. E. Brown, Esq., of Rosebank, a gentleman who takes a hearty interest in the angling association. The weighing of the baskets took place in the White Swan Inn, between seven and eight o'clock on Monday night when the prizes were awarded as follow:—1. The association rod for heaviest basket of trout—John Steel, Kelso, 10 lb. 12 oz. (Teviot). 2. Pair of fishing stockings for second weight—David Brown, 9 lb. 12 oz. (Teviot). 3. Reel and line for third weight—Robert Robertson, 7 lb. (Teviot). 4. Fishing-tackle book for fourth weight—Anthony M'Cutcheon, 6 lb. 14 oz. (Tweed). 5. Basket and belt for fifth weight (given by Mrs. Beverley, White Swan Inn)—William Lamb, 6 lb. 7 oz. (Tweed). 6. Tackle book and flies for sixth weight (given by Mr. G. Allan, fishing-tackle maker, Kelso)—Thomas Walker, Sprouston, 6 lb. 5 oz. (Tweed). 7. Tackle to the value of 5s. for the best half-dozen—Robert Robertson, 3 lb. 12 oz. 8. Tackle to the value of 4s. for heaviest trout—J. Beattie, 1 lb. 8 oz. (Tweed). Thirteen baskets were weighed. Minnow and fly were the principal lures used. After the weighing the usual social meeting of the members took place in the White Swan.—Mr. John Croall, the vice-president of the association, in the chair, the croupier's chair by Mr. N. J. Mills. The usual loyal and patriotic toasts having been duly honoured, "His Grace the Duke of Roxburghe, patron of the association," was given with musical honours, as was also that of Sir George S. Douglas, Bart., of Springwood Park, as "President of the Association." The other toasts proposed were—"Successful competitors," "Secretary,' responded to by Mr. A. Steel; "Unsuccessful competitors," responded to by Mr. George Lees; "Chairman," by the Croupier, &c., &c. During the evening the harmony of the meeting was enlivened by songs sung in capital style by the chairman, and Messrs. Mills, Steel (secretary), Abbleck, Gibson, sen., and other members, and altogether the meeting was one of the pleasantest and most harmonious the club has held for several years, the discordant element being thoroughly awanting. During the evening the chairman suggested that the club ought to be represented at the Fisheries Exhibition to be held in London next year, and the members were invited to send into Mr. Steel, the secretary of the club, any specimens of fish (of whatever description), that might be thought worthy of stuffing and setting up. The idea was warmly taken up by the members, and Mr. Archibald Steel, the secretary intimated that as he would have a case at the Exhibition on his own behalf, he would be happy to set up and stuff any specimen forwarded to him from members.

LIVERPOOL ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

Our members have done but poorly so far this season. The opening day for trouting was fixed for the 28th February, in the river Vyrnwy, at Llanymynech. The weather was most unpropitious, heavy rain having fallen previously, and when we arrived at the scene the river was simply a rushing torrent of pea-soup, over which it was utterly futile to cast a fly, and but three small fish were taken with the worm. We had another excursion on March 14, the last day of the open season for coarse fish, the scene of operations being the canal at Rufford; but disappointment and failure again attended our efforts, and an almost blank day resulted. The weather at our Easter outings was anything but favourable—the bright sun, clear water, and cold east wind being all against fly-fishing, and in consequence the returns were generally very light. The heaviest creel was 8 lb. 6 oz. and best fish 1 lb. 6 oz., by Mr. F. Roberts, from the Kent: the next heaviest creel 2 lb. $13\frac{1}{2}$ oz., and best fish $14\frac{1}{2}$ oz., by Mr. R. Eelinger, from the Vyrnwy and Tanat; one trout, 10 oz. and one 5 oz., by Mr. R. Woolfall, from the Derbyshire Wye; two trout, $8\frac{3}{4}$ oz., by Mr. J. Evans, from the Tanat; and one trout, 6 oz., by Mr. Lofthouse, also from the Wye. These are poor results, considering the good waters that were covered; but we had fine holiday weather, and must not grumble, but look forward hopefully to better luck next time, which is the true angler's infallible comfort under these circumstances.—Rd. Woolfall, hon. sec.

April 18.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIALS.

A special general meating of the above society was held on Tuesday last. Mr. Murray, chairman of the central association, in the chair, for the purpose of knowing who were members, revising rules, and on other important business, and not one of the members present gave any intimation that they would withdraw from the society, therefore the statement that five had joined another club must be false. A complimentary visit will take place, of which due notice will be given.—Thos. Wm. Lucy, sec.

THE CAMBRIDGE FRIENDLY ANGLING SOCIETY.

The fourth annual dinner of the above society took place at the club house, the Rent Day, Cambridge Street, Hyde Park, on Thursday, the 13th inst., and was in every way a great success, forty-seven members and friends sitting down to an excellent dinner, provided by our worthy host and hostess (Mr. and Mrs. Chandler), the chair being taken by our much esteemed member, Mr. Townsend, faced by Mr. Baxter in the vice-chair, among the visitors present being Messrs. Geen, Bonvoisin, and Hoole of the West Central Association. After the toast "The Queen and Royal Family" had been drunk with applause, the chairman then proceeded to distribute the prizes; the fortunate winners, of which were Messrs. Welch, Warsop, Gower, Dobell, Colson, Ramsey, Jeffries, Self, Wicking, and Lovegrove. The remaining portion of the night was then devoted to harmony, several capital songs being sung, more especially those by Mr. Hart, jun. During the evening Mr. Sutch gave several selections on the violin, accompanied by a friend on the piano, which were much appreciated. Shortly before two o'clock the company broke up, every one thoroughly enjoying the night's entertainment. During the evening your humble servant was presented with a very handsome roach rod subscribed by the members. Total weight of fish taken during the season 889 lb.—W. Sutton, sec.

April 19th.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

The annual dinner of the above society will take place on May 17, on which occasion Mr. J. S. Weatherhead will preside, assisted by Mr. H. Bayley, the following gentlemen will act as stewards:—Messrs. Schwartz, Renault, Brown, Grigg, Sutcliffe, and Russell. The gross weight of fish taken during the past season amounted to nearly 650 lb. Considering that very few of the members weighed more than twice or three times during the season, the gross weight is not so bad, and those gentlemen who have succeeded in getting two figures to their gross have been handsomely rewarded, three figures falling to the lot of two members only, viz., Mr. Boalch, with about 137 lb., and Mr. Weatherhead 133 lb. Among the various prizes that are on view, at the St. Paul's, are a handsome work of art in silver, value £10 10s., given by Mr. Schwartz, and won by Mr. F. Grigg last September. There is likewise a large portrait taken and given by Mr. F. W. Evans of Mr. Tom Pearson, who succeeded in winning it last July; a diamond ring given by Mr. Renault and won by Mr. C. Beale; and among numerous other articles is a handsome illuminated floral musical album with the portrait of the donor. Mr. Bayley was appointed the thirteenth to attend the West Central Committee on its next meeting as the representative of this society.—Pixie.

April 18.

WESTBOURNE PARK PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

On the 9th inst., Messrs. Garham and Reed succeeded in getting a trout each from the Colne; on the 11th, Mr. T. Stevens also weighed-in the largest at present, 2 lb. $14\frac{1}{4}$ oz., also from the Colne.—H. Adeane.

April 12.

PROTEAN ICHTHYOLOGY.

Of all sports, the gentle art of angling is followed with the least apparent infliction of pain. Fishing is called the gentle art, because, in pursuing it, it is the sport that least shocks the sensibilities of a gentle nature.

Rabbits, hares, birds, vermin and large game, when they are dying a violent death, struggle to get away, cry out, have a terrified or mournful look in their eyes, their eyelids are half-closed, and they breathe with difficulty, and when they are dead they look rumpled and dirty; but a fish's struggles and breathings are so different from our movements that his object is not so clear to us—he gives no expression of pain by voice, his eyes during the periods of his dissolution are without expression, and when he is dead he looks neat and handsome.

I have known fishermen take a dislike to eel-fishing and pike-fishing, from having to divide the spine of the former and cut out gorge hooks from the latter; and the gentleness of Walton's nature, taking Walton as the type of a fisherman, is shown by many passages in his book, which I have more than once read with pleasure, and hope to read again.

The most amiable of men is liable to show some failing, and, in reading Walton, a suspicion crosses one's mind that he is writing with much complacency when he is telling his listener the marvels of fish, and that the contentment of his mind would have been much disturbed had he learnt that most of his stated facts were fictions. Most of his facts, although they were accepted as facts then, are discredited now; but if he were writing at the present time, and had to abandon his list of wonders, he would have no difficulty in compiling another catalogue of far greater interest.

He might tell us that the first undeniable evidence of a vertebrate animal is that of a fish, occurring in the Upper Silurian Rocks, in a bone bed of the Downton sandstone, near Ludlow.

He might observe that some fish live about the sea-level, with an atmospheric pressure of about 15 lb. per square inch, and that others live at a depth of 2500 fathoms, with an atmospheric pressure of 2½ tons per square inch. He could then turn to the naval and military intelligence of the *Times*, and find that Colonel Maitland, dealing with a shot of 462 lb., by putting a ring of metal upon it retards its delivery, and retains the powder in the chamber of the gun until it is sufficiently fired to set up a pressure of 2 tons per square inch, when the shot starts with a bound.

Günther, in his admirable work on fishes, to which I am indebted for nearly all the statements I make, speaks of other fish living at an elevation of 14,000 feet above the level of the sea, so that the world, in its heights and its depths, is stocked with fish better than it is stocked with any other class of animal.

The developments of fish in various directions are most interesting; for instance, the flying gurnards and flying herrings, the latter taking a flight of 500 feet, at a speed exceeding considerably ten miles an hour, and taking longer flights against the wind than with it. According to Günther, flying appears to be a wrong expression, the long ventral fins merely acting as a parachute. Günther is so exact, that it must be accepted that flying fish do not fly; but I have observed, when barbel prime, that you can hear a fluttering of fins; and I think I have seen the pectorals vibrating. You hear the same fluttering noise when a trout is pulled violently out of the water without playing it.

Besides flying fish, there may be said to be a sailing fish, for the sword-fish's anterior dorsal rays are very long, so that they project beyond the water, and the fish, when quietly floating, can sail before the wind like a boat. There are the gurnards, who walk about with their three finger-like processes under the water,; and there are other modes of progression which fish adopt on land. One in Queensland is in the habit of going on land, or, at least, on mud flats; and, besides gills, is provided with a lung for breathing air, should it voluntarily leave the water, or the water become too impure, or be dried up; in the tropics, there are fish with eyelids, that leave the water and hop freely over the ground, hunting for small crustaceans left by the tide; there is the Malay tree-climbing perch, which has the faculty of moving for some distance over land, and has been taken on a palm tree, five feet from the ground; certain South American fish make a night's journey from one piece of water to another, and in such numbers that, when the emigrants have been met, many baskets have been filled with them. Günther mentions another fish that makes the same journeys, and the American mud-fish which can breathe air.

Several kinds of fish are able to live through the dry season in cavities they form in mud. One in Africa lines the cavity with mucus, and has been imported to Europe in the clay balls containing it; the Indian snake-headed fish survive a drought at the bottom of a tank from which every vestige of water has disappeared; and, in New Zealand, there is a fish which is mentioned to have been only found in mud or clay burrows at a distance from water.

I think it worth putting on record, as an instance of the vitality of the roach, the case of a large one being taken at West Drayton, and, having been kept in a bag all day, and shown at a club, was brought home, when the daughter of the gentleman who took the fish noticed that it was alive, and it was placed in water. The next morning it was alive, and was taken back to West Drayton and returned to the Colne.

Some Indian fish, in addition to gills, have a lung-like sac on each side of the head.

One more mode of progression should be mentioned, that is by means of suckers placed either under the throat or on the top of the head, and the fish, attaching themselves to sharks, turtles, and ships, so get carried about.

As to the means of attack and defence of fish, there are the electric organs. The electric rays stun or kill their prey, and are able by a single discharge to disable a full-grown man; there are the electric cat-fishes, not uncommon in Africa, and the electric eel, the most powerful of electric fishes. What is much more interesting, there is in the Nile a fish, which was once sacred, which has on each side of its tail an undeveloped electric organ, representing a transitional condition from muscular substance to an electric organ.

Sword-fish have a weapon three feet long, and three inches in diameter at the base. In the British Museum there is a two-inch plank of a whale boat with the broken sword in it. Saw-fishes have a saw six feet long, and one foot broad at the base, with the teeth or the saw implanted in hardened integuments, with which they tear pieces of flesh off an animal's body, or rip open its abdomen. A shark can bite a man in two. A shark's tooth has been found four inches wide, by five inches long; and as a shark has about twenty-six teeth in a row in each jaw, your imagination may build up the fish, that, happily for everyone but himself and his pilot fish, is dead.

The sting rays with their barbed spine, give extremely painful wounds, which have frequently occasioned loss of limb. The weevers make poisonous wounds with their dorsal and gill spines, and on the coast of Central America there is a fish, similar in appearance, with a perfectly developed poison apparatus of the same form as the hollow venom fang of a snake, with a poison bag at its base. There are the surgeons, with a lancet on each side of the tail; the globe fishes, or sea-hedgehogs, covered with strong spines, who, when frightened, inflate their bodies with air. One of these fish has been found alive and distended in the stomach of a shark, and has been known to eat its way out of it.

In tropical America, there is the Caribe, which has played its part in more than one novel, a fish never exceeding two feet in length. They have lobed incisors by means of which they cut off a mouthful of flesh as with a pair of scissors, and any animal falling into the water is attacked, and cut to pieces in an incredibly short time. There is also a tropical eel with formidable dentition, the longitudinal slit of whose mouth is six times the length of the distance between the eye and its nose; and there are the file fishes, who can bite off a piece of coral, or chisel a hole through an oyster shell.

The "Challenger" dredged up from great depths, to which sunlight could never penetrate, fish with a series of luminous phosphorescent spots along the lower side of the head, body and tail, or in front of the snout; in one, the eye is obliterated and replaced by a large light-producing organ, and another has phosphorscent organs in front of the eye. These organs, although lens-like, are not accessory eyes, but emit light as light is sent through the convex glass of bull's-eye lantern. Another peculiarity of these deep-sea fishes is that they have a stomach so distensible, that they can swallow a fish twice or thrice their own bulk; one specimen, four inches long, contained a fish seven and a half inches long and one inch in depth.

It is worthy of remark how many fish are mentioned as having noticeable appliances for hearing, such as the air-bladder communicating with the organ of hearing, or having skin or very thin bone where the auditory organ approaches the surface. The blind fish of the Mammoth Caves of Kentucky, has its loss of vision compensated for by the acuteness of its sense of hearing. There are some blind fish in the subterranean waters of the caves in Cuba, and some of the deep-sea fish are blind. In some cases, where their eyes are not much used, the organs of touch are greatly developed, taking the form of filaments twice as long as the fish.

As opposed to the blind fish, in the West Indies there is a fish habitually swimming half out of water, with each eye perforated with two pupils, and thereby seeing both above and below the water. It is wonderful that flat fishes, when young, should be perfectly symmetrical, with an eye on each side of the head, and swimming vertically, like other fish; and that, when they commence to rest on their side, the eye that would be underneath pushes its way through to the other side.

Some fish carry their eggs about with them like shrimps; with many sea fish, the males have pouches, within which they take care of the eggs, and some carry them about in their mouths. There is one fish with pouches like a monkey; another feeds on small flies, and takes its prey by throwing a drop of water at it. The fishing frog has an extraordinary ring-bolt joint to his fishing rod, as may be seen in the Westminster Aquarium; a small goby, who lives only a year, is the first instance of an animal vertebrate; the grey mullet, feeding in mud and sand, has a filtering apparatus; many fish build nests like birds, and their colours, in their beauty, can only be compared to those of birds; and a small Siamese fish is kept for fighting, as game cocks used to be.

The viviparous fish are remarkable: Agassiz describing the development of the embryo as a normal ovarian gestation; and in many of that kind of fish, the anal fin of the male is modified into another organ, more strictly appropriate to its sex.

There are some fish scaleless, others are literally cuirassed; some fish have microscopic scales, and the scale of a mahaseer is sometimes as large as the palm of a hand. There is a fish so fat that it can equally well be used as a candle as for food; another walking leaf of a fish imitates, in colour and appendages, the seaweed it frequents; there is a fish that makes for itself a home in the cavities of other marine animals; and in Brazil there is a fish that takes an unwarrantable liberty with gentlemen when they are bathing, causing intense inflammation, sometimes with fatal results.

As to the salmonoids, for Londoners, the most noteworthy record in Dr. Günther's book is that salmon and sea-trout come every year to the mouth of the Thames for permission to go up.

The lowest form of fish, the launcelet, has no brain, no heart, no colour in its blood, and no jaws; and the early progenitors of man, according to the evolutionists, must have been aquatic in their habits, from the lungs consisting of a modified swim bladder, the embryo showing where branchiæ once existed, and the lunar or weekly periods of some of our functions retaining traces of our primordial birthplace, a shore washed by the tides.

I ought not to conclude without expressing the pleasure and admiration I have felt in reading Dr. Günther's work, an extremely small book for the matter it contains, a book which might be termed, referring to one of its illustrations, a *Chiasmodus niger* of a book, containing the *scopeloid* of erudition. H. M. P.

NEW FISHING STATION ON THE YARE.

"A house, where the accommodation is good, cleanly and punctual, is a delight to the angler not too frequently met with by him. Often he finds the condition of things far from commendable. In some instances the boats are in the same uncleanly state as they were when last vacated by a negligent party of anglers, stale bait and other refuse, cast by during the day, strewing the seats and floor, while the nose gives the unpleasant information that some discarded fish had fallen beneath the floor boards, and were there decomposing. Happily, however, for the comfort of the angler, a considerable improvement has lately taken place in the provision made for them at the various fishing stations in the county, though there are still some noteworthy instances in which the tempers of piscators are ruffled, by being obliged, before starting down the river, to perform the unpleasant task of removing the dirt mentioned above. The universal interest now taken in piscatorial pursuits—an interest surprising from its universality and almost abnormal enthusiasm—has no doubt been the cause of this improvement, as now many more visitors are to be met with at the fishing stations than was formerly the case. So great has been the growth in the numbers of those who practise the art that any effort to provide the accommodation required must be acceptable, and many will be gratified to hear of the establishment of a new and commodious fishing station in a most suitable and convenient place. The new venture to which we refer is the scheme now in course of being developed at Brundall by Messrs. Flowers and Co. This station, with which considerable progress has been made, occupies twelve acres of land immediately adjacent to the railway, and extends to the river's bank. The river there is much frequented by anglers, and is well stocked with fish, being close to a couple of prolific breeding grounds, Surlingham and Rockland Broads. The site of the new station, which was until recently a swamp, intersected by several dykes, is being raised and made firm by a covering of good soil upon a foundation obtained by means of faggots, &c. It is contemplated, ultimately, to beautify the grounds by laying them out in gardens and walks, but at present time has not permitted anything to be done in this direction. The principal dyke, which has been widened and deepened to the necessary extent, leads up to a spacious yacht and boat-house, measuring 50 feet by 60 feet. There are two other dykes intersecting the ground, and these are being widened and deepened for utilisation as harbours, wherein yachts and other craft can lie with safety. It is also part of the scheme to erect an hotel on the grounds, wherein visitors may find accommodation when staying in the locality. What, however, is one of the most pressing wants of anglers is a better class of boats, wherein the attitude of a person sitting may not be worse than that of a person in the stocks, and less productive of cramp and other unpleasant sensations. The Yare Preservation Society has done much to effect an improvement in this way, and Messrs. Flowers are following in the same direction. Already they have afloat several new boats of an approved pattern, and workmen are being engaged in the construction of others. As we have said, the site is singularly suitable for the purpose of a fishing station. A quarter of a minnte's walk from the railway station lands the excursionist at the boat-houses. Anglers alighting at Brundall Station have hitherto found the walk to Coldham a tiresome journey, encumbered as they are with their tackle and bait, which latter, with roach and bream fishermen, is always a serious item of their luggage. Of course an enthusiastic disciple of Walton ought to be prepared to endure any amount of trouble and toil in order that he may practise his art. But this curtailing of the journey will be to him a pleasant and appreciated fact. There is a supplementary part of the scheme by which its financial success will doubtless be considerably enhanced. The land secured has a frontage on the railway at the station about 400 yards long. This frontage is to be used as an advertisement station, and already the advertisements of several firms meet the eyes of the immense numbers of railway travellers to Yarmouth, Lowestoft, &c."—*Norwich Mercury.*

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

Much important business was transacted at the special and well-attended committee meeting of the West Central Assocition of London and Provincial Angling Societies, held at the Portman Arms, Great Quebec Street, Baker Street, on Friday evening last, not the least pleasing item being the enrolment, subject to the approval of the next monthly meeting of the association, of a new society, viz., the Nelson.

The annual dinner of the Cambridge Friendly Angling Society proved a perfect success, between forty and fifty members and friends sitting down to do justice to the capital spread provided by host Chandler and his better-half. I refrain from giving particulars because I understood Mr. Sutton, the worthy secretary, to say he would duly forward same to the angler's representative organ, the Fishing Gazette; but there's just one little item I should like to give prominence to in these "Jottings," viz., the presentation to the hard working secretary, Mr. Sutton, of a splendid roach rod, with a suitable inscription in recognition of his long and valuable services. A better deserved mark of respect and appreciation was never given, and the more club secretaries of Mr. Sutton's stamp we have, the better it will be, not only for clubs and club men, but for angling interests generally.

The application made by Mr. T. Hoole to the authorities of the Great Western Railway Company has been favourably entertained, and the new station, Tilehurst, between Pangbourne and Reading, will be added to the list of stations to which cheap travelling tickets are issued to holders of privilege cards of any of the three associations. Bravo, Mr. Hoole! the first fish I catch at Maple Durham I'll drink your very good health; and so, I feel sure, will Mr. C. P. Wheatstone and a number of other anglers whose favourite reaches of the grand old Thames will now become easy of access.

I took a walk down to the Welsh Harp Reservoir, Hendon, the other day, and had a long talk with Sawyer, the keeper of this splendid sheet of water. From him I gleaned that the fish—jack, bream, carp, &c.—are very forward, and that the shallows and weedy corners are alive with them. I was very pleased to hear that a second batch of over one hundred stock jack, ranging from 3 to 4 lb., have been turned in, while yet a third and much more numerous batch are shortly to be fetched by Mr. Sawyer from—but no, I suppose I musn't say exactly where from—at all events not a hundred miles from Oxford. Subscribers to this water will be glad to hear of this infusion of new blood; for in truth the jack-fishing in this famous fishery has, during the last season or two, fallen very far short of its usual standard.

The next No. 2 district West Central Association return visit will be paid the City of London Anglers, Codger's Hall, Bride Lane, Fleet Street, on Wednesday evening, May 3.

A meeting of the full committee appointed by the three metropolitan angling associations, to rent, preserve, and stock waters, met at the Star and Garter, St. Martin's Lane, W.C., on Monday evening. A capital code of rules, drawn up by the sub-committee, being submitted and, with two or three slight alterations, passed, the meeting being adjourned till next Monday evening, when the election of officers and executive committee will take place. There are already two or three good stretches of water spoken of, and directly the officers have been elected, and the executive duly constituted, I think we shall hear of some good practical work being done by this, on all hands, admittedly much needed society.

Re gross weights. In my remarks last week on this subject, "all-sized fish" should have been "fair sized fish," as apparent from the whole tenour of the paragraph in which the words occur.

ANNUAL DINNER OF THE STANLEY ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

In the very comfortable hostelry of the Lord Stanley, in Camden Park Road, this club, which receives its designation from the name of the house, has been eminently prosperous, and possesses a strong body of practical anglers and as fine a museum of stuffed specimens of fish as any society of similar growth. It has only been eleven years in existence, and its popular leader and well-known angler, Mr. C. P. Wheatstone, has been recently elected president for the sixth time. Since the last anniversary, the post of honorary secretary has passed into the hands of Mr. George E. Walker, who during the past year has given every proof that the duties of his office have been and will be successfully carried out. The treasurer, Mr. W. Jarvis, the respected proprietor of the hostelry, is one of the right standard, and follows well in the train of his predecessors, Mr. Forbes and Mr. Barker. The commodious billiard-room was, as usual, utilised for the banquet; and, with the dining tables tastefully laid out, and other adornments, the saloon presented a most cheerful appearance. The dinner arrangements were well carried out, and the catering of Mr. Jarvis gave every satisfaction. Mr. C. P. Wheatstone occupied the chair, with Mr. W. R. Humby in the vice-chair. There was a capital attendance on the occasion, and amongst others present were Messrs. C. Scull, G. E. Walker, W. H. Brougham, J. P. Wheeldon, Bellfreman, Nelson Hunter, H. Rose, G. James, D. M. Humby, Fyner, J. Duncan, Paramour, Rix, and J. Lupton. The president's hammer, which was used for the first time, consisted of the head of a 4 lb. perch caught in one of the Norfolk Broads. After the opening toast of "The Queen and the rest of the Royal Family," Mr. Wheatstone briefly introduced the toast of the evening, "Success and prosperity to the Stanley Anglers' Society," remarking that it was prominent in its desire to keep up a good standard weight of fish, and preferred a less result of weighing-in than bringing into the club-room comparatively small fish. After the toast had been enthusiastically responded to, Mr. G. E. Walker read a very interesting and attractive report, in which he referred first of all to the intention of reviving the reading-papers. In reference to the gross weight of fish weighed-in during the past season, it was much smaller than usual, partly owing to the accident to their worthy president and partly on account of the club preferring quality to quantity. The gross-weight table represented a total of 747 lb. 7¾ oz., out of which Mr. Wheatstone had alone weighed in 345 lb. 15½ oz., including 27 lb. 13 oz of Thames trout. The prizes taken were as follows: Mr. C. P. Wheatstone to the value of £1 11s., and a capital oil painting given and executed by one of the members; Mr. Pistrucci, £1 6s. and the silver cup; Mr. C.

Scull, £6 16s. 6d.; Mr. Rose, £3 8s.; Mr. J. W. Harris, two guineas; Mr. Parsons, two guineas; Mr. Laidlaw, two guineas; Mr. Tucker, one guinea; Mr. D. M. Humby, £1 0s. 6d.; Mr. Duncan and Mr. Jarvis, half-a-guinea each, and Mr. Pollentine and Mr. W. R. Humby five shillings each. Mr. Walker concluded his popularly written report by a reference to the financial position of the club, which was throughout heartily applauded.—Mr. Rose, on being called upon by the chairman, spoke in highly complimentary terms on the labours of their honorary secretary. Mr. Walker accepted the office at a period of difficulty, but, by his unwearied attention to the duties and unremitting perseverance in removing every impediment, he had brought the society into so satisfactory a position that the members felt he was entitled to a substantial recognition. He had already commenced a subscription which was being favourably responded to, and he sincerely hoped, when completed, it would be worth Mr. Walker's acceptance.—Mr. G. E. Walker, who was evidently taken by surprise, briefly expressed his acknowledgments.—Mr. Nelson Hunter, in prosposing "The Thames Angling Preservation Society," referred to the great benefits it had secured for the anglers; and in speaking of the admirable manner in which its work was performed, mentioned the circumstance that a friend of his, when angling, had his boat examined, and some small fish having been found in the well he was advised to put them back again, which he did; and, being so much satisfied the manner in which it was carried out, supplemented the action by giving a donation to the society. Mr. Hunter, after highly complimenting Mr. W. H. Brougham on his valuable labours for the benefit of the anglers, coupled that gentleman's name with the toast.—Mr. Brougham, in his reply, said the society had never attempted to make the law oppressive to the anglers, but where there were just grounds for a summons, that law had been fully vindicated; and in at least two instances last year they had performed their duties so pleasantly that after the payment of fines, the defendants had come forward and expressed themselves satisfied they had done wrong and had been rightly punished.—Mr. Rose then gave "the Press," which he said was always ready to take up the angling interests and give publicity to the doings of the clubs. They were much indebted to Mr. Wheeldon and Mr. Brougham for their labours in that direction.—Mr. Wheeldon, after noticing his work in connection with the Press, concluded an interesting speech by forcibly urging upon the society the necessity of supporting the Thames Rights Defence Association and the Anglers' Benevolent Society. The other toasts were, "the Secretary and Officers," "the Chairman," and "the Vice-Chairman." The evening was much enlivened with some capital singing by Messrs. Price, Rose, Wheeldon, Humby, and Barton, and the company did not break up without expressing their satisfaction to Mr. and Mrs. Jarvis for the really exquisite dinner they had placed on the table.

A FISH SEDUCER—HOW IT IS USED.

You have met him, Brother Angler!

A well-built frame, sometimes broad shouldered and thickly set or it may be long, wiry and angular; a fringe, or perhaps a full crop of heavy, bushy whiskers surrounding a weather-beaten face, tanned to an olive brown; hands callous, apparently an inch in depth, from constant labour. Eyes bright and piercing, a pleasant yet a patient face, born of his calling.

His boat rudely constructed, flat bottomed and scow-like, pounding the water at each ripple with a decided plash and the labouring oarlocks joining in with a thump that advises you he is rounding yonder bend—*kerchunk! kerchunk! he is coming.*

Spreading from all sides and projecting from the bow are his rods, cut from the neighbouring forests and with here and there a dangling float of well-worn cork or its counterpart of a piece of soft pine, all swaying in the wind.

He is homeward bound, and being desirous of hearing of his success you hail him, and drawing near you gaze with rather envious eyes on a fine catch distributed around his feet.

In addition to the old can that stands alongside of him, and an inch or two of dirty water, in which some of the finny tribe are still floundering, there appears nothing except a glass jar, such as is used to hold candles, tape and other such goods at a country store, but just now it appears to be occupied with lively tenants in the shape of minnows.

"Beent you up yer last summer?" inquires our fishing neighbour.

"Yes," we replied.

"Well, now, I tho't I kinder remember'd as how you be the feller from the city when I punched a hole in this yere bote, on one of them pesky snags down there be the flats, as pulled up and helped me fix'er up, and seeing as how some of my hooks were nigh used up didn't yer give me some bully good ones? Say."

We laugh and say something about "hope they were good ones, &c.," when our eyes once more lit on the glass jar.

"What have you there; an aquarium?" we ask.

You have seen a clam shut, Brother Angler, and shut suddenly, but not more rapidly that the lips of our fisherman, and—

Silence reigns.

* * * * * *

His generous, grateful heart will not, however, permit it to continue, and with a quick anxious look up at the trees, then down on the rocks and water to see that no tales can be told by listeners, he pulls close alongside, and in the utmost confidence, and with a "don't give me away" look, says:

"No, it ain't no equariagum; and yet it is an equariagum, as you down city folks call 'em; I name it at hum my *sejucer*. There ain't nobody in my destrict as knows I've got it, and I don't mean they shall. The great secret how to catch fish, and gobs of them, when no man, woman or child, or anybody else can, was told me by my old father, and he learned the racket from an old smarty, years and years ago."

"Now in this time of year (summer) the pickerel be mighty roamersome; he must feel the sun, and it makes him restless and narvious like. He goes cruising round the lake all the time and gets kinder lost and skattered, lonesome like, and so unsartin to get a mess. This jar biz gits 'em though, and I'll tell you how; for you might read and read all the books rit on fishen and you won't find nothin 'bout it."

"In the evenin' I goes down the lake with the jar and fills it full of clear water. I ketch about 200 live minny bait and dump 'em in this jar and ties a strip of skeeter nettin over the top—this hives 'em. I rows out to a good quiet spot where there ain't no weeds nor nothin', and hitch a cord to the jar and anchors it. I tie a bit of a chunk to the line to mark the spot and takes out for home."

"Now, all fish are durned old night owls, and in making the rounds first one and then another hauls up in front of the jar. When they see the minnies they get thunderen hungry and bouse about, fust one side then t'other. Other old bums see them sliden off on their ears off the jar, and take a hand in, too, and by mornin' every eternal durned galute of a pickerel in the lake is hangin' around the jar with a sore nose, and red-hot mad. I don't let 'em be tantalized long, for I sneaks up and drops down me anchor-stone easy and starts fishen. Of course, there is a rattling old free fight at first sight of my bait, but I rigs out five or six lines and poles, and it makes me sweat a pullin' 'em in. I then ups with my sejucer, which I kiver with my coat, and rows up to the landin'. When they see me a comin' all the hotel folks turn out, and when they sees the fish, the men sez:

"'Well, I'm gone durned if old Flum ain't got 'em agin'': and the gurls they sez:

"'Oh! ain't he the boss fisherman?' Then one is sure to turn round and say to her bow:

"'Chawles, why don't you kitch some of 'em—you goes often enough and brings home nothin'.'

"And then old Flum skips in and jines the boys and dispooges of the fish. I've got a soft snap on 'em, ain't I? Now don't you give me away, will you? 'Night!"

[The above was sent to us by a valued correspondent ("Black Bass") who thinks it too good to be lost and forgotten in the miscellaneous columns of a daily papor. The latter half of the story is given verbatim, as it appeared last year in the columns of the New York *Herald*, the first half has been rewritten by our friend.—Editor.]—*American Angler.*

Visit of the Queen to Epping Forest.—Apropos of the forthcoming Royal visit to Epping Forest, a very capital map has just been published by Mr. Henry Sell, of Bolt Court, Fleet Street, showing the new roads, paths, and improvements, as arranged by the Commissioners up to the present date. To any one desiring to follow the proposed route of her Majesty from the Chingford railway station to the "Connaught Waters," a fine chain of lakes, the adjacent Royal or Green ride, which, when completed, will completely traverse the forest, the charming glades of Fairmead, the retired thickets of the Monks and Hawkswood, the extensive prospect from Lippet's Hill, and the ascent towards High Beech, this map will be exceedingly useful. It shows almost a glance the situation of the new roads, as well as of the the forest rides leading from the fine new building of the Royal Forest Hotel at Chingford, which is on the ascent leading immediately from the station to the most romantic scenery, by the route to be taken by her Majesty on her visit next month.

Gregory's Spinning Baits. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxfod," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[Advt.]

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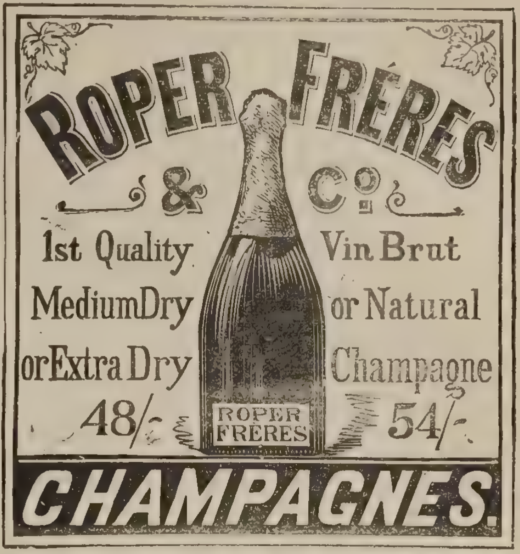

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Applications for tickets will be treated according to priority, but a preference will be to applicants for "season tickets." Boats for angling and stands on the river will be allotted by the head keeper, and no angler will be permitted to use a boat or fish a stand that has not been so allotted. Superior accommodation can be had on application to Mr. T. MULLARKEY, at Glendalough Hotel, Recess, Galway. Anglers are requested to take out their licences in the Ballynahinch district, as by doing so they increase the fund for the preservation of the district.

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Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 1882.

THE EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION.

AS promised last week, we now give our readers some account of that portion of the exhibition which is most likely to interest them, viz., the exhibits in connection with angling and pisciculture.

Without following any definite plan, we shall first notice the things in the order they came in when walking round. The exhibition is most conveniently situated in the centre of the city—and what a wonderfully beautiful city this Edinburgh is! It is close to the principal railway stations and hotels, and hanging, as it were, out of the side of Princes Street. The first thing the visitor sees is the aquarium, which at first was a great attraction; but the speedy death of most of the fish—caused by bad water—has robbed it of its value, and when we saw it it looked like a hospital for incurables affected with the *Saprolegnia ferax*. But the aquarium was never intended to be a great feature of this exhibition. It existed previously, and was rented by the committee of the exhibition simply because they feared that otherwise it would be difficult to exclude visitors to it from the exhibition proper. The water in the tanks was also taken as it was, and soon proved very deadly to the salmon and other fish which were introduced. As regards the show generally, it is certainly more extensive and better than we anticipated; and the committees, and especially the secretary, Mr. Henry Cook, are to be congratulated on getting so fine a show together in so short a time; the fact that they have had, to a certain extent, to compete with the London exhibition, to open next year, has been much against them. But the success of the affair is very great. All expenses were paid very soon after the opening, so great was the rush of visitors; and it is admitted by our Scotch friends that a considerable portion of this success is due to the beautiful display of specimen fish from the London angling clubs—only a tithe, by the way, of what might have been sent—and the Buckland collection, but we have referred specially to these elsewhere. Of absolute novelty the exhibition does not offer much as regards angling interests. The patent granolithic salmon ladders, exhibited in working models by Messrs. Stuart and Co., of 8, Thomas Street, Edinburgh, are thoroughly good practical things, and are in use both on the North Esk and the Teith. We should very much like to see one of them put up on the Eden at Armathwaite; it is piteous to see the salmon attempting the weir there, and bruising themselves in their fruitless endeavours—except in a flood—to get over. We hope Messrs. Stuart will show their most excellent invention in London next year. The great novelties in the way of artificial flies, were the frames of Swiss flies, tied on barbless hooks, exhibited by Majoria Guiseppe, of Locarno, Canton Tessin, Switzerland. These flies are made as follows :—A fine needle is made soft by heat; it is then bent into the shape of a hook, with the point turned very much inwards towards the shank. The wire is then again hardened and tempered, and the feathers tied on in a very primitive manner. All the flies are dressed spider fashion; in fact, some of them might be taken for the partridge and other spider flies in use on the Eden. These flies are said to be more killing than the ordinary English flies, and are used by the Swiss professional fishermen in preference to English flies on barbed hooks. Mr. Seth Green, the great American fish-breeder, never uses any other than a barbless hook for trout, and he has caught some tons of trout with it, so there must be something in it. The fact that the professional fishermen use these flies ought to be considered as speaking in their favour. We intend to get some to try.

Messrs. W. Dickson and Co., of 15, Frederick Street, Edinburgh, have a first-rate exhibit of rods and tackle, and we can strongly recommend their acme joint for holding the joints of a rod together; it is simple and strong. Then their elongating rod is another capital speciality. By a very simple arrangement the bottom joint is made telescopic, two feet of it sliding into the thick end of the butt, so that in a moment one can change the length of the rod from 14 to 12 feet, or *vice versa*. The winch is not moved. This is the simplest and best telescopic arrangement we have seen. Their flies and worm tackles are very good indeed; in fact, if they had made a larger show, they would have come off with higher honours. Some of their 10s. fly rods were of beautiful balance, and would have a ready sale amongst English anglers if known.

Messrs. McLeod and Blake, of 13, St. Giles Street, Edinburgh, show an ingenious tin case for holding salmon flies and casts. The flies are held on wires and an indiarubber band; it is a good thing.

Messrs. Hardy Brothers, of Fenkle Street, Alnwick, have a very nice exhibit of their rods, flies, tackle, &c. We have so often referred in years past to the excellence of the goods turned out by this firm, that we need say nothing on that score. They were taking orders as fast as they could book them for their split-cane rods, made on the American principle, and sold at about half the price. Their cork handles for rods have been much admired, but we think nothing beats the plain smooth wood of the butt itself—all metal rings near the grasp are a source of blisters. They have just brought out a very capital natural minnow-spinning arrangement—a piece of sword-shaped lead is tied to the gut near the hooks. The lead is pushed down through the minnow, which is then bent to the proper curve for spinning; of course, any bend can easily be given to the lead, which is also a nice weight, and quite hidden in the fish. Our trout-fishing friends should get this extremely simple and cheap arrangement, it cannot fail to answer. Messrs. Hardy informed us it spins admirably. Messrs. Hardy's Y-shaped landing-net, which folds up, is an old friend, which, from practical experience, we strongly recommend. Their bayonet ferrule fastening is not yet on the market; we shall notice it when it is. It is the best fastening yet invented, in our opinion.

Messrs. Hearder, of Plymouth, show a case of their standard Archimedean spinners for fresh and salt water fishing, some of them of unrivalled excellence.

The "salmon-fisher's boots," made by J. Fleming, tanner, of Berwick, struck us as being thoroughly useful goods.—Messrs. Goudie, Christie, and Co., 25, Princes Street, Edinburgh, have a large and varied exhibit of all kinds of life-saving garments. Had they been in use on the recent disaster on a Scotch loch, two anglers would now be alive who then perished.—Messrs, Thornton and Co., 78, Princes Street, Edinburgh, appear to be the principal waterproof makers in the North, and their fishing goods have a great name amongst Scotch anglers.—Mr. R. C. Stevens, of Berwick-on-Tweed, is another fishing tackle exhibitor, who was doing a large business among the visitors. He shows a cheap telescopic rod, which pleased us very much; all the joints go into the butt. and the play of the rod is very good. It would be just the rod for burn-fishing. He will have a large sale for it, as it is so cheap. He also exhibits the FISHING GAZETTE winch, which is liked, he tells us, by practical anglers who understand its advantages. He has the most varied exhibit in the exhibition, and we can recommend his selection and judgment. He has adopted our suggestion about giving anglers information about fishing in Tweed, Whitadder, Till, Glen, &c , and already has sent several of our readers to good spots.

Mr. Wigley, of Cheltenham, exhibits his Gloucester spinner, and is having a large sale, for one angler soon proved its killing powers on Loch Leven. We hope to try it on Loch Leven or Loch Vennachar this week, and will report result.—Perhaps the most interesting and novel exhibit is that of Mr. James Macnee, 7, Windmill Street, Edinburgh. He is a professional fisherman, and has resided for years near one of the best Scotch lochs. He exhibits flies, the wings of which are made from the scales of pike, and he tells us he can kill big wary trout in quiet bright water with these flies when they absolutely refuse everything else. They are wonderfully life-like, and durable. They certainly ought to have received a medal, and the sole cause that they did not was that the jurors mistook them for whalebone winged flies, of which he also exhibits several. But they are quite different, and infinitely superior. We shall give them a good trial, and then report more fully on them. In the meantime we can advise our readers to send for a shillingsworth as samples.

Mr. W. Cochrane, 4, Grove Place, Edinburgh, is himself a practical angler, and his modest exhibit will compare well with any other in the exhibition. Messrs. Redpath of Aberdeen, have an exceedingly fine collection of rods and tackles, and have received the gold medal for their display. Some of the rods they exhibit were simply perfect, and make one long to possess them; they are also showing Messrs. Conroy, Bissett, and Malison's American split-cane-rods—magnificent in workmanship—and have sold many of them, in spite of the high price. We must conclude our notice next week, and shall refer especially to Mr. B. Littlewood's excellent fish-hatching apparatus, which deserves more space than we can devote to it this week. The crowds of people visiting the exhibition seem to increase. The awards for the essays will be made known on Saturday probably, and the exhibition closes on that day.

P.S.—We have by an accident omitted to notice the exhibit of Mr. D. Wells, 11, Leith Street, Edinburgh. We must do justice to it next week. His flies are the best and cheapest we ever used, and we have used them for some years now.

THE RIVER ANT, NORFOLK.

THIS most prolific river for coarse fish, rises from some ponds, doubtless fed by springs, north-west of North Walsham, and coursing through Swafield, Worstead, Dillham, Stalham, Barton, Irstead, into Ludham, empties itself into the Bure, a distance in all about twenty miles. Fortunately the value of this river for fair angling purposes has aroused the zeal of a few earnest anglers, who, from first of all clubbing together, have extended their useful operations by the establishment of the Ant Preservation and Angler's Society. Their head-quarters are at Stalham, which is an excellent central place, having a railway station, reached by about four hours' journey from London. There are some very comfortable hotels in the town—the Swan, the Maid's Head, and the Railway Hotel.

A most energetic enemy of all piscatory abuses writes us:—

"The district to which this society purposes—if encouraged—to extend its protection to the fresh-water fish against the depredation of poachers, still unfortunately prevalent, despite beneficent legislation, comprises an extent of pleasant, and in many respects, picturesque tracts of country. As the waters are admirably suited for boating purposes, we think the following description of the various angling resorts on their banks will prove of interest to those of your readers who may be wholly or partially acquainted with the locality:—

The operations of the society commence from the basin of the North Walsham and Dilham Canal at Antingham, and cease at the confluence of the rivers Ant and Bure, near St. Benet's Abbey.

We may premise that pike, perch, roach, rudd, eels, tench, &c., are more or less abundant throughout, and will now take our starting point—the canal basin at Antingham, where we have caught some thick-backed pike; but in honesty must confess our fear that "liggering," the curse and bane of the Norfolk waters, has of late years seriously impaired the angler's chance of success. A little further on, and past the Bone Mills, is an excellent swim for roach, and many fine specimens exceeding 1lb. and 2lb. may be taken. But then it is indispensable that the angler should be a roach-fisher in the strictest sense of the term; and, it is almost needless to say, that to merit a title to the appellation, demands a keen watchful eye, a steady hand, and an immense amount of practical study. An angler possessing a very moderate modicum of skill, and using tackle of very humble pretensions, may certainly secure smaller fish, but will very rarely, if ever, beguile the heavy ones, which alone occupy the attention of the real roach-fisher.

After leaving the Bone Mills, we pass through some meadows to Bradfield Bridge, and from here to the first lock at Swafield is a splendid expansive piece of water with numerous nests of sedges, affording harbour for pike, of which there are some large ones. Here the water is, as in many other parts of the canal, full of weed, but after they have been rotted by a hard winter the spinner may find his skill and patience rewarded.

Between the two locks at Swafield we have sometimes observed very fine bream rolling about, but these waters have not as yet been fished by the metropolitan bream-fisher, to whom the leviathans would feel honoured by being drawn from their natural into another element. [Our correspondent is evidently not acquainted with what was done at this spot in 1868, by Messrs. Plummer and Elliott, two members of a London club. They baited a swim three nights previously, seeing to this indispensable preliminary themselves, and took, from half-past three until nine o'clock in the morning, 173 lb. of bream, some of which, according to *Bell's Life*, weighed 4 lb. and 5¼ lb. Our conviction is that, extraordinary as the feat may appear, it might be done again, if not exceeded. A more appropriate water for bream of the right sort we don't know. They fight at times on fine tackle like barbel.]

Below the lower lock is another favourite swim for roach, probably on account of a little stream which enters the canal just here. From Swafield Bridge to Austin Bridge, Barton Broad Lock and Messrs. Cubitt and Walker's mills at North Walsham, is some capital water. At the last-named spot the heaviest bream are occasionally captured, and there are the most delightful and suggestive bays and openings in the reeds which would delight the eye and attract the attention of a pike-fisher, by whom they were once held in the highest regard. But here again, we fear, the ligger has done its deadly work.

For two or three hundred yards below the lock is another justly esteemed swim for roach, and about another mile further, in a copse, there is a swim enjoying a somewhat enviable reputation amongst bream-fishers.

We now leave the mills at Briggate, a locality in which there exist some back waters, again presenting a most attractive appearance to the pike-fisher. Dilham comes next. Here is a lake which is private property, and is famous for its heavy pike and perch; but as the growth of aquatic vegetation, engendered by its very exclusiveness, it has become almost unfishable, even to its proprietors, during the greater portion of the year.

Soon after this the canal joins the river Ant, and by turning to the right we shall presently arrive at Dilham Old Broad, which many of the inhabitants can remember as an extensive sheet of water in their younger days, but in which different kinds of vegetation have grown up, died, and left their débris, and thus filled up its area until it now consists merely of a channel between the reeds, sufficiently wide to permit of the wherries, as the splendid sailing barges are here called, to sail through.

Perch and rudd, particularly the latter, afford us constant and most profitable sport. Rudd-fishing is here in its perfection, and, either with fly or bottom fishing, to our idea far excels roach angling; although we admit there may not be the extreme subtlety required to ensnare rudd as there is to get the larger roach to take the bait.

We must now return to the place where the canal unites with the river proper, and continue our course to the left, which brings us to Wayford Bridge. From this to the confluence of the rivers Ant and Bure is an excellent stretch of water with numerous dykes, which a Londoner would call affluents or tributaries, but dyke is our term, and in which the largest fish are sometimes taken, these dykes being a goodly depth. Besides dykes, we have several backwaters well worth looking after, as we purpose doing if we are encouraged.

About a mile and a half from Wayford Bridge is a cut leading to Stalham and Sutton Broads. They are both overgrown with weeds—the beginning of the end of the Norfolk Broads, which the more suggests that the present generation should do all it can to preserve this extraordinary feature of the eastern counties and its unique claims for the production and shelter of nature's fauna, now unhappily gradually becoming extinct. These broads however, overgrown as they are, become from that very reason the harbour and breeding-grounds of pike, perch, rudd and tench. The latter are remarkably plentiful, but, as in the Essex and Suffolk Stour, have the reputation of never being caught by rod and line, a prejudice now long since exploded in that aqueous division of those counties.

We must now, but not without regret, take leave of Stalham, and Sutton Broads—for their very desolation and threat of extermination has its charm—and once more seek the main stream of the river.

Now we arrive at Barton and Irstead Broads, which also yield some good sport at times. They are the property of Sir J. H. Preston, Bart., and as such are already partially preserved.

Quitting Irstead Broad, and entering the river, we come to the "shoals" for heavy perch, for which the water, flowing quickly over a gravelly soil, is well adapted. From this, past Ludham Bridge, and as far as the spot where the Ant joins the Bure, near St. Benet's Abbey, are many swims where good sport may be had; the last-named being an excellent one, where we have invariably succeeded in taking pike or perch.

Here our description ends. We consider the fish in the North Walsham and Dilham Canal far superior in quality to those in the rivers and broads, the former, though smaller, being as a rule better fed and of more brilliant hue than the latter. We may remind our readers that some months since a number of trout were turned into the canal, but regret to say, are informed that the beautiful fish have either died on account of the water not being congenial to their taste, or let free before they were of a sufficient size to hold their own, which means they have been thrown as food for the pike and perch. It should be known that no water in the county of Norfolk could be more easily preserved than the river Ant and its tributaries. We therefore hope that not only the angling fraternity, but the public, will co-operate with the society in their laudable endeavour to preserve the waters from illegal netting, &c. If they will do so, then good sport for the angler may be confidently relied on. It would do much to promote the increase of fish if anglers were to return to the water all undersized fish measuring less than six inches from the eye to the fork of the tail. Mr. Meale is the honorary secretary, Stalham, Norfolk, who will gladly reply to all enquiries.

The river Ant varies from four feet to ten feet in depth. There are also many low-lying fens, containing several acres of shallow water adjoining the river, and no end of water dykes, in which, with proper tackle, a good fisher would revel. Most of the gentry around are now roused to the value of protecting the water, and as a proof of this the society can boast of twenty-four gentlemen as water-bailiffs belonging to the society, devoted to making the Ant second to no river in the eastern counties. Although the annual subscription is a guinea, the society accept a donation as low as half-a-crown, entitling the angler to fish and a hearty welcome.

FLY-FISHING IN STILL WATER.

"I HOPE that fellow Palmer won't see me. I shall have to stop and listen to his chaff if he does." But Palmer's garden wall is close to the path by the river by which I must pass, and there is the fellow himself, lazily cutting away the dead leaves from his geraniums. Poor man! He is at his wits' end to know how to kill the time this hot, lazy August day.

He would as soon think of trying the fly (he is above "dapping") as trying to catch a sunbeam in a butterfly net.

Well, really, the weather is enough to provoke St. Nicholas, the fisherman's saint. The river is so low that just at the head of Dead Man's Pool, where the big ash tree is, the rabbits on the left bank of the river can cross by the rocks dry-footed, and see if those rabbits on the right bank, which they have so often looked at across the river, are really different to themselves in language, creed or feelings.

The big freshwater mussels are gaping open on the powdery bed of the river. I can stand in only a few inches of water in places where to attempt such a feat at ordinary times would result in a coroner's inquest and a short paragraph in the daily papers. The anxious fisherman taps the barometer and swears at the weather in a way that scandalises his adoring family, who ought to look up to him as the very incarnation of all the Christian virtues. Yet here I am actually in my waders, bent on an afternoon's fly-fishing, and trying to sneak along under Palmer's wall unseen. I am congratulating myself that it is all right, when a loud laugh makes me look up; and there is the face of that man, distorted with a huge grin, looking down upon me as if I were an interesting but harmless lunatic.

Palmer passes for a wag, and I admit that he sometimes says things that make me laugh a little and at which he himself laughs very much; but never, no, never, did I think his wit so contemptible, his sallies so feeble, as I do now, whilst he stands there looking over the wall, twirling his garden scissors, and poking what he calls "fun" at me about "fishing in the turnpike road," "a glut at Billingsgate," and "the miraculous draught of fishes."

"Come now, Palmer, "I'll bet you the Crystal Palace to a cucumber frame I get a dozen good trout this afternoon."

"Fine weather for tickling," the wag replies, with another of his stock grins.

Fine weather for tickling, indeed! Why here has this fellow been trying to say something to tickle *me*, and he has only succeeded in making me sore. However, I am always charitable to my inferiors, so I say now, "Come along for a stroll, there's a good fellow, and see if I can't get a trout or two."

My persuasive powers are wonderful when I exert them. Palmer is a thorough fisherman at heart, and a quarter of an hour later he and I are making our way to the long pool under the cliff. Palmer has brought his pipe and the "Saturday Review," as he is evidently sceptical as to the promised sport.

Here we are, then! It is a long deep pool, over which the cliff throws a partial shadow; but every stone, every particle of gravel almost stands out hard and distinct in the bright water, where the pool gradually tails off towards the stickle above the bridge. But there is no stickle now, merely a small rill of water in which an audacious hop-o-my-thumb of a gravelling would be ashamed to take up his quarters. There is just a breath of wind blowing up-stream, not enough to touch the water, but still sufficient to aid me in throwing a long light line.

Whilst I put my rod together, Palmer overhauls my fly-book; then he hands me a huge cow-dung fly. "Their appetites will be as jaded as an Anglo-Indian's, such a broiling day as this. That's the boy for them; they'll think it is curry."

My only reply is to take the fly-book from him, and select a small dingy-fly with mole's hair body and hare's flax legs, and without any wing. I never fish with more than one fly on these occasions—and my collar, of the finest gut, is about five yards long—if there is but a breath of air to help me.

When all is ready, I have my line and collar to soak in the stickle for full five minutes, otherwise in the still water it would lie dry and crisp on the surface; and, meanwhile, to escape Palmer's chaff, I stroll up to the tail of the pool, as I know in the thin water some fish will be lying, which I must necessarily frighten, and in their hurried rush they will startle the trout above them, so better get this over at once and give them time to settle down.

I go back to my rod, and, would you believe it, I was wrong after all, there is a gravelling in the stickle, and, by Jove, here he is. "Marry, and it is purely a huge one!" from the irreverent Palmer. I hate parodies at any times, but to parody the immortal Izaak! Palmer, my friend, you can sink no lower in my esteem.

Master Gravelling is returned to the place from whence he came, and now I am wading in the deep, still pool. It is too deep to wade on my side, but over there under the steep cliff-like bank it is deep and black. The surface of the water is powdered over here and there with the dust which has been wafted thither from the dry river bed; and in the shallows above, small particles of dry stuff which have apparently dropped from the overhanging trees, are floating on the surface, and here and there a small moth lies with outstretched wings, calmly reposing on the treacherous element where it has met its death. At these times and in such places trout always hunt in shoals. Here they are. I watch them as they come slowly down towards me making a small bubble here and there as they lazily suck in a dead fly, or mouth a particle of the dead stuff that is floating on the surface, to eject it again the moment they find it is not "good to eat." All is still again. Presently a small ring or two higher up tell me that the fish have turned and are working up-stream, so I follow them.

I am within throwing distance now, and my fly has quietly dropped in among them. I keep the fly quite still until it has sunk about six inches, then draw it slowly away for another throw, being careful by no rapid motion to disturb the fish. The great secret in this kind of fishing is to keep your fly still; and ten chances to one some enterprising fish, if he happens to come across it, will mouth it for a moment, perhaps out of sheer curiosity, merely to drop it again the next moment—that is, if you let him, which, of course, you won't do if you can help it.

"Ah, there he is!" A slight curl in the water: I strike instantaneously, there is a tight line, and "Into him, my boy" (this for Palmer's edification). But Palmer, in spite of his jeers, has been closely watching me, so my warning is thrown away. I like fighting a west country trout in still water. That first dive into the hidden depths of the pool is a treat. It does not last long. The elasticity of my rod is too galling to be borne with impunity, and the fish is soon brought down stream, where we have it fairly out. I soon find that I am the better man, and my conquered antagonist is led in triumph towards the bank, where Palmer is ready with the landing-net buried in the water; the fish is gently enticed over it, and my friend scoops him out like the true artist he is.

I never kick a man when he is down, so I don't give vent to those scathing sarcasms friend P. so richly deserves. But Palmer, being down, is privileged to kick. And what do you think this low-minded fellow says, as he unhooks the beautiful half-pounder we have just secured? "I suppose you think you have made a discovery?" This, he says, if you please, with that nasty slow drawl which betokens concentrated venom.

He is rather nonplussed by my careless "Not at all," so I continue: "The fact is, I learn't it from a fellow who knew nothing whatever of fishing, less, in fact, than you do." (A loud 'guffaw' from Palmer.) "A mere novice. I was fishing in a reservoir in the North of Devon where there were hosts of trout, and thumpers. But catch them? Not a bit of it. At least I could not. Well, there was this fellow standing out on a projecting piece of rock, slashing his rod out against the wind as if he were beating carpets, and whenever he managed to get his line out a little further than the end of his rod he would leave his flies to soak for fully half a minute. I laughed him to scorn. But, bless you, the laugh soon changed to the other side of my mouth, as every now and then a wild whoop told me he had got hold of a fish. Since then I always keep my fly still when fishing still water.

As I wade out once more, I catch some disjointed remarks from Palmer about my grandmother; but as that good lady departed this life before I entered it, I don't continue the conversation. Twice again I repeat the performance, but the game is played out now. I have satisfied their curiosity, and the fish, though still continuing to look about for flotsam, will have nothing to say to me.

A quarter of a mile further up the river there is another deep pool. You know it well—the pool where old Greenheart killed his large salmon in the autumn of 1880. You remember the current runs in merrily at the head of the pit, then curls along deep and stately one side of the river as far as the old limestone rock; then it crosses to the other side, under the steep earth bank, where the roots of the old thorn bush are peeping out, and loses itself in the broad, still basin which stretches right away from the gravelly beach on our side to the steep bank opposite, and ends at the fording-place.

"'Gad! that's lucky," I exclaim, as I see that the tail of the pool is just touched by the "haporth" of breeze. There is no cockle, the surface is only just crinkled a little, but still we must be thankful for small mercies on such a day, as here we are in the full light of the sun. Palmer stands on the bank as I climb down on to the rocks below the ford, and change my dingy fly for a small red quill gnat. Just a throw or two at the tail of the pool above me, I raise one small fish but nothing more; so, throwing ahead of me, pass up through the ford into Greenheart's pool, keeping as much the other side as possible; for even now it is pretty deep out here under the steep bank, and I want to keep as far as possible from the shallow water close in upon the shingly beach; for I know, this weather, the fish will be lying close to this beach, in only two or three inches of water, hunting, I suppose for those tiny insects that come to life under the genial warmth of the sun, and hop out their little lives among the stones. I have gauged the distance now, and am throwing a long line diagonally up stream, my fly dropping within an inch or two of the beach. Presently, there he is. A nice trout, too. I draw him quickly down stream, when we have it fairly out together. There is a point at which even a pugnacious Devonshire trout can fight no more. That point is reached and passed, and my score rises from three to four. I fish all the way up to the limestone rock, raise a fish or two and frighten a good many, which scuttle off to their hovers making quite a broad arrow in the shallow water.

"Don't think much of that," says Palmer, as I come out of the water.

I have a singular command over my tongue when I am not prepared with a reply, so Palmer's remark is received in cold silence. It is a long walk up to Folly Pool, past the stickles which in spring afford what Jim Burrowes calls "prapper sport sure enough," but now are dry, except just in under the alders, where, even now, a nicely-scoured worm might kill a fish.

However, the longest walk is walked at last, and now here we are.

"What sport we had here, Palmer, at the head of the pool when the March brown was on."

Palmer's elbow is driven into my ribs as he replies, "Ah, we did 'em brown then, eh?"

"Did them? I beg your pardon, I did not quite catch the expression."

But there was one expression that I do catch, and that is the expression in Palmer's eye which betokens a burning desire to kick somebody; but Palmer is a Christian, and the wicked thought evaporates into a loud laugh, which somehow is infectious, and we both laugh, but at what? Nothing. But that only makes us laugh the more. Ah, well, Palmer is not a bad sort, and, with this moral reflection, I survey the pool.

Such a hover for fish, deep as the bottomless pit, except where great ledges of rock stand up here and there under water. Looking up the pool from below, it looks like a beautiful avenue, fringed as it is with those glorious oak and ash trees. I climb down on to one those ledges of rock which lies about a foot under water, and, looking up stream, see a sight that quickly rivets my attention, and takes away my thoughts from the shady pool and the patches of sunlight which are playing on the surface of the dark water. About thirty yards above me, close in under the big oak tree, there is a perfect shoal of trout, playing like a school of mackerel, swimming hither and thither, splashing in a way that sober trout ought to be ashamed of. They are evidently after the small grubs, ants, and other insects that are falling from the tree. Now, with some mad impulse, they move out into deep water, and all is still. Presently there they are again. How can I get at them?

"Keep back, Palmer, there's a good fellow." For now I am sneaking along under the trees, clinging on to the narrow ridge of rock that runs up under water, close along the bank, but which broadens again a few yards below where the trout are. At last I have reached the big rock, the dingy fly is on once more, my line has been carefully soaked, and now my fly has dropped in amongst them.

Quick as lightning, there is a splash, as a fish evidently takes it for something dropping from the tree, and only wakes up to the horror of the situation when, after having been separated from his brethren, he sees me. Then, by Jove! it's glorious, while its lasts; for he is a good one, close on a pound, and I am in a cramped position kneeling on the rock unable to raise my rod, as it would be entangled in the overhanging branches.

"I wish you'd let me have the net Palmer, old chap; keep out of sight if you can."

I have not long to wait. The cheery face of my old friend peers over the bank a few yards below me, the net is pushed down towards me.

"Now my friend it's no use. Quietly, quietly," as the fish springs out of water. But obey me? Not a bit of it. There he is out of water again. I have him within a "measurable distance" of the landing-net now, and make my effort. "Gad, that's clumsy," I exclaim, as I raise the net, and, not being fairly under the fish, raise him partly out of water, and he drops back into the pool, but still on. A gentle thrill of gratitude pervades my breast as I feel that we have not parted company yet. Away, away, from the hated net with a rush that fortunately does not last long. I turn him after a short argument and bring the runaway back. No bungling this time, for he is writhing and knocking head and tail together in the net.

"Hurrah," from Palmer, who has been anxiously watching the contest.

I turn upon him that seraphic smile of which I have the acknowledged monopoly, and in my gratitude vow mentally to reward this man's largeness of soul by laughing at his very next joke. The fish is passed up to Palmer. "I believe he is a pound, old chap," "More than that; looks like a guinea, he's so yellow," was the reply. Here is my opportunity. I laugh—yes, actually laugh. Palmer looks surprised. So I make a mental note to repeat the laugh next time. Who knows? Perhaps———. No, I wouldn't stop poor old Palmer's little jokes for anything, so I won't laugh. Now I am at it again, and secure another fish which comes to the still fly under water; and have followed the fish up as far as the ledge of rock will allow me, for they are working up stream. A little higher up I find another place where I can repeat the performance; and here, and once again above, I fish carefully, raise several fish, and bag two out of the lot. And now the afternoon has gone. Hawkesford Hill is throwing a great shadow over the meadow; the moths are coming out; the cockchafers will soon be here, the breath of wind has dropped, and all is calm. Lower down the valley the hills look blue, and here and there in the far distance there is a tinge of purple on them.

Closing time now, for, though I should probably bag a few fish as the evening closes in, I don't intend to stay for it. So we light our pipes, and stroll homewards.

The cows are standing in the water at the bottom of old Greenheart's pool, lashing the water with their tails and lowing, for they think it is time that Mary Anne brought her bright milk-pail and three-legged stool into the meadow. The miller's waggon is going home across the bridge, and some labourers, who have been toiling in the barley fields, are shouting out some song or other in the lane up by the pound, for the day's work is done, and supper is waiting for them.

We are to separate at the bridge, for my way lies through the village past the church; so, on the parapet of the bridge, we lay out the fish—eight of them—and there divide the spoil.

"I think I shall try my hand to-morrow," says Palmer.

"So do," says I. "I have to go to Torborough to-morrow; but I shall see you on Sunday after service, and hear what sport."

The last word is spoken, and we part. The last word? No. For as Palmer jumps over the stile so as to go home through the meadows, he shouts back at me, "Wish I had taken your bet though; how about that dozen?" Low-mindedness of this kind deserves no reply, and it does not get it. But discomfited? Not he! Long after, as I make my way up the lane, I hear his cheery whistle in the meadows below. Dear old Palmer, I think I have a soft spot somewhere in my heart for him

SCOTCH LOCH FISHING.

Messrs. W. Blackwood and Sons, publishers, Edinburgh, send us a new little work under the above title. It is by one of the members of the Western Angling Club, of Glasgow, who writes under the *nom de plume* of "Black Palmer." Although we infinitely prefer river fishing to lake fishing, and fishing from the bank to fishing from a boat, still we should be sorry to deny that lake-fishing has its advantages. "Black Palmer," in his preface, "does not pretend to have written anything new," and we think he would have found it a difficult matter to do so, considering how much has already been written on this particular branch of angling. But his book will supply a want, for the simple reason that what has previously been written on the subject is to be found only in bulky volumes. A most useful feature in "Black Palmer's" modest little book is that it is interleaved for notes. Its eighty pages are divided into chapters as follows:—I. Introduction; II. Equipment; III. Tackle and Accessories; IV. Flies and Casting Lines; V. Trolling Tackle and Lures; VI. Duties of Boatmen; VII. Etiquette of Loch-fishing; VIII. Casting and Striking; IX. Trolling; X. Capture of Fish; XI. After a Day's Fishing; XII. Reminiscences; XIII. Conclusion.

It will thus be seen the work is comprehensive, and after reading it with pleasure we can recommend it to all who go in for loch or lake fishing, in which our author is evidently an adept. One thing we particularly like about him is the manner in which he gives his advice and instruction. There is no hesitation about it, no bewildering generalities which only fog the beginner. He tells you what he has, from long experience, found the best rod, the best flies, &c., and best method of fishing a loch, and any one who follows his instructions will soon prove their practical value. We do not agree with him in the matter of lines. The silk and hair hybrid is a vexatious nuisance in our opinion, and cannot for a moment compare with a really good waterproofed silk line. The Scotch system of trailing is one which ought to be much more restricted than it is. What chance do the fish get when two, or perhaps three, rods are used by an angler, each rod armed with a spinning bait and miles of water raked over in a serpentine fashion? No wonder the *ferox* gets rarer every year in the Scotch lochs. This kind of fishing reduces the work of the angler to the mere mechanical exertion of hauling in a fish, which has fastened itself on to half-a-dozen hooks. It was just this kind of fishing that did so much to ruin the Thames as a jack river, and some day our Scotch friends will find that they too must put it down as an unsportsmanlike practice. Any bungler who has a clever boatman can catch fish in this way, which is very far removed from legitimate spinning with one rod, and that properly worked by the angler himself, and not left to fish for itself. We will do our author the justice to say that he infinitely prefers fly-fishing, and looks on trailing or trolling, as he calls it, as a last resource.

We learn that a silver medal has been awarded to Mr. J. Starkey for his exhibit of a collection of preserved freshwater fish at Edinburgh.

A TELEGRAM, AND WHAT CAME OF IT.

The well-known postman's rat-tat put all at the breakfast table on the *qui vive*. The anxious expectancy was relieved by tearing open the yellow envelope and deciphering the telegram, which ran thus: "Would you like a day's jack-fishing? If so, come to-morrow; water in first-rate condition. Wire reply." As I hastily scribbled my answer, "Will come by first train," I could not help feeling commiseration for an old chum, whose face visibly lengthened as he sat munching his breakfast, preparatory to his return to the great Babylon from whence he had journeyed only a few days previous, in the hope of joining me in an expedition to this particular piece of water, but which now the calls of his profession compelled him to forego.

It was a raw cold morning in the month of February, 1882, and a thick fog completely enveloped the old provincial town, when I alighted at the railway station. The deep-toned bell of the Abbey tower struck ten as I exchanged salutations with my friend (whom I shall designate M.), who proposed an adjournment to the hotel, where we fortified ourselves against the cold with a glass each of mulled claret. We then shouldered our rods, &c., and, after a brisk walk of ten minutes' duration, arrived at the lake, where we were met by the keeper, who had everything in readiness; and by the time we had put our rods together, he had carefully adjusted a small bright roach on each of our spinning flights. Taking our places, one at each end of the boat, we were quickly at work.

By this time a breeze had sprung up, and cleared away the fog, and everything looked promising for a good day's sport. Our first casts were in a deepish bit of water, overhung with bushes and trees, which I knew, from former experience, to be a favourite rendezvous of *Esox Lucius*. The bending of M.'s rod, shortly after, assured us that Master Jack was not only at home, but was disposed to accept the bill of fare we had provided. M. was now jubilant, but for a short time only; for, with a vicious shake of the head, Jack bid him good-bye.

"Strike 'em a little harder, sir; they has very bony mouths. I like to give it 'em a second time, to drive the hooks well home," was our boatman's admonition.

In less than five minutes M.'s tightened line betokened another acceptance. Profiting by his instructions, he was enabled to claim first blood, as a four-pounder was lifted into the boat. Whilst M. was giving the *coup de grace* to this one, I hooked another, which, after taking out about twenty yards of line, turned, and made straight for the boat, and I had to reel up pretty sharp to keep any strain on him.

"You've got him proper, sir," said the boatman.

"Yes," said I, "he's right enough."

Ah! luckless speech, and bootless boast! I had hardly uttered it when he made a tremendous rush, and my line, minus trace and flight, was floating in the wind. I could have torn my hair with disappointment and vexation; but as that would not have mended matters, I didn't, but set about mending my broken tackle. We now had a long spell without a touch, and it was getting towards one o'clock when I hooked and killed a nice fish of six and a half pounds; by the time it was put *hors de combat*, a boy with the luncheon hamper hove in sight, to the contents of which our attention was directed for the next half-hour. Having lit our weeds we again commenced business, which opened briskly, M. almost immediately hauling in a good six-pounder, and shortly after another of equal weight was scored to my rod. We next fished some jacky-looking water, at the head of the lake, where three others (one of which was upwards of seven pounds) were duly accounted for, besides two which were hooked and lost. We then made a move to the locality where we commenced in the morning. I had only made a few casts under the overhanging boughs, when I felt the tug of a heavy fish, which, directly he felt the steel, was away like lightning; but, after a pretty fight, lasting about ten minutes, he was laid beside his captured brethren in the boat. This was our best fish, and plumped down the scales at ten and a half pounds. We fished on till four o'clock, adding a brace more to our captives, our total being twelve fish, weighing sixty-six pounds. Altogether it was a most enjoyable day, weather and water being alike favourable, and we had the advantages of the services of a boatman who was indefatigable in his endeavours to show sport, and had the happy knack of rowing just the right pace, and placing his boat in the best position for fishing each likely spot.

Red Ant.

George James Eaton, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether the may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal books. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[Advt.]

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

" —— on that bank, feel the west wind
Breathe health and plenty; please my mind,
To see sweet dewdrops kiss these flowers,
And then washed off by April showers."

I. WALTON.

April showers have been in the descendant, as well as ascendant, during the past week; so much so in fact that quite a freshet is the result, the river being high and coloured as I write and out of trim for trout. This freshet will do the river good, and act like gin and bitters on the appetites of the spotted beauties. At Hambleden, on the 20th Mr. Towsey, of Henley, got a pretty little takeable fish, and Mr. Alford a ditto at Magpie Island, above Medmenham. At Hurley, H. Rockwell, of Marlow, has succeeded in trapping a big poacher, viz., in the shape of a 23 lb. otter. I had an opportunity of seeing the gentleman on Tuesday evening, and a finer specimen of oily silkiness I never handled. At Marlow Mr. Faulkner, with "Tipney," whilst spinning Marlow Point the other day, got a splendid trout, which scaled 7 lb., and Mr. Englefield on the 20th, got a fish of over 2 lb., on the 24th another under 2 lb., which was duly returned uninjured, and on the 27th (yesterday) a splendid conditioned fish of 3 lb. 2 oz. Thursday evening.—River rising from recent heavy rains. When this colour gets down good sport may be safely anticipated.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Ballynahinch.

For this last week angling on the above has been very good. On Saturday and Sunday we had a heavy fall of rain, so that the waters are now getting into prime order. The most successful was Lord James Douglas on the 20th—one salmon 13 lb.; same date, Mr. Hynes, one 8½ lb., and Mr. Oldham, one 8 lb. On the 21st, Mr. Hynes, two, 10 and 13 lb.; same date, Mr. Oldham, one 10 lb. On the 22nd, Lord James Douglas, one 7½ lb.; same date, Mr. Brooks, three—8½, 10, and 11 lb. On the 24th, Mr. Hynes, one 10¾ lb.; same date, Mr. J. E. Chadwick, one 10 lb. On the 25th, Lord Douglas, one 10 lb.; same date, Mr. Hynes, two, 7½ and 9 lb., and Mr. J. E. Chadwick, one 10 lb. Total for the week, sixteen salmon, weighing 156¼ lb. Salmon have been taking the fly pretty freely—in fact, so free, that some of the above gentlemen have hooked and lost from three to six salmon a day.—WATTIE BLACKADDER.

Coquet (Weldon Bridge).

On te 20th the river came down white and thick. Mr. Oliver killed seven and a half brace with worm, and on the 21st, good condition for fly, Mr. Elcome, Liverpool, killed two dozen splendid trout. Colonel Saltmarch and Captain Saltmarch, Newcastle Barracks, had good sport, killed five and a half dozen for the two. On the 22nd fine morning for the sport, and eight started, but about ten o'clock the clouds made their appearance in the east and the rain came on and rained up to six o'clock, and the sport was poor. Msssrs. Saltmarch ten brace for the two, Messrs. Lawson, Bowment, Robson, Wilson, Newcastle, had from three to six brace; Mr. Elcome and Woolsey eight brace for the two. On the 24th the river in good condition for minnow; W. Esau, Moleshaugh, killed 8 lb. splendid fish.—A. GLASS.

Dove.

At the latter part of last week our river was very much discoloured, owing to the heavy and continuous rains; but it is now running in first-rate order for all kinds of trout fishing. In the brooks, both the natural and artificial minnows have been used with considerable success, and I hear that a gentleman fishing in the Henmore, near Clifton, caught a magnificent sample scaling 4 lb., quite an abnormal size for the Dove. The fish showed rare sport, but was landed in fine style. On Tuesday last some heavy baskets were obtained in the main river with the fly, and as the weather has now become considerably more favourable than last week, I fancy good sport is in store for trout fishers generally. I am informed that the May fly reported to have appeared on the Dove in sheltered places is not really that fly, but a green shade of March brown or the small green upwing designated by Ronalds "the little yellow May dun." I think this must be the case, for the May fly never comes out here before the middle of May.—THE SPLODGER.

Exe (Tiverton).

The river is at present too high for fishing, and has been all the week. By Saturday, if no more rain, it will be in good condition for the fly, when some good sport is looked forward for. We shall, no doubt, hear of some salmon taking advantage of the present flood to move up.—WM. MUDFORD.

Lyn (Lynmouth, N. Devon).

Recent cold showers interfered with last week's fishing. Water now in capital order.—J. H.

Medway (Tonbridge).

Last Saturday the members of the Tonbridge Angling Club were kindly invited by Mr. Liston Young, of the Tonbridge Wells Spa and Hydropathic Establishment, to pay a visit to his beautiful grounds for the purpose of clearing three lakes of all fish, as he is about to stock them with Loch Leven trout. The grounds are some of the most beautiful in Kent, and the lakes splendidly situate. They are supplied by springs surrounded by magnificent timber, and as they are never thick and grow plenty of silk weed, are the very place where trout should thrive and do remarkably well. The morning was wet, but sufficient numbers turned out to accomplish the work, and when the weather cleared up their number was greatly increased. Growns and Son, as usual, supplied the nets, but the haul was not nearly what had been expected, as the precaution had not been taken of placing gratings at the outlets of the lakes, and hence the bulk of fish had doubtless gone away down stream. This will be obviated in future. The majority of the fish taken were carp, nice, well-conditioned fish, as clean as a piece of silver, and full of spawn. As the day was young, Mr. White kindly placed a large pond at Lew at the disposal of the committee, and thither they accordingly proceeded. In three hauls between two and three hundred splendid carp were captured. They were a very even lot, weighing some half a pound each, and exceedingly healthy and full of spawn. They were at once placed in tanks and safely removed to Tonbridge, where they were deposited in the society's waters. Another grand addition, and one which will in time bear good fruit.—YE MEDWAY WATER RAT.

Norfolk.

There has been some rare good sport amongst the roach during the past week from the river Yare. They have been famously on the feed, and some excellent bags have been made. Two gentlemen at Buckenham, on Friday last, took 65 lb. of these fish, and all in excellent condition; and I also saw some nice samples taken at Brundall on the same day. Undoubtedly, between Buckenham and Brundall are the best roach-fishing grounds anywhere on the stream, as in addition to the Rockland and Surlingham Broads (which are most prolific nurseries), there is another broad called Shumpshaw Broad, which is now strictly preserved, and will, without doubt, be the means of adding many a million to our already great supply. I also heard an authority say that he observed last week an immense quantity of bream moving about, an instance that has not been known at this part of the river for years. Any of our angling friends from a distance coming down for a few day's good roach-fishing will do well to enquire for the Walpole's Reed Bush Reach, where on either side of the river they will obtain good sport; and whilst mentioning our friends who visit our old river during the season, I trust they will not forget the Yare Preservation Society's contribution boxes, which are placed at every inn on the river, so that at the end of this season it may be gratifying to the gentlemen connected therewith, to see that their labours in procuring plenty of sport have not been in vain. I forgot to mention that the Reed Bush Reach is only a short pull either from Brundall or Buckenham. I observe that the works of the Norfolk and Norwich Angling and Boating Society are being rapidly pushed forward, and that a most substantial quay has been placed next the river, in order to facilitate yachts and vessels of a heavy tonnage to moor in safety.—ANGLER.

North Lincolnshire.

Several baskets of nice trout have recently been caught in the becks of this neighbourhood, but as the waters run almost wholly through private grounds I will not further particularise. The chief fly is still the March brown, which I believe, if taken the whole season, will kill more fish than any other. Worm-fishing is wholly stopped on the Laceby Beck, and fly-fishing alone permitted. This is a step in the right direction. The stream is open so there is not the apology for the dirty worm that there may be on some waters. I am very sorry to say that most of the trout in the beck which I had so nicely stocked at Nettleton have been killed by the swillings from the new breweries. I can assure you this cuts me very hard. Since 1876 I have yearly placed a nice supply of fry in the stream, and to show how successful my efforts had been I may state that I have killed, in addition to smaller fish, no less than twelve of upwards of 1½ lb. each, about half of these 2 lb., and one 3 lb. At the end of last season I anticipated a splendid result this year, but I am drawing nearly a blank, it being impossible to catch more than a brace or so in a day, but they are fine and no mistake when captured. I had one last week 1¾ lb. which had a fair sized young water-rat in its maw. The *fontinalis*, which I turned out recently from the Manor fishery, are in some cases growing famously. Some are as large as fair-sized minnows. I attribute the excellent growth of these and the pinky flesh of the trout to the abundance of shrimps found in the waters.—THOMAS FORD.

Suir and its Tributaries, Clonmel.

Although we have many heavy showers the river continues this week in good order, and some salmon have been taken on the upper waters. Below Clonmel the river is still a bit too high. The cotmen are doing better this week than they did last week. The salmon still continue to run small in size. There is a splendid rise of trout every evening in the Suir, but they are not taking very freely with the artificial fly as yet. However, on all the streams, especially Nire and Tar, good baskets were got almost every day. Mr. Haines, at present staying at Rathronan, while spinning the Devon minnow for trout on the Anner caught on it a fine pike, weighing 11 lb. The favourite flies at present are wrens, grouse, and black hackles.—DORA.

Swale.

Some good catches have been made on this river by many local anglers since my last report, but still mostly with the worm and minnow. Owing to the mildness of the winter the spawning season was a good one, and the becks are full of young fry. The flies suitable for the present are the March brown, woodcocks, snipe and blue, snipe and crimson. I have heard of an early stone fly (May fly locally) being seen on the lower waters of the Yore.—THOMAS FORD.

Taw and Tributaries (N. Devon).

The water is what is called perfection in the small streams, but the Taw and Mole very high and still dirty, and will not be fishable until Saturday if the rain should hold up. Although the weather is cold, it is warm between eleven and four, and no doubt some good catches will be had On Friday last, a gentleman caught, in the lower part of the Taw, which has just been opened, a fresh-run salmon over 8 lb,, and on the part which belongs to Mr. Rolle, two more and a dish or two of trout. A gentleman got three dozen fine trout in the Bray. The trout have not been large this season. One gentleman caught thirty three in the Yeo, another eighteen, and no doubt some good catches will be had to-day (Thursday—first class day). I have heard that a Mr. Beazley caught some decent baskets last week upon the Bray. I hear the Lynmouth water has not given the usual good catches, they must wait for warmer weather.—RUSTY GAME.

Wye and Derwent.

A very great quantity of heavy thunder-rain fell the latter end of last week, which quite disturbed both rivers a little. The Derwent had a most beautiful woodland water come down it both on Monday and Tuesday; which was quite a treat to anglers, for both bottom and trolling fishing was followed with good success all up and down the Derwent, and some good baskets were the order of the day. Last Monday Mr. W. Smith killed two trout with the worm close to Matlock Bridge; the largest fish was 1 lb. 10 oz., and the other was 1 lb. 6 oz., two magnificent fish for the Derwent. The average size of the fish—trout, as a rule—is from half a pound to a pound each. Fly-fishing has also been followed with good success both on the Wye and Derwent, and baskets from four to nine brace per angler have been made. The killing flies have been the claret, bumble, duns, red and spider flies; the bumble killing the most fish. Sport in the ponds has also been good with both fly and bottom. March, brown, and red spinners are killers.—G. J. Eaton, Starkholmes, Matlock Bath.

Yore (Yorkshire).

There have been very few chances of making a dish of trout during the past week, as the river has been in high flood most of the time, and in addition the weather has been such as to render a visit to the river side neither pleasant or profitable to the angler. I am afraid that the creeper fishing this season will be a blank, and, owing to the floods, there will be only a poor chance of many of them turning into stone flies. This will be a great disappointment to many anglers, who rightly look upon these two baits as the most certain to produce a really good dish of trout. To-day (Wednesday) the wind has been very cold, and more rain seems to be impending.—Francis M. Walbran.

CLUB REPORTS.

ACT-ON-THE-SQUARE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The annual supper and prize distribution of the above society took place on Thursday last, the 20th inst., at the club house, Ferry Boat, Tottenham; Mr. John Thompson in the chair, ably supported by Mr. W. Mead as vice. After supper (which was capitally served by the Messrs. Day) the distribution was proceeded with, Mr. W. Mead taking the club prize for gross weight of roach, Mr. Thompson for gross weight of dace, and Mr. W. Stone for gross weight of perch. Mr. A. George headed the list of special prize winners by taking four; Mr. T. H. Clark, "the original Act on the Square," and Mr. H. Chapman came next with three each, and Messrs. J. Stone, W. Stone, J. Duke, and W. Money one each. After which some very capital singing was given by most of those present, and most having to go to London, an early break-up was the only mar to the evening.—A. George, hon. sec.

April 26.

ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Since the last report, I beg to acknowledge (with thanks) the receipt of a donation of 5s. from the Cavendish Angling Society, and the contents of donation boxes from Gresham Angling Society, £2 2s.; Albert Angling Society, 8s.; from Hoxton Brothers Angling Society, 5s. The winning number of the picture presented by G. Fennell, Esq., will be published next week. The members' contributions are due on May 1st, 1882. Secretaries and members are requested to forward to the general secretary forthwith the list of names and addresses, with 1s. 1d. each, on receipt of which cards of membership will be forwarded. No application for assistance can be entertained unless subscription has been previously paid.

N.B.—The secretaries and members are earnestly requested to use their best endeavours in soliciting donations for the society, to enable the committee to carry out the good work so successfully commenced. The donation boxes for the club rooms are now ready, and may be had on application.—R. Ghurney, general secretary.

THE BRUNSWICK PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

This society met at headquarters, the Brunswick Arms, Brunswick Street, Stamford Street, on Wednesday last, when it was arranged that the first annual dinner will be on the 10th day of May next. Gentlemen wishing to partake thereof are requested to write to the secretary. During the evening Mr. W. Allsop, presiding at the piano, some capital songs were given by the visitors and members present.—Esox Lucius.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

A combined West Central and Eastern District visit will be paid to the above on Wednesday, May 3rd, at Cogers' Hall, Bride Lane, Fleet Street, which can be easily reached by 'bus, rail, or tram from all parts of London. We shall be most happy to welcome any brother angler who will favour us with a visit.—Cas.

CROWN PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The members of this society met in large numbers on Thursday evening, Mr. F. Long in the chair. Three members were made, and several gentlemen promising to become members after the business was done. The following gentlemen contributed to harmony:—Mr. Pipe presided at the piano, and Mr. W. Gorsuch, of the Original Clerkenwell Piscatorials, violin. Some first-class music was enjoyed, while Messrs. W. Long, L. Gorsuch, F. Long, F. Brooks, J. Roberts, W, Burwash, and Messrs. J. Trott and C. Turner, of the Clerkenwell Piscatorials, sung some first-rate songs, that brought to a close a most enjoyable night.—W. H. Burwash, sec.

April 21.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

This society held its usual meeting on Thursday evening, C. S. Bentley, Esq., in the chair. The secretary stated that himself and Mr. Bates had been elected members of the Committee of the West Central Association, also of the Anglers' Benevolent and of the new United Society, formed to rent, preserve and stock waters for the use of all members of angling societies. They had felt reluctant to take these honours, but regarded them not so much as personal compliments as showing the general respect accorded to the Gresham by the metropolitan anglers, and which they trusted would long continue. Mr. Crumplen had also the pleasure of replying on behalf of the Gresham to the toast of "Angling Societies," at the annual dinner of the De Beauvoir Association, so successfully held on Monday last, at the Holborn Restaurant, under the presidency of Dr. Defreiz. Mr. Brett weighed in $6\frac{1}{4}$ lb. trout, and Mr. Young one of $10\frac{1}{2}$ lb., both gentlemen returning smaller fish to the water. Mr. Beutley and Mr. Robertson have recently made presentations to the library, which now numbers about one hundred volumes. After a pleasant discussion on sundry angling topics, a very cordial vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Bentley who had very ably occupied the chair. The members afterwards, as loyal subjects, resolved themselves into a special meeting, and indulged in a bowl of punch, the Royal Bride and Bridegroom being enthusiastically toasted. Messrs. Jardine, Crumplen, Miller, Clark, and others sang the National Anthem, sung most heartily, concluding a very exceptional evening.

LARKHALL ANGLING SOCIETY.

The last smoking concert of the season was held on Wednesday last, the 26th inst., when a large number of members and their friends mustered at the clubhouse and spent a most enjoyable evening. The singing was of the usual first-class character, the songs given by Messrs. J. Lovett, J. Edmondson, R. Edmondson, Gordon Lauri, R. Bruce, C. Broadlake, J. English, E. Mallett, F. Croutel Alreak and J. Richards being much appreciated. A hearty vote of thanks was given to the president, Mr. G. F. Spencer, and the honorary secretary, Mr. E. M. Mallett, for the manner in which they had carried out the arrangements of the smoking concerts during the evening. In reply to the query in the letter of "Mark Antony" in last week's Fishing Gazette, *re* the gross weight of fish caught by this society during the past season, if he will forward me his address I shall have much pleasure in giving him every information respecting those "12 cwt.," and the weight of the different "sorts," which were all above the club standard.—E. M Mallett.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our annual supper and distribution of prizes took place on Wednesday the 26th inst., when a thorough enjoyable evening was spent by all members and friends present. The supper was placed on the table by our worthy host, Mr. Loomes, in an excellent manner, great credit being given to him for the same—ample justice was done to it by every one. The chair was well filled by Mr. J. H. Stead, and the vice-chair by Mr. J. Pipe. The harmony of the evening was first-class, some capital songs and toasts being given by members and friends. Also a selection on the miniature concertina and banjo by Messrs. Jackson and Barr. The distribution of prizes was got through in a short space of time; also a short report of the weights of fish, which was read by the secretary, who received great praise for the admirable way in which the prize list and report was made out. Some capital prizes was given for next season's fishing, and the evening was therefore crowned with a great success.—H. Moore, sec.

April 27th, 1882.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The members are particularly requested to attend on next Monday evening, May 1st, for the following purposes: to elect auditors, fixing the date of annual supper, and distribution of prizes, and other important business.—Thos. Wm. Lucy, sec.

ROYAL PISCATORIALS.

The anniversary dinner of the above took place on the 21st at the society's headquarters, Mr. T. Hughes's, "The Albion," Rodney Road, S.E., Mr. G. Hockley presided, assisted by Mr. W. Canton. Twenty-five members and their friends sat down and did justice to the good things provided for the occasion. The cloth having been removed, and the usual formality responded to, Mr. F. Dale, the secretary, gave the results of the competitions that had taken place during the past season, which were as follows:—Mr. T. Hughes, 1st, won seventeen prizes, including a handsome dressing case given by Mr. R. Grant, and also four society's prizes, given for the following specimen fish:—Jack, 25 lb.; barbel, 5 lb. 12 oz.; grayling, 1 lb 6 oz.; and a dace of 12 oz.; money prizes amounted to £17 6s. 6d. Mr. W. Canton, 2nd, to his credit was placed £9 19s. 6d., a box of cigars, and a box of handkerchiefs. Mr. G. Hockley, 3rd, succeeded in weighing, in the society, the largest Thames trout, for which a well-known member of the press gave a prize of £2 2s.; to the same member's account also stands:—A timepiece, a box of cigars, and £9 9s. Mr. H. Smithers, 4th, takes five prizes, amounting to £6 16s. 6d., a ton of coals, and a half share in a matrimonial fruit carriage. Mr. J. Frith, 5th, who also had five prizes to take, for which he received £9 19s. 6d. and a case of champagne. Mr. W. Randall, 6th, £7 7s and fly rod; this gentleman weighed the largest bream, 5 lb. 5 oz., for which he received the society's prize. Mr. G. Lee, 7th. Mr. F. Dale, 8th, though last, succeeded in getting £3 3s., a box of cigars, a meerschaum pipe, and a copy of Rolfe's picture. There were 58 prizes given during the season, two being given by ladies, one by Mrs. Hughes, which was won by Mr. W. Canton, and one given by Mrs. W. Canton, which was taken by Mr. G. Lee. The society gave six specimen prizes, Mr. J. Frith took one with a roach that turned the scale at 2 lb. The total weight of fish taken by members during the season amounted to 1321 lb. This part of the entertainment having been brought to a close, the rest of the evening was devoted to harmony, after which all retired, perfectly satisfied with the evening's amusement.

STALYBRIDGE ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday April 22, one of the clubs in connection with the above society—viz., The Q Inn Angling Society held their first contest of the season in the Fox Tavern Reserve, where some useful and ornamental articles were competed. The fish did not seem to take to the dainty bits that were offered to them, and angling for upwards of an hour with very poor success, the members returned to their meeting house, the Q Inn, Back Grosvenor Street, where they sat down to an excellent dinner provided by the worthy host and hostess (Mr. and Mrs. David Shaw). After the removal of the cloth, the worthy president, Mr. Henry Abrams was called to the chair and was supported by Mr. William Jackson as vice. The president opened the meeting with a short but substantial speech, and distributed the prizes to the successful competitors as follows: 1st, John Ward; 2nd, David Shaw; 3rd, Joseph Leigh; 4th, John Tasker; 5th, J. B. Udale; the remainder of the evening was passed in singing and reciting by the members and their friends.—J. B. Udale.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

In the report that appeared in the last copy of the Gazette of the above society it states that "Mr. H. Bayley was appointed the thirteenth to attend the W. C. Committee on its next meeting as the representative of this society." It should have been, "on the 13th Mr. H. Bayley was appointed to attend the West Central Committee on its next meeting as the representative of this society." By correcting this you will oblige,—Pixie.

April 26.

As poor insane George III. was one day breakfasting at Kew, the great scarcity of beef, which was then prevailing in England, became the subject of conversation. "Why do not people plant more beef?" asked the king. Upon being told that beef could not be raised from seed, he seemed still incredulous, and took some bits of beefsteak, and went into the garden and planted them. The next morning he went to see if they had sprouted, and found some snails. Thinking they were oxen, he exclaimed, "Here they are, Charlotte, horns and all!"

VIEWS OF SCOTCH LOCH SCENERY.

ELSEWHERE in the present issue of the GAZETTE will be found notices of two little works on angling in the Scotch lakes, and very appropriately we have also the pleasure to notice this week four extremely fine oleographic views of Lochs Katrine, Earn, Awe and Achray. These fac-simile reproductions in colours of paintings by J. Blair, are published by Messrs. Raphael Tuck and Sons, 73, Coleman Street, E.C. Of the hundreds of German, French, Italian and other oleographs which we have seen, we know none to equal these four landscapes of scenes of the greatest beauty in themselves and of especial interest to anglers. As adornments to the angler's home or club-room it would be difficult to find anything more pleasing than these four views, and the price is within the reach of all.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents*]

GROSS-WEIGHT *v.* SPECIMEN FISH.

SIR,—I am induced, by reading "Kingfisher's" remarks, to write you the following:—

Where is the man to be found who is not proud of a good take of fish, proud to fish, and proud to show? Of this I feel certain, from reading your club reports. The objection I now take is only about the vagueness of some of the reports as to the time taken in catching any given exceptional take. When we see the name of a well-known man, say down for a catch of barbel, those who are in the secret know the take had not been effected without a day or two spent in baiting up a swim. Then, in some cases, we are not told that two friends occupied the punt, or one of the rods were used by the puntsman. How different is this sort of thing to the legitimate bank anglers (despised and detracted club men, vide "Kingfisher's" letter, April 15th), who are compelled to start with their brother members all by one train in the morning, and to return by a far too early train at night just when the fish are coming on. How small by comparison does his total gross weight for the year look. I could mention one or two takes of fish that would, if the time the man angled was given, look equal to anything previously done, considering only one rod was used and the quality of the fish exceptionally good, although there was not a single fish up to specimen weight.

In conclusion, I do not for one moment believe, in spite of all that can be written or said (a great deal of which is false), that our clubs will give up the most valued prizes of the year, Gross Weights. E. C.

P.S.—I have been an angler over thirty years. I take my share, or perhaps more than my brother members, of good fish; but for some years past I have not succeeded in taking a fish up to a specimen weight. I have not had the chance to get broken away. This fact I think conclusively shows that specimen fish are chance or lucky fish to the angler, and no sure sign of skill.

April 19th, 1882.

SINGULAR CAPTURE OF A TROUT.

SIR,—Mr. Charles Clark, whilst fishing in the Plym yesterday (Friday) hooked and landed a trout, about 11 inches long, that had an indiarubber band over its head. It had slipped over the gill covers, and was compressing the gills themselves. The horny part of the fish, which extends from the centre of the lower jaws to the belly, and divides the gills, is deeply dented where the band has evidently been pressing, and it has made quite a cavity under the lower jaw.

I should like to know if anybody has marked the fish with the band, or whether it got its head through in an attempt to take it for a bait.

How the fish lived is a mystery. It is in splendid condition, and I have preserved it for my museum.

It will be in my window for a few days this week where it can be seen.

Mr. Clark tells me that it was very lively when hooked, and did not seem anything the worse for its embracing.—I am, &c., WILLIAM HEARDER.

195, Union Street, Plymouth.

[April 22.

THE EYED HOOK.

SIR,—I enclose an eyed hook, with gut attached. You simply put the gut through the eye, then tie a slip knot, after which put the loop over the hook and draw it up tight to the eye. I find it never slips. It is much quicker than Mr. Hall's plan, and you have only to put the gut through the eye once. It is difficult to explain. The beauty is that once the gut is through the eye you may let the fly slide down the line, without fear of losing it, until you have made the loop knot. I see some one sent you a dottrel. If you could spare me about a dozen hackles I should be much obliged.—I am, &c,

HAMPSHIRE.

THE YARE ANGLING STATION.

SIR,—In justice to Messrs. Flowers and Co., I trust you will permit me to endorse every word in their letter to you in last week's issue. I happened to be spending my Easter holiday in that neighbourhood, and was much pleased with the improvements being carried out by them at Brundall. The projected company at that time had made no sign, they had only a patch of land (about one acre), whereas Messrs. Flowers and Co. are in possession of fully twelve acres in a most commanding situation, abutting upon both railway station and river. Nothing is gained by misrepresentation, and I can only conclude, sir, that your correspondent "Angler" has been the victim of a hoax. A very fine yacht-house is already erected, and if Messrs. Flowers and Co will only add a snug, comfortable house, which, I was informed, they are now contemplating, it bids fair to be the most convenient and popular angling resort on this river.—I am, &c., C. N. DOBLE.

Oakley, Lordship Lane, Dulwich, S.E., April 19.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

THE best piece of news I have heard this week is the formation of a Thames Preservation Society at Henley, in the success of which the Right Hon. W. H. Smith is said to take the greatest interest, which in itself augurs well for the future prospects of the society.

The following is clipped from the pages of a contemporary; and just now, when coarse fish culture occupies, and deservedly, so large a share of attention it is doubly worth reproducing:—"The Pope a Farmer.—How many people are there who know that the Pope is a farmer? Such is the fact, however, and there is reason to believe that His Holiness makes a very good thing of it. Leo XIII. 'goes in,' however, neither for the growing of cereals nor the raising of stock, but for the breeding of fish. The lagoons of Comacchio are thus turned to profitable use. Eels are the staple, and several tons of cooked eels are sent from the lagoons every Lent. The fish come up in immense shoals from the Adriatic, and are fed in the lagoons on other fish provided for them, until they are nicely fattened, when they are killed, and cooked in a vast kitchen. The labourers on these water-farms dwell in barracks built on an island. This is yet another instance of the strange use to which land may be put."—*Land.*

Next Monday evening the monthly meeting of the United London Anglers' Central Committee will be held at the Bald-Faced Stag, Worship Square, Finsbury.

The annual supper of the Sir Hugh Myddleton Angling Society, which took place on Wednesday 19, at the club house, the Empress of Russia, St. John Street Road, was a jolly affair. Mr. Smith made a first-rate chairman and was well supported by our old friend Mr. W. Fowler in the vice; the catering was excellent and the singing ditto, and among the guests were Messrs. J. H. Stead (the "Cure") and L. Bonvoisin; and when I left at 12 o'clock the worthy secretary, Mr. Caborn, was smiling sweetly the while he contemplated a long list of valuable prizes, subscribed by the members and visitors, to be fished for during the coming season. On Wednesday evening next, May 3, a General and West Central Association District visit will be paid the City of London Angling Club at the Codger's Hall, Bride Lane, Fleet Street, and as this is one of the best visiting societies in London, a rare muster is anticipated.

Mr. T. Hoole has received per post a letter addressed "T. Toole, 7, King's Road, Mortlake, S.W.," signed James Budd, pro H C.H.; and as it refers to matters he has not the remotest knowledge of, bears no address to which he can either return it or write for an explanation, he has asked me to put a line in my Notes this week in the hopes it may meet the writer's eye.

Many anglers are eagerly asking whether the talked-of bait and fly-casting tournament is likely to come off during the present close season. Such an event would certainly make a pleasant break in, and help to bridge over, the tedium of waiting for the glorious month of June, and the opening day. From all points of view the matter is well worthy of being considered, and I commend it to the notice of those gentlemen who took a prominent part in organising and carry-out the previous contest under conditions which would have sorely taxed the temper of jolly Mark Tapley himself.

The trout-fishing season opens on the Lea on May 1. Some good fish have been seen feeding, and have been carefully marked down in consequence. The first week generally brings the report of the capture of two or three big ones. Let us hope this year will not prove an exception—it ought not, if gloriously mild and bright weather has anything to do with it.

The Watford Angling Society is progressing satisfactorily—in fact, A1. as Secretary Vincent writes me.

No. 3 District visit was paid the Brunswick Angling Society on Wednesday, April 19, when the following clubs were represented—viz.: Battersea Friendly, Brunswick, Clapham Junction, Excelsior, Peckham Brothers, South London, United Brothers, Cambridge Friendly, City of London, and Crown Piscatorials.

This society, which is quite a young one, is progressing rapidly, having the three essentials—viz., a good secretary, chairman, and treasurer. They have every prospect of becoming an influential society. Several good songs were rendered by the members and friends, and a most enjoyable evening was spent. Mr. Copeland (the hon. sec.) is evidently the right man in the right place—he is here, there, and everywhere, doing all he can for the cause of angling; and that is the way to make his society known, and increase the number of his members. The next visit goes to the Clapham Junction Angling Society, of which due notice will be given.

The following capital set of rules has been drawn up and passed by the committee empowered by the association to rent, preserve, and stock fisheries. The names of the officers and executive, from the president downwards, are in every case those of gentlemen who have already rendered valuable services to the cause of angling.

THE UNITED LONDON ANGLING ASSOCIATIONS' FISHERIES SOCIETY, ESTABLISHED 1882.

President: P. Geen, Esq. Chairman: Mr. J. C. Murray. Vice-Chairman: Mr. R. Ghurney. Trustees: Mr. C. Hatfield, Mr. J. T. Cundall, Mr. J. Jennings. Secretary: Mr. T. Hoole. Bank—London and County Bank, Limited.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

From West Central Association: Mr. Crumplen, Mr. Bates, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Field, Mr. Bonvoisin. From U.L.A.C.C.: Mr. Manning, Mr. Chambers, Mr. Medcalf, Mr. Aldridge, Mr. Theobald. From Central Association: Mr. Fitch, Mr. Pettit, Mr. Watling, Mr. Obard, Mr. Smith.

RULES.

I.—That the name of this society be "The United London Angling Associations' Fisheries Society," and that whenever in these rules the "Society" is used, the said "United London Angling Associations' Fisheries Society shall be meant.

II.—That all meetings of the society be held at the "Star and Garter," St. Martin's Lane, Charing Cross, unless otherwise determined.

III.—That the society be in union with the West Central Association of London and Provincial Angling Societies; the United London Anglers' Central Committee; and the Central Association of London Angling Clubs; hereinafter called the three associations. That the committee be composed of thirty-six members, twelve from each association, to be elected annually.

IV.—That the sole objects of the society be to acquire, rent, stock, and preserve any water or waters for the exclusive use of its members, except where the committee deem it necessary to make exceptions, all of whom must hold a privilege card from one of the three associations; the tickets of membership of the society to be issued by each of the associations with the privilege card, and that one shilling per annum, or such sum as the society may decide upon at its annual meeting, be charged to each member for the said ticket, and handed by the said three associations to this society, which shall defray cost of printing only.

V.—That the society shall be managed by an executive committee of fifteen members, five from each association, five to form a quorum, who shall elect their own chairman, vice-chairman and secretary, one from each association. No member of the executive to hold more than one office.

VI.—That three trustees, one from each association, shall be elected annually, eligible for re-election, who shall have a right to be present at all meetings of the executive committee, and vote at all meetings; such trustees not to be elected from members of the executive committee.

VII.—That the executive committee have full power to acquire and rent any water or waters without reference to the society.

VIII.—That the committee shall frame such regulations regarding close seasons, or the sizes of fish, or weights of fish to be taken from its waters, as may be deemed desirable, such regulations after being submitted to the joint committee of the three associations and ratified by them, to be binding on all members of the society.

IX.—That the executive committee shall have full power to do anything needful to carry out the objects of the society, also to prosecute or order the prosecution of any person or persons reported guilty of illegal fishing, poaching, netting, or doing anything injurious to the society's fisheries; and may also reward any person or persons concerned in the detection thereof.

X.—That there shall be an annual meeting of the society in May, to approve of a report drawn up by the executive, a copy of which report shall be forwarded to each association. That three auditors, one from each association, be elected annually, to audit the accounts and vouch for their accuracy.

XI.—Under no circumstances shall the funds of the society be used for the cultivation of salmon, trout, or grayling.

XII.—That all funds shall be deposited with the London and County Bank (Limited) until required, and withdrawn only by the trustees after a vote of the executive committee.

XIII.—That the meetings of the executive take place on the second Monday in each month, and the meetings of the full committee once in three month, viz., second Monday in June, August, November and February; the secretary to have power to convene a meeting of the committee at any time should occasion arise for so doing.

XIV.—That these rules shall be final and binding, and cannot be altered or added to unless the executive committee call a special meeting of the society for the purpose.

XV.—That this society shall not be broken up so long as one-third of the delegates are willing to continue it.

SOCIAL BROTHERS ANGLING CLUB.

On Wednesday evening, the 19th inst., the third annual dinner in connection with the above club was held at the Prince Regent, Dulwich Road, Herne Hill, under the most satisfactory circumstances.

The chair was taken by Mr. Lockeyear, the president, whose *vis-à-vis* was Mr. Underdown, the vice-president. The *menu* was varied, ample, and exceedingly well done. The caterers, Messrs. T. Hyde and J. Lockeyear, distinguished themselves greatly by the excellent manner in which the dinner was put on the table. The decorations were very beautiful: the centrepiece being a silver *épergne*, lighted with four wax candles, while at either end were glasses filled with flowers of the choicest and rarest character. Ferns, in open vases, were conspicuous as forming a handsome addition to the decorations of the festive board.

After the removal of the cloth, the Chairman, in graceful terms, gave the first toast of the evening, viz., "The Queen and Royal Family." The first verse of the National Anthem followed.

Then came the toast, "The Social Brothers Angling Club," proposed by Mr. Lockeyear, which was responded to by Mr. Goubot, who, in the course of his remarks, touched on the friendly feeling now existing among the members of the club, which was, in name and in nature, a club formed of social brothers.

The next toast was, "The President and Vice-President," given by Mr. Spare, who spoke in laudatory terms of the efficient manner in which both gentlemen had performed their duties. Mr. Lockeyear, in responding, was deeply sensible of the kind manner in which the toast had been given, and assured the members that both he and his colleague would be only too happy to do all that would be requisite for the benefit of the club in future.

The next toast was, "The Committee and Officers," given by Mr. Lee, who knew how great were the services rendered by these gentlemen; and Mr. Pavey, the hon. secretary, in reply, remarked on the stability of the club, which had now reached its third year. The members were increasing; and, as far as the club's finance was concerned, he was pleased to say it was in a healthy condition. Although a small club, he believed it was second to none as far as its numerical strength went, and he was glad to state that nearly a quarter of a ton of fish was taken, with only sixteen members, in the season, which all knew was a bad season for fishing; and he believed that if the club improved as it had done the last year, the show for the ensuing season would equal, if not surpass, any small club of the same kind.

The next toast was, "The Honorary Members and Visitors," proposed by Mr. Irons, who said that the honorary members were the backbone of all clubs—without them, nothing could be done. Mr. Luff, in responding, acknowledged the honour done him in coupling his name with the toast, and expressed his sense of the kindness and consideration shown to them on this special occasion.

After this came the most important feature of the evening, viz., the presentation of prizes, by Mr. Thomas Harris. This gentleman said that he would do his best to fill the post he occupied, although he deprecated the honour, but, as a perfectly unbiased man, he would endeavour to do the needful.

The prizes consisted of those given by the club, and various articles, of considerable value and great in number, given by private donors, which had been keenly competed for, and which were taken by Messrs. Monk, Irons, Bromhead, Lee, Goubot, Bird, Freeman, Lockeyear, Cocks, Valler, Briscombe, Underdown and John and James Flynn; to each of whom Mr. Harris addressed a few graceful, encouraging and laudatory observations, and to which the recipients suitably replied.

The Chairman then said he had the great pleasure of handing a toilet set to the secretary, Mr. Pavey, subscribed to by the members of the club, as a mark of their respect for the attention he had given to the affairs of the club for the past year.

Mr. Pavey expressed his sincere thanks for the very handsome present, stating at the same time it was a labour of love to do anything for a club that contained such a number of congenial and jovial members.

The next toast was "Mr. Thomas Harris," given in very flattering terms by Mr. Monk, to which Mr. Harris responded. He was most happy to occupy the position he did, and the recollection of that evening would always be most agreeable. Next came "The Press," given by Mr. Smith, coupled with the names of Messrs. Brocklehurst and Bates; the former of whom spoke of the great influence possessed by the Press, and the means which it had of disseminating the views and wishes of every club of this and other kinds; and the latter gentleman dwelt particularly on the culture and preservation of fish, and the great interest always taken in everything connected with piscatorial matters generally by the newspapers of the day.

Votes of thanks were unanimously passed to Mr. Monk, the host, and Messrs. Hyde and Lockeyear, the purveyors of the dinner, and this most successful and entertaining evening was brought to a close by the members all joining in "Auld Lang Syne."

During the evening songs diversified the other proceedings. It must not be forgotten to mention that Mr. Field, that brilliant artist, presided at the piano.

THE DE BEAUVOIR ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

The annual dinner of this association was held on Monday evening, the 24th inst., at the Holborn Restaurant, when over 100 members and friends were present. The chair was ably filled by J. G. Defriez, Esq., and the vice chair by Edward Hayter, Esq., and among the visitors were Messrs. Wheeldon, Crumplen, Blake, J. H. Stead, Simpson, Smith, Kitson, Morris, Sawyer, Hannon, Pedder, and other well-known masters of the gentle craft. Loyal toasts of "The Queen, The Prince of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family," were drank with musical honours, Mr. W. F. Packer presiding at the pianoforte with his practised rendering of "God Save the Queen," and "God Bless the Prince of Wales. The following is a list of the other toasts, songs, &c.—Song by Mr. Edward Foster. "The De Beauvoir Angling Association"—(song by Mr. E. Hayter)—responded to by Mr. J. Allen. "Kindred Societies," coupled with the name of Mr. Crumplen, secretary of the Gresham Angling Club—(song by Mr. J. H. Stead)—responded to by Mr. Crumplen. "The Visitors," with the name of Mr. J. Pedder—(song by Mr. Heath)—responded to by Mr. Pedder. "The Chairman," proposed by Mr. Hayter—(recitation by Mr. Snelling)—responded to by Mr. J. G. Defriez. "The Vice-Chairman," proposed by Mr. J. P. Hodge—(song by Mr. Edward Foster)—responded to by Mr. E. Hayter. "The Press," coupled with the name of Mr. Wheeldon—(song by Mr. Cartwright)—responded to by Mr. Wheeldon, who, in an eloquent and lucid speech, referred to the too common practice among anglers of taking undersized fish for gross weight purposes, by which our rivers were being steadily depleted at the expense of the future stock. The necessity of re-arranging the close time for different fish was also descanted upon with much cogency by this gentleman. "The Treasurer and the Secretary," proposed by Mr. J. G. Defriez—(song by Mr, Wheeldon)—responded to by the secretary, (Mr. J. Starkey), who reported that the takes of the members for the season totalled 889 lb. 12 oz., and that the following prizes would be distributed at the club room of the asssociation, the Lord Raglan, Southgate Road, N., on Thursday, the 4th of May next. Ten Association prizes from public waters, three taken. One by Mr. R. Morgan, with a pike of 13 lb. 12 oz.; one by Mr. H. Short, with a chub, 5 lb. 13¼ oz.; one by Mr. J. Starkey, with a tench, 2 lb. 2½ oz. Thirty members' prizes from any water, twenty taken; by Messrs. J. Allen, carp; E Hayten, eels; J. Starkey, bream; J. C. Collingridge, bream; H. Short, roach; J. Starkey, roach; H. Short, chub; R. Morgan, pike; J. Starkey, tench; G. Gent, perch; J. Allen, trout; G. Gent, chub; G. C. Ellis, pike; J. Allen, dace; J. G. Defriez, pike; Ed. Foster, dace; H. Short, third heaviest weight of the season; J. Starkey, heaviest weight of the season for roach from the river Lea for two consecutive seasons, won last season by Mr. R. Morgan; this prize is an oil painting, by Mr. Edward Foster, value £10 10s. A special prize for a day-out on the 17th November last for the greatest weight of pike was given by Messrs. Morgan, Allen, Histed and Kay, the successful competitors being Messrs. Levett, Spooner, Starkey and Ellis. The company dispersed before 12 o'clock, well pleased with the evening's entertainment, and the indefatigable exertions of the hon. sec. (Mr. J. Starkey) for the general comfort of all present met with much comment.

THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

ONE of a series of smoking concerts took place on Monday, the 24th inst., at Ashley Hotel, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, which proved a great success. The society's large room was well filled with musical and non-musical members and their friends. Chairman, N. F. Harrison; vice-chairman, J. R. Faulkner. The concert was opened with a pianoforte solo by Mr. Pond, when the following gentlemen exercised their talents for the gratification of those assembled:—Dr. Brunton, song, "Annie Laurie;" F. Sachs, song, "The Lost Child;" Messrs. Crew and Smithers two charming duetts; J. R. Faulkner, song, "Timbertoe;" E. Evans, song, "Midshipmite;" G. King, songs, "Little Hero" and "My Pretty Jane;" J. G. Andrew, song, "Tom the Tinker;" the Chairman, songs, "Merry Family" and "Rogeroo"; recitations: J. Cowell, from Mark Twain and Hans Breitmann; James Rope, "Pinafore Midshipmite—in memoriam;" E. E. Green, imitations of popular actors; violin solos by F. Fennings, jun., accompanied on the pianoforte by his brother; pianoforte accompanyists, Messrs. Pond and Pernet. The whole series of performances gaining deserved applause. During the evening the chairman congratulated the members that the society had been awarded a gold medal by the jurors of the Edinburgh International Fisheries Exhibition, Mr. T. R. Sachs being also complimented on receiving a silver medal for the loan of his private collection. Mr. T. Huggett brought up a nice tray of roach. Another member who had been to Ringwood complained of the salmon fishing being spoiled there by the too free use of the boiled prawn, which scares the fish and prevents them from taking the fly. A most desirable evening was enjoyed, and it was unanimously resolved to continue the smoking concerts once a month, several additional vocal and instrumental talented gentlemen promising their support.

NORWICH CENTRAL FISHING CLUB.

THE usual monthly meeting of the Norwich Central Fishing Club was held on Monday evening at the club house, the Oak Shades, Lower Goat Lane, under the presidency of the chairman of the association, Mr. Councillor Thirkettle. After the transaction of some routine business, the hon. sec. (Mr. G. Whorton) said he wished to bring before the members a matter which had lately been exciting much discussion among the anglers of the city. One of the gentlemen who had taken part in the notorious liggering on Hoveton Broad, which was described in the local journals and the FISHING GAZETTE as a "pike contest," and which resulted in a long newspaper controversy, had told him that the charges made against the club, whose members were guilty of liggering on the occasion, were the outcome of petty jealousy, and it was to be regretted that such a display of ill-feeling ensued. Perhaps, therefore, it would be undesirable for the members of the Norwich Central Fishing Club to discuss the question. The Chairman having invited discussion, Mr. J. Barnes remarked that he considered it unwarrantable for a club to indulge in liggering and to give it forth to the public that the fish were taken by the ordinary means employed in a match.—The Chairman said that undoubtedly liggering was unsportsmanlike work and not worthy an angler.—Mr. C. Mackie could not see that any petty jealousy had been displayed. A paragraph first appeared in the Norwich press giving an account of a pike-fishing match on Hoveton Broad by the members of a certain club in this city. Another paragraph subsequently described a supper, which was partaken of at the club house to celebrate the event. An anonymous correspondent then put the simple question "Were not these pike taken by liggering?" To that query no satisfactory answer had as yet been given, and now other anglers were charged with jealousy.—Mr. J. Thompson thought that as other clubs were not in the habit of holding "liggering matches," the subject under discussion was wholly useless, and the affair should be allowed to drop.—Mr. J. Young, vice-chairman, was of opinion that the gentlemen who had liggered for the pike had a perfect right to do so, for they had paid for the use of the water for that purpose.—Mr. Mackie admitted they were acting in a perfectly legal manner, but he contended that it was nevertheless unsportmanlike, and, as a member of the press said, that the paragraph sent to the newspapers in the first instance was a fraud which should not have been perpetrated by members of a society.—Mr. Whorton entirely agreed with the remarks of the last speaker, and said that although he had never been liggering himself he knew that it was a very killing method. For his own part he would sooner take a single fish by fair rod and line fishing than the magnificent weights which represented the catch at the "pike contest." (Hear, hear). As far as he could learn, liggering had nothing relating to skill attached to it.—Mr. Young contended that just as much care was necessary for the baiting of a ligger as for the baiting of a line from a rod, and he quoted an instance in which he had caught more pike with the rod and line than with ligger.—Mr. Mackie said that this exception did not prove the rule, and Mr. Burton stated that the owners of private waters knew that liggering was so deadly that in many instances they had prohibited it.—Mr. Barnes said it must be remembered that only one fish could be taken at a time with the rod and line while numbers were captured at the same time when liggers were set afloat. (Hear, hear).—A desultory conversation followed and Mr. Mackie then proposed the following resolution:—"Notwithstanding the fact that it is perfectly legal for persons to fish with liggers in waters hired for the purpose, at the same time being unsportmanlike it is undesirable that members of fishing societies should indulge in the practice."—The Chairman very heartily seconded the resolution and said he believed all true sportsmen were desirous of giving fair play to their game and would not employ such means for the taking of the same that would give very little chance of escape.—Mr. J. Thompson thought that the resolution would interfere with the private rights of anglers, and moved as an amendment that when not contesting in matches members should be allowed to fish as they pleased.—Mr. Mackie explained that he had no wish to interfere with the manner in which any member fished. He simply asked the club to mark its disapprobation of members employing unsportsmanlike methods in taking fish.—Mr. Young remarked that he had been out liggering repeatedly, and would do so again, for he considered it a legitimate method on private waters.—The amendment, on being put, were carried.—The Chairman having said that the discussion had been of a very interesting nature to anglers, and might possibly result beneficially, the meeting terminated.

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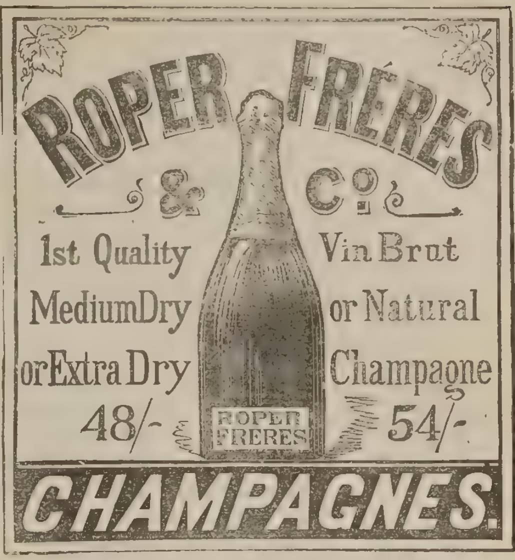

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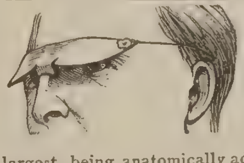

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Applications for tickets will be treated according to priority, but a preference will be to applicants for "season tickets." Boats for angling and stands on the river will be allotted by the head keeper, and no angler will be permitted to use a boat or fish a stand that has not been so allotted. Superior accommodation can be had on application to Mr. T. MULLARKEY, at Glendalough Hotel, Recess, Galway Anglers are requested to take out their licences in the Ballynahinch district, as by doing so they increase the fund for the preservation of the district.

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Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 1882.

TROUT FISHING ON LOCHS VENNACHAR AND LEVEN.

By R. B. MARSTON.

AFTER seeing what was to be seen at the Fisheries Exhibition, and borrowing a rod and line of Mr. Redpath, of Kelso, who very kindly offered to set me up when he heard I was thinking of having a little loch-fishing, I called on Mr. Wells at his shop at 11, Leith Street, to see about some flies I had ordered a week or two previously. I found Mr. Wells at home and very busy indeed serving customers who were bent on angling next day, which was a "fast" day in Edinburgh. Mr. Wells is one of the most obliging and practical tackle makers I know, and he very soon made me up a cast of splendid loch flies, and presently introduced me to Mr. Lindsay, of Dunfermline, a crack angler, who most kindly gave me all the information I needed about the flies and fishing. He told me I should have no chance of getting a boat on Loch Leven, as they were all engaged, and he advised me to have a day on Loch Vennachar. He told me I might use his name with host Menzies, of the Crown Hotel, Callander, who he was sure would lend me waders, rods, tackle or anything I wanted. I had previously sent a telegram to Captain Hall, who has the management of the fishing on Loch Leven, asking if I could have a boat, and I decided to go to Callander if his answer was unfavourable. While chatting with Mr. Wells, a Scotch labouring lad came in, and said something which sounded like "ach, naach garaach, peelarch," as far as I could make out. One of Mr. Wells' assistants pulled out a bundle of sea hooks on plaited horse-hair. "Ach, naach, garaach, peelarch," said the lad. "What d'ye say?" said Mr. Wells. "Oh, give him a couple of casts with March brown on for Peebles." "Your master is going to Peebles the morrow?" But our friend was quite in the dark as to what his master wanted, so Mr. Wells despatched him with the casts for Peebles. After a pleasant little dinner at the University Club with a friend, I returned to my hotel to get Captain Hall's answer. As I expected, it was, "that he regretted every boat was engaged." I had just time to catch the last train for Callandar, where I found myself about 11 o'clock the same night. Mr. Menzies very soon made me at home, and advised me to try Loch Vennachar next day, and he promised to get a boatman for me. Next morning, hearing Mr. Francis Francis was at the Dreadnought Hotel, I called on him, and found him at breakfast. He very kindly gave me some hints about the flies, the loch, and how I could fish the river Teith, in which he had killed two good salmon the previous day. The weather was very cold, and I was not surprised to hear he had done very little on Loch Vennachar; but he said there were plenty of fish, and advised me to try, I was amused to find that he, like myself, had been taken in at a "temperance hotel,"—hotels which are a great snare and delusion in Edinburgh. When I arrived, tired out, in Edinburgh, at 6 a.m. (from London), I tumbled into the first hotel I saw; my things were taken up, and I was following, when I called for a glass of rum and milk. "You cannot have it sir," said Boots. "Why not?" "This is a temperance hotel." I felt dumbfounded for a minute and then desired to be shown to a more reasonable abode. Mr. Francis told me he had been taken in in much the same way on a previous visit to Edinburgh. These Temperance hotels ought to show their colours more plainly. On getting back to the Crown, I found my boatman waiting, and he turned out to be the very man Mr. Francis had recommended. I found him a very capital fellow indeed, and any angler who fishes beautiful Loch Vennachar or any other loch in the neighbourhood of Callander, will be fortunate if he secures Walter Kear as his boatman.

Loch Vennachar—or Vennachoir, as it used to be written two hundred years ago—is only about 2½ miles' walk from Callander. It is formed by the waters of the river Teith, which has previously passed through Lochs Achray and Katrine. It is surrounded by hills of much beauty of outline, but no great height, and in some parts is of considerable depth, and in others quite shallow. Its length is about four miles and greatest breath half a mile, I should guess. Within the last seven or eight years, the Corporation of Glasgow have raised its depth by some four of five feet, by placing a dam across its outlet, to compensate some cotton mills for loss of water, sustained by its withdrawal for the use of Glasgow from Loch Katrine above. The consequence of this raising of the water level, is that some square miles of fields have been submerged, and those sub-lacustrine meadows form first-class feeding grounds for the Vennachar trout.

The procedure in loch fishing is extremely simple. You have any ordinary trout rod, a cast of three or four "fancy" loch flies, green, red, black, and yellow, and your boatman rows you over the best fishing grounds. The sides of Loch Vennachar where deep are the best places and the shallow meadow waters above referred to, which stretch out far into the loch. There was a gale of wind blowing and it rained in torrents on my first day on Vennachar. No fish were rising and no fly was to be seen, in fact it was snowing on the hills. I started fishing at 12 and up to 4 o'clock had only got a few small fish, which I returned.

At noon we were at the head of the loch, and I got out of the boat and went a quarter or half a mile up the Teith—for I infinitely prefer river fishing to loch fishing. I saw some fish rising, and put on one of Mr. MacNee's new flies—a little hare-lug, with his patent pike-scale wings. I killed three small trout with it in no time; or, rather, I might have done so, for I put them back; but I was convinced of the killing qualities of this new fly. The pike-scale wing, cut neatly into shape, becomes beautifully soft, pliable, and transparent in the water; in fact, it is the nearest imitation of the natural flywing which is possible, in my opinion. It is also very durable; after using these flies, they shrivel up a little when put away, but are all right again as soon as wet. My boatman told me all the big fish were in the loch, so we went back, and the old process of cast after cast over the wind-ruffled water was resumed for a long time without success. At last the sun came out for a short time there was a nice swell on the water under a rocky side. I said to my man "If we get a fish anywhere, it will be here." No sooner were the words spoken than I had a rise, and hooked a good fish. My boatman was all excitement at once, and his joy, when I brought the fish to the net after a splendid fight (for these Vennachar trout are plucky fish) was pleasant to see. It was a lovely fish of just two pounds. We tried the same spot over again, and in less than ten minutes I had another rise and missed it; but he came again and again, and then I hooked him—it is difficult work striking with a long line when you can hardly see the rise for the waves. I had a splendid bit of sport out of this fish, which banged out of the water one second, and the next darted to the bottom; and altogether gave me all I could do to keep a tight line on him. My boatman got him into the net after two or three tries, and I never saw a man more delighted than he was. I confess my own "great expectations" of this loch fishing were hardly realised by the capture of a brace of fish after four hours' work—bad as the day was—but they were real beauties and the best brace which had been killed on Vennachar this season, up to that day. When weighed by Mr. Menzies, six hours later, they weighed within an ounce or two of four pounds. They were Swiss lake trout, which had been put in as fry by Col. Stewart some years before. I never saw more beautiful or stronger trout.

After this pleasant interval of sport we did nothing, not a fish would move, and so I decided to try the Teith, for the half mile which is open below the loch. I got several small fish, but it was cold and wet and the big fellows were not to be moved. On getting back to my hotel I found two other anglers staying there had been to Loch Lubnaig and had done even not as well as I had the weather being the cause, for Lublaig contains more trout than Vannachar; though, as a rule, they average much smaller. A weed, a whisky, and a chat with Mr. Menzies, were very pleasant after the cold wetting I had got. Mr. Menzies is one of the jolliest hosts I ever came across; his hotel is most comfortable, his table good, and his charges moderate. He keeps three boats on both lochs and charges 2s. 6d. per day for the use of them, and you pay your boatman 5s. for his services.

Mr. Menzies had met with an accident the day I arrived. He had been glass-ball shooting from a trap, and one of the balls had struck him in the eye, most greviously blackening it. He was most anxious that it should not be supposed he had been fighting, so I mention this. Anyway, he is a very capital fellow and a thorough angler. He informed me that the salmon in the Teith were numerous, but have most of them got the "night cap" on. In other words, were diseased. So I had no desire to fish for them, as I otherwise intended to have done. The fish Mr. Francis got were quite clean, fortunately.

I tried Loch Vennachar again next day, but with no success; though I am perfectly certain that it would afford splendid sport in favourable weather, and so would the Teith; and an angler might do far worse than try a week at Callander in May or June.

I took leave of host Menzies with a hope that I should stay at his hospitable place again some day and get some more of those magnificent Vennachar trout.

I shall have something to say about Loch Leven fishing next week.

THE EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION.

BY a slip of the pen last week we wrote Messrs. Redpath and Co., of Aberdeen, instead of Kelso; their place of business is at Kelso-on-Tweed. As we said last week, they had a first-class show of rods, flies, &c., and their exhibit obtained the gold medal.

Mr. Byram Littlewood of Huddersfield, had an extensive exhibit of his apparatus for incubating, hatching, and rearing salmonidæ; his carboy for carrying live fish and ova long distances; his aquarium (registered) which takes the overflow from the bottom by a most ingenious device. This exhibit always attracted a large number of spectators, indeed it was a difficult matter to get near it at times. We like Mr. Littlewood's porous artificial stone hatching and breeding troughs very much indeed, they are more durable, more cleanly, and in every way better than wood or metal. The young fry in them were in splendid condition. Mr. Littlewood's aquarium is also a great success, and we can strongly recommend it to all who may be in want of anything of the kind. It was a very pretty sight to see some dozen or two of char from three to six inches in length, playing about in this aquarium, these fish were part of a lot bred by Mr. Littlewood and their healthy appearance was the best testimony his method of breeding, his plan of transport, and his aquarium could possibly have.

Mr. Littlewood's exertions in pisciculture are carried out so energetically and practically, that we confidently look to his establishment as a great source of benefit to the fishing interests We understand he intends going on extensively and treating the matter from a commercial as well as a scientific point of view, in future. We wish him every success.

An object of much interest was a shark 15 feet in length, caught April 22 off Frith by the steam trawler "Livingstone." The Buckland collection from South Kensington, came in for prominent notice from the exhibitors, the 70lb. Tay salmon being rightly considered the lion of the show; in fact, without this collection and that of the London club and other fish, the exhibition would have lost its chief attractions. Mr. Morgan deserves hearty thanks for the unwearing attention he has paid to the exhibits placed under his care and the pleasant manner in which he expounded the mysteries of our English fish to the Scotch visitors, whose questionings about them were endless. From a scientific point of view the Swedish collection, and the marine objects collected by the "Vega" expedition were of the greatest importance and value. Dr. Malm, of Gothenburg, described these collections to the visitors. Mr. Malloch, fishing tackle maker of Perth, had a novelty in the shape of a beautifully made winch, with an handle fixed on an entirely new principle. The handle is stationary when not turned by the hand, so that when the line is run out by a fish. the handle does not revolve, consequently it cannot catch or hold the line at all. The advantages offered by this winch have only to be seen to be at once appreciated. You can coil the line two or three times round the handle, and even then it runs out smoothly and easily. It would pay some London house to take up the agency for this.

If any of our readers want to see how beautifully flies can be made at the low price of 1s. 3d. per dozen, we can recommend them to write to Mr David Wells, 11, Leigh Street, Edinburgh, for a dozen assorted blue and yellow duns. We have never seen neater flies, or used better killing or more lasting ones. Mr. Wells informed us he was dressing large quantities of flies on Mr. Hall's eyed hooks, for Hampshire customers. Mr. Wells thoroughly understands his business, and has a great reputation amongst some of the best Scotch and English anglers of the day. We shall have occasion to mention his loch flies in our description of fishing in Lochs Vennachar and Leven.

RINGWOOD.

THERE is, I believe, but one bit of salmon-fishing on the Hampshire Avon accessible to the public, namely, about three miles of water below Ringwood, on the estate of J. H. Morant, Esq., the lord of the manor. Tickets for fishing are obtained of E. Low, of the White Hart Hotel, price 5s. a day. Every sort of angling is permitted for every kind of fish. Grayling are abundant, also jack; trout and perch are less numerous. Mrs. Low thoroughly understands how to make her guests comfortable

The river is of great depth in proportion to its width and the stream is pretty swift. The volume of water is far larger than one would have expected from the shortness of its course. A heavy rain colours it slightly, but it soon regains its clearness. It winds marvellously, and at each of its numerous bends is a grand salmon pool. The vast meadows on each side are but little raised above the river, and are, of course, often flooded. There are scarcely any hedges or trees about, to catch one's flies or give shelter from the rain. These meadows are just now most gorgeous, one vast golden sheet of marsh marigolds in full bloom, interspered with cuckoo plants, and a pretty small fritillary. Achilles' asphodel meadow in Elysium, must have looked something like this.

Mr. Low tells me he has issued about 350 tickets for this water since the season commenced on Feb. 2, and that 35 salmon have been taken, few of which were under 20 lb. in weight. The habits of these fish appear to differ from those of all other rivers that I know of, in that they afford no autumn fishing—the salmon not coming up for spawning until November. The kelts appear to leave sooner than is elsewhere the case; at any rate there are few or none here now, while the spring fish run up past the nets and weirs in great abundance till the end of May, after which they are rarely seen. It is generally thought that they return to the sea again.

I believe no one has yet satisfactorily explained why spring fish come up the rivers; a very probable theory is that they desire to cleanse themselves from marine parasites. However this may be, certain it is that some mysterious instinct impels them thus to present themselves at the time when they are in the most perfect condition for human food.

There is a salmon and trout breeding establishment here, which seems excellently arranged, and likely to be very successful. The Avon was not much known as a salmon-angling river till within the last ten years or so. Everything is done to encourage the fish, and poaching is said to be unknown. The Avon and Stour are under one Conservancy Board, which issues licences for angling for 10s. for the season.

Duly armed with the necessary document and weapons, I was fishing close to a spot known as Lake's Ditch, on Thursday, April 27—my fourth day on this river—at about 2 p.m., when I saw for the first time a grand swirl of the water, just a foot or so below my fly. I stepped back half a dozen yards, and again fished down slowly past the spot, without any response. I then changed the fly, and giving my friend half an hour's law, again proceeded to tempt her. Another grand swirl, and the coquettish beauty just showed half her tail and retired to the privacy of her bower. A third fly, half an hour later, was not honoured with any notice. Now fortune aid my selection of a fourth! Slowly and carefully did my gaudy tempter approach her home. I feared it had already passed the spot, when the sweetest of all sensations, a good vigorous tug, followed by a delightful whizz of the reel, and a splash on the other side of the river, proclaimed that a perfect communication had been established between myself and my fair one. Half an hour of delirious dalliance—during which the coy nymph never once showed her lovely form above water; but modestly kept out of sight as much as possible, constantly boring down to the bottom, and attempting to hide herself among the weeds; perpetually struggling up stream—until she could no longer resist the strong persuasion that was inviting her down stream and to the surface—and a splendid mass of living silver lay upon the bank—plump, and of perfect form—equalling in weight the day, as in length the number, of the month.

C. C. J.

THE TROUT LICENSE QUESTION.

IN our correspondence columns this week will be found some important and interesting particulars respecting the attempt recently made by the Trent Fishery Board of Conservators to impose a tax on trout anglers fishing in the river Wye in Derbyshire. As a great many of our readers are Wye anglers, we trust they will come forward and support the efforts which are being made to prevent this imposition. We have frequently had complaints from various parts of the country of the hardship of having to pay for a trout license to fish some stream which is not only never visited by salmon, but never watched by the conservators; and the money for the license goes to pay salaries of the officials and bailiffs engaged in preserving a fish the trout-fisher has no interest in, and a river he never fishes. Now we do not go so far as this, as we think the protection and improvement of our salmon fisheries is a not only national question but one which indirectly affects the interests of every angler. If our salmon fisheries decay, the others must follow suit, because there will be no responsible bodies to keep the rivers pure and check poaching. Therefore we have no objection to the charge for a trout license, provided it never exceeds 2s. at the utmost, and also provided it is only charged for angling in such rivers as are actually protected by the board imposing the license.

It is fortunate indeed that the far-famed Derbyshire Wye is to be the scene of the first real contest between trout anglers and a conservancy board respecting the trout license question. No other river would find so many anglers come forward in defence of their rights, and we do hope the utmost support will be given to those gentlemen who are moving in the matter.

The beautiful Derbyshire Dove suffers under the infliction of a trout license charged to all anglers, who get absolutely nothing in return; and the Derby poachers clear the Dove Dale reaches when they like, finding a ready market at 2s. a pound for the trout they get. If the Trent Board would only protect these reaches the trout angler would pay for the license and pour blessings on the imposers.

Grerory's Spinning Baits. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxfod," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[Advt.]

ANOTHER "FISHING GAZETTE" TOURNAMENT, IN AID OF THE FUNDS OF THE ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

WE have been requested by the committee of the Anglers' Benevolent Society to endeavour, if possible, to get up another tournament on a large scale in aid of the funds of the society, and we have much pleasure in doing so. The present intention is to hold the tournament at Mr. Warner's, Welsh Harp Fishery, Hendon, on Monday, July 10, to commence at two o'clock; the general impression being that Monday will secure a larger attendance of club anglers than would be possible on a Saturday. We hold a few prizes which were not competed for at our last tournament; and we appeal confidently to our readers to support this charitable purpose by giving other prizes to be competed for in July. Any such donations can be sent to our office, 12, Fetter Lane, addressed to the editor, and marked for the purpose they are intended for; and they will be duly acknowledged in the Gazette. Any useful articles will be acceptable, as we hope to arrange for a large number of prizes in each competition, so as to ensure a large number of entries.

The great interest taken in the last tournament, in spite of the terrible weather, almost assures the success of the forthcoming one. Further details will be published as they are arranged, and any suggestions our readers may make will be carefully considered. We may mention that the proprietors of this paper will be happy to give prizes.

COARSE-FISH PROPAGATION.

AN application having been made to the committee of the Thames Angling Preservation Soctety, by a committee formed for the purpose of carrying out the scheme of Coarse Fish Propagation (introduced by Mr. R. B. Marston) from the three central associations of London angling clubs, and inviting the society to initiate the the movement for the metropolitan rivers, the application was favourably entertained, and a sub-committee at once appointed to make the necessary arrangements, and to make a report at the next monthly meeting. The great difficulty of fish hatching was removed, prior to the meeting of the sub-committee, by the the liberal offer, through Mr. W. H. Brougham, of Mr. J. T. Carrington, the curator at the Westminster Aquarium, in completely undertaking this portion of the work, and giving the free use of the troughs and tanks in a part of the building unfrequented by the public, together with the employment of a man, and his own personal superintendence. This splendid offer having been officially reported to the sub-committee, it was eagerly accepted, and also Mr. Carrington's kind invitation to meet them at the Aquarium. This was accordingly done, and with so much satisfaction that arrangements were at once made to commence operations; and the head keeper of the T.A.P.S., on the following morning, despatched to Walton in search of some perch-spawn, which he was successful in getting, in spite of the quantity of land water in the river; and in the afternoon a splendid lot of ova, in capital condition, was safe in the troughs which Mr. Carrington had prepared for its reception, In addition to all this, that gentleman has given the whole of the sub-committee facilities for visiting the Aquarium at any time. Too much praise could not possibly be accorded to Mr. J. T. Carrington for what he has done in thus assisting so prominently in the initiation of coarse-fish propagation; and, with his well-known talent as a naturalist, he has placed beyond doubt any failure in the movement; and all interested in coarse-fish propagation will ever feel grateful to him for thus voluntarily coming forward at a time when some difficulty might have arisen as to carrying out the first and most difficult stages of fish-culture—and that without any cost to the sub-committee. One thing is certain, the value of his services, and the support given to it by Captain Hobson, the manager, will meet with due appreciation.

B.

[Having been away at Edinburgh, the receipt of the above from our friend B. is the first intimation I had of Mr. Carrington's kindness in offering to help the coarse-fish scheme. I am sure Mr. Carrington's experiments will be a great assistance; but I regret very much to say I greatly fear they will not succeed. I have, from the first day when I proposed the scheme, always said we must *not* try to increase our coarse fish in the way the salmonidæ are increased—artificially. It is too expensive, too uncertain, and the results are so poor that it cannot pay. The peculiar nature of the ova of summer-spawning fish makes it practically impossible to handle it as salmon and trout ova is handled. I do not say that perch and other fish can *not* be hatched and reared by hand as it were, but that it will never *pay* so to rear them, as the loss is so enormous.—R. B. Marston.]

NOTICES OF BOOKS, &C.

MESSRS. CASSELL, PETTER, GALPIN AND CO. have just issued the first monthly instalment of a serial edition of their "Illustrated Bible," with coloured plates, from a series of original paintings by acknowledged artists, including the names of M. L. Gow, G. L. Seymour, H. M. Paget, H. C. Selous, M. E. Edwards, Towneley, Green and others. The subject chosen for the frontispiece to this edition of the Scriptures is from the picture by M. L. Gow, entitled "The Captive Maid." It is excellently drawn, and is pleasingly bright and warm in tone. The work is also embellished with numerous woodcuts.

Messrs. Cassell have also in progress a new serial issue of their Illustrated Book of "Canaries and Cage Birds, British and Foreign." The first part is now ready. The work is conducted by Messrs. W. A. Blakston, W. Swayland, and A. F. Wiener, and is adorned with coloured plates and wood engravings.

MR. JAMES OGDEN'S MAY-FLIES.

MR. JAMES OGDEN, of 28, Winchcombe Street, Cheltenham, has sent some of his May flies dressed on Mr. Hall's eyed hooks. We have never seen a better sample of May-fly, and can guarantee that they will kill, if properly used, on any water on which this beautiful fly appears. Their being dressed on the eyed hooks gives them a great additional advantage in our opinion. By the way, we would caution dressers of flies on these eyed hooks, especially on the smaller sizes, to leave the eye perfectly free, so that the gut can be easily passed through it.

THE FISHERIES PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION AND THE RIVERS CONSERVANCY AND FLOODS PREVENTION BILL.

ON Monday last a deputation from the above association waited on the Right Hon. J. G. Dodson, M.P., President of the Local Government Board, to ask the Government's consent to certain amendments in the Rivers Conservancy and Floods Prevention Bill, and which have chiefly for object:—(1) The empowering the new boards named in the Bill as the authorities to execute the proposed Act (there called Conservancy Boards), to enforce within their several districts the Rivers Pollution Prevention Act. (2) To secure that the power given by the Bill to the new boards to regulate the opening and closing of flood-gates, sluices, &c., in time of flood or apprehended flood shall be so exercised as not to conflict with the 26th section of the Salmon Fishery Act, 1873, and the 53rd section of the Salmon Fishery Act, 1873, which provide, under a penalty, that "the sluices if any, for drawing off the water which would otherwise flow over any dam, should be kept shut on Sundays, and at all times when the water is not required for milling purposes, in such manner as to cause such water to flow through the fish-pass, if any, or over the dam." (3) To secure that, if in any works undertaken by the new boards for the prevention of floods, the fish-passes or other works erected by the Boards of Conservators under the Salmon Fishery Acts for facilitating the passage of fish over obstructions, shall be interfered with, the said fish-passes or works shall be restored by such new boards to the same condition in which they were before such interference.

The deputation was introduced by Earl Percy, M.P., and was accompanied, among others, by Earl Fortescue, Chairman of the Taw and Torridge Board; Mr. J. W. Willis-Bund, Chairman of the Severn Board: Mr. Joseph Dodds, M.P., representing the Tees Board; Mr. Alan Bagot, representing the Trent Board; Mr. Sclater, representing the Ouse (Sussex) Board; Sir Baldwyn Leighton, Bart., M.P.; Sir William Miller, Bart.; Hon. Edwin Portman; Dr. Hood; Mr. Greville Fennell; Mr. Higford Burr; Mr. E. Waugh, M.P.; Mr. E. Primrose; Mr. E. White-Wallis, Secretary of the Sanitary Institute of Great Britain; Mr. G. J. Symons, F.R.S., Registrar of the Sanitary Institute; and Mr. William Needham. Many letters also were received from, among others, the Chairmen of the Tyne and other Fishery Boards, and other gentlemen interested in the object of the deputation, expressing concurrence with the proposed amendments, but regretting, from the writers' distance from London, and other causes, their inability to join the deputation.

After the proposed amendments had been read and *seriatim* fully explained by Mr. Willis-Bund, and supported by speeches from Sir Baldwyn Leighton, Earl Fortescue, and Mr. Alan Bagot, &c., Mr. Dodson, in reply, said that of course the deputation would not expect any definite answer from him at that moment; but that as regarded the pollution of rivers he would state that, as far the Government were concerned, they had no objection that a Board of Conservators shall have power to enforce the provisions of the "Rivers Pollution Prevention Act;" that in fact such empowering clause was in the Government's original Bill as it passed the House of Lords, and it was only struck out afterwards in deference to the opinion of the Select Committee of the House of Commons, who thought it was not germane to the matter of the Bill, and that such enforcement should be left in the hands of the authorities, with whom it at present lay; that as regarded the other amendments, and the bearing of a scheme framed under the present Bill upon the Salmon Fishery Acts, the points brought forward shall be very carefully considered, and if we find we can meet the wishes of the deputation without defeating the main objects of the Bill we shall be very happy to do so. I can only say now that we shall give every consideration to the deputation's suggestions, and if we are not able to give you all you ask we hope to meet you by giving you something.

The deputation, after thanking the right hon. gentleman, then withdrew.

RIVERS CONSERVANCY AND FLOODS PREVENTION BILL.

Amendments suggested by the Council of the "Fisheries Preservation Association," and placed on the Paper of the House of Commons by Earl Percy.

Clause 14, page 7, at end, add "a Conservancy Board shall have power to take proceedings to enforce within their district the provisions of 'The Rivers Pollution Prevention Act, 1876,' and for that purpose shall be deemed to be a sanitary authority within the meaning of that Act, except that any expenses incurred by a Conservancy Board under this section, shall be deemed to be expenses incurred for the purposes of this Act."

Clause 15, page 7, line 38, after "apprehended flood," insert "Provided that no such bye-law shall in any way affect the provisions of the twenty-sixth section* of 'The Salmon Fishery Act, 1861.'"

Clause 42, page 21, at end, add "Provided that nothing herein contained shall apply to the erection of any fish-pass or other work by a Board of Conservators to facilitate the passage of fish over a weir or other obstruction."

Clause 49, page 24, at end, add "and if any fish-pass or other work constructed by a Board of Conservators under the Salmon Fishery Acts be interfered with, the Conservancy Board shall restore the same to the same state and condition as that in which it was before such interference."

Clause 54, page 27, line 6, after "Parliament," insert "or

(8.) To interfere with any works erected by any Board of Conservators or other persons under the provisions of the Salmon Fishery Acts 1861 to 1876."

Clause 58, page 27, line 35, after "constructed," insert "or altered so as to cause increased obstruction to the passage of fish."

Clause 58, page 27, line 36, leave out "for salmon."

Clause 61, page 29, line 9, after "Parliament," insert "and any Board of Conservators constituted under the provisions of the Salmon Fishery Acts 1861 to 1876."

* This Section as amended by the 53rd Section of "The Salmon Fishery Act, 1873," provides that sluices shall be kept shut on Sundays and at all times when the water is not required for milling purposes in such manner as to cause the water to flow through a fish-pass where such exists, or if none over the dam.—Clause 15 as it stands will give power to do away with this very useful provision.

MAIDENHEAD, COOKHAM AND BRAY THAMES ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

THE annual general meeting of this association was held at Skindle's Hotel, Maidenhead Bridge, on Saturday afternoon, April 29. Mr. T. B. Sharpe occupied the chair, and there were present—Messrs. J. H. Clark, J.P., C. E. Jollands, W. C. Haynes, H. Hoare, A. Styan, B. Perelli-Rocco, W. G. Day, A. A. Wood, R. Nicholson, J. Greville Fennell, and W. H. Brougham. The Chairman opened the meeting by reading the following interesting report:—

"In presenting their eight annual report, it is satisfactory to the committee to find that the interest taken in the association has not materially suffered from the almost universal depression which has prevailed so long.

"Of course it must be expected that the older the association, the losses by deaths or removals of its earlier supporters must increase, and the past year has proved no exception to this simple truism; but it is to be hoped that many new subscribers will be found to take their place during the ensuing year.

"The number of anglers who fish that portion of the river over which this association takes supervision, has increased at least twenty-fold of late, compared with what existed before this care was taken; and the committee feel they are fairly entitled to look for help from those who are fully aware of the advantages thus accruing to them.

"The committee have had very important matters before them during the year just ended.

"In the autumn of last year they were given to understand that the Thames Conservancy contemplated making very important alterations as regarded the laws relating to the fisheries in the lower waters of the Thames, and feeling it was very desirable to have similar arrangements for the upper portion, the committee called a conference of those associations connected with the latter, for the purpose of fully discussing the desirability or otherwise of so doing. This was held on November 29, when, in addition to Messrs. Spreckley and Brougham, of the Thames Angling Preservation Society (who kindly attended to afford information as to the steps taken in the lower waters), the following associations were represented, viz., the Maidenhead, Cookham and Bray, Marlow, Reading, Windsor, and Eton. The subject was fully discussed, and the views taken by the various associations (which were almost unanimously adopted) forwarded to the Board of Conservators, and have since been graciously acknowledged. A sub-committee, consisting of members of the above-mentioned angling societies, was also appointed to ascertain whether it were possible to obtain a piece of water for the purpose of rearing rather than the present system of purchasing trout; but after weighing carefully all the circumstances, not least, the cost, the committee of this association think it would not be desirable to incur so great a responsibility.

"Another circumstance which caused the committee much anxiety and regret was in reference to the prosecution, by Sir Roger Palmer (a vice-president), of one of the bailiffs of the association, for throwing a net for the purpose of catching bait for a member in a part of the river which Sir Roger Palmer claims as private. The committee felt it would be unfair towards their bailiff not to undertake his defence, as he was only doing what Rule X. required of him, and holding a deputation from the Thames Conservancy, of which Sir Roger is a member, he was authorised to do, not being aware that any claim to the water being private would be made. The defence was, however, undertaken by the Thames Rights Defence Association. The case was decided in favour of the bailiff.

"The committee regret that the number of swans is still so large, there being nearly 250 in about thirty miles of water—the mischief done by so many cannot be calculated.

"There have been placed in the river 137 trout during the past year; and a very large number of jack, perch, chub, &c., from the ditches in the neighbourhood, have been rescued from the poaching fraternity.

"A very heavy expense has also been incurred in printing. Fresh placards for posting at the various hotels have been prepared and framed in accordance with the resolution passed at the last general meeting.

"In concluding their report the committee most cordially acknowledge how much they are indebted to the members of the press for the assistance so readily and cheerfully at all times accorded.

"Subscriptions for the ensuing year are now due, and the committee request they may be paid to the treasurer and secretary, W. G. Day, London and County Bank, Maidenhead."

On the resolution of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Greville-Fennell, the report was ordered to be printed and circulated amongst the members, and to such other sources the committee might deem desirable.

The financial receipts, including a balance of £44 19s. 1d. and £18 18s. of unpaid subscriptions, amounted to £160 9s. 1d., and the payments, including a balance of £28 19s. 6d. in the hands of the treasurer, making a corresponding total of £160 9d. 1d.

Mr. Greville Fennell proposed, and Mr. H. Hoare seconded, the appointment of the following gentlemen as members of the general committee, which was cordially adopted:—Messrs. J. B. Sharpe, J. H. Clarke, C. E. Jollands, J. H. Lemann, R. Nicholson, B. Perelli-Rocco, A. H. Styan, Rev. C. H. Fardell, W. C. Haynes, C. P. Wheatstone and A. A. Wood.

A vote of thanks was warmly accorded to the chairman.

In the evening the annual dinner of the members and friends of the association took place in the new rustic saloon which has recently been erected by Mr. Hoare on the lawn sloping down to the Thames, and which will be admirably adapted for summer parties and entertainments, as it is capable of accommodating fifty guests. This was the first occasion of its being used, and from its light and airy construction, at the time of a very boisterous gale of wind and rain, the inauguration was attended with somewhat unpleasant reminiscences.

Mr. W. H. Grenfell, M.P., was the chairman, supported by the Mayor of Maidenhead, the Rev. C. H. Fardell and about forty others.

The toasts were "The Queen and the rest of the Royal Family," "The Maidenhead, Cookham and Bray Thames Angling Association," responded to by Mr. T. B. Sharpe; "Kindred Associations," which was replied to by Mr. W. H. Brougham and Mr. A. C. Butler; "The Press," with which were associated the names of Mr. Greville Fennell and Mr. J. P. Wheeldon; "The Chairman," proposed by Mr. J. H. Clark, J. P.; and "The Visitors," given by Captain Styan and acknowledged by Mr. W. B. Farr, Mayor of Maidenhead.

There was an excellent and *récherché* dinner placed upon the table by Mr. Hoare, eminently suited to the opening of the new room, and the proceedings of the evening were greatly enlivened by some capital singing from Messrs. J. P. Wheeldon, A. A. Wood, W. G. Day, W. C. Haynes and others.

SILVER TROUT ANGLING SOCIETY.

The annual dinner of this old established angling club was held at the Star and Garter, St. Martin's Lane, Charing Cross, on Tuesday evening last, under the presidency of Mr. E. Hawkins. There was an excellent attendance, including Messrs. C. P. Wheatstone, F. Roberts, G. E. Walker, J. T. Carrington, W. H. Brougham, F. T. Williams, R. Clarke, W. Griffiths, J. H. Stead, J. P. Wheeldon, W. Bailey, C. Hewitt, C. Davis, Pike, Lees, Dumenil, Grace, Pettit, Gilson, J. Clarke, &c. Mr. F. C. Hatfield, with his accustomed liberality, placed on the table a most exquisite dinner, performing the duties of carver, and superintending the service of the various items in the most energetic manner. After full justice had been done to the good things, and there was no stint in the quantity, the Chairman very briefly gave the usual loyal toast, which was drank with enthusiasm. He then proposed "The Thames Angling Preservation Society" and, after some complimentary allusion to its work, included the name of Mr. W. H. Brougham in connection with it. Mr. W. H. Brougham, in replying, said he always felt pleasure in meeting the Silver Trouters for two or three reasons: first, as it was one of the oldest subscribers to the society; secondly, as it was the only club that assisted him when he took up the suppression of the slaughter of small fish; and thirdly, because in his friend Mr. Hatfield they had one of the best hosts in England. As their Chairman's rule was to be very brief, he would only refer to the coarse-fish propagation scheme and the emptying of the reservoirs. Out of the latter he hoped to get some tons' weight of good sized fish, and he trusted the members of the Silver Trout would get their share. The Chairman next introduced the toast of the evening, "Success to the Silver Trout Angling Society," and in simply noticing its prosperous character, associated with it their late secretary, Mr. W. Griffiths. Mr. Griffiths very briefly responded to it, and assured the members that although he was no longer their secretary he should take the same interest in the club and attend the meetings as frequently as possible. The Chairman then stated the prize donors were Messrs. Wheatstone, Davis, Dumenil, Grace, Hawkins, Hatfield, Lake, Kusel and Poole; and the prize winners were Messrs. Davis, Holman, Grace, Griffiths, Fruchtnicht, Loder and Pettit. The only prizes presented were first of all a splendid cup of exquisite work and design by the donor, Mr. Dumenil, to Mr. Davis, for the first gross weight of 114 lb. 1 oz., and Mr. Grace receiving a beautifully executed figure of a shoeblack, given by Mr. Hatfield's brother, for the heaviest perch, a fish of 1½ lb., caught on the first of March. The next toast, as evidenced by the enthusiastic demonstration which was attached to it, was the great item of the evening; it was that of Mr. F. C. Hatfield, the simple allusion to his name by the Chairman causing all present to rise, the ringing cheers and the hearty reception requiring no further words. Mr. Hatfield, whose feelings were very much overpowered at receiving such an ovation, heartily expressed his warmest thanks, and assuring all present he would do his best in the future as he had done in the past to retain their good opinion of him. The only other toast on the list was the "Press," to which Mr. J. P. Wheeldon happily replied. There was some capital harmony from Messrs. W. Packer, F. Roberts, Pettit, Long, J. P. Wheeldon and others, and a long and enjoyable evening was spent. The arrangements were in every respect complete. Miss Emily Hatfield was in charge of the cloak room, and, although young, performed her duties admirably; and in the arrival and departure of the guests every attention was paid to them by Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Baker.

CUTTING WEEDS, GRASS, &c., IN WATER COURSES.

The fly-fisher, even after he has obtained permission of the riparians of a trout stream and expects to fish it unmolested, has reckoned without his host, if he has neglected to secure the good will of the miller and his men above the district of his operations. Who has not, while fish were rising everywhere or had to be courted with the greatest skill, found all his efforts rendered abortive by a mass of floating vegetable filth viciously sent down from the mill head to render him disgusted with the water and all around him. Happily, the Thames and its branches have been freed from a likelihood of this curse-breeding nuisance; that kindly watcher of the anglers' comforts, Capt. Etheridge, having looked up an efficient remedy for the ill amongst the conservancy laws. This he has caused to be extensively distributed and published throughout the localities in which the offence was likely to occur, and he has further obtained a conviction against a miller on the Colne, but it being the first case of the kind a nominal fine was only inflicted. Cannot this form a precedent for other rivers, doubtless so upon those that possess conservators who have power their own bye-laws and the zeal to get them confirmed. The notice paper runs as follows:—"Thames Conservancy. Notice. All persons cutting weeds, grass, &c. Section IX. of the Thames Conservancy Act, 1878, enacts that all persons cutting weeds, grass, or other vegetation in the river Thames, or in any stream, canal, or watercourse commnnicating with the river, shall remove therefrom such weeds, grass, or other vegetation, immediately after cutting, so as to prevent their remaining in and decaying and contaminating the water of the said river, and no person shall throw, sweep, or cause to be thrown or swept, any weeds, grass, or matter of a like nature into the river Thames, or into any stream, canal, or watercourse communicating with the river; and if any person wilfully, and with notice of this enactment, does any act or thing in contravention of this enactment, he shall be liable to the same penalties as any person acting in contravention of section sixty-three of 'The Thames Navigation Act, 1866,' is liable, namely, fine £100, and to a further penalty not exceeding £50 for every day during which the offence is continued after the day on which the first penalty is incurred."

"41, Trinity Square, Tower Hill, London."

The Great International Fisheries Exhibition, London, 1883.—We understand that the promotion of this exhibition is already being energetically taken up. Among others, the Trent Board of Conservators subscribe to the guarantee fund; they intend to exhibit and to defray the expenses of showing any object of interest (except fishing tackle) that any person residing within the New Fishery District may have, and they will exhibit their system of boats and working arrangements; they have also communicated with the mayors of the towns within that district in order to obtain subscriptions to the fund. The Mayor of Ryde has held a public meeting, at which the following resolutions were passed:—1st. That this meeting, recognising the importance of the objects of the proposed Great International Fisheries Exhibition to be held in London in 1883, under the patronage of her Most Gracious Majesty and the presidency of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, K.G., pledges itself to use its best endeavours in the Isle of Wight to promote the success of the same, and to assist the London Executive Committee. 2nd. That a committee be formed consisting of the following gentlemen (subject to their approval), with power to add to their numbers for the purpose of carrying into effect the foregoing resolution. No doubt such good examples will be followed by others, and there is every prospect of a most successful result.

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

The Thames has been in high flood and colour during the past week, and so trout-fishing has been a dead letter. The water is now dropping, and as the weather is seemingly settled, the coming week may be productive of some sport here and there amid the "pretty crathurs"—the beauteous daughters of Father Thames. The annual meeting of the Maidenhead, Cookham, and Bray Thames Angling Association was held at Skindle's Hotel, Maidenhead, on Saturday last. From the report the association seems to have done a heap of good work in its waters, and altogether is in a very satisfactory position with regard to members and pecuniosity. The dinner, after "fishy" business was disposed of, was a culinary and gustatory success; and the chairman (Mr. W. H. Grenfell, M.P.) was most amusing and "all there" in proposing the toast of the evening, that of success to the M.C. and B.T.A.S., and, in the course of many pithy and apposite remarks, "brought down the rods" with the following: "A fisherman never, on any occasion, used bad language. Suppose he was fishing in a weir pool, and hooked a large trout and lost it, he never used the 'big, big B.' He exercised the precepts of his art. He simply smiled benignly, and said: 'This comes of my not having soaked my gut.'" All anglers will join me, I am sure, that the honourable member for Salisbury will not break away when he gets hold of a beauty.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Ballynahinch.

Since my last report we have had very unfavourable weather for angling. There has only been two rods for the most part of last week. Mr. Chadwick, on the 26th ult., caught one salmon, 10 lb.; on the 29th, Mr. Hynes, two, $13\frac{1}{4}$ and $16\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; same date, Mr. Chadwick, one, $8\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Yesterday and to-day we have had a great change—quite summer weather. Wind west and north-west, accompanied by strong sunshine.—WALLIS BLACKADDER

Coquet (Weldon Bridge).

On the 27th, Mr. Wood, of Lindon, killed a good basket of 7 lb.; on the 29th, Mr. J. Young a good basket; on May 1, Mr. Elcom, Liverpool, killed 6 lb.; R. M. Warrick, Esq., six brace; T. R. Trevelyan, Esq., Netherwitten Hall, killed the best basket for this season that has come to the inn, $12\frac{1}{2}$ lb., and a splendid lot of trout.—A. GLASS, Anglers, Inn.

Dove.

Sport has been fairly good this week, though, in consequence of Saturday's rains, our river has been running very high and thick. A good many anglers were out on the open lengths on Monday and Tuesday. The largest baskets of trout were killed with the cockspur and brandling worms. The heavy thunderstorm which passed over the district on Wednesday night added a great deal more "liquid" to the river, and to-day (Thursday) there is another rise on. The Excelsior and Universal still keep killing the heaviest fish in the tributary brooks. I notice that David Foster's angling book is to come out this month, and I believe the work will be found one of a most valuable nature. The fungoid disease amongst grayling in the Wye has not, so far as I can learn, extended to the grayling in the Dove, as the fish are very healthy and forward —THE SPLODGER.

Exe (Exeter).

If any portion of this river, from its source to the mouth, has been at all fishable during the past week, one portion for a certainty, that is from Cowley Bridge downwards, has not been, not a scale having been grassed, the weather being most wild, the rain having come down in torrents, swelling the river to an enormous extent, the effects of which have carried happily all the smotts to sea. Thus far we shall be no further troubled, and numbers of salmon have escaped the nets in the lower waters, owing to the nets not having been shot, the tide being too strong to attempt the same, leaving the wind out of the question, which on Friday and Saturday blew a complete hurricane; trees of huge dimensions were uprooted in all directions, and numerous are the temporary bridges formed by their falling over the various streams and roads thereto. News of damage to life, stock, houses, &c., &c., continue to be reported, and the number of narrow escapes is something extraordinary. Riding with two friends on our road to Wonford, for a little sport, we observed several trees that had fallen on our right, which I undertook to count, whilst my friends did the same on the left. Presently the flyman said "Look out—here's another one coming!" Suiting the action to the word, he gave the horse a cut with the whip, it being useless to pull up or turn back, so passed; this falling trunk came down crash, with about two seconds to spare, being a very narrow squeak. The various colonies of rooks' nests, which surround the city, were nearly all dismantled; and immense numbers of young birds, with the debris of their habitations, were discovered on the ground during and after the gale. And many are the tales told, how troubled, and with what exertion the old birds worked to save their offspring from falling to the earth. The lodge-keepers of Northernhay tell me they never saw rooks so fat for their size before, it having been a splendid feeding time; and although the shooting on May 18 be but poor, they have already had their rook pie, which probably they would not have had when the shooting was on.—FRANK GOSDEN.

Exe (Tiverton).

The river the past week has been very high and little has been done; it is thought that a fair number of salmon have come up. Yesterday one of 6 lb. was killed in the upper water by Mr. Collingwood at Emmerford; some good sport trout-fishing is looked forward to the next week or ten days.—WM. MUDFORD.

Norfolk.

Since writing my last report, I have heard of nothing of any particular importance to chronicle respecting angling. The coarse weather has been rather too much for one to venture out, even for the most enthusiastic. I saw a few very good bream taken at Wroxham recently, the spot being directly opposite the Hoveton Horse Shoes Inn, kept by Whittaker, and which place he informed me was at this time of the year generally frequented by plenty of fish. This is very convenient for them; one has not those tedious long pulls in order to obtain a favourite swim, and also it is handy, should a smart shower threaten, for in about two minutes you may be snugly stowed away in Host Whittaker's comfortable parlour. Wroxham, with the several magnificent "broads" adjacent to it, is well worthy a visit just now; the lovely trees which line each side of the river, and which entirely surround the great broad—now resplendent with their new foliage—is indeed a sight to behold, no matter which way one looks, nothing but magnificent scenery meets the eye. It has been said, and rightly, too, that Englishmen often take the trouble to travel over to the Continent in search of a thorough change of scene. They spend money and lose time looking for what can be found almost at their own doors. Our own Holland—the Norfolk Broads—for instance, is every whit as convenient, and much easier of access, than the conventional and continental Holland. A little over four hours' railway journey from London will land the traveller in the midst of a great flat, stretch of country, intersected by silent waterways, and dotted all over with quiet little lakes. For days and days a man may sail through the broads and find little company, save that of some marsh fowl or slowly-moving wherry. People who have studied the Norfolk Broads speak of the people as contented and civil, and of their services as obliging and civil. For £1 per head parties of three can hire a trim-built little yacht of about 5 tons burden, and sail placidly on through an entirely new England—a Great Britain which is unlike anything the traveller has ever seen in the island before. "Forests of reeds 10 feet high, with enormous feathery tops," rock and sway in the wind as the boat glides on, and everywhere "between lake and lake there are great beds of flowers of meadow-sweet, and white water-lilies." So fair a scene should tempt many this summer to exchange the rather hackneyed delights of the ordinary seaside for a novel bit of island home scenery.—ANGLER.

Severn and Teme (Worcester).

The two rivers are this day settling down from the late floods; last Sunday the brooks and rivers were all overflowing their banks. In this district angling was out of the question; but the last few days have again set the lovers of the gentle on the look-out for the first turn, as it is a fact that a flush at this season is the cause of many strong fish taking up new homes, and fish are often keener for the bait after a flush. As a proof of this, we find Mr. Bins weighing $8\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of trout, the fish averaging $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., two perch 2 lb. 2 oz., a pike 13 lb. Mr. Joseph Thorne ten brace of trout, E. D. Davis twelve brace one day, fourteen and a half brace in a day or two following, some fish scaling a pound. There has also been some bull trout taken upon the Severn, from 2 lb. to 8 lb. each. Mr. Hundley landed one at Holt Weir 6 lb. with the minnow. There are more trout in this part than I remember for years. I am anxiously waiting for the stream to fine down for the fly. I recommend the blue dun, the cowdung fly, the grannam, and black gnat.—JOHN A. GRIFFIN.

Taw and Tributaries (N. Devon).

Water in good condition. The large rivers fining down, but very high. Fishing likely to be very good for some time. The rivers on Sunday were like autumn—full of trees, leaves, and every possible thing the flood could wash away. I have heard of many good dishes; one of ninety fish, but I fear it was the worm that was used. The Yeo, Bratton stream, Bray, Mole, and Muddiford rivers have given some good sport. The nets opened their ball on Monday, and I have heard of some good salmon being caught in the tidal river. An otter was caught in the smallest stream running into the Yeo on Monday, but released again.—RUSTY GAME.

Thames (Windsor).

Notwithstanding a very high and thick water, with anything but pleasant breezes as an accompaniment, some good trout have been had in this district, and I have just inspected one of the handsomest fish taken this season—in fact, have never seen one with more brilliant spots or in better condition for its weight, which is 5 lb., taken by Mr. Eaton, of Chalvey, bank-fishing near Boveney. On Prince Leopold's wedding day another handsome fish was had of 6 lb., which I placed under the care of Cooper for preservation; this was taken by C. Paice, of Etonwick, and was also a capital conditioned fish, though not spotted so beautifully as the one before mentioned. I may add, the gentleman to whom this fish was sent as a present—Mr. Lynes, timber merchant, of Notting Hill, London—on receiving a note from me, very kindly handed it over for preservation, instead of being subjected to the tender mercies of the cook. The same angler, next day, took one of 3 lb. 3 oz., a good fish for the size. Since my last, two very good fish have been had down river, in the neighbourhood of Old Windsor; one of 5 lb., and one of 6 lb., the latter taken by a gentleman angler well known in the district. The great rush of water has forced these fish to leave their usual haunt, and seek quieter water close in to the bank. One angler tells me he counted, in the evening of the 27th ult., no less than nine feeding close under the bank, one of which, he stakes his shirt, will not go less than 10 lb. A stroll along the bank, on the *qui vive*, with some lively fat minnows, and any angler stands a good chance of a veritable Thames trout, providing he knows how to treat them when hooked.—B. R. BAMBRIDGE.

Tweed and Teviot.

For the last eight or nine days the Tweed and Teviot have been in fair order for angling, and salmon and trout anglers have been plying their favourite pastime with tolerable success. On Thursday, last week, Mr. Barclay, Thorp, Norwich, fishing on the Hendersyde water, caught a nice salmon. On the Hendersyde lower water on Friday Mr. T. Macpherson Grant, of Ballendallo Castle, had one salmon to his rod. Mr. C. Kerss, on Friday, caught three fish in the Sprouston water. Mr. F. Macpherson was again out on the Hendersyde casts on Monday, when he had a run with a salmon, which he ultimately lost. Fishing the Sprouston casts, on Tuesday, Mr. Gavotte caught one fish; and on the same day and on the same water, Mr. James Kerss landed a couple of salmon. Here also another gentleman secured a fish. Trout-fishers are now daily out on the rivers in large numbers, and in the course of a week or so night fly-fishing will be pretty general. On the Teviot, on Saturday, Mr. Alfred Mills, in two and a half hours, caught 8 lb. of trout with the fly; and on Tuesday, the same gentleman caught 9 lb. 10 oz. in three and a quarter hours with the same lure. Very good baskets have also been obtained on the Hendersyde water by Messrs. James Kerss, T. Pringle, and Pringle Elliot. On the Sprouston water, Mr. J. J. E. Brown, of Rosebank, and Mr. Charles Kerss have likewise prosecuted trout angling with considerable success. On the Ednam House Water, Mr. Drummond and several friends have had fair takes of trout. On the Eden (a tributary of the Tweed), on Wednesday, Mr. James Anderson, Kelso, had 4 lb. of very nice trout. The weather is now somewhat settled and mild, the streams are in fine angling condition, and anglers are on the tip-toe of expectancy.—Maxwheel, Kelso, May 4.

Wye and Derwent.

We have had continual flushes, more or less, on both rivers several times since my last report, from the heavy thunder rain which has fallen on most days. This morning (Thursday) both rivers are very high and muddy, not fit for angling. To-morrow (Friday) aud, in fact, all next week, ought to be first-class for all kinds of angling. The ant egg is just coming in: it is a very killing bait, on the Derwent, for trout, especially in a muddy water. This last week has been the worst one I ever knew for all kinds of fishing, and small baskets have been the order of the day; no doubt owing to so much electricity being in the air daily. There has been a fishing case tried at Bakewell Petty Sessions, at the instance of the Trent Fishery Board; five gentlemen were charged with fishing for trout in the river Wye without having procured the 1s. trout licence. The defence argued that the Wye was not a tributary of the Trent, but of the Derwent. The Bench dismissed the case, which I myself think was a very proper verdict to come to, as the Wye is the private water of the Duke of Rutland, and we have no salmon in it, and I myself think it is quite an imposition for gentlemen anglers to have to be compelled to purchase a 1s. licence before they can fish the Wye for trout. Where does all the licence money go to that is got from the Wye and Derwent every season?—as I have never seen a Trent Board water bailiff on either river up to the present time, although I fish daily the year through, weather and water permitting. I hear that Mr. Moss's brook, near the Lea, Derbyshire, has been poisoned, and every trout in it destroyed, and there is a reward of £20 offered for the parties who have done it.—George James Eaton.

Starkholmes, Matlock Bath.

THE SOUTH OF IRELAND.

During the past three weeks the weather has been very unsettled, and recurring floods have favoured the hopes and the chances of the Waltonian. Last week we had hail and snow, and storm and rain introduced into the first month of summer. At irregular intervals during this period of change, anglers snatched some good days. Sir Oriel Forster, on his place at Fargus, landed a large number of fish. Mr. Geo. Haynes took fifteen in five days. Mr. James Lambkin two. Dan Rendan, a bailiff of Mr. Augustus Warren, landed seven on one day and several since. Mr. Bailes and friends took four on Monday. John Manning has several to his credit, having taken as many as eleven fish on one day. The weather has now set in with warmth, and with the river in fine order. I expect great results during the coming week. The river is well stocked; the floods which we have had so repeatedly during the month of April always stocking the river with a fresh run of fish. The peal season, which is now near at hand, promises well, and the net fishing in the tidal waters recently has yielded a good return to the net men.—Angler.

CLUB REPORTS.

ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The third annual supper of the above club will take place on Tuesday, the 23rd May, at the club house. The next Central return visit will take place at the above club on Tueday, the 16th May, when we shall be glad to see as many brother anglers as can make it convenient to attend.—W. Davis, sec.

May 4.

ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

At the usual fortnightly meeting on Friday evening last, April 28th, Mr. P. Geen, treasurer, in the chair, and full committee. The draw for the handsome picture in gilt frame, presented by Greville Fennell, Esq., in aid of the funds of the Anglers' Benevolent Society took place in the committee room. There were 275 tickets sold; the winning number is 33. The person holding that ticket can have the picture on application on Friday evening, May 12th, between 9 and 10 o'clock, at the Forester's Hall, Clerkenwell Road.—R. Ghurney, secretary.

The members' subscriptions become due on May 1, 1882. Secretaries and members are requested to forward to the general secretary forthwith, the list of names and addresses of members, with 1s. 1d., each member's subscription, on receipt of which cards of membership will be forwarded. No application for assistance can be entertained unless the annual subscription has been previously paid. N.B.—Secretaries and members are earnestly requested to use their best endeavours in soliciting donations for the society, to enable the committee to carry out the good work so successfully commenced. The committee take this opportunity to acknowledge with thanks, the generous assistance afforded by several angling societies, and notably by the Gresham Angling Society and the Richmond Piscatorial Society, in making special collections at their respective club houses.—R. Ghurney, general secretary, 10, Baches Street, Charles-square, Hoxton, N. P.S.—Donation boxes for club rooms may be had on application to the general secretary.

BATTERSEA ANGLING CLUB.

This club received the second return visit of the newly formed south-eastern district (promoted by Mr. Allen, hon. secretary of the Bermondsey Brothers), and was most successful, and five clubs were represented, viz., Bermondsey Brothers, Battersea Friendly, Peckham Brothers, Anchor and Hope, and Angler's Pride, the Bermondsey Brothers attending in force in a brake and pair, over fifty angling visitors being present. Mr. H. W. Payne, Battersea Friendly, in the chair, Mr. Mills of the Bermondsey Bros. in the vice. The harmony was well carried out by Messrs. Payne, Mills, Norten, Webb, Page, Howell, Conn, Mitchell, Herbert, Newton, &c., Mr. Welsh giving some excellent solos on the violin, all present spending a most enjoyable evening. At the close of the meeting, the chairman, in the name of the Battersea Friendly, thanked the visitors for supporting them in such numbers, and assured them the Battersea Friendly would always return it in the same spirit. Mr. Allen, in replying, said the next visit would be to the Anchor and Hope the first week in June.

BRENTFORD PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Our first annual dinner will be held at the Waggon and Horses, Kew Bridge, on Thursday, May 11, at seven p.m., when Kenneth Montgomery, Esq., has kindly consented to take the chair, and T. Layton, Esq., the vice-chair.—J. H. White, hon. sec.

May 4.

BRUNSWICK PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The first annual dinner of the above society will take place at the Brunswick Arms, Brunswick Street, Stamford Street, S.E., on Wednesday next, at eight o'clock. Gentlemen wishing to partake of same are requested to write to the secretary. Tickets, 3s. each.—Esox Lucius.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The usual meeting of this society on Thursday evening was very pleasantly diversified, Mr. Jardine giving a most humorous account of his angling exploits, from the time he was seven years of age. It is needless to say that with his elocutionary talent he detailed a series of adventures, such as fall to the lot of no ordinary angler. His remarks were all impromptu, and he related his experiences on the Darent and elsewhere, teeming with anecdotes which greatly amused and were fully appreciated. Mr. Harker (City toastmaster), who was present, also added some remarks, which were equally welcome. The result of Mr. Jardine's speech was that Captain Alfred promised a paper quickly "On Barbel Fishing," and several other papers are to be shortly given. The members are fully occupied with the trout, and Mr. Young brought up a very nice show, taken on Thursday in the Darent, giving additional interest to the meeting. The proceedings closed with a hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Lloyd for the very able manner in which he had occupied the chair.

HOXTON BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The next complimentary visit of angling societies will take place at the Cherry Tree, Kingsland Road, Shoreditch, on Monday, May 15th, 1882, when we hope to have the favour of your company and as many of your members as can make it convenient to attend.—R. Ghurney, sec.

KINGFISHER ANGLING SOCIETY.

I am very pleased to inform you that we have had several very fine trout weighed, eleven fish in all, the smallest scaled 2 lb. 3½ oz.—G. A.

UNITED BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our first annual dinner took place on Wednesday, the 26th, when a most enjoyable evening was spent by all members and friends present. The dinner was placed on the table by our host, Mr. W. Wood, in an excellent manner, and ample justice wes done to it by every one. The chair was occupied by the chairman of the society, Mr. W. Belton, and the vice-chair by Mr. F. Watts. The harmony of the evening was very good, some capital songs were given by the following members and friends:—Messrs. W. Belton, F. Watts, H. Tyler, W. Bathe, Bros. Currans, F. Pierce, Cook, Booth, Avery, A. Fox, and a host of others too numerous to mention. During the evening the chairman presented a very handsome pair of vases to our respected host, Mr. W. Wood, for his kindness to the members generally during the time the club has been held at his house; the members and friends then stood up and drank Mr. Wood's health with musical honours. Mr. Wood then replied in a few but well-chosen words. Harmony was resumed and kept up till Act of Parliament compelled us to finish one of the most pleasant evenings it has been my lot to enjoy. Mr. B. Gaston presided at the piano with his usual ability.—W. Belton.

May 4.

SCOTCH ANGLING CLUBS.

Jedburg (Roxburghshire) Angling Association.—The annual competition was held on Monday, when the following prizes were awarded:—1, Adam Oliver, dyer; 2, David Douglas, surfaceman; 3, T. Ellis, shoemaker; 4, Andrew Watson, cabinetmaker; 5, A. S. Young, bootmaker; 6, James Young, Handlies Smithy.

Greenlaw (Berwickshire) Angling Club.—On Saturday the spring competition of this club took place. The streams were in good condition, and there were some fair takes. The following were the prize-takers:—1, W. Cook, 7 lb. 11 oz.; 2, J. Foster, 7 lb. ½ oz.; 3, W. Douglas, 6 lb. 12½ oz; 4, D. Leitch, 5 lb. 8 oz.; 5, J. Emand, 4 lb. 3½ oz.; 6, W. Stark, 3 lb. 15½ oz.; 7, M. Leitch, 3 lb. 11 oz. There were eleven entries, and the total weight of fish caught was 46 lb. 5 oz.

YORKSHIRE NOTES.

A Fine Trout.—A fine trout of 2 lb. 2 oz. has recently been caught in the canal at Gargrave by a Skipton angler.

The Cod Beck.—This stream is a tributary of the Swale, and the fish therein appear to be both numerous and fine. One has lately been secured which weighed nearly 3 lb., and even larger fish are supposed to be waiting the skill of the angler to capture them.

The Aire.—The water has of late been running rather high, but some nice fish have been taken with the minnow.

The Wharfe.—The Wharfe has been in capital trim, and the fish are beginning to rise very freely at the fly; the best dish that I have yet heard of was secured by Mr. Jas. Holmes, of Addingham, who caught on Tuesday in last week, sixty-one fine-conditioned fish. He returned, in addition to these, about twenty under eight inches long.

The Greta and Doe.—These streams are in the neighbourhood of Ingleton, and some splendid sport is being had thereon. Mr. J. Barrow, of Ingleton Hall, caught ten trout, which weighed 8 lb., some time ago; and Messrs. Cragg and Darwin had over 14 lb., some of which were over 1 lb. in weight.

The Swale and Yore.—Good catches continue to be made on the upper reaches of these rivers, both with minnow and worm, and the fish are beginning to rise more freely at the fly. The March brown continues to be the first favourite; but other good flies, particularly for May, are Ford's favourite, light woodcock and Royal Charlie. Some good sport has been had by the members of the Hawes Association. But the finest fish yet reported has been caught by Mr. John Metcalfe; this trout was 19 inches long, 11 inches in circumferenee, and weighed over 2¼ lb. It was quite a model of beauty, and in fine condition. This neighbourhood is well worth a visit by tourist anglers, and the charges for tickets are very moderate.

Thomas Ford.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

IMPORTANT TO ALL TROUT ANGLERS.

The Trent Fishery Board and the Derbyshire Wye.

Sir,—It will be seen from the subjoined reports taken from the *Derbyshire Times* and the *Manchester City News* that a case of great importance to anglers, not only those who fish the Wye, but many other streams similarly situated with respect to salmon rivers, will shortly come before the Court of Appeal for decision.

His Grace the Duke of Rutland's Fisheries on the Wye, extending from Bakewell to Rowsley, and on the Lathkill, have been made and preserved; breeding ponds and weirs have been constructed, and the whole kept in their present efficient state at His Grace's sole charge and expense, and, as stated in *The Field*, the assumption by the Trent Fishing Board of a jurisdiction over these waters has caused much irritation to owners as well as to the public who have, through the Duke's courtesy, enjoyed the privilege of angling for so long a time. It is even said to be probable, that should the right to interfere be made good by the Board, the fishery will be entirely closed to the public. The interference of the Board, too, is not confined to the Bakewell Fishery, but extends to the source of the Wye at Buxton.

It may be urged that the payment of a shilling annual license is but a small matter, which no angler can reasonably object to, and which is not worth fighting about, but it must be borne in mind that the Board in its statement to the bench of magistrates said that the license was not claimed for the purpose of improving or watching the water (that being already efficiently done), but for the purpose of raising funds to carry out their own work on the Trent. On this point the *Derbyshire Times* says:—

"Although an appeal has been lodged to take the case to a superior court I venture to think the decision a just one. As I understand it, the main reason of the existence of the Trent Conservators is to preserve the salmon in that river, but as we have no salmon in the Wye I do not see why the Conservators want to interfere with our river. Unless indeed it be that they wish to derive a certain revenue from it."

It must also be remembered that if the right to levy a license is conceded, the price will in all probability rise from a shilling to the full amount allowed by the law, namely, ten shillings, and that it is really the principle of the matter that is in contention and not the amount.

It was thus written about in *The Field* by Mr. Francis Francis, October 15th, 1881:—

"By the way, you have now to take a shilling license to fish here (Bakewell), for, though it is many miles above the point where any salmon ever penetrates, the unfortunate trout angler is mulcted in order to pay the wages of the Trent Board's bailiffs miles and miles away below. This is regarded as a pure robbery by Act of Parliament, and has caused the greatest dissatisfaction. It is a straining of the law which never ought to have been permitted."

The case against Mr. Reid, which was decided in his favour by the magistrates, and which is about to come before the Court of Appeal, will be an appeal against the decision of the bench, and not against Mr. Reid, the defendant in the original case. It becomes, therefore, a public matter which Mr. Reid, who has done his part at his own personal risk, cannot be expected to follow up. It is at the same time most advisable in the public behalf, that counsel should be present in Mr. Reid's right, particularly so as the magistrates, having no special interest in upholding their decision, will probably not be represented, and the Trent Board certainly must and will.

Believing that the case ought to be taken up as a public one, the following gentlemen have formed themselves into a committee, with power to add to their number, for the purpose of obtaining subscriptions to meet the costs that will be incurred in taking the above-mentioned course, and will be glad to be allowed to add your name, with such subscription as you may think fit to give.

Subscriptions will be received by the treasurer or any member of the Provisional Committee, to be in part returned (*pro rata*) if the amount received, as may reasonably be expected, exceeds the sum required to conduct the case.

Abel Heywood, jun., hon. sec., pro tem.

Provisional Committee:—Chas. Estcourt, F.C.S., Chairman, Colonel John Mawson, C.E., Francis Francis, R. B. Marston, Alfred Jardine, J. O. Mackenzie, Thomas Harker, David Reid, James Reaper, Thomas Fildes, G. S. Woolley, 69, Market Street, treasurer. Abel Heywood, jun., 3, Wellington Street, Higher Broughton, Manchester, hon. sec.

P.S.—The following report appeared in the *Derbyshire Times*:—"A gentleman, Mr. David Reid, of Manchester, was summoned at the instance of the Trent Fishery Conservators for attempting to catch trout from the river Wye at Bakewell, on the 1st of April last. Mr. Eddowes, of Derby, appeared on behalf of the Trent Conservators, and Mr. Simpson (Simpson and Hockin), solicitors, Manchester, was for the defendant. The case excited considerable interest. Mr. Eddowes, in opening the case, said that the proceedings had been taken by the Conservators of the Trent Fishery district in order to establish their right in that part of the district in reference to the trout licenses. The Conservators had under their care some 400 miles of water, and for the purpose of protecting the fish they employed almost fifty water bailiffs, all of whom were solely engaged in watching the waters up and down the district. Besides them there were about forty distributors of licenses, one of whom could be found in nearly every place of importance. Notwithstanding that it still appeared that in some districts it was contended that a license was unnecessary, and these proceedings were now taken not so much to punish the defendant as to vindicate the authority of the board. The board had been at great expense in giving full notice in warning people that licenses were necessary before people went angling in the rivers comprised in the board's district. The licenses were issued for the first time last year, and during the year the board felt it would be unfair to proceed against any party for not having a license, insomuch as they might have acted in ignorance of the law. The board felt it would be unjust in the first instance, especially toward gentlemen who came from a distance, to proceed against them unless they had been fairly and reasonably warned of the existence of the law. After a few further remarks, Mr. Eddowes concluded by putting in a certificate defending the limits of the Trent fishery district, which included the 'Trent and its tributaries.' He then shewed that the act passed for the protection of salmon had, by the Fresh Water Fisheries Act, 41 and 42 Vic., 1878, section 7, been extended so as to include trout and char, and therefore the only further duty for him to undertake was to prove the defendant was fishing without a license. Isaac Hall: I am a water bailiff in the service of the Trent Fishery Board. It is my duty to traverse the streams in the neighbourhood of the Trent. My attention was particularly drawn to this neighbourhood at about Easter. On the 1st of April I saw defendant fishing with rod and line. He was fly-fishing. There are trout in the stream. I asked him if he had a license, and he said, 'No, I do not believe in them.' I then asked him to give me his name and address, and he did so. He asked me for the name and address of my master, and I gave it to him. Cross-examined: I did not produce my authority to him. I have a special authority as water bailiff. Mr. Simpson: Did he not ask you for some information as to these licenses? Witness: I do not know that he did. Mr. Simpson; Did he ask you to inform Mr. Eddowes that he wanted further information as to these licenses? Witness: I cannot remember that he did. I took his name and address. This concluded the evidence. Mr. Simpson, in defence, pointed out at some length that the Act of Parliament authorising the existence of the Trent Conservators merely gave them authority over the Trent and its tributaries. He contended that the Wye was not a tributary of the Trent in the sense indicated by the Act of Parliament, which must be construed strictly. The Wye was a tributary of the Derwent, which was a tributary of the Trent, but if the Wye was to be called a tributary of the Trent, why, then, the Conservators would have power over every little brook that ran into the Wye, and so on *ad infinitum*. In support of this agreement, the learned gentleman quoted the case of Merrick *v.* Cudwalladar and another (December 7th, 1881), which was a very similar one to the present one, but which was dismissed by the judges. This concluded the case, and the magistrates retired for consultation. After about half-an-hour's absence, they returned, and the Chairman said that they had decided that the Wye was not a tributary of the Trent within the meaning of the Act, and was therefore outside the jurisdiction of the Conservators. The case was therefore dismissed. Mr. Simpson applied for costs, which were allowed. Mr. Eddowes gave notice of appeal to the Court of Queen's Bench. Three other similar cases were adjourned for three months, awaiting the decision of the appeal case. This case concluded the business of the Court."—*Derbyshire Times*. A. H.

[We have elsewhere referred to this important matter.—Ed.]

HAIR AND SILK PLAITED AND TAPERED FLY LINES *v.* WATERPROOF SILK LINES.

Sir,—I have subscribed to your Fishing Gazette ever since its publication, and have read the various articles and notes with great pleasure In perusing in your number of April 29th a note, "Scotch Loch Fishing," by one of the Western Angling Club of Glasgow, signed "Black Palmer," published by Messrs. W. Blackwood and Sons, Edinburgh, I read in your notes—your criticism of the above little work—you do not agree with him in his choice of fly lines, viz., hair and silk, which, in your opinion, is a hybrid and vexatious nuisance, compared with waterproof silk lines. Kindly accept the enclosed line made by myself, and which was originally invented by one of the best fishing-tackle makers in the world, and I should say the most celebrated fly-maker, named John Morley, 23, Carrington Street, Nottingham, my predecessor. In justice to myself, allow me to say I have been a practical angler with the fly for upwards of forty years, and have used, and at present make, all kinds of lines, and must say that I never used a line possessing the qualities required in a fly line—stiffness, lightness, and buoyancy, like hair and silk plaited and tapered.—I am, &c.,

Charles Jackson.

Piscatorial Depot, 23, Carrington Street, Nottingham.

[We should be sorry to pretend our judgment of the best make of fly-line was infallible. We know many anglers swear by the silk and hair line, but we generally find they have never tried a really good whole-silk braided line properly dressed. We shall give Mr. Jackson's line a good trial; and if we find his make possesses any peculiar advantages, we will acknowledge them.—Ed.]

FISHING AT BRUNDALL-ON-THE-YARE.

Sir,—Perhaps it would be interesting to our brothers of the angle residing in London to hear that Host Brown, of the Coldham Hall Inn, near Brundall, is having extensive alterations to meet the requirements of anglers residing at a distance that may favour him with their patronage this season for a few days' fishing.

A new wing is being added to this already commodious hostelry for the convenience of anglers, and more boats are being added to his now large fleet.

I was down at Brundall the other day. Host Brown informed me that splendid catches of roach had been taken in the Strumpshaw reach and down towards Buckenham. It happened to be a very wet day when there; but, as usual, Brown in his obliging manner made me very comfortable. What a contrast, I thought, between Host Brown's interior, with a beautiful glowing fire, to the new fishing station; which, from a distance, looked to me like a couple of wooden huts on a bog? I do not think our London friends can beat the old fishing station after all—good accommodation, good beer, and, above all, good whisky. —I am, &c.,

A Visitor.

FLY-FISHING IN STILL WATER.

Sir,—Your anonymous correspondent I think errs to some extent when he informs your readers that the fly should be kept motionless in still, or log-water. Now, there are two departments of fly-fishing in which I take infinite pleasure, namely, that which deals with beguiling fish in burns that are alternations of rapids and excessively still water, and that which has to do with the fly-fishing of larger rivers, in deep pools during clear, dead-low water; yet, not only do I experience a delight in this kind of fishing, but, also, I have at one time or another had a great deal of practice in these departments. It thus happens that, while I endorse your correspondent's method of allowing the fly to be still or sink gradually in the water after the moment of alighting, which period is the most deadly of the whole cast, yet I cannot assent to more, for after the flies have sunk to a depth sufficient to prevent the production of ripples on the surface of the pool, when movement is imparted to the lure, the artificial representation may with advantage be manœuvred, either by a slow quivering motion, or by a more quick darting action—the first is, as a rule, to be preferred, when the lure may be mistaken for a small beetle or heavy fly moving a trifle below the surface, which has fallen from the branches above. In relation to the trout swimming about in schools, and emitting bubbles, I do not deny that this may have been a fact; but such appearances are much more applicable to dace, bleak, or even chub. Trout, on the other hand, are usually almost stationary, each being sentinel to its own area, and feeding in a very limited region; whilst the bubble-emitting trout that are observed when the days are hot and the water low are in the most part tenacious occupiers of some fixed lair.—I am, &c.,

The Raven.

[Trout certainly do not swim in schools like dace or roach, but we think our correspondent merely meant to indicate that a number of fish were roving about at the surface; and in still water trout will roam all over the place, as we have often noticed.—Ed.]

VARNISHING RODS.—BREEDING AND KEEPING WORMS.

Sir,—Will some of your numerous readers kindly give me instructions and information for varnishing a bamboo-rod ?

I last year did it with two coats of coachbuilders' varnish, but it brittled off in places, and was too glaring in the sun. I have just taken it off with sandpaper, and fancy the rod should now be sized before being again varnished. One joint is much lighter than the other—how can I darken it ?

Shall also be greatly obliged for any information as to breeding and keeping worms, particularly brandlings.—I am, &c., A. J. Ecclestone.

2, York Road, Great Yarmouth.

EELS AND THE MUNDELLA ACT.

Sir,—I am desired by the secretary of the St. Ives and District Angling Society to request you will be good enough to state for the benefit of that and similar associations :—

(1) Whether eels are considered freshwater fish in rivers ?

(2) Whether the gleaving for eels is prohibited during the close season in rivers ?

(3) Whether the catching of eels is allowed in any way during the closed season ?

(4) Whether an angling society can prosecute for gleaving in water hired by them during the closed season ?—I am, &c., Tom Adams.

St. Ives, April 28.

[We have frequently answered this query about the eel. There is no doubt whatever, it is *not* protected by the Mundella Act, and any one who can *prove* that he is eel-fishing is all right. The difficulty is that some magisterial decisions have refused to accept the angler's assertion that, when using ledger and lobworm, he was only eel-fishing. If otherwise legitimate, gleaving, eel-sets, eel-baskets, &c., are not interfered with by the Act. It is absurd to interfere with eel-fishers, and thus protect that voracious, rapacious, never-satiated ova and fry destroyer, the eel! It is like putting a cover over your tarts to keep the flies off, while you let the mice and rats in underneath. The eel feeds at night, and is rarely seen in the daytime, otherwise anglers would not want to protect him as well as their beloved roach, &c. !—Ed.]

THE NAVAL AND SUBMARINE EXHIBITION.

Sir,—Herewith you will find the names of the successful competitors in the competition for the prizes given at the late Naval Exhibition.

Re next Exhibition.—On account of the great interest taken in the late Exhibition, another will be held in a shorter time than was anticipated, viz., two years hence, about May, 1884. All particulars can be had on application.—I am, &c., Samson Barnett, jun., per R.H.

(Copy of letter from Committee of Award of Prizes.)

"Blackheath, April 21, 1882.

"Sir,—Having at your request undertaken to act as judges for awarding prizes at the late Naval Exhibition held at the Agricultural Hall, viz., a prize of 100 guineas for the best means of saving life in cases of shipwreck, and a second prize of 50 guineas for the best invention of a humane character connected with seafaring, we beg to state that after a careful examination of all the exhibits brought to our notice with the objects on view—

"We award the 100-guinea prize to Mr. R. Roper, stand No. 82, for his 'bridge raft,' as affording the readiest means seen by us, in case of shipwreck, of saving collectively a large number of persons and supporting them above water for a lengthened period.

"The 50-guinea prize to Messrs. J. and A. W. Birt, stand No. 309, for their contrivances of cork mattresses, hammocks, cushions, seats, &c.. for supporting individually, persons in the water till further assistance can be rendered.

"We beg to remain, yours faithfully,
(Signed) Henry Boys (Vvice-Admiral).
Digby Murray.
A. W. A. Hood (Vice-Admiral).

"Samson Barnett, jun , Esq., 4, Westminster
Chambers, S.W."

TWAITE SHAD.

Sir,—I see in a copy of the Fishing Gazette, April 1, mention made of a Twaite shad being obtained and believed to be the largest specimen, the weight of it being 2½ lb. I beg to inform you that the one in Mr. Buckland's museum is 6 lb. 2 oz.—I am, Sir, yours obediently, Richard Edon.

Museum of Fish Culture, South Kensington.

May, 4. 1882.

GROSS WEIGHT *v.* SPECIMEN FISH.

Sir,—I have watched with interest the correspondence that has appeared in the Fishing Gazette, and I think that correspondents ought to be fair towards one another, which does not seem to be the case of Mr. T. Crumplen towards J. M. D., who says (so far as I can understand), that a member of his club weighed-in a gross weight and got a prize, and also weighed-in some of the same fish as specimens at the Gresham, which T. C. says were two distinct takes, and weighed-in in each case to one club only, when in reality the same fish were weighed-in to both clubs, according to J. M. D.'s statement of April 15. Again, if we refer to the Fishing Gazette of January 7, page 3, we shall find a splendid take of pike by two members of the Gresham—ten fish weighing over 140 lb., besides thirty other fish under 8 lb. each. And, again, if he will turn to the Fishing Gazette of February 18, he will find another great take of pike by members of the Gresham; thirty pike were taken in five hours, eighteen of which were brought to the Gresham as specimens, two of the heaviest weighing 21½ lb. and 17 lb., the remaining nine going only 48 lb. Now, does Mr. T. Crumplen call nine fish weighing 48 lb. specimens ?—averaging not 5½ lb. Also, if the members advocate specimen fishing, why did not they return to the water all those fish, except the two largest ? Can Mr. Crumplen call the two cases I mention anything else but gross weight takes ?—if so, I fail to see what gross weight is. A pike of 5½ lb. is no more a specimen than a roach of 6 oz. or a dace of 4 oz. in comparison. Now if it were a usual thing for anglers to take 10 lb. of roach or 40 lb. of pike every time they go out, then they could well afford to return all the small ones; but such is not the case, as anglers know very well. So that, when they do get a good catch they like to keep them. Of course, I do not advocate keeping roach and dace that take sixteen to weigh a pound. Anglers, as a rule, in this neighbourhood (and they are not a few) return all the small fish they take, or put them in the bait tin for jack fishing. I think J. M. D. will be backed up by anglers, who not only believe in weighing in gross weight, but by those who are outspoken and practise what they preach. In conclusion, may I kindly ask Mr. T. Crumplen to show us in practice what they advocate in theory ? Thanks for space, &c.—I am, &c., T. Fudge.

New Cheltenham Place, Kingswood, near Bristol, April 22.

GROSS WEIGHT *v.* SPECIMEN FISH.

Sir,—To the ordinary reader, this question, no doubt, appears to lie in a nutshell, but each week one or more side-issues involved in it crop up, and prove how very much the subject required ventilation; nevertheless, I fail to see what good purpose can be served by "Mark Antony's" repetitions of Trent-side trickery. As it is, I can only wonder why our friend has hidden his light under a bushel so many years, instead of joining some club, and endeavouring by his influence to raise the standard of angling morality in his district. Surely there are some honest members of the craft in the Midlands who would even now join heartily in such a laudable cause; however, as I am unacquainted with that portion of the country, I will leave the matter to those whose knowledge gives them a better right to speak.

You, Mr. Editor, very properly tell our "ancient Roman" that the Larkhall anglers are "above suspicion," and to that statement I do not hesitate to add, so are the majority of London angling clubs; indeed, this is so patent a fact that I only repeat it for the special benefit of "Mark Antony," who is quite welcome to all the other information I have given him respecting the anglers of this big village. If space permitted, I should be happy to still further enlighten him on a subject of which he does not appear to have mastered even the alphabet.

Mr. Crumplen accuses me of "cleverly diverting attention from the point at issue"—an undeserved compliment as applied to myself, but one which I return to him as its rightful owner. There is not the slightest need to divert attention from my cause—the gross-weight system: it is too well established to need any such bolstering up; on the other hand, I can well understand how anxious he is to hide the ugly fact that any members of the Gresham, who also belong to gross-weight societies—and I believe there are many such—can catch and weigh-in at those gross-weight clubs anything above the Thames and Lea standards, so long as they make their appearance once now and then at the City of London Tavern with a few "specimens," and, as it were, receive absolution for all past, present, and future gross-weight misdeeds. They can then sit down to their annual dinner with a light heart, receive the congratulations of an unsuspecting chairman, and, like the Pharisees of old, thank goodness they are not as other men.

It is all very well for Mr. Crumplen to assume blissful ignorance as to the doings of his members; but, if only one Gresham angler weighs-in gross-weights at another society, what becomes of one of the avowed objects of the Gresham, viz., "the abolition of gross-weight competitions"? Of course, Mr. Crumplen will tell me he cannot help what is done by other societies; but, in my humble opinion, if the gross-weight system is so very reprehensible, the Gresham should never have accepted as members men belonging to clubs where it is in vogue.

I do not deny the fact that the members of the Highbury Angling Society are quite as capable as those of the Gresham of taking large fish when they get the chance; but, as I have said before, the Highbury Anglers as a body, and many others of the same class, do not often get the chance, and even the member in question has not repeated his brilliant performance, I suppose for the simple reason that, like many more of us, he cannot often get away from town for two or three days' fishing. The exception taken to my logic savours very much of the "abuse of the other side's attorney" recommended to an advocate with a bad case; but in plain truth, I am too sensible of my literary shortcomings to aim at much more than a plain statement of facts, my sole object being to defend the ordinary gross-weight angler, who is at least equal in sportmanlike feeling and behaviour to many of those who make him the object of their censure.

Let me in conclusion metaphorically shake hands with "A Working-man Angler," whose ideas, with which I entirely concur, are expressed with a force and conciseness I can but despairingly admire. His letter is worthy the careful consideration of those would-be angling reformers, who would condemn and inconvenience the many for the sins of the few.—I am, &c. J. M. D.

Highbury Angling Society.

SPECIMEN FISH *v.* GROSS WEIGHT PRIZES.

Sir,—In reply to "A Working-man Angler," who asks if I should not feel proud to see my name to such a take, viz., "fifty trout weighing about 30 lb.," I hope he will not think me wanting in courtesy if I tell him that I fear his remarks are quite outside the question under discussion. It would afford me very great pleasure indeed to have such a good take of trout. But—please pay attention—it would very much depend upon *where* they were caught, whether I should have feelings of "pride" or shame. Just fancy the amount of insensibility necessary in the individual who had the audacity to show "fifty trout, weighing about 30 lb.," from the Thames or the Colne! I should also like to remind him that the question is not the number of fish an angler may take, but the wisdom of clubs in offering money prizes for the depletion of public angling waters. I would also ask him to re-peruse correspondence in Fishing Gazette of Feb. 18th, 1882, signed, "Creel," and "G. A."

J. M. D. is remarkably clever in discovering my "Hibernianism," and I think very much more so in evading the chief questions put. I fail in seeing in any of his replies anything in favour of the continuation of the giving of money prizes for the greatest weight of fish shown in clubs, but I am certain that what has been said against the practice can be multiplied again and again. One question, and I shall have done with these queer matters this time. Is it not true that the person who first introduced money prizes in angling clubs was the first to be expelled therefrom ? One more—I really cannot help it—Is it not true that, some time ago, when the club standards were much lower than they are at the present time, and the necessity for Parliamentary and other interference had not been seen, that a member of a club (in which the limit of weight of roach was 3 oz.) weighed about 80 lb. of them, from a wellknown swim, not a hundred miles from Datchet, and that 30 lb. out of the 80 lb. would not weigh ? These fish could not have been used for food, seeing where they came from, and were only taken to gratify the sight of his "Fellows" and convince them that he "had them on." Now if this was a fact, was it not, also, part of the process of depletion ?

J. M. D. may rest assured that his expressions of friendship for my humble self are duly returned with interest; in proof of which I venture to hope, not "prophesy" mind, that although not a little bit of paint is yet off the "nose" of his "idol," I may live to see the "dear old creature" without a head, If J. M. D. is really serious in his desire to know how a "bank angler" can keep the fish he catches alive until he "packs up," perhaps the following simple contrivance may please him; if not, it may be useful to others. Take an old mackintosh, if you have one that is useless for the original purpose intended, or buy a piece of new about 30 inches long, by 28 inches wide; the size is immaterial so long as you have it large enough to hold the anticipated "take." Now, having procured the material the size required and sufficiently strong, get about three dozen brass eyelets, such as are found in your watertight boots, and put them into the mackintosh in regular order, commencing about 1½ inches from the sides, or narrowest part, and about 2 inches from the bottom of the deepest part, leaving about 6 inches without holes at the top of the piece; double the piece and stitch it down the long side and the end where the eyelets are nearest the edge. You will then have a perforated bag 30 inches long and 14 inches wide. Put a runner of good water cord or strong jack line round the top of the bag. Now buy two small canes, such as are sold at toy-shops for a hal'penny or a penny each, cut them so that each one is twice the width of the bag when the sides are close together; now fit a short ferrule to each piece; lay each piece of cane in hot water for a few minutes, then pull them round so that both ends meet within the ferrule. You then have two rings of cane the same size. Strain a piece of mackintosh over one, just like the paper cover of a jampot, and also put a loop of cord at the edge, and exactly opposite fasten a piece of wide tape. Three pieces of tape must also be sewn by their centres to the top of the bag under the runner at equal distances apart. The application.—Tie the uncovered ring inside the bag securely by the three tapes to the mouth of the bag, secure the bag to a piece of cord long enough to reach the water from the bank, tie on the cover with piece of tape, which forms a joint; a piece of string attached to the loop, on the other edge of cover, completes the whole arrangement, with the exception of dropping plummet, or stone, into the bag to keep the bottom of it below the surface of the water, and the most important one, viz., making it secure to the bank. I advise mackintosh as the most suitable material on account of its strength, opacity, and the speed with which the angler can pack it, dry outside and fish inside, into his box or bag. It can be made in less time than this description has kept me occupied in writing it, and will cost the angler a few pence only. I have forgotten to say that the cord should be doubled and the ends thereof secured to opposite sides of the bag, so as to hold the mouth in a horizontal position when in the water, and that the top of the bag should be about 6 inches from the surface of the water. When in use the holes in the bag are to allow the water to flow through the cover to keep out the light and keep the fish quiet. I have been profuse in the description to enable the least skilful angler to make or obtain one. It must be obvious that at the end of the sport the bag may be emptied on to the bank, the undersized fish returned, and that the fish retained will weigh more than they would if killed early in the day. In conclusion, allow me to say that I hope those who may use this bag will call it the J. M. D. "Honour to whom honour is due."—I am, &c.,

KINGFISHER.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

THE monthly and annual meeting of the United London Anglers' Central Committee, took place at the Bald Faced Stag, Worship Square, Finsbury, on Monday evening last; in the absence of Mr. S. Morgan, who was representing the London angling interest at the Edinburgh Exhibition, Mr. Metcalfe was voted to the chair.

After the Secretary, Mr. R. Ghurney, had read the minutes of the previous meeting, the same had been confirmed, and several letters from the secretaries of the West Central and Central Association, concerning privilege tickets and the renting of waters, read and duly discussed, Mr. R. Murphy brought forward the question of the public right of fishing in about 1⅓ miles of the River Lea Navigation, viz., from Carthagena Weir Lock to Dobson's Weir Lock, in which Mr. Benningfield claims the right of private fishery. Much interesting discussion took place concerning this water; but ultimately it was wisely decided to ask the representatives of the Lea Conservancy to receive a deputation to ask their advice and opinion previous to taking any decisive steps to test Mr. Benningfield's alleged right. The deputation appointed consisting of Messrs. Morgan, Ghurney, chairman and secretary respectively, and Messrs. Manning, Murphy, and Dymond.

In the place of Mr. George Oran, deceased, Mr. A. Clark was elected to be London honorary bailiff on the River Lea. Messrs. Pearce and Chambers were elected as auditors. Messrs. Ghurney, Morgan, Metcalfe, Aldridge and Chambers, delegates to the West Central Association of London and Provincial Angling Societies. Mr. Burden was elected to be residential Lea bailiff, and bids fair to make an excellent one. The election of chairman stands adjourned until next monthly night. Some routine business was then transacted, the meeting terminating with a vote of thanks to the chairman for the capital manner in which he had conducted the business of the evening.

Mr. P. Geen (ticket No. 33) wins the handsome framed oil painting kindly presented to the Anglers' Benevolent by Mr. Greville Fennell, and raffled by them on the Art Union principle, for the benefit of the funds.

There will be a committee meeting of the East and West Central Association, at the Portman Arms, Great Quebec Street, on Friday next, when matters of the gravest importance will be brought on for discussion. It is earnestly hoped every committeeman who can possibly do so will attend.

The West Central Association Railway Privilege Card for the coming season will be, what it has never been before, really pretty and artistic. Mr. Harding, of 157, Piccadilly, a member of the Gresham Angling Society, who turns out nothing but first-rate original work, has the matter in hand; and I think we may rest perfectly satisfied, will execute for us something really neat and tasty—something the piscator can while away the time with by taking out of his pocket and gazing upon when the fish go dead off the feed.

The annual dinner of the Hammersmith United Angling Society, on Thursday evening, April 27th, was a perfect success. Host and Hostess Green put a capital repast on the table. With Messrs. Geen and Hoole in the chair and vice-chair, respectively, things were bound to go, and did go, "merry as a marriage bell."

Among the visitors were Messrs. Wheeldon, Brougham, Nuttall, Dickinson, Gaunt, Cooper, Griffiths, L. Bonvoisin, &c. A long list of toasts, and some capital songs, recitations, &c., made the evening pass only too swiftly.

On Wednesday evening, 3rd inst., the annual dinner of the Surrey Piscatorial Society took place at their home, the St. Paul's Tavern, Westmoreland Road, Walworth Road. The dinner itself was most admirably served, the *menu* being well chosen, and the whole doing great credit to Host Bansback. Mr. Duck made a capital chairman, Mr. Beckett proving an excellent *vis-a-vis*. Messrs. Wheeldon and Bonvoisin were among the guests. As the hard-working secretary, Mr. Hamlyn, will no doubt send our editor fuller details, I will only add that a most enjoyable evening was spent, and that capital speeches, toasts, songs, &c., coming in due order after a really nice dinner, contributed thereunto not a little.

USES OF THE GAFF IN ANGLING.

IT does not appear to be generally understood that snatching and the use of the gaff, or any similar instrument, such as the spear and strokeball, for the capture of trout in England and Wales is prohibited in the same manner and under the same penalties as in the case of salmon. The use of the gaff as an auxiliary to the rod and line is, however, permitted during the whole of the angling season, except in those cases where the Local Boards of Conservators have made a special bye-law on the subject. The following table has been prepared as a useful addition to the table of close seasons published in the FISHING GAZETTE on the 4th ult. It shows the periods during which the use of the gaff is allowed in salmon angling in those districts in which its use is not permitted during the whole angling season. It does not apply to trout. In all other districts the gaff may be used during the whole angling season.

Avon and Ermes.—1 April to 30 September.
Camel.—1 May to 30 September.
Conway.—1 May to 31 October.
Dart.—2 April to 31 October.
Derwent (Cumberland).—1 July to 1 November.
Dovey, Mawddach, and Glaslyn, 31 May to 20 October.
Eben, Esk, Mite, Irt, and Calder.—1 July to 31 October.
Eden.—1 July to 1 Nov.
Exe.—2 March to 30 September.
Kent.—2 June to 31 October.
Rhymney.—1 May to 1 November.
Ribble.—1 May to 1 November.
Seiont, Llyfni, and Ogmore.—2 March to 1 November.
Taff and Ely.—1 June to 1 November.
Taw and Torridge.—1 June to 15 November.
Teign.—3 March to 1 September.
Usk and Ebbw.—Below a line drawn from the north boundary of the west district along the eastern watershed of the Honddu to Llanvaes Bridge at Brecon, and thence along the eastern watershed of the Tarell to the southern boundary of the district, 1 May to 1 November. Above said line 1 May to 1 September.
Irze.—10 March to 1 September.
Yorkshire.—1 May to 1 November.

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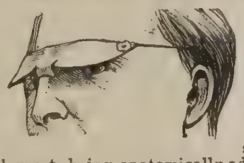

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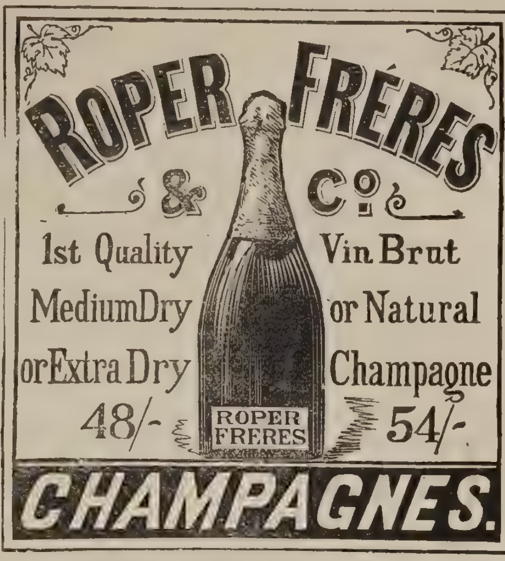

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Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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N.B.—All Remittances must be sent, and all Cheques and Money Orders must be made payable to Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston and Co., the Proprietors.

The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, MAY 13, 1882.

TROUT-FISHING ON LOCH LEVEN.

By R. B. Marston.

LEAVING Edinburgh soon after six in the morning, after many changes, I found myself at Leven Station about nine. I walked down to the landing-stage as fast as possible to secure a boat, but Captain Hall informed me that there was a Glasgow and West of Scotland trout-fishing competition to be held that day, and that every boat was engaged. I felt somewhat "too late for the fair," and could not resist the wish that one of the competitors would get a telegram requiring his presence to receive a fortune. I ascertained from Captain Hall that no one is allowed to fish from the bank, or even from the landing-stage; the reason given being, that if visitors were permitted so to fish the natives could not be stopped. I should mention that the fishing in Loch Leven is leased to a company, who pay a large sum annually as rent. Captain Hall has the management of the boats, and a most civil, pleasant and efficient manager he is. There was much bustle going on along the long landing-stage. Quite an army of piscators were gradually filling the twenty-four immense boats of the company, each boat being manned by two boatmen, and one angler took a place in the bow and the other in the stern. I thought I recognised a face under a big, soft felt hat, and was delighted to find it was Mr. Francis Francis.

"Holloa! Mr. Francis, I thought you were back in London?" "Holloa! Mr. M.; who'd have thought of seeing you here?" Mr. F. then introduced me to some of the Scotch anglers, and informed me he was going to have a go in the competition. "Have you got a boat?" On my replying in the negative, he told me I would certainly be unable to get one, on account of the competition. Then I came in for a slice of luck, for it turned out that Mr. F.'s companion had to leave by a midday train. "If you like to share my boat after twelve o'clock you are very welcome," said Mr. F. I need hardly say I blessed my stars and eagerly accepted the offer. "Then be down here at twelve sharp, and we shall then have the best of the day before us." Half a day with Mr. Francis was worth a whole day by myself, as he is one of the pleasantest and most genial of anglers, and I knew I should pick up a wrinkle or two from his long experience of Scotch loch fishing. Mr. F. informed me that he had got some fine trout the evening before, averaging over a pound, and some nearly two, and thought the prospects were favourable. I decided to go back to the Bridge End Hotel and have some breakfast. This done, I cast about for some fishing; and, seeing a nice little burn running into the loch, I went to ask permission of a miller to fish it, and his mill-pool. The miller is also a farmer, and I found only his wife at home. The good lady informed me that the fishing was reserved, and that only the miller could give permission. I put in a sorrowful tale of my position as a wandering Englishman, disappointed of a boat on the loch, and held out promises of a fry of fish, if I caught any. She said she would try and find the miller; but after a fruitless search she returned and told me she thought I might just fish a bit. I soon had a cast of small flies ready, and was whipping the waves of the mill-pool, for there was a splendid breeze up, when I heard the miller and his men coming up the road. Presently the miller appeared and informed me the fishing was private. I told him my tale, and he smiled and said I could fish. To my offer of any fish I might catch, he replied that I might keep them, but that if I had any success another day on the loch I could send him a brace. The mill-pool water was thick and full of weeds, and I got no fish; so perhaps the miller's hint was prophetic. I then tried the pretty little burn, and in an hour caught and returned some dozens of the weest of wee troutlings I ever saw—pretty, plucky little fellows. By the time I got down to the bridge it was just twelve, and I found Mr. Francis and his friend just coming in. They had done nothing, and had only seen two fish rise, the sun being so bright, and in Mr. F.'s opinion making a glare on the water which dazzled the fish and prevented their seeing the flies. We decided to pull off to a bay some half mile or more beyond the Castle, a venerable ruin on an island. Loch Leven is oblong in shape, about four miles long and two wide. There are some deeps, but for the most part it is very shallow. It is by no means one of the most picturesque of lochs, the surrounding country having but a few small hills to boast of. The loch has also lost a vast amount of water by drainage, and this gives the banks a very level, meadow-like appearance. But what it lacks in appearance it makes up in angling qualities and historical interest. Readers of Scott's "Abbot" will remember the romantic story of Queen Mary's imprisonment here and perilous escape. As an angling resort it is considered to be second to none, its trout being numerous, large, and of the most exquisite quality. "You may get more fish in some Sutherlandshire loch, but they won't compare in pluck and quality with these Loch Leven fellows," Mr. F. says, as we are rowed along. He gave me the right fly, and now we were soon on our fishing-ground, with an even depth of four to six feet of water under us and with the wind strong on our backs. Mr. Francis used a double-handed rod, and I a 10-foot single-handed one. We both fished hard, but could not get a rise for a long time. At last Mr. F. got a fish of about ¾ lb., then I hooked and lost one about the same weight. We had a long interval of fruitless casting after that, drifting broadside to the wind slowly across the loch. In this kind of casting every throw is over fresh water if the breeze is at all strong and steady;

and you simply have to throw your flies out well in front of you, and draw them back towards the boat in such a way that the bob flies dance attractively over the surface, skipping gently from wavelet to wavelet. You, of course, keep a sharp look out for a rising fish, and, if you can reach the spot, place your flies about a yard to windward of the rise as the fish work up against the wind. Mr. Francis, I was glad to see, evidently believes in a good variety of flies, and his hat was covered with them. For my own part, as I have often said, if fly-fishing were reduced to a rule-of-three system it would lose its great charm—that endless chat, discussion and speculation as to what is *the* killing fly.

The previous day Mr. F. had found the Zulu kill well and we had both tried it; he changed his cast for one with a larger set of flies on it and was soon rewarded by another fish, about the size of the first. Then we had another long spell of shifting about the loch and fruitless thrashing; the wind dropped and the sun shone out more strongly than ever. Rochefoucauld says we always feel a secret pleasure in the misfortunes of others. This is a libel on human nature in my opinion, but it is certainly true that ill-luck is not made less unpleasant by seeing your rivals in a boat, not fifty yards away, getting fish after fish when you are doing nothing. I smoked, and Mr. F. told me some of his adventures among loch trout in years gone by. We thrashed away, whistled for breezes, drew on the whisky, changed our quarters; but all to purpose, as far as rising fish went. One of the boatmen, an old hand at fly-fishing, tried my rod for half an hour, he got one rise but missed it, but the "beggars" would not "piscate worth a cuss," as Mr. F. said, quoting some Yankee angler. We saw several boats trolling, but neither of us cared for that kind of fishing. Curiously, the water was covered with cow-dung fly, and yet the fish would not look at them. I think Mr. F.'s theory about the great glare on the water, had a great deal to do with it. We had to get back by four, and at 3.30 our boatmen started and pulled hard all the two miles back. As we were going over a good deal of very deep water and the pace was so fast it was little use fly-fishing, so I put on a small Devon and let it spin behind in the hope of getting at least one fish to try the flavour at dinner. After going a mile perhaps, I felt a tug, but feeling no resistance did not trouble to pull up; then Mr. F. got a fish quite unexpectedly which, although small, fought round to my end of the boat and I had to pass my rod over Mr. F.'s for him to get the fish to the net on the other side. I then wound up and found a small but beautiful fish on which was new to me. "Ah, that's a real Leven trout—one of the aborigines," said Mr. F. It was a graceful fish, wonderfully silvery, and without the red spots; in fact, I took it to be a smolt at first. I ate it an hour afterwards, and never tasted a more delicious trout in my life. At the landing stage we found the boats coming in and Mr. McGregor, who had charge of the competition, soon began the process of weighing the takes. The best take out of the twenty-four boats was one by two anglers, who had twenty-one fish, weighing about 19 lb., the best fish I saw weighed was 3 lb. 5 oz., a real beauty; many of the boats had done nothing and the majority very little. Some of the best fish were taken by trolling. So ended my four hours' experience of Loch Leven. Although so unsuccessful, it will always be a very pleasant reminiscence for me, thanks to Mr. Francis; but for his kindness I should have had to content myself with looking at the water from the bank.

TROUT-CULTURE IN THE TRENT.

THE Birmingham Piscatorial Society, which may be described as the premier angling club of the Midlands, having its head-quarters in Birmingham, is making a vigorous and highly commendable effort to increase the supply of trout in that portion of the river at Alrewas which is rented by the society. This part of the Trent was for many years the private and specially-preserved fishing ground of Mr. Michael Bass, M.P., and it contains some of the finest grayling scours to be found in the whole course of the river, the bottom being hard gravel, stream sharp and swift, and the water free from pollution by sewage or other deleterious matter. It is no uncommon thing for grayling of a pound weight to be taken, and even occasionally some fortunate angler will succeed in landing fish of 1½ lb. to 2 lb., but these are only to be caught on red-letter days, when the conditions of weather and water are alike favourable. The same sharp waters that grayling delight in are equally adapted for trout, and there can be no reason why the Trent, or at least certain portions of it, should not afford as good trout-fishing as the Thames. Three years ago the Birmingham Piscatorial Society made an attempt to increase the supply of trout in their water by putting into a stream which was shut off from the main river by wire netting, 1000 *salmo fario*, but, unfortunately, successive floods came, and carried all into the river. It was naturally thought that all the young fry would perish, principally from the ravages of pike and perch; and, for a newly-formed society, the result was most disappointing, as it was considered by all that trouble and expense had been wasted. Last season, however, several good fish, averaging ¾ lb. each, were taken, and this season one weighing 1 lb. 8 oz. was captured; thus clearly showing that the trout which were put in three years ago were not all lost. In support of this theory, it may be mentioned that the river keeper, who has had care of the water for twenty years, has never before known trout to be taken in this particular part of the Trent. It was, perhaps, only slender encouragement; but sometimes we have to be thankful for small mercies, and so, nothing daunted, the society determined to make another attempt. Two thousand *salmo fario* were ordered from Mr. Andrews, of Guildford. Their opening career was not auspicious. They were despatched by rail from London at 8 a.m. on Saturday, April 22, and did not reach their destination until 9 a.m. on Sunday, having been carried to Trent, near Nottingham, instead of to Trent Valley Junction, Lichfield. Happily only about a dozen succumbed, although they had only received fresh water once during the twenty-four hours. But this fortunate circumstance may, in some degree, be accounted for by the extreme coldness of the weather. No time was lost in turning the young fish into their new quarters, the spots selected being the weir at the back of Alrewas Mill, and the canal weir, lying off the Burton Road. They were in a most lively condition, having all been hatched from large fish; and as soon as they touched the water they darted off and sought shelter beneath the large stones and boulders at the base of the weirs. The work was carried out under the supervision of Mr. Adams Parker, the vice-president of the society, and Mr. Edwin Hooper, solicitor, one of the most active members of the committee; and it is to be hoped that their efforts will be the foundation, at no distant future, of good trout-fishing for the members of the Birmingham Piscatorial Society in their water at Alrewas.

[The great mistake we generally make in attempting to stock our waters in this country is that we put in such ridiculously small quantities, and then wonder at getting no result. Our Birmingham friends ought to put twenty thousand fry in every year for some years.—ED.]

THOUGHTS ON THE THEORY OF FLIES.

BY ROBERT BALDERSTON.

(*Continued from page* 171.)

IN northern rapid mountain streams, fish do not use so much discrimination; as long as the bait is fly-like it is enough for the troutkins which swarm in these localities; but save when the season is declining, it is not to these diminutive fingerlings that the master turns his attention. It is towards large trout the main efforts of the old craftsman are directed. Such fish despise rude imitations; there is an intellect of high order; and experience extends through several years of an observant life. Often have the fish felt the angler's hook with worm, minnow, or fly, each at sundry times attached thereto; often have they beheld glistening gut and waving rod associated with stinging steel; and when the time of beholding comes again, the old attendant ills are not forgotten. Bygone warnings are not unheeded, for the angler and his lure are gazed on with contempt, the noble fish scorning to be deluded by such a poor and meagre imitation of the luscious fragile prey forming its daily food. It signifies little whether insectile provender be abundant or not; this is a thing which more sternly and seriously affects the smaller fry. If only the latter can exist—and live and feed they do in countless schools—all will go well with the patriarchal tribe; for, scorning ill-formed and badly manœuvred baits, the old trouts, in the absence of all other food, remorselessly essay the task of gulping down some of their younger brethren; forsooth, their own children may be thus engulphed, the cravings of a ravenous, but well restrained, hunger being satiated speedily. These facts are the eliminations of daily experience, and well known. The best angler using the best flies captures the greatest number of heavy trout, and the largest trout absolutely fall to his lot. Allusion is not here made to the isolated cases of some tyro having the unmerited good luck of encreeling a solitary unwontedly heavy fish; for trout, like men, at times do unaccountable things; and it is just as possible for there to be a demented fish mad enough to take a bungling angler's bait, as it is for human beings on sundry occasions to be subject to mental aberration. In places where there are no heavy trout, the adept with his good flies, &c., far outshines his compeers in the number of his take, whilst securing on the whole a larger growth of trout. It is not, however, to be supposed that all the difference arises from the kind of flies employed alone, for much is owing to the superiority of the angler's skill and tackle; yet a very material proportion of the whole bulk is due to excellence of mimic workmanship in the flies themselves, and the addition in average weight of fish is almost wholly owing to this particular.

From the foregoing remarks it may readily be gleaned that the occasions on which the angler's discrimination in selecting flies is most strongly called into play, are those wherein he is obliged to seek the trout either in rivers where they are scarce and gorged to satiety, or where hourly experience has taught them to be wary. Another influence likewise affects the inclination of fish; a sudden change in the temperature of the water, either to heat or cold, may cause the trout to become more or less inert and indifferent to food, at least for a time; and during such periods they become more negligent of the fly; yes, even more wary. Sometimes the bait is refused because the fish are lying at too great depths; at others because, although the fly is clearly seen, the trout themselves have become so listless and enervated by the changed temperature that hunger is for a brief hour or day forgotten, food having lost its charms; whilst on another occasion it is the fly that is at fault; for, listless though the trout may be, yet the degree of heat or cold is not so great as to render it wholly unsusceptible to the sweet influences of Pleiades—the stars, or rather flies that float with glittering hackles just above—provided only those flies and hackles are sufficiently delusive as to be mistaken for the rich-flavored insects that have but lately yielded such a hunger appeasing repast.

These are the times for carefully selecting the choicest specimen's in the angler's fly-book, not only those dressed and trimmed most neatly, but those which, being faultless in this respect, are imitations of the insects actually on the water at the time. In April, the March brown and blue dun are fitted on the cast. In June, the iron blue and orange fly have supplanted earlier flies. In July, the July and small yellow duns and orange dun are better suited for the sultry heat.. In August, the red and black ants and August duns are found upon the lines; whilst later still, in September, the whirling blue, the little pale blue dun and blue bottle have displaced their predecessors in the list.

There are many mountain burns and becks where two or three good general flies may secure a fine dish of fish during any month of the angling season; but even here the water must be of fair bulk; whilst it cannot be denied that perfect patterns of common aquatic insects are more deadly than rude hackles, and can, in much-fished burns, when the bulk of water is dwindling, secure twice or thrice the number of fish beguiled by the disordered apparition of the rustic.

The second class of anglers who adhere to form and reject color, commit an error nearly as great as those of their kindred, who espouse the cause of colour and say they have no faith in form. They are in theory nearer the truth than the latter, for they recommend something which is like a fly, but in practice they stray a little further from reality; as the latter, though swearing they do not believe in form, are really most pertinacious upholders of it, for they adopt an insect-like structure, but keep to one or two varieties, blinded by infatuation; for though they have the imitation before their eyes, and though fish take it as such, they still persist that it is uninsectlike, and resembles nothing in water, earth, or sky.

The group of anglers which heads the list does not perhaps comprehend so many adherents as the others; but is formed of individuals who more calmly and justly considering all the varying phases of the question, have gleaned the true premises of rival factions, working them out to correct conclusions, whilst rejecting those that are false, and fully perfecting and scrutinising those which are crude. Their views, severely tested by practice and theory, may be set forth in the following terms:—

a. Trout and many other fish have three sources of food—the surface, middle, and bottom of the water. As a rule, the kind of pabulum found on the first consists of flies in the larval or imago state; in the second, small fishes, crustaceans, annelids, &c.; on the third, mollusks, gasteropods, crustaceans, and other lower organisms, as well as small fishes, such as bullheads. However, certain insects and water spiders nearly related, are met with in all the three areas.

b. Much trouble and loss of time is experienced in obtaining these living baits, which even sometimes cannot be procured; and when once in the angler's possession are found to be very delicate, brittle, and unenduring.

It has been thought, and thought correctly, that if good imitations of these could be made of some durable substance, a great saving of time and trouble would be ensured at the outset, and much after-annoyance done away. To whom the credit for the invention of the artificial fly is due, is unrecorded; but its present state of excellence has been the work of successive improvements.

c. The properties which, united, constitute a good insectile resemblance are esteemed by all first-rate adepts, practical habitues of the river's side, to be—

1st, Likeness of form. 2nd, Likeness of colour. 3rd, Similarity of size, inclining to a diminution rather than increase in bulk, as the smaller the bait the less likely are any defects in workmanship or material to be detected. Moreover, many species of insects are constantly met producing numerous individuals, much smaller than, but never exceeding, the standard size; thus a small imitation is not unnatural. 4th, To a great extent similarity of texture. Most flies which frequent the water are more or less soft-bodied, with the wings and legs yielding readily to the touch. Now it is difficult to make a soft-bodied artificial fly, which is durable, not absorb much moisture; by doing which it becomes heavy, falling anything but lightly on the water, and is unfit for that part of the art called dry-fly fishing. The wings and legs can easily be made, and the fibres from the feathers of various birds are found to act better than any other substance; they vary, however, in this respect, and some birds are much more famous than others for the soft yielding nature of their feathers. The dotterel, starling, landrail, and woodcock are good examples of this, as well as of another circumstance, the great varieties of colours which feathers possess. The angler is able to obtain feathers of all colours and markings; but even if the exact shade be not at hand the substance is so susceptible of the influence of dye that the want can speedily be remedied. The yielding nature of the feathery fibres is required for two reasons: a substance is wanted readily made to quiver by the motion of the water, and yielding likewise at once under the touch of the fish's jaws, so as not to shield the point of the hook from impinging on the closing mandibles. For the bodies of flies silk, waxed or unwaxed, quill, fur, wool, mohair, ostrich and peacock's harl, &c., are commonly used. Silk and quill are by far the best substance for duns, whilst ostrich and peacock's harl are to be recommended for thick-bodied flies as not absorbing water, and as glistening with great brilliance like the chitinous covering of many beetles. For other thick-bodied flies an extra dubbing of fur is, perhaps, the best material, as it absorbs little moisture, although it does not make so smooth a surface as the natural integument of most insects.

5. Besides likeness of form and colour in a general sense, there must be individual resemblance to particular insects in both these respects; these insects, not beingtaken at random, but chosen from those on which fish feed most frequently, and being flies having their origin in the river's bed itself, on the land, or in the trees and bushes.

The first are seized by fish, when in the larval or imago state, at the bottom, or floating on the surface as duns, and subsequently as spinners, after having fallen from the air and become submerged; the second, blown or shaken by the wind from the adjacent banks or land beyond, as the cow-dung, house-fly, fern-fly, orange-fly, bracken clock, and others; or perhaps hovering and fluttering, of their own free will, and alighting at intervals to fall a prey to aquatic animals, as the wren-tail, gravel-bed, fœtid brown, sand-fly, &c.; the third, shaken or tumbling from leafy boughs into the stream beneath, such as the hawthorn, oak, alder, and many other flies, as well as caterpillars, or the palmers. The first of these three groups on the whole, perhaps, contains the most certain killers; but in the others there are some which are often quite as deadly.

6. Having obtained flies of exquisite workmanship—colour and form being faultless; tackles unimpeachable in texture; hooks of perfect contour and true tempering, not yielding under strains instead of penetrating, bound to the finest gut, tough, but not brittle—the angler must place the fly before the gaze of the trout, manœuvring it, with all the skill he owns, so as to pourtray actions such as those the natural fly, whose mimic hangs from the cast, is wont to execute.

Provided with this tackle, and with the knowledge of the art and skill gained by long wanderings with the rod in hand, the angler, when following his pastime through its intricate and varying phases, should hook and land a brace or two for every trout the aspirant to angling fame can show, who counts himself amongst the number of the brotherhood whose faith is plighted to nondescript flies, and are called Colorists, Harelugists, Hackleists, Monstrosityists, and so forth. If not, he may at once be cognizant of a secret hidden from him in all other ways—aye, if he have no other proof—that his adversary fishes with a charmed hook, the hook and bait known as the variety shaped out of lustrous silver, with neither shape of fly nor barbed steel thereon, and having not the semblance of aught that flieth in air or crawleth on grassy blade and bush, or glideth in translucid waters—a silver coin. Speak it not in Gath, whisper it not in Ephraim; but the truth is none the less the same. What mysteries could be revealed were some attendant keeper or old rustic angler to break silence! Many would lower their laurels at the word. Laurels so proudy worn!

And now having considered the more special facts relating to the existing diversity of opinion on the matter of flies, attention may be turned to other general questions of controversy. The colorists and advocates of nondescript patterns adduce, as one of their points of resistance, the circumstance which so often is a cause of annoyance to the angler—over and over again to the amateur; occasionally, though seldom, to the old master. This apparently weak point in the practical working of the theory of the anglers who advocate exact imitation of the natural insect, and who may, therefore, be called naturalists, is made the great stronghold of the Colorists, Harelugists, Monstrosityists, Hackleists, &c.; and is after all a very little matter and a point of slight vantage, when it is considered how strongly and densely these various parties have concentrated their forces around, in order to carry it by assault. The reason being there is no other assailable position which will repay them for their trouble, even with colourable pretexts.

Here there is an appearance of true argument, a something apparently unaccountable; a specious mode of settling the difficulty is found, and plausible reasons are adduced. But what is this vantage ground against which the employers of nondescript flies so boisterously advance? The answer to this question is worthy of a somewhat lengthy expansion, as having to deal with practical experience by the waterside, and as settling the vexed question. Entomologists in their fusty libraries, or in museums, may declare there is no resemblance between their dried specimens and the artificial copy. The degree of likeness, however, need not be such that were a specimen from the angler's flybook placed in the hands of an entomologist, this learned individual should at once be able to name the species; the answer, which it is absolutely necessary that he should give, being, "This combination of feathers, silk and steel, possesses the general conformation of the genus; whilst the size is that of one, two, or more of the species included therein, to one of which the colour and markings very closely correspond." It may at once be exclaimed that "It is exact imitation, which the naturalists advocate; how then can the copy be exact, if the specimen may be mistaken for several species of the same genus that do not differ widely in colour markings?" This is hardly a logical way of putting facts and deductions. Place a specimen of the real insect in the entomologist's hands, then give him the angler's mimic fly, and ask him if there is any general resemblance in the latter to the species first given. He will, unless demented, answer at once—"Yes, this is the result of the handicraft of a very ingenious workman; there is indeed, a very striking likeness, the resemblance being not only generic, but even specific." The same questions are made to the fish; the natural fly, a dun, floats with all its proportions fully displayed down the stream; a trout observes it, appreciates all its exquisite beauty and flavour, and swallows it forthwith. A few moments after, the angler, who has noticed the same insect on the water, places a feathery imitation before the very trout which, having only just beheld and swallowed the real insect, observes the mimic; and thinking that a thing having the same delicate colour and figure must be endowed with flavour as rich, tries to gulp down the second floating organism, and before finding its mistake, has become conscious of pricking steel, and an unyielding tether. But this is not always the case; the real is taken and the unreal rejected. To this the nondescript anglers add that, finding their imitation resembling the fly actually on the water was refused, they have repeatedly put on the cast another fly, of totally different make, such as red and black hackles, or, in other words, the cow-dung, sand-fly, black gnat, house-fly, rudely represented; and that this new fly has been immediately taken. This is the great fact on which the rival fishers base their propositions, and starting from, which they endeavour to overthrow, by crude and absurd theories the deductions of the true angler, the offspring of years of unwearying angling and working out of problems to an end, and not the growth of new ideas while the old are still unripe. The nondescript anglers urge that if fish refuse the copy of a fly actually on the water, and take eagerly that of one which is not there, they are actually caught by nondescript flies; and therefore exact imitation, or, in fact, any imitation at all, is quite unnecessary.

A Correction.—The following words (accidentally omitted) should be added at the end of the first paragraph of Section VI., in our issue of April 15, in order to render the sentence complete:—"It cannot be denied that the imposture is good."

(*To be continued.*)

THE COARSE FISH PROPAGATION SCHEME AND THE EXPERIMENTS OF MR. CARRINGTON.

THE announcements which appeared in the *Field*, the *City Press*, and the Fishing Gazette, to the effect that the above scheme had been taken in hand by Mr. Carrington, of the Westmimster Aquarium, have been somewhat misleading, as we know from conversation with many prominent anglers, and we think it our duty to put the matter right as far as it is in our power to do so. We paid a visit to the Aquarium the other afternoon and had a very pleasant interview with Mr. Carrington, and we have his authority to state that he never for a moment entertained the idea that any experiments he might undertake in the hatching and breeding of coarse fish, should be considered as the first steps in the direction of re-stocking our rivers. He agrees entirely with us that this re-stocking must be done on a large scale, in the open, and in the neighbourhood of the rivers to be replenished, and he also agrees with us that this can be done most easily, cheaply, and successfully. He took us over his domain, commencing with his beautiful collection of dried specimens of crabs, lobsters, live cray-fish, &c., then to the tanks containing freshwater fish—dace, roach, trout, tench, jack, &c.—which form a most interesting collection to any angler. The trout look wonderfully healthy, they are Thames fish, probably some of those introduced at Maidenhead or Cookham. Then we saw the Duke of Edinburgh's pike, which has spawned and looks in a very emaciated condition. This patriarch prefers one of his relations as a meal and a two or three pound jack soon disappears down his fish-way, when introduced to his notice. Mr. C. informed us that when this pike was presented to the Aquarium the hooks of the gorge tackle on which it was captured were embedded in its throat, and are there now unless they have been digested; a *post mortem* examination will be held on the fish when he dies ,to determine this point. We next examined the trough in which the perch spawn was placed (this spawn, we are informed, was not from Walton, but from a private water). The experiment has been quite successful so far, and thousands of fry have been hatched out and are now about a quarter of an inch in length—most beautiful and lively little fellows they are. We should advise Mr. Carrington to turn them into the Serpentine or some other water before they die, as they certainly will do if kept in the troughs. He might keep a small quantity, just to see how long he can keep them. Only a small portion of the ova has hatched out, the journey to London having doubtless killed much of it. Our readers will see that this is a most interesting experiment, and although it manifestly will never do to take fertilised ova from a river in which it has been safely deposited and in which it has every chance of coming to life naturally, carry it to London to get a small percentage of fry from it to carry back to the river! Mr. Carrington's experiment proves to be true what we stated many months ago, viz., that the simplest way to stock a pond with perch, would be to transfer some perch-spawn from some other water to it and protect it. But we must take care not to take the spawn from a public water. The A.B.C, of our coarse-fish scheme is this:—We obtain parent fish and place them in special ponds, &c., in the open, providing every facility for deposit of spawn. We protect the spawn and eventually the fry from their natural enemies, and then we distribute the fry wherever it may be wanted. Details of the method to be followed, will be given at a meeting at the Society of Arts, which is to be held next month. We are glad to say the three great angling associations have, through Mr. Geen, applied for the room and fixed a day, which will be made known shortly.

A QUICK DRYING VARNISH.

DR. BETTENDORF writing to the German *Fishing Gazette*, recommends the use of a varnish for use in fly-making and hook-tying, made by dissolving gutta-percha in chloroform at ordinary temperature. If a black colour is wanted, a little asphalte can be added. He says this varnish dries quickly, is not brittle, and resists the corrosive action of the worm fluids.

TESTIMONIAL TO MR. GREVILLE FENNELL.

[The following is a copy of a circular which has been sent to us for publication. We gladly give it prominence, and trust that our readers will exhibit their appreciation of the great services of Mr. Greville Fennell, by heartily supporting this testimonial.—Ed.]

There are few men living whose life has been more devoted to the interests of anglers and the ventilation and introduction of angling subjects than Mr. J. Greville Fennell, or, as he is most extensively known, "Greville F."

Mr. Fennell is now in his 75th year, and at the early age of 18 he commenced writing on subjects relating to angling. His special aim at the time was that of making youthful anglers, not only by directing their tastes to a healthy and quiet pursuit, and diverting their minds from many less innocent and expensive habits which might prejudicially colour their future life, but by practically carrying out the idea in presenting the young folks with fishing-rods and all the necessary tackle.

In the literary world Mr. Fennell has been long known as an accomplished writer on the practical character of fish and fishing, not only in his various publications or writings in magazines, but as a valued and able contributor to the *Field*. His works "The Rail and the Rod," which have developed nearly all the angling resources of England, and the various railways which afford facilities for getting to each, have had an extensive sale, and been welcomed and appreciated by thousands of anglers.

His public acts of benevolence have been manifested on several occasions, for, as a talented artist, he has liberally presented his paintings of scenic excellence to various objects connected with angling interests, and latterly the Anglers' Benevolent Society has realised large sums of money by his gifts.

As during the entire period of more than half a century of public work he has never received any recognition from the angling world, or from those with whom he has been either known or associated, it is proposed to get up some public recognition of his past services.

He has recently suffered severe domestic affliction, and himself not in the full enjoyment of his usual health and strength, the opportunity of doing something of the kind has occurred, and it is earnestly hoped that a prompt and liberal response will supplement the effort which is now made to offer him not only a substantial appreciation for what he has done, but as an evidence of respect for him in the maturity of life.

THOMAS SPRECKLEY, Treasurer,
13, Cannon Street, E.C.
W. H. BROUGHAM,
Swayfield Villa, Hounslow.
P. GEEN,
Lowther Lodge, Lonsdale Road, Barnes. } Hon Secs.

May, 1882.

Thomas Spreckley, Esq., £10 10s.; Sir H. W. Peck, Bart., M.P,, £3 3s.; H. W. Davis, Esq., £2 2s.; Mrs. H. W. Davis, £2 2s.; Capt. Etheridge, £2 2s.; P. Geen, Esq., £2 2s.; R. B. Marston, Esq., £2 2s.; N. H. Davis, Esq., £1 1s.; W. H. Brougham, £1 1s.; T. R. Sachs, £1 1s.; A. Jardine, Esq , £1 1s.; J. Beningfield, Esq., £1 1s.; R. Howse, Esq., 10s.

EAST ANGLIAN PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

THE general monthly meeting of the above society was held at the club house (the Great Eastern Wine Vaults) on Wednesday evening, May 3rd. The business of the evening being to distribute the prizes which had been contested for at the late "scratch match" which took place at Coldham Hall the previous Wednesday. There was a full attendance of members, several of whom were accompanied by friends from several local and also notably from one or two of the leading clubs in London. The contest (which was held under most unfavourable circumstances with regard to weather) took place at Coldham Hall. Twenty-one competitors entered, out of which sixteen put in an appearance on the morning of the match. The catch was very slight, the prizes being awarded as follow. The first prize: An elegant silver biscuit caddy, presented by John Boyce, Esq., president fell to the lot of that veteran angler, Mr. Robert Palmer. This is the third occasion this gentleman has succeeded in taking the president's prize. 2nd prize, 15s., Mr. A. Woodcock; 3rd prize, 13s., Mr. James Cupper; 4th prize, 11s., Mr. Leonard Wright; 5th prize, 9s., Mr. J. J. Rice (hon. sec.); 6th prize, 4s. 6d., Mr. Hinsby (vice-chairman). The recipients of the various prizes were each congratulated by the chairman, and they having suitably responded, Mr. Alfred Palmer then moved a vote of thanks to Mr. H. Roberts for the able manner in which he had conducted the staking out of boats, &c. Mr. Roberts, in responding, said he did his best under the existing circumstances, and trusted that at the next outing we should be favoured with more genial weather, and that at all times he should be only too happy to serve the club in any possible way.

Upon the motion of the vice-chairman, Mr. Wm. Hinsby, and seconded by Mr. Jno. Cupper, it was agreed that the next match takes place on Wednesday, June 28th.

A vote of thanks was then ordered to be recorded to the Norwich Omnibus Company for the grand and comfortable manner in which they conveyed the members to and from their destination.

The next business of the evening was the discussion of the proposed Challenge Cup. The secretary announced that he had that day received through their late secretary (Mr. A. Palmer) a very encouraging letter from Edward Birkbeck, Esq., M.P., who had also enclosed a handsome donation towards their cup—(cheers)—a like donation from W. H. Grenfell, Esq., M.P. for Salisbury; a further donation from E. F. Holley, Esq.; also a donation from Mr. R. Olly; a cheque per Mr. Cullington from a friend, a member of the Thames Angling Society, and various others, and he trusted that at their July meeting he should be able to place the cup before them. (Cheers).

Toast, song, and sentiment brought to a close another of a series of evenings for which the society is famous.

RAILWAY PRIVILEGE CARDS.

IMPORTANT to members of societies enrolled with the West Central Association of London and Provincial Angling Societies. Application for the New Railway Privilege Cards should be made at once through the secretary of your society.

J. HOOLE.

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxfod," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

A SKELETON CHRONICLE OF DATED, RE-DATED, AND UNDATED EDITIONS AND REPRINTS, WITH DISSIMILAR IMPRINTS, OF IZAAK WALTON'S "COMPLETE ANGLER."

Date.	Place.	Publisher.	Editor.
1653	London	Marriot	——
1655	"	"	Author
1661	"	"	"
1664	"	Marriot, Gape	"
1668	"	Marriot, Harper	"
1676	"	Marriott	"
1750	"	H. Kent	Moses Browne
1759	"	"	"
1760	"	T. Hope, &c.	Hawkins
1766	"	J. Rivington, &c.	"
1772	"	Causton	Moses Browne
1775	"	J. and F. Rivington	Hawkins
1784	"	J. F. and C. Rivington	"
1791	"	"	"
1792	"	Rivington and others	"
1797	"	"	"
1808	"	S. Bagster	"
1810	"	"	——
1815	"	"	Hawkins
1822	"	Jas. Smith	"
1823	"	John Major	R. Thomson
1824 ?	"	Maunder (?)	——
1824	"	John Major	Thomson, Major
1824	"	Tegg	Hawkins
1825	"	Dove	"
1825	"	Pickering	——
1826	"	"	——
1826	"	Tegg	Hawkins
1828 ?	"	W. Cole	——
1833	Edinburgh, &c.	Chambers, &c.	Hawkins and Rennie
1834	London, &c.	A. Bell and others	"
1834	"	A. Bell and another	"
1834	Edinburgh, &c.	Fraser and others	"
1835	London	John Major	Thomson, Major
1835	London, &c.	Tegg and others	Hawkins and Rennie
1836	London	Pickering	Nicolas
1836	"	A. Bell	Hawkins and Rennie
1837	Edinburgh, &c.	Fraser and others	"
1837	London, &c.	C. Till and others	——
1839	London	Lewis	Major
1841	"	Chidley	——
1842	"	Washbourne	Major
1844	"	Sherwood and Bowyer	——
1844	"	Bogue, Wix	Major
1844	Manchester	S. Johnson	Hawkins and Rennie
1846	"	"	"
1847	Dublin	W. Currey	"
1847	Manchester	T. Johnson	"
1847	New York	Wiley and Putnam	Bethune
1848	"	"	"
1848	Liverpool	T. Johnson	Hawkins and Rennie
1849	London, &c.	J. Johnson and another	"
1849 ?	Manchester	T. Johnson	"
1851	London	Causton	Moses Browne
1851	Manchester	T. Johnson	Hawkins and Rennie
1852	New York	Wiley and Putnam	Bethune
1853	London	Ingram, Cooke, and Co.	"Ephemera"
1854	"	N. Cook	"
1856	"	Bohn	Jesse
1857	Manchester	Johnson	Hawkins and Rennie
1857	Halifax	Milner and Sowerby	"
1858	London	Groombridge	——
1859	"	Routledge	"Ephemera"
1859	New York	Wiley and Putnam	Bethune
1859	Hamburgh	Solomon	"Ephemera"
1860	London	Nattali and Bond	Nicolas
1861	"	Bohn	Jesse
1863	"	Bell and Daldy, S. Low	——
1864	"	Bell and Daldy	——
1866	Boston	Ticknor and Fields	——
1866	"	Little, Brown, and Co.	Major
1866	New York	Wiley and Sons	Bethune
1867	Boston	Little, Brown, and Co.	Major
1869	London	A. Murray	——
1872	"	"	——
1875	"	Chatto and Windus	Nicolas
1876	"	G. Bell and Sons	Jesse
1876	"	E. Stock	——
1878	"	Routledge	"Ephemera"
1878	"	F. Warne	C. J. Davis
1878	"	Ward, Lock, and Co.	——
1878	"	G. Bell and Sons	——
1879	"	"Fishing Gazette"	——
1880	New York	John Wiley and Son	Bethune
1881	London, &c.	Routledge	"Ephemera"
1881	Philadelphia	Lippincott	Major
1881	London	Strahan and Co.	"

With one exception the existence of these eighty-seven issues is incontestable. I have personally examined copies of all of them but one. Fifteen of them, dated before the year 1864, have escaped previous notice, and are not to be found in Ellis, Pickering, Bethune, Russell Smith or Westwood ("Chronicle"). The most important omission was the Hawkins of 1791.

Hampstead, April 15th, 1882. THOS. SATCHELL.

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether the may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

"Where peaceful rivers, soft and slow,
Amid the verdant landscape flow."

The present surroundings of Father Thames should be only seen at the present moment to be more than appreciated. Such a wealth of delicious tint of greenery could not be seen in a foreign land in a month of years, and all this loveliness and health-giving to be had within an hour's ride of the village of London for a 2s. 6d. return ticket. To add also to the river's attractiveness, the water has dropped down from flood to a summer height, and is in the best of trim for trout. At Marlow, Mr. Faulkner, in spinning from the bank, has taken a pretty fish of 3 lb.; and Mr. Englefield, in fishing the Bassetlemy waters, has had five beautiful trout. To-day (Thursday) Dr. Brooks, of Henley, is paying his respects to the Hurley waters with an Alexandra fly, and I certainly hope the Doctor will administer a dose of steel to a good fish. From Henley I have the following:—"Although the water was thick yesterday (Monday) three fish were had, viz., one by Mr. Pitchey, of 4 lb., from the Hambledon waters, fishing with W. Parrott. Mr. Alcomb, a trout of 2 lb, fishing from the bank and spinning a worm; and the third fish was had by Potter, below Marsh Lock, weight 4 lb.

Thursday Evening.—Water improving hourly for trout work, and weather simply "scrumptious." Wind, S.W.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Ballynahinch.

For this last week the weather has improved greatly, fine sunny days with occasional showers. Yesterday morning we had a continual fall of rain, which lasted about seven or eight hours, and has caused a nice spate. No peal have been taken as yet, although they have been seen on the tidal waters. The following is the number of fish killed since the 2nd inst.: On the 5th Mr. T. A. O. Taylor caught two, weighing 14 and 12 lb.; on the 6th Lord James Douglas caught two, weighing 13½ and 5¾ lb.; on the 8th Mr. Middleton two, 9½ and 13 lb.; on the 9th Lord James Douglas one, 11½ lb.—WALTER BLACKADDER.

Coquet (Weldon Bridge).

On the 4th Mr. Oliver killed a basket 6 lb; on the 6th Messrs. Webb, Gemnisen, Gillespie, Foster, Morpeth, had good sport; they creeled from two dozen to three; and on the 8th the river was flooded. On the 10th Mr. Oliver creeled three and a half dozen. The July dun is the favourite fly at present. The red spinner has been a good fly, but it is past for the present.—A. GLASS.

Dove.

The Dove is now getting into nice order for the fly, but there still continues a fair volume of water. One or two good dishes are reported to have been caught at Harlington. The Derby killer has also been settling a fair dish or two, one gentleman, at Dove Dale, taking 5½ brace of trout. What is now wanted is warm, sunny weather, which would improve the prospects of agriculture as well as those of fishing. Since I last wrote, the worm has been taking fairly well on the lower lengths of the river.—THE SPLODGER.

Exe (Tiverton).

The river is in good order for fishing, but it is fast settling down. Trout have not sported very well, the weather being too bright. Flies killing best are the blue upright, olive dun, iron blue, and black gnat, all tied small. The following gentlemen have been successsul in killing:—W. Leir and — Collingwood, Esqs., one salmon each; T. C. Daniel, Esq., two.—WM. MUDFORD.

Ilfracombe.

I have no fresh-water fish to report this week. Sea-fishing is a little better than it has been for the past few weeks. Bream have again made their appearance. On Thursday week, several ling and two large cod were caught, with lob-worm for bait. Friday week, a few boats out with fishing parties, their catches averaging from 15 lb. to 20 lb. per boat per tide of whiting, pout, and breem. Some fine lobsters were taken from the pots, weighing from 4 lb. to 5 lb. each. Sunday, four ling brought in from a spiller, weighing about 60 lb.; one cod, 25 lb.; one bream, 4 lb. Monday, very good sport for cod, ling, whiting, and bream. Tuesday and Wednesday, whiting, pout, and bream, about 10 lb. each boat. Thursday, two large cod and three ling, just landed. There is some good fishing now, of an evening, from the pier and jetty, with rod and hand lines, for pout, dabs, pollack, and red gurnet. Weather at present very fine.—E. COMER.

Severn (Shrewsbury).

There has been very little doing in this district for the last three weeks, the river being quite out of condition for trout fishing. It is, however, getting into pretty fair order now, and by Friday anglers will be able to have a fair go among the trout. I heard the early part of last week of a trout of 5 lb. being taken off the top of the English Bridge ford with the nets. What sport he would have given to an angler. In all probability he would not have been landed by the first who hooked him. On Friday last I saw seven very nice trout that had been taken in the Tanet with the March brown. I heard yesterday of one of our members taking two dozen in a brook on Monday. I hear the night lines are beginning their slaughter again.—T. H. MORGAN.

Severn and Teme (Worcester).

These streams are in fine order for angling, the brooks are now fine and low, and many good takes of trout have fallen to the wormfisher, and the angler with the minnow and fly. The Severn in places is all alive with white fish at each of the weirs and the fords below those places, or falls, it is not over-estimating if I say tons at each weir of perch, roach, dace, and chub included. There are also trout, grayling, pike, gudgon, bley, eels, &c. The trout are getting in form for the table, and strong when hooked, affording good sport. I know of over forty brace being caught, some with the worm. Others have used the minnow and fly. The following list of names are members of the Boughton Angling Club, St. John's, and as I am keeping the club house, the Portobello Inn, you will, Mr. Editor, excuse me if I take the present opportunity to inform your subscribers that any information I can give to them I will do so with pleasure.—Mr. Wm. Hopkins, 3½ brace of trout and many dace with the worm; Mr. C. Langford, 5 brace, also with the worm; Mr. A. Shaw a few trout; myself, 11 brace with the fly and minnow. I returned two brace as small fish.—JOHN A. GRIFFIN.

Suir and its Tributaries, Clonmel.

The upper part of the river is now in splendid order for the rods, and has been so for the past week. There was great sport on Lord Donoughmore's preserves at New Castle, the Hon. W. Hely Hutchinson and party killed six salmon on Thursday week the largest weighing 23 lb., and on the day following six more, the largest being 18 lb.; the water then got too flooded until the following Thursday, when they landed two fish, 10 lb. and 8 lb., next day another fish weighing 18 lb., and on Tuesday another salmon (weight not yet known). Higher up the water there was also good fishing. On Tuesday Dr. Campbell killed three salmon, Colonel Brown one of 12 lb., and several others were equally fortunate; but the former gentleman (Dr. Campbell) seldom or never has a blank day. There must have been a great run of salmon, as the Clonmel cotmen got for the last two weeks 35 and 29 salmon respectively. During the corresponding fortnight last year they got but five fish, and the year before only four, owing no doubt to the low water at that time. The trout fishing continues to improve, there is a good rise every evening at dusk. Mr. Harrison, R.A., and Mr. Shannon got a few dozen good trout on the river Tar on Monday.—DORA.

Swale.

Owing to the recent heavy snowstorm, there has been too much of what is locally called snow broth to permit of anything like good fly-fishing. The locals have therefore had to take to the worm and minnow, with which some fair baskets have been made at intervals between the storms. When the water runs in again a selection from any of the following flies should bring some good fishes to the net: Royal Charlie, blo brown, blue drake, checkwing, dark drake, grannam, sanded dun, plover, dun hawthorne, and oak fly. It is rather too early for the two latter, but they should be held in readiness. The last is an excellent fly. Mr. Barker, of Rush, had some fine catches with it last season.—THOMAS FORD.

Taw and Tributaries (N. Devon).

Water in first-rate order, and everything one would desire, and the rivers have been well fished and likely to be in good order for some days. Some good sport has been had in all the rivers, and some large fish; I heard of one gent. getting some 1 lb. and ¾ lb. amongst his basket. The large rivers have given some good salmon sport, many fresh fish having been taken with the fly, minnow and nets, I saw a salmon 35 lb. taken in the tidal river this morning.—RUSTY GAME.

Thames (Windsor).

Water by Saturday will be in excellent trim, though at present time it is in good order for spinning, being but slightly discoloured. Another brace of beauties have been taken out of these waters, one on 7th inst., by Howard, Esq., of the Friendly Anglers, fishing with James Gray, at Boveney, weighing 6 lb. had with spinning bait; and one by G Lumsden, of Eton, going 6lb., taken live baiting near Sir Beaumont Dixie's. G. Hockley, Esq., of the Swan Inn, Old Kent Road, took a brace yesterday in the Windsor Weir stream, spinning with the split tail spinner, both were small, going, I believe, about 4 lb. Some good fish have been playing about in the Windsor Weir, and in a walk from Bray to Windsor a gentleman tells me he never saw so many playing about before. This speaks well for the future. Should weather keep as it is to-day I expect some more heavy fish will be had, as they will now work up into the weirs; though I am of opinion a great many never leave one spot.—B. R. BAMBRIDGE.

Tweed and Teviot.

The very heavy thunderstorm which passed down the Tweed basin on Sunday brought both Tweed and Teviot down in flood on the following day, putting a stop to angling. The subsidence of the streams was, however, as rapid as their rise, and on Tuesday fishing was again engaged in, and from that day up to the present time some very good baskets of trout have been obtained, Mr. Gavotte, fishing on the Sprouston water, having caught from 9 to 10 lb. each day. On the casts, at the confluence of Tweed and Teviot, Mr. Pringle Elliott has had takes ranging from 4 to 6 lb., while baskets of a similar weight have been caught by several other gentlemen in the neighbourhood. On the Ednam House lower water Mr. J. Brown, Kelso, obtained a very good basket with minnow, one trout weighing 2½ lb., while several others in the "dish" turned the beam at 1 lb. and upwards. Fishing in the Teviot, Mr. Robert Robertson, Kelso, has had one or two good baskets during the week, as has also Mr. Alfred Mills. Thursday last week being the fast day in Galashiels, Melrose, and Selkirk, a great many anglers went out to the Tweed, the Ettrick, the Bala, and other streams, but the greatest success fell to those who went to the Leader. On the Tweed, James Welsh, mason, took 10 lb. with fly, and several others had from 5 lb. to 6 lb. Gala was heavily flooded, and coloured the Tweed below its mouth too much for good fishing. Very many, however, had gone towards Melrose, and still further downwards with worm, but none of them were very successful. Wm. Welsh, who went down the river as far as Rutherford, near Kelso, killed 10 lb. on the upper portion of the Leader. Three gentlemen from Galashiels came home with 20 lb. George Marshall had the best individual take of which we have heard, weighing about 16 lb. A number of the workers at Gala Mill, Galashiels, having the Fast Day as a holiday, had a competition, for which about 15 entered. They were allowed to use any legal lure. Thomas M'Dougall took the first prize with 10½ lb., killed in the Leader; Alex. Rutherford had

8½ lb. from the same river, and took second prize; John McLauchlan, who went to the Tweed, took the third prize with 5 lb. 10 oz.; the fourth prize was won by Robt. Grant, with 5 lb. 9 oz., killed in the Tweed; and the fifth was taken by Robert Blake, who killed 2½ lb. On Friday Thomas Tyson fished the Leader for a few hours after 9 a m., and took 6 lb. with fly. Bertram Tyson, in company with him, had 10 lb., also with fly. An angler from Hawick had been on the same river early in the morning, and beforeb reakfast had got 14 lb. with worm.—Maxwheel.

Wye and Derwent.

Since my last report, there has been some baskets of fish killed, especially on last Saturday and Monday, both with the artificial fly and by bottom fishing with the ant eggs, baskets from 6 to 11½ brace per angler were made, the fish running smallish, not a fish over three-quarters of a pound. The gravel bed or spider fly is out now very abundantly, also the May yellow is just making its appearance both on the Wye. and also on the Derwent. Trout are particularly fond of the yellows, and I find that they give the preference to them over any other flies that can be shown to them while it lasts, and that is longer than any fly I know. I recommend the use of this fly till the end of August; it beats all drakes ever invented, let the feathers be ever so costly. It is made chiefly from the dotteril bird, the principal feathers being on the butt or shoulder of the wing, with a dirty yellow or Esterhazy body; this is also a very good killing fly for evening fishing on any of the Derbyshire rivers made thus: wiry young starling's quill feather, hackle light honey dew, with primrose body; these two flies may be depended on when the drake is at its height. Artificial drakes are of very little use on either the Wye or Derwent, without there is a strong wind on the water or there is a discoloured water on. The best artificial drakes that is thrown on these rivers, are the Derbyshire green drakes. Dibbing with natural flies under the bushes and trees have been followed with fair results on the Derwent in the middle of the day. Three brace of nice-sized trout were taken with the small bluebottle fly yesterday, Wednesday, below Cromford. Sport on the ponds has been first-class since my last report, both with the artificial flies, and by bottom fishing with worms and ant eggs. The killing flies have been bumble, red spinner, and sand flies.—George James Eaton.

CLUB REPORTS.

BERMONDSEY BROTHERS.

The Bermondsey Brothers had a very successful return visit from the angling clubs on Monday last, and wish to return thanks to those clubs who honoured them on that occasion.—Wm. Allen, Secretary. May 10, 1882

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our combined West Central and Eastern district visit, on Wednesday, May 3, was a success and something more, being the best visit ever paid to this society. Mr. F. G. Watts, of the United Brothers, in the chair, faced by Mr. Burwash. We had plenty of harmony by the following gentlemen:—Messrs. Watts, Burwash, Duke, Head, Shaw, Morley, Benning, Parkins, Finch, Thorling, Owles, Neal, Peckley, White and Dacey, and a recitation by Mr. Rooke. The roll was called at eleven o'clock by Mr. Hoole, secretary of the West Central Association, the following clubs being represented:—Amicable Brothers, Amicable Waltonians, Bloomsbury Brothers, City of London, Convivial, Good Intent, Metropolitan, Odds and Evens, Reform, St. John's, Trafalgar, West Central, Alliance, Hoxton Brothers, Great Northern, Alexandra, Hearts of Oak, Eustonian, King's Cross United, Bermondsey Brothers, and Burdett, also the Anchor and Hope, Anglers' Pride, Barbican, Battersea Friendly, Bostonian Buckland, Clerkenwell Piscatorial, Crown Piscatorial, Hammersmith United, Marylebone, North-Western, Peckham Perseverance, Phœnix, and last, but by no means least in numbers, the Peckham Brothers and the United Brothers, from Deptford, thirty-six clubs being represented. Messrs. Beningfield and Parkins jun., presided at the piano. I am requested to thank the visitors for so nobly supporting our little club on this occasion, and to say they will always find some of our members to answer when the name of the City of London is called at their visits.—Cas.

CROWN PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

This flourishing society met this evening (May 4), and are adding greatly to their number. After the business was done, the following gentlemen contributed to the harmony:—Mr. Pip, piano; Mr. Gorsuch, violin; while Messrs. Caddell, the host, Messrs. Knight, L. Gorsuch, R. Stebbing, W. Long, W. Burwast, Sutters, Cuthbert, S. Pip, and W. Powers sang some first-rate songs.—W. H. Burwash, sec.

EDMONTON AND TOTTENHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

At the annual meeting of the above society the members, on the motion of Mr. Burgh, heartily united in expressing their abhorrence at the assassination of Lord F. Cavendish and Mr. Burke, and trusted that the perpterators of the diabolical outrage may speedily be brought to justice.—W. G. Gardner.

May 11.

GOOD INTENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. R. Murphy opened the trout season last Sunday, bringing in 10 lb. 2½ oz. of nice fish, one scaling close on 3 lb.—not a bad start. I am afraid it is too good to last. I am glad to say our club room looks itself once more, having our cases in their places again after their successful journey to the Edinburgh Exhibition; and I am happy to say there is not one damaged, and they appear to look all the better for the change of air. They stood the change better than our friends Brookwell and Morgan, who I am glad to say are all right now. It has been decided the awards will be given up to the successful candidates at our club house, Mr. Marston kindly undertaking that duty, assisted by Mr. F. Clench and the London committee. Due notice will be given when it takes place.—R. Murphy.

May 11.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The Gresham Anglers met as usual on Thursday evening, Robert Bryant, Esq, librarian, in the chair. The letters of T Fudge and J. M. D in the Fishing Gazette having been referred to, the secretary said he thought the society might safely ignore them, and he almost regretted having replied. In all good movements little jealousies of this kind were sure to arise, but as the controversy which first purported to be on the relative merits of "specimen fish *v.* gross weights" had been twisted simply into an attack on the Gresham, there was no need for any further notice beyond the reply now finally given. The Anglers' Benevolent Society was also mentioned, and the secretary stated that the committee had unanimously voted two guineas to be offered as a prize at the Tournament proposed to be held at the Welsh Harp at the end of June, which Mr. Marston was now organising. The Tournament serves two useful purposes, advancing the art of angling, and uniting all anglers as a brotherhood for mutual aid. In was announced that the meeting in furtherance of Mr. Marston's scheme for freshwater fish culture would probably take place shortly, and Mr. Crumplen said it had his entire sympathy; from what he had heard it was eminently common-sense and practical, and he was sure it would be well supported by the members of the Gresham and other angling societies. The renting of water by the three associations was also adverted to, and its many advantages pointed out. The ballot for new members was then taken, and Mr. A. W. Smith elected. The usual discussion on angling topics, renting waters, &c., followed, and the proceedings closed with a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Bryant for presiding. Mr. Brett presented a valuable work to the library, now numbering 100 volumes.

KINGFISHER ANGLING SOCIETY.

A general meeting will be held at the club house, The Royal Saxon, Alfred Road, Harrow Road, on Tuesday, 16th instant, when members are requested to attend early.—G. A., honorary secretary.

LIVERPOOL ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

Sir,—Enclosed I beg to hand you our programme for prize fishing on Whit-Monday, 29th inst., which I hope you will kindly insert and oblige.—I am, &c.,

R. Woolfall, hon. sec.

Prizes for Whit Monday fishing, May 29th.—By the association: 15s. for the heaviest basket of trout, 10s. for the second basket of trout, 7s. 6d. for the third basket of trout. By Messrs. Leaman, Higson and Gass: 10s. 6d. for the heaviest basket of trout taken on Whit-Monday, but weighed in at the club house on Tuesday evening. By the chairman, Mr. Pratchett: A reel and line for the heaviest trout taken on Whit-Monday.

Conditions.—Members to fish where they please. If their takes are not weighed-in at the club the number of fish and their gross weight must be properly certified on the association cards, and sent in to the hon. sec. in time for the meeting on the following Thursday evening, or they will not be recognised.

N.B.—Members cannot take more than one of the prizes given by the association; but they may, in addition, win one of the two presented by members. Members six weeks in arrear with their subscriptions cannot weigh-in fish for any prizes. New members are not eligible to win any prizes or weigh-in fish until they have paid one quarter's subscriptions. No trout can be weighed-in under 4 oz (¼ lb.)—R. Woolfall, hon. sec.

Liverpool, May 6th.

STOKE NEWINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Sir,—The second annual supper of the above took place on Thursday, the 4th inst., at the club house, a good number of members and friends sitting down to an excellent repast provided by host Tomkyns. On the removal of the cloth the remainder of the evening was devoted to harmony, some excellent songs being given by Messrs. Webb, Brookman, Parrot, Hutchins, the brothers Wilkinson, Harris, Berry, Lewis, Robinson, Brooks, Jones, Dennis, and Tomkyns. Mr. Jones ably occupied the chair, Mr. Hutchins officiating as the vice chair. Altogether a most enjoyable evening was spent. Several prizes were given for the ensuing season.—Thomas Gretton, secretary.

May 8.

SYCAMORE AND COCKBROOK ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this newly established club, held at the house of Mr. Henry Taylor, the "Sycamore Inn," Cockbrook, met together on Saturday afternoon last, for the purpose of fishing their first contest of the season. The prizes were awarded in the following order: -1, James Oldfield; 2, Rowland Hurst; 3, William Wardle. The members afterwards adjourned to the meeting house, where a comfortable and social evening was enjoyed, the following members contributing mostly to the success of the gathering, viz.:—Messrs. William, John, and James Thorpe, and Mr. Hampden Greenwood.

8th May, 1882.

TRAFALGAR ANGLING SOCIETY.

Will you kindly give space to the following in your club notices? A special meeting will be held at the club room, on Wednesday, May 17th, 1882. to arrange for the eighth annual supper. All members are requested to attend.—J. Gaze, sec.

THE BERESFORD ANGLING SOCIETY.

The annual dinner of this society took place at its headquarters, the Grove House Tavern, Camberwell Grove, on Wednesday 3rd May, when a very good company sat down to the usual excellent spread provided by the worthy host Mr. Searl on these occasions. The chair was taken by W. H. Beckett, Esq, the Vice-Chairman of the West Central Association, and in the unexpected absence of the worthy chairman of the society, Mr. D. J. Whitaker, through indisposition, Mr. E. G. Ellis the secretary of the society occupied the vice-chair. The Society was favoured with the attendance of Mr. Robert Whitmore Cox, who presided at the pianoforte as also with that of his brothers, Messrs. Frederick and Arthur Cox, who accompanied him occasionally with the violin and flute, and some capital music and singing was enjoyed by the company, Messrs. Tozer, Wm Cox, Hibbard, Morris, Priestnal, Frei, and others, contributing to the harmony. After the toast of the Queen Mr. Ellis the vice-chairman proposed "Success and continued prosperity to the West Central association of United London Angling Societies and kindred association," and referred generally to the advantages anglers had derived and would enjoy, as the result of the work of the associations, not forgetting that they were indebted to such gentlemen as Messrs. Geen Bonvoisin, and Hoole, and their then present chairman Mr Beckett, for much of the excellent work which had been done. Mr. Ellis mentioned these gentlemen particularly as being connected with the association to which his own society belonged, but he knew from report that the officials of the other associations were equally zealous Mr. Beckett in responding said it was a fact worth mentioning that one of their club members, Mr. Baylis, had been appointed on the committee of the West Central Association, and that that association represented about 120 societies in London, and the delegates on the committee were the picked men out of these 120 societies, and he considered it a signal of honour to the "Beresford" that one of its members shonld be one of the 14 committeemen. Mr. Beckett then referred to the scheme for the union of the three associations for the purpose of forming a distinct association, so to say, having for its object the renting of waters and the propagation of coarse fish, which scheme had no doubt already been discussed by them; and continuing his remarks Mr. Bcekett said there was one society with which they ought to be well acquainted.

and with which no doubt they were, for, whenever he had the opportunity of speaking on its behalf he did so. He therefore took the opportunity that evening. He was referring to the Anglers' Benevolent Society, and said every member of an angling society ought to support it. He mentioned the good they had been able to do and could do, It was a rule with the Benevolent Society never to publish the names of anyone whom they assisted, and thereby they did far more good and relieved really the most deserving cases. Mr. Baylis made a few remarks in acknowledgment of the kind way in which Mr. Beckett had spoken of him as their delegate and as committee-man, and expressed his intention of furthering the work of the association to the best of his ability. The Chairman then proposed the toast of the evening, "The Beresford Angling Society," and referred to the prizes which had been won during the last season. It appeared that Messrs. Sames, Whitaker, Wilkes, and Frei were the principal winners, and that the prize list amounted in value to exactly 13 guineas. Mr. Sames having the heaviest gross-weight, with a take of 92 lb. 11 oz., took the first prize, which was a beautiful silver goblet, which he had purchased with the money prize kindly presented by the host, Mr. Searl, for the heaviest weight, as a remembrance of Mr. Searl's generosity. The club prize had been taken by Messrs. Whitaker, Wilkes, and Frei, in the order named; the other prizes being presented by Messrs. Sames, Baylis, Whitaker, Plummer, Hopkins, Wilkes, Poulton, Ellis, Bush, Frei, Morris, Cole, Christmas, and Simmons, and were specimen and season prizes. The Chairman said that some of the prize-winners regretted that the winning takes had not been so large as they would have wished, but he did not think they had much cause to be dissatisfied, as most anglers he met said the same thing—fishing had been so indifferent. His own experiences of angling was something like Sam Weller's knowledge of London: extensive and peculiar. He felt, however, that the Beresford Angling Society need not cover its head with sackcloth and ashes. Referring to Mr. Sames' cup, he said he thought it had been won by a sterling good man; and as to the prize list, he thought very satisfactory for so small a society. In proposing the toast, he said it was needless for him to comment much on the society, but he was glad to have enjoyed the friendship of several of its members since its very inception. He then paid a warm tribute to the late secretary (Mr. Poulton), but was glad to find that in Mr. Ellis they had secured the services of so able a man. The society had flourished steadily, though not rapidly; the reason of this being that it aimed at being strong socially rather than numerically. There was one advantege in limited numbers. They could work better together, and with more satisfaction to each member. Increase of members led to difficulty of management sometimes, and it required care and tact to keep members together; and he concluded a very able speech by saying, "Pick your men and keep them together." The toast was very heartily responded to. Mr. Ellis, as vice-chairman, after referring to the death of Mr. Whitaker who was more able to respond to the toast than he himself, and could more properly have replied to the kind expressions of the chairman, said, in replying to the toast, he was sure the members of no society in London met or worked together harmoniously than they did, and it was always a pleasure to meet at the club house two or three times a week gentlemen such as those who now belonged to the society, and he assured the society that he should always have much pleasure in acting as their secretary and doing what he could for them. He thanked Mr. Beckett very much on behalf of the society for his remarks, and with reference to himself said he had been much indebted to the late secretary, Mr. Poulton, for the orderly manner in which he had found everything on succeeding him in that position. Speaking of the objects of the society, he said although they wished to keep it a somewhat select one, yet they nevertheless would be glad if a few gentlemen would join them and work in the same spirit as they did.—The other toasts were the chairman, which was proposed by Mr. Ellis, and very cordially responded to, being drunk with musical honours. The vice-chairman, proposed by Mr. Beckett and responded to by Mr. Ellis. The visitors, coupled with the name of Mr. Morris, of the South London Angling Society, was well proposed by Mr. Baylis in a few kindly words, and equally well responded to by Mr. Morris. The toasts of the host, Mr. Searl, and the health of Mr. Whitaker, unfortunately absent, were not forgotten. During the evening several gentlemen from the South London Angling Society paid the Beresford the compliment of looking in, amongst whom were Messrs. Field, Palmer, Goody and Buck.

THE BRUNSWICK PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The first annual dinner was unavoidably postponed until Wednesday, the 17th inst., when it is to be hoped all those who have taken tickets, and any gentlemen who would like to be present, will attend. Please send notice not later than Monday night to secretary, Brunswick Arms, Brunswick Street, Stamford Street, S.E.—Esox Lucius.

THE SECOND SURREY ANGLING SOCIETY.

This society held their first annual supper on Wednesday evening, at the head quarters, "The Queen's Head," Brandon Street, Walworth, when a capital repast was placed upon the table by the worthy host and treasurer, Mr. Spooner. Supper over, a little vocal and instrumental harmony was indulged in, and the manner in which Messrs. Joseph Wright and "Daddy" Adams acquitted themselves with the violin and guitar respectively was thoroughly appreciated. The vocal talent was well represented by Messrs. A. Nicholls, Cockett, Regall, Cherriell, junior, Powell, Grace, and last, but not least, Mr. George George, who occupied the chair during the harmony, faced by Mr. Grace, and who kept the company in roars of laughter with his dry humour, which is so well known in the vicinity of Walworth. The usual loyal toasts, and thanks to the officers of the club having been proposed and responded to, the company, having spent a very pleasant evening, separated with the usual vote of thanks to the chairman.

WOOLWICH INVICTA ANGLING SOCIETY.

The above society's annual dinner took place at the Golden Marine, Francis Street, on Tuesday, and was a great success. Amongst the guests were Messrs. Levett, Lomax, Kay, Sheppard, Howlett, Hallam, Weaver, &c. The chair was occupied during the evening by Mr. C. W. Jones, faced by Mr. J. W. Clark. Some excellent music and singing, with the usual toasts, &c., added to the enjoyment of a very pleasant evening. The prizes were taken in the order named: C. W. Jones, Foster, Maddick, Pycroft, Perry, Knight, Clark, Davis, Elles, Brett, Hallam, and Watkins. Upwards of £18 was promised for prizes for coming season. The secretary, Mr. C. Foster, was presented with a silver-mounted rod, subscribed for by the members as a token of their esteem. —C. Foster, Secretary.

May 10, 1882.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Gibbs, Landport.—There is no size fixed by law for roach from all public waters. Some public waters, like the Thames and Lea, have sizes fixed by the preservation associations; 6 or 7 inches would be about the average standard.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

THE DERBYSHIRE WYE AND THE TRENT FISHERY BOARD.

Sir,—As an old angler on the Derbyshire Wye, who has paid many a half-crown for a day's fishing, and hopes to pay many another, I beg to ask, What are the proprietors of the hotels doing to assist anglers to defend their rights? They have made fortunes out of anglers in past years, and no wonder, for the charges at some of them are as excessive as the civility is not. If the fishing is closed, these hotels will suffer; and perhaps, if this were explained to them, they would add their names for good sums—say, 5 per cent. of one year's takings from angling visitors.—I am, &c., Clericus.

Brussels, May 8.

SPECIMEN FISH *v.* GROSS WEIGHTS.

Sir,—As the gentleman concerned in the dispute between Mr. Crumplen and Mr. Macdermott, will you please allow me to state that Mr. Macdermott is quite mistaken in his facts. The fish I weighed-in at the Gresham, and at the Highbury, were not the same, they were not even taken on the same day, and they were all fish worth showing in any society, I see nothing inconsistent in my conduct, nor do the Gresham Angling Society, before whom the matter was fully explained. With reference to that I may say that on both occasions and to both societies I weighed in only my best fish, and returned many, which might have been brought home, to the water, thus fully carrying out the spirit of the specimen fish system.—I am, &c., D. Cartwright.

Finsbury Park, May 8.

GROSS WEIGHT *v.* SPECIMEN FISH.

Sir,—Referring to the letter of May 6 from New Cheltenham Place, Kingwood, in justice to Mr. Knechtli and myself, I must say that the signature is most *a propos*, as it is "all Fudge." The ten pike—weighing 140 lb.—"Fudge" alludes to were surely specimen fish, and the other thirty, under 8 lb. each were returned to the river, and therefore not weighed in, as "Fudge" so incorrectly states. Anglers like facts, not "Fudge." After weighing in the 17 lb. and 21½ lb. pike specified in the Fishing Gazette, February 18, the remaining nine, weighing 48 lb., showed an average, as "Fudge" observed, of some 5½ lb. each, which will probably exceed the average of "Fudge's" pike caught in the waters near Bristol.—I am, &c., A. Jardine.

38, Old Change.

SPECIMEN FISH *v.* GROSS WEIGHT.

Sir,—Mr. Fudge, of Bristol, regards J.M.D., of the Highbury Angling Society, as infallible, and charges me with unfairness, because I question the fact.

I repeat that J.M.D. was in error, if he really thought or represented that on a certain occasion the same fish had been weighed-in at the Highbury and the Gresham, and of this I believe J.M.D. is now fully aware. What was done was strictly in accordance with the rules of J.M.D.'s society; if not, J.M.D. will no doubt at once expel the offending member. The facts are these. A member of the Highbury, who belongs also to the Gresham, did last autumn weigh-in fish at both societies, but they were two distinct takes, caught on different days, all in public water, and good fish. J.M.D. only lately heard of the occurrence, and was so overcome by the news that he has only been able to give an imperfect version of the affair. J.M.D. must have had a poor opinion of the members of his own society to think it possible any of them would do as he implied, my experience of one or two of them leading me to think they would scorn any such proceeding. The remainder of Mr. Fudge's queries have been already answered. I have defined what I understand by specimen, or sample fish, as opposed to gross weights, long ago, and to those definitions I adhere. Neither myself or the Gresham Angling Society have hitherto said or done anything that I am aware of calculated to diminish the sport of any section of our brother anglers. Our only desire is to improve it, and we have consistently advocated an increase of the club standards, as one means by which that object may be materially aided. The present system, in many cases, merely offers a premium for river depletion, and this point J.M.D. shelves by a personal attack on individuals and societies who do not share his views. In this I shall not imitate him, and I very much question whether his sentiments are shared by the Highbury Anglers, whose name gives the only weight I attach to the statements he has made.—I am, &c., T. Crumplen.

London, N.W.

[This must close this Gross Weight and Specimen-fish controversy.—Ed.]

BLACK BASS (*Grystes salmonides*) FROM LAKE ST. CLAIR, U.S.

Sir,—Any gentleman wishing to see what these fish are like, and will call some Monday evening at the rooms of the Piscatorial Society, Ashley's Hotel, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, they will see one of 4½ lb. in a case. I have another, a smaller one, which is now at the Edinburgh Fishery Exhibition. They were sent to my late friend, Frank Buckland, from America, and by him presented to me, in the flesh. I have also very handsome striped bass, which will be on view on its return from Edinburgh.—I am, &c., T. R. Sachs.

SCOTCH LOCH FISHING.

Sir,—In your notice of the little book just published under the above title, there are some remarks about "the Scotch system of trailing," to which I must take exception. The comparison between trailing for jack on the Thames and for ferox in a large Scotch loch is unfair in my opinion. If it were feasible I should certainly prefer to spin from the reel in the Nottingham fashion; I have practised this kind of fishing successfully for pike at the head of Loch Awe. But the haunts of pike are easily detected; a shallow weedy creek is a sure find generally, and then "legitimate spinning with one rod, and that properly worked by the angler himself," is the only sportsmanlike way of going to work. But with ferox the case is quite different. They are very hard to find; they frequent the deepest parts of a loch, and the best days for taking them are often very rough and stormy, when it would be no easy matter to stand up in a boat and throw a spinning bait. Moreover, the number of veritable ferox caught by trailing is comparatively small, and I question whether the ferox gets appreciably "rarer every year in the Scotch lochs." As to "the mere mechanical exertion of hauling in a fish which has fastened itself on to half-a-dozen hooks," I ask anyone who has ever landed a ferox whether this language is applicable to the case. Take a fish of from six to ten pounds for example, hooked on a trace of single gut, at the end of sixty yards of line. What sort of sport does such a fish give? From twenty to forty minutes, or more, of the liveliest and most exciting sport I know, and there is nothing of the mechanical "hauling in" style of business. I know of an instance of a ferox of 13 lb. playing for 2½ hours on spinning tackle, and I submit that this and other cases are not to be compared with jack fishing on the Thames, and that the condemnation of trailing for jack on a river (which I freely admit is a most objectionable practice) does not in the least degree apply to a similar case on a Scotch loch. Of course I admit that a clever boatman is half the battle, and hooking a ferox is a great fluke (how great a fluke few know until they have tried it); but I say the present system is the only one likely to meet with any reward at all on a big Scotch loch, and while this is so I think it never will be "put down as an unsportsmanlike practice." If any readers of the FISHING GAZETTE have had sport with ferox and other big loch trout by spinning from the bank, or casting from a boat, I shall be very glad to hear how and where they practised it. I used to be very fond of jack-fishing in the Nottingham style, and I have killed quantities, alone and unassisted, from a boat; but the only time I ever tried it in Scotland for big trout I was laughed at by the locals, and, though I persisted for several days, I never had a run!

If trailing is to be condemned as unsportsmanlike without any reservation, then all the fishing in Loch Tay, and "harling" on the river Tay must be considered unsportsmanlike. I have never tried either, but I know plenty of first-rate anglers who have—men who can throw a fly and kill salmon or trout with anyone in the kingdom; but am I to condemn their trolling as unworthy of a sportsman simply because I hold the opinion that trailing for jack on a river should not be practised by anyone who calls himself a sportsman?—TROUT.

[Our remarks did not apply only to the ferox. We cannot think "Trout" would wish to defend the system we referred to, and which is condemned by "Black Palmer," the author of book we noticed. He tells us that some Scotch anglers will have two or even three rods out with trolling baits on, and in this way they rake miles of water, the boat being rowed in a zigzag-fashion. Trolling or trailing should be adopted only when one cannot use the fly.—ED.]

FISHING AT CARNARVON AND BANGOR.

SIR,—You will greatly oblige myself and several friends if you will inform us, through the medium of your paper, what fishing is to be had in the neighbourhood of Carnarvon and Bangor—whether free, or what fees for the day, and also the best lures for the season and place. There is a cheap day-trip from here to North Wales in Whitsun week, and a party of anglers have thought of taking advantage of it, if they can obtain any good information as to what sport they may expect.

Hoping these questions will not trespass too much on your time,—I am, &c.,
W. W.

Bolton, May 8, 1882.

[The "Anglers' Diary" gives the following particulars:—"Bangor on Ogwen—salmon, sea-trout, and trout-fishing. Lord Penrhyn preserves the water from the sea for two miles, but the river is open above that. At Aber, four miles from Bangor, there is a mountain stream full of trout, which runs out of Lyn Anavon, full of good fish. The best fishing in the neighbourhood is in Lakes Ogwen, Idwal, and Bochlwyd, nine miles from Bangor, and within one mile of each other, May is the best month. Lakes Gwynant, Llanberris, and Lyn Cwellyn, are within thirteen miles of Carnarvon. There is a capital Inn, the Snowdon Ranger, near Cwellyn. There are daily conveyances to and from all these places. The rivers Sciont, Glynphaw, and Llynfni run near, all free, except for salmon." Doubtless W. W. would get further information of the postmaster at Bangor or Carnarvon.—ED.]

THE CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF LONDON ANGLING CLUBS.

SIR,—A report having been spread to the effect that the three associations have amalgamated, I am compelled to take this course on behalf of the Central Association, and I beg to inform you that no such amalgamation has ever taken place, and that the Central Association, held at the Star and Garter, St. Martin's Lane, still conduct their business entirely independent and separate from the other associations. A resolution passed at our association compels me to inform you of this.—I am, &c.,
R. STEBBINGS.

May 11.

THE BAIT QUESTION.

SIR,—Can I throw a net for bait in a public river in the close time? Where can I get a copy of the Mundella Act, and how much is it? By answering the above you will oblige.—I am, &c.,
GEORGE SEAGERS.

Cattershall Lane, Godalming, May 9.

[The Act allows bait to be taken. You can get the Act from the Acts Office, Messrs. Spottiswoode and Co., West Harding Street, London, E.C. Price about 6d., we think.—ED.]

ADDRESS WANTED.

SIR,—Can any of your numerous readers kindly forward me the address of Mr. Connolly, a fly fisherman of many years' standing (he lives somewhere Bethnal Green way), and confer a favor.—I am, &c.,
FLY FISHER.

3, St. Peter's Terrace, Fulham, S.W.

AN INVITATION.

SIR,—If you want to enjoy an hour or two amongst the jolliest of fellows, drop in at the Builders' Arms, Bridge Road, Hammersmith, on Thursday evening, 18th of May next. The Hammersmith United and Hammersmith Club Angling Societies have arranged to receive a visit conjointly, and harmony will be the order of the evening. A first-class programme will be arranged. All are welcome.—I am, &c.,
TONGS.

FLIES WITH PIKE-SCALE WINGS.

SIR,—I shall be much obliged if you will kindly give me Mr. MacNee's address, and the price per dozen for his new flies.—I am, &c.,
TROUT.

[The flies cost 3d. each. A letter addressed "Care of Mr. Wells, 11, Leith Street, Edinburgh," will find Mr. McNee.—ED.]

THE GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY AND THE PROPOSED TOURNAMENT.

SIR,—I have much pleasure in forwarding cheque for £2 2s., being amount voted by my committee as the Gresham contribution to the prize fund of your forthcoming anglers' tournament. We make no stipulations as to what it shall be offered for, being fully satisfied that in your hands it will be usefully applied.—I am, &c.,
T. CRUMPLEN, Hon. Sec.

11 Bishopsgate Street Within, May 9.

[Many thanks. This prompt and warm support from the Gresham is very encouraging.—ED.]

NORWICH PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

THE monthly meeting of this society was held at the club house, Walnut Tree Shades, on the 2nd instant (the president of the society, Charles Daniels, Esq., in the chair), when a large number of members and their friends assembled to hear a paper read by Mr. T. E. Gunn, of Norwich, naturalist, on "Fresh-Water Fishes of Norfolk."

Mr. Gunn commenced by stating that the county of Norfolk had long retained the reputation of possessing as rich and varied a fauna as any in the British Isles, the three great departments of natural history being here presented under circumstances especially favourable for development and observation. The inhabitants of our rivers and broads, notably the birds and fish, had long been an interesting hobby with him, and having, during his long experience as a taxidermist, collected notes and observations, representing a mass of information on the "Aquatic Fauna of Norfolk," he hoped at no distant time to place them before the public as an addition to the natural history of the county. The sub-branch of ichthyology had, until recent years, remained in apparent obscurity; but now the art and recreation of angling, to use a vulgar phrase, seemed to be all the rage; but in these piscatorial pursuits, the angler should not only prove an adept in the art of angling, but also a student of the form, habits, and other details relating to the life-history of the fish themselves. He might then consider he had gained something even more valuable than a good catch in a day's angling, In enumerating some of the most noticeable fish, he placed what he called the king of fishes, viz., the pike (*Esox lucius*) first. This part of Mr. Gunn's paper contained a long account of the form, habits, and the life-history of the species, and would in itself form sufficient matter for an evening's amusement and instruction. He alluded to its name of "fresh-water shark," and showed, by relating several instances of its extreme voracity, that it well deserved the name. Camden, in his "Britannia," published 300 years ago, mentioned Norfolk pike as being famous when he said "Horsey pike, nothing like." It is satisfactory to learn that these fish still retain their good character. Mr. Gunn mentioned several methods of pike-fishing, enumerating a list of thirty large fish that had been captured during recent years and had passed through his hands. These ranged in weight from 20 lb. to 36 lb.; no less than seven fish being above the weight of 30 lb. each. He had opportunities afforded him of making various observations and obtaining several facts with regard to their variation in colour and disparity in size in the sexes. Out of the thirty fish he mentioned only one proved to be a male, and that was of 20 lb weight. He also alluded to the nature of their food, and the various birds, animals, and fish they had been known to prey upon. According to a certain method of calculation adopted by the late Mr. Buckland the roe of the 36 lb. fish, which weighed 5 lb., contained no less than 800,000 eggs. This was an immense number from one parent fish, but only a small proportion of these were hatched, aquatic birds and insects, as well as fish, preying upon them, so that consequently a small proportion only arrive at anything like maturity. Mr. Gunn also described the pike's parasitical tormentors; the construction of its mouth and teeth, its habits, and the curious incident of pike swallowing pike mentioned by the late Mr. Buckland, also the theories advanced to account for the singular incident; the age of big fish; description of a curious malformed pike, and the injuries to which this fish was subjected both from natural as well as accidental causes. This was illustrated by an instance of a 9 lb. fish that had a large piece jagged from its back and a broken jaw. These somewhat serious injuries were healed, and had not apparently affected the growth and nourishment of the fish. The other species of freshwater fish described by Mr. Gunn were the perch, of which he gave an account of some interesting varieties; the ruffe, miller's thumb, several species of sticklebacks, including the rare four-spined species; bream, including the veritable monster of 11½ lb., the largest in England; white bream, hybrid bream, roach, dace, azurine or blue roach, crucian and gold carp, the sturgeon, broad and sharp-nosed eels, and several others. The paper was illustrated with cases of preserved fish, also several sketches showing the form, variation of shape, internal organs, construction, as well as various diseases the fish were subject to. In concluding his paper, Mr. Gunn remarked that he had omitted several of our most familiar species, and of which he should have liked to have said something, but he had found in the facts and matter at his disposal so much that to him was interesting, that he found it impossible to condense the matter more than he had done. He suggested to those who had spare time at their disposal to take up the interesting study of ichthyology, for the student would here find a vast field for investigation open to the inquiring mind.

The paper, which occupied upwards of an hour in reading, was listened to with the greatest attention throughout, and at its close the Rev. Matthews, chairman of the society, proposed a cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Gunn for his kindness in favouring the society with a paper containing so much matter of interest and instruction to anglers.

This was seconded by Mr. E. H. Corbyn, and unanimously adopted.

Mr. Gunn, in reply, expressed his thanks to the members for the kindly manner in which he had been received, and hoped on some future occasion to be able to give a paper on a similar subject, and added that he would be pleased at any time to show his collection of specimens to the members.

Several songs were sung during the evening, the meeting breaking up at eleven o'clock, the proceedings being brought to a close in the usual manner by the members singing the National Anthem.

DINNER OF THE YARE PRESERVATION SOCEITY.

THE annual dinner of the Yare Preservation and Anglers' Society, which was held at the Royal on Wednesday evening, was a somewhat tame affair compared with its predecessors, although the company numbered over 100. There seemed to be a lack of "go" in the thing throughout, and this was apparently felt by those at the head of the table, since the proceedings were run through with such rapidity that the curtain fell at 10 o'clock—much earlier, we should say, than the society's festive performances have ever before closed. Although he placed a good dessert on the table, champagne was not given by the president this year, and this may have accounted for the exodus of some of the guests soon after speech-making commenced. Singularly enough, the glee sung to the President's health was "Come, boys, drink, and merry be." The only remarks made during the evening from which practical deductions might be made were contained in the speeches of the President and Mr. Oldham Chambers, the former of whom gave an interesting account of his successful trout-breeding operations; while the latter furnished an entertaining description of the recent International Fisheries Exhibition at Edinburgh, at which he had the deserved honour of being appointed a special juror. Mr. Chambers instituted an impartial comparison between this display and that which took place in Norwich last year, and though he evidently spoke without the slightest approach to bias, we gathered that Norwich had the best of the bargain, and especially in the matter of the arrangement of the classes, which would seem to have been somewhat clumsily effected in "Auld Reekie." Mr. Chambers' was undoubtedly the speech of the evening, and it is a pity it did not come earlier in the list, so that more of the members might have listened to his pleasant narrative. The Yare Preservation Society is in excellent trim both as regards the amount of funds in hand, and the number of members on the roll. The treasurer has a balance of very nearly £100, and the secretary suggests that this sum may be required to pay the expense of getting an amended Act of Parliament, which shall prohibit netting on our rivers altogether. Some of the members—Mr. Barwell included—considered that all that is required to effect the desired purpose is that the Conservators should alter their bye-law affecting the size of the mesh, and procure the consent of the Home Secretary to such emendation; while others—including Mr. Field, the hon. solicitor—contend that Parliament must be applied to, and hence considerable expense will be entailed. We suppose we shall ascertain shortly who entertains the correct view upon the subject, which at any rate is one of extreme importance to the angling fraternity, for if Mr. Greene's melancholy forebodings come true, we shall have a perfect fleet of the *genus* Barber cruising about our rivers, and using nets of a three-inch mesh, through which, when wet, none but the smallest fish can pass.—*Norwich Argus.*

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

THE annual dinner of the Marylebone Angling Society will take place at the society's club house, Prince Albert, Sherborne Street, Blandford Square, on Tuesday evening, May 16th, and a very pretty invitation card has been sent out by Mr. secretary W. F. Pearce, to the members and visitors invited. The next West Central Association, No. 2 District, visit will be paid to the Convivial Angling Club, Bull and Bell, Ropemaker Street, Finsbury, on Tuesday evening, May 16th, when a good muster is anticipated, however short the notice.

A complimentary visit of angling societies and friends will be paid to the Hoxton Brothers Angling Society, on Monday, May 15th, to inaugurate the removal of the club to the Cherry Tree, Kingsland Road, near Shoreditch Church. Mr. G. H. Wood in the chair, faced by Mr. J. Haygett, in the vice. Brother anglers will be most heartily welcomed.

The inaugural dinner of the Brunswick Piscatorial Society, which was to have taken place on Wednesday evening, May 10th, is postponed until Wednesday, May 17th.

I am glad to say that, as far as I can ascertain, there are no club men among the persons styling themselves "anglers"—save the mark!—who are daily slaughtering numbers of spawning or spent fish, particularly perch, in a famous reservoir not a hundred miles from the Marble Arch. One of a committee of steam-launch proprietors, I am told on the best authority, recently boasted that they would sweep the anglers away from the surface of old Father Thames. They have been for many years, and not altogether without success, trying to destroy his sylvan beauty, wash away his banks, harry away the best of his finny inhabitants, and to terrify, irrespective of age or sex, the many thousands who annually seek healthful recreation on his broad bosom; but an outspoken declaration of this kind is, in practice, very much like the running up of the death and cross bones flag by a pirate craft, and will serve at least one good purpose, as it will thoroughly wake up, not merely the anglers, but the public generally, to the seriousness of the whole question, and the necessity for taking action against a common foe.

Mr. Brougham recently publicly lamented a falling-off in this year's subscriptions from London angling societies to the funds of the Thames Angling Preservation Society. I think, however, he omitted to take into consideration one very important fact which, though it should not, does weigh very considerably with anglers, viz.—that the Thames season, which closed on the 14th of last March, was one of the very worst (if we except dace fishing in the tidal water) that we have had for many years. Members, in despair, went to other waters, and possibly subscribed their half-guineas and guineas elsewhere. Let the elements but prove favourable, and the fish bite, the subscriptions will go up once more, and Mr. B. will smile yet again, and discover that there is balm in Gilead.

The annual dinner of the Waltonian Angling Society took place at the club house, the Jew's Harp, Redhill Street, Regent's Park, on Wednesday evening, May 10. Mr. Brady occupied the chair, ably faced in the vice by Mr. Waltham. A capital dinner put the members in good form to enjoy some really good singing—toasts, speeches, &c., following each other in pleasant succession. Some capital prizes, won during the past season, were distributed to the fortunate members; a long list of trophies being also subscribed for competition during the coming season. Among the visitors were Messrs. Hill, Beckett (vice-chairman West Central Association), and Mr. L. Bonvoisin.

THE FINE OLD JOLLY ANGLER.*

I'll sing to you a simple Song, made by a simple Pate,
Of a fine old Jolly Angler; a tale I will relate:—
He kept a Skiff and Jolly Boat, his Punt he pol'd first-rate;
Nor wanted Man to carry his Can, or pick him out his Bait:—
He was a Jolly Angler, one of the olden times.

His Punt so clean, was strewed around with tackle of each sort,
With reels, and creels, and running lines, and rods well made for sport;
And there old Hook'em sat at ease; no care for days gone by;
There he enjoyed his Bread and Cheese, or finished his cold Pie;
For he was a Jolly Angler, one of the olden times.

In Spring of year, your heart 'twould cheer to see him throw his Fly
With such precision, and so clear, some Trout were sure to die;
Nor was the thick-head Chub forgot, when he'd a mind to try,
He never had unlucky days, but always got a Fry.
He was a famous Angler, one of the olden times.

When Winter came, 'twas just the same, I've often heard it told:
With worsted stockings, and thick boots, he never caught a cold;
His heart he'd cheer with good old beer, and when the Thames he troll'd,
His silvery Dace the Pike would chase, and seldom leave his hold,
Till gaff'd by this old Angler, one of the olden times.

When night was come, he trudg'd him home, with heavy fish well stored,
Where many angling friends would meet around his festive board;
He quaffed his ale, he told his tale, no secrets he would hoard;
He'd teach you how to make a throw whene'er you went abroad
With this fine old Jolly Angler, one of the olden times.

But age now came, he first grew lame, and then he lost his sight;
His hooks he could not bait himself, he scarce could feel a bite;
His gentles all turned into flies, and they in turn took flight;
But though his head and gear went wrong, the heart was always right,
Of this fine old Jolly Angler, one of the olden times.

And now his line of life was run, his ground bait was all gone;
He knew the hour of death was come, and he must feed the worm:
One wish he had, 'twas granted him, by friends who round him press'd,
That by some merry rippling stream his bones might ever rest,
Thus died this Jolly Angler, one of the older times.

Written by G. S. CHAPMAN,
Late Hon. Secretary to the Piscatorial Society.

* By permission of the Piscatorial Society we reprint this song for the benefit of our club friends. Many of them have doubtless heard Mr. Jardine sing it; if not, they ought to ask him to give it when he is next at their club.—ED.

A BULL TROUT TAKEN IN THE SEVERN.—A fine bull trout was taken in a salmon net just below Worcester-bridge, by a fisherman named Darke. It measures 2 feet 4 inches in length, 17 inches in girth, and weighs 8 lb. It is now at Mr. James's, in Broad Street. A cow trout was caught recently not far from the same spot.

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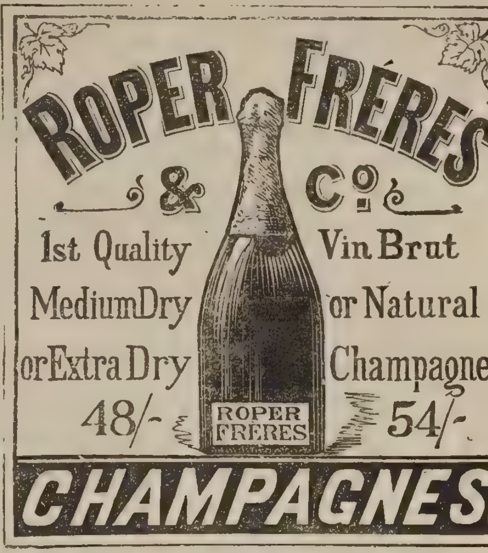

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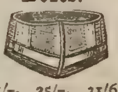

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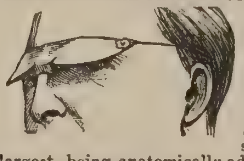

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Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., must be addressed to the Editor of THE FISHING GAZETTE, *No.* 12, *Fetter Lane, London, E.C.* and should reach the office not later than Tuesday morning.

Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, MAY 20, 1882.

"AMONGST THE FELL-BECKS."

THOSE who travel by the London and North-Western Railway, north of Lancashire, will remember that—after passing Carnforth Junction and leaving the coast of Morecambe Bay—the face of the country through which the line runs begins to assume an aspect of sterility, in comparison with the undulating richness of the landscape rapidly disappearing southwards.

Small rugged hills or scars, with bare limestone scalps, or perhaps with a cincture of larches, make their appearance and take the place of that wealth of woodland to which South-country eyes are more accustomed.

The hedges are vanishing by degrees, and in their stead the land becomes veined, up hill and down dale, by that fence of the North-country, viz., dry stone walls, which of itself is sufficient to give to the district in the afore-mentioned eyes a somewhat dreary and desolate aspect. Further north again, beyond Kendal Junction, the train speeds through the first outskirts, or spurs of mountain-land, and presently roars through the stupendous cutting on Shap Fells, to wind along the hillside far above the bed of rushing Lune, who can be seen, hundreds of feet below, foaming his way southwards to Lancaster and the sea.

We are now fairly in the heart of Westmoreland, and a line drawn due west at right angles to the railway, would form the minor axis of the lake district. From Shap on the east to Whitehaven, and St. Bees on the west, from Wigton in the north to Morecambe Bay in the south, is compacted the most beautiful and romantic scenery in England, and in which is provided for piscator a perfect Paradise. Here, he may indulge himself, whatever be his predilection. Behold! to him all methods of warfare against the finny tribe are open. Be he the patient individual against whom that venerable gibe as to the alternatives at the ends of a line are even now so often heard from the lips of scorners of the gentle craft—or the ardent professor of the "fly," aristocrat amongst fisher-folk—here he can find scope for his powers and pursue his favourite sport to his heart's content.

But I find I am rambling on, instead of at once commencing to say in a few words about the fishing to be found amongst the Fellbecks, as the heading of this little paper indicates. Fellbecks are the upland moor streams, which after having received birth far up amongst the mountains, become the natural drains for the moors or fells through which they pass, falling afterwards to the lower levels, to swell the volume of the rivers or feed some of the numerous lakes or tarns of this lovely district. These little streams are often swarming with trout and those who know the sport, will bear me out when I say that there is a charm quite *sui generis* to be found in this class of fishing and not to be obtained elsewhere. I have for many years enjoyed not only this, but most of the other forms of angling in our dear old lakeland, but last year I treated myself to more than my usual share of fell-beck excursions, for several reasons. First, not being in the best of health, to enjoy that glorious freshness and exhiliration which alone is to be found amongst the higher mountain regions; secondly, because one is enabled to see more of the country than would be the case where the fuller valley streams are followed; and third, but not least, for the sport itself. It is always a delight to a fisher's heart to live over again his triumphs, and recount to attentive and sympathetic ears his doings in search of speckled or other finny prey, and from my own experience it is almost always the next best thing to being the actual performer, to read the exploits of others.

Come, then, with me for a few minutes to the land of lakes and let us together enjoy a few hours amongst the haunts of the fell-beck trout. I'll engage that it shan't be altogether lacking in interest or enjoyment.

After a day's or two's hard rain among the mountains, there will be found plenty of water in these generally diminutive streams to afford good sport. So, with such preparations, and after an early breakfast one morning, off we start for two or three hours' walk (you can't ride, having nowhere to stable your steed) for that point at which you purpose commencing operations—in this case say, one of the feeders of the lake, close to whose shores you are staying for the time. Long before you reach the appointed stream, whose waters are to yield you amusement for the day, you can see it hanging like a thread of broken silver against the face of the dark rocks, down whose face it flings itself so impetuously to mingle its waters with those of the tranquil mere below.

A slanting climb of nearly an hour over the short-cropped slippery turf, amongst brackens (hill fern) in some places shoulder high, brings you to the head of these miniature falls and you have arrived at the "happy hunting grounds" of your fancy. Now see what there is before you, before putting together and commencing the day's operations. A small flat rush-covered valley with big hills on either side, narrowing to a ford about a mile ahead. In this ford you can just make ont the fussy little beck creaming its way down to reach the level of the plain; along the floor of the valley it then meanders in and out, making the distance a good two miles instead of a direct one, before it reaches the point where you stand, then to precipitate itself into the lake below. Query, shall you fish this portion first, or push on to the ford and reserve it until coming back? A moment's reflection decides for the latter course and on you go straight for the valley head, crossing and recrossing with many a leap the windings of the little beck by the way. Twenty minutes' hard walking; and it *is* hard walking, over peat moss that gives and bends beneath the foot and which the tread shakes for yards around, as though you were walking on a vast water-bed—which indeed it is, a natural one—brings you to the first little fall and you clear at once for action. The stream is just sufficiently full to be right, the water not yet having had time to drain off entirely from the surrounding hills, and, as you can see from the volume pouring itself over the ledge of rock before you, well tinged with the brown colour of the peat, through which it has lately passed. Over it comes with a steady rush, making delicious music, into a deep black-looking hole, seeming deeper and blacker from the colour of the water itself; and after rising again in a regular boil of brown cream foam spreads away into a shallowish basin, some twenty feet wide before finally sliding down a little incline to the valley level below. A likely-looking spot enough and good for a brace at any rate, you think, as sitting down on the thymy bank, you leisurely make ready that short and somewhat stiffish rod and adjust the short cast with two tiny flies you purpose to open the campaign with.

And now after having taken the precaution to wet your line on the incline before mentioned, you make your first cast just above the outlet to the pool.

That first cast is nearly always an uncertain one and sure to be pretty much at random; but just as the leader drops on to the water amidst the floating bubbles, you see a sight that quickens your pulse and stirs all the blood in your veins. A quick golden flash, and the slight jar, as your dilatory wrist strikes ineffectually, tell you that you have felt and lost your first fish. One never seems prepared somehow for that rise to the first throw. However, you feel all on the alert now, and after another cast or two to the left, the same flash repeats itself to the eye, but not with the same result; wrist and hand are working now in perfect unison with the eye, and the next moment you have grassed your first, a quarter pounder in splendid condition, somewhat dusky, as might be expected from the "peat broth." This gives you heart, and after taking two more, rather less in size, one from either side, you prepare for a throw up there by the head of the pool. Surely there's a half-pounder lying beneath that jutting ledge of rock just out of the swirl of the fall's first rush, is your mental exclamation!

At the first cast your leader drops into the foam a foot short, this adjusts the range and the next instant it falls to a nicety by within a inch of where you wanted it. Before the stream has had time to whirl the line downwards, you see the familar flash of the golden side, and *habet!* He has it, and with a gallant spring has shot out above the foam and drops back, to rush madly down the pool and thence seeing you, back again to the black depths above. A regular game-fish he is, but soon yields to the inexorable persuasion applied to him and after one more ineffectual flurry in the pool, allows himself to be drawns safetly to the grassy bank, where his predecessors have already gasped before being transferred to the basket. After admiring him, and a beauty he is, and sure to turn the scale nearer three quarters than half a pound, and with such encouragement at the start, you are eager for the next pool above. This is altogether a very different sort of thing. A long, deep gulley in the rock, with a strong swift stream racing through like tidal water through a culvert. Sure to be a fish there though; but, if hooked, how to land him is the problem you are troubled with.

Anyhow, here goes. Once, twice, and no response. Three times. Was that a rise? Another throw over the same place and quick, sharp strike, and away he goes in the teeth of the stream. Now comes the tug of war: how to get him out. At last the disagreeable fact forces itself upon your mind that there is no alternative for it but lifting him, and this you accordingly do, fortunately without mishap, and he goes to join his friends in the creel. Pretty good this, five in the first fifteen minutes.

Now on, still farther up the groin of the mountains, trying each pool or stream with varying luck; sometimes not a fish can you rise in the most likely-looking places. Again, you throw in to what you consider not by any means a spot where a trout would lie, and are surprised on striking to a rise to find that you have hooked two. This not at all unfrequently happens. If you should be fortunate in your day, the trout seem perfectly ravenous. Perhaps the mountain air sharpens their appetites! Just above the last stream you can see a stillish sort of pool with an eddy that slowly bears round masses of foam that have come down from the falls ahead, and the boom of which you have heard for some time past. In this pool you presently become aware of a mighty one, feeding quietly and gently, as befits his dignity. How your heart beats as you notice the difficulty there is in reaching him without being seen. But at last you manage to drop your flies gently in the basin not a couple of inches over his lordship's nose. A gentle rise, a motion of the wrist, and, if your tackle holds good, you've got the best fish you are likely to see so far up the mountains.

He dashes about a bit at first, but has hardly room for his strength. Indeed, the place he has fancied as an abode, although deep, is so small that it is matter of wonder that a fish of his size and consequent experience should select it as a home. Be that as it is, there he is, and desperately striving to get up stream, where you can see the half-submerged trunk of a mountain ash jutting out from a crevice in the rocks. If he gets beyond and underneath that, good-bye to your chances of ever seeing him on *terra firma* on your cast of flies again. So it becomes a case of pull devil, pull baker; and, as the struggle continues, you begin to think it is all over, and he must break away, but at the last moment, as it were, the steady pressure tells upon him, and he comes sulkily down stream. Another scurry or two round the lower part of his domain exhaust him, and he comes gasping into the little creek, and so on to the grass, on a level with it, like a lamb.

An unusually large trout for the fell becks, where a half-pounder is esteemed, and rightly, a fine fish; but this fellow will certainly turn the scale at a pound. After basketing your prize on you go again with varying success until your watch warns you that you are some eight miles away from dinner and bed, and it is time to turn. Besides, your creel is full, and if you have had anything like decent sport, most of your pockets likewise. So, although reluctantly, you turn your face preparatory to returning again the way you have come; but, intent upon fishing, you have not noticed how higher and higher you have been climbing, until, from the position you are now standing in, you can command a view of half the country side. A magnificent panorama is unfolded before your astonished gaze. Mountains piled upon mountains, lakes and tarns spread out before you as in a topographical map, and all bounded on the west by the sea. Truly a sight worth seeing, and well worth the climb, if even without the encouragement you have had. After gazing awhile, you prepare to retrace your footsteps; and, after trying once more one or two of the pools, reach the little valley where you commenced. One last throw here into the first pool is rewarded by a youngster, perhaps the one you first touched. And now you feel perfectly satisfied with yourself and the day's fishing; and therefore put up the rod that has served you so well to-day, foregoing until another occasion trying the valley portion of the stream. So, having packed up, and taken a pull at the whiskey flask, you start off on the long trudge home, happy and hungry, and quite contented with this experience of fell beck fishing.

Theodore A. Howard.

THE RIVERS OF ENGLAND.

When we undertook to write "The Rivers of England," pledging ourselves as closely as possible to obtain the most reliable information more directly touching upon matters exclusively pertinent to anglers, some of our readers kindly inquired of us whether we knew the formidable nature of our undertaking. They sent us a list of the names of the rivers, which amounted, certainly, to a "perpendicular pile of figures;" but, as in many another well-intended suggestion, they had omitted to take into calculation, or to adopt the fact, that more than three-fourths of these so-called rivers were tributaries, affluents, rivulets and many dry in hot summers. If this factor is not overlooked, the number of our English rivers proper is not so very great; and as our intended system is now to absorb them as we proceed down the stream to which they contribute their volume, the undertaking becomes shorn of a considerable portion of the presumed difficulty and consequent occupance of the valuable space of the Gazette, as well as the time and attention of the reader. At the same time, it must be understood that those rivers which only contribute their volume to the main outfall close to its estuary will be treated as rivers proper; or, in other words, where their confluence is at or in the salt or brackish water, they will be recognised as belonging to independent fresh-water sheds.

There is another condition which will tend to confine the extent of these papers, namely: no diversions from the banks of the rivers under review, unless to visit lakes, ponds, meres, &c., within a short distance; no elaborate details of any picturesque scenery, old ruins, or archæological objects, beyond the mere necessity of indicating the places we are passing, and thus giving them a local habitation and a name, will be made. Thus, though our work will be, we confess, divested of much of the charm of a river ramble, it will be essentially fishy; and, if not florid, we trust will not be dry.

Gregory's Spinning Baits. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxfod," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[Advt.]

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Note.—This would include Natural History, habits, and localities fish frequent at different seasons, and artificial propagation

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Prize offered by Sir H. Peek, Bart., M.P.

II £100. The effect of the existing National and International laws for the regulation and protection of Deep Sea Fisheries, with suggestions for improvements in said laws.

III. £100. Relations of the State with Fishermen and Fisheries, including all matters dealing with their regulation and protection.

Note.—This would relate to home legislation affecting regulations for fishing vessels, protection of spawning beds, close time (if any) for salt-water fish.

IV £100. On improved facilities for the capture, economic transmission, and distribution of sea fishes.

Note.—On improved nets and modes of catching salt-water fish, the application of steam to Deep Sea Fisheries, the advantages of steam carriers, greater facilities to be given by railway Companies in regard to rates, refrigerating vans, new improved fish markets, cold storing rooms for ditto.

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VIII. £25. On the best system of Life Insurance for Fishermen, and of insuring boats, gear, nets, &c.

THE NEW GELATINE EYE-SHADE.

Messrs. Harrison and Son, Opticians, 40, Hatton Garden, have sent us for notice one of their new eye-shades. This is a most useful invention, and a great advance over the old affairs of the kind. It is carefully shaped to fit the head, and will be fouud most grateful and comforting to the angler who fishes in a glaring sun; and for the next few months that is how most anglers will have to fish. We can strongly recommend this particular eye-shade.

Present of Fish to Mr. Howlett, Naturalist, Newmarket.—The Right Honourable Lord Walsingham, of Merton Hall, Norfolk, has presented William Howlett, naturalist, Newmarket, with a dozen brace of the golden tench (*Tinca vulgaris*). Some fine specimens of this magnificent fish were exhibited at the late Fisheries Exhibition, Norwich, and were wonderfully admired. According to the late Frank Buckland, these fish were first introduced to this country by Sir Stephen Lakeman about the year 1850. Their original *locus standi* appears to be in some part of Germany or Austria. They are cultivated as an ornamental fish in Silesia, but nowhere do they breed and thrive better than in the lakes at Merton Hall, the seat of Lord Walsingham, his lordship being very fond of piscicultural as well as natural history science.

George James Eaton, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether the may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[Advt.]

A HISTORY OF FISHING TACKLE, WITH NOTES ON ITS AMATEUR MANUFACTURE.

(*Continued from page* 34.)

By J. Harrington Keene.

No. III.—Hooks.

I NOW purpose taking each separate piece of apparatus used in the pursuance of angling and to trace its history as closely as the limits of space and my own research and knowledge will allow. To begin at the beginning, I have chosen the subject set at the head of this paper; and I need, I suppose, scarcely stop to assure my readers that it is one of the utmost interest and, indeed, importance to the fisherman, though this fact is constantly overlooked even by the most experienced.

The earliest representation of hooks in a printed book is that shown in the "Treatyse of Fysshynge with an Angle," published in 1496. "Thyse fygures are put here in ensample of your hokis," says the fair authoress, and she shows eighteen specimens, which for coarseness and general inefficiency of shape—judging, of course, by the angling of to-day—I should say, could never be surpassed. The method advised also for the manufacture by hand of these extraordinary weapons is curious and will contrast remarkably with the processes of to-day. She says:—"Ye shall understande that the moost subtyll and hardyste taske in makynge your harnays is for to make your hokis;" and depend upon it, not only in those days, but in the present, the remark is a true one, if the angler himself were foolish enough to try it now. In the fifteenth century, however, it was necessary that each fisherman should be able to fashion his own rude tackle, and the hook being most important, the following directions are given:—"Ye must have fyles, thyn and sharpe and small beten . . . . a dam . . . . a bender, a payer of long and small tongys, an hard knyfe some deal thicke and annelde (annealed) a lytyl hamour. And for smalle syze, ye shall make your hokes of the smallest quarell nedlys that ye can fynde of stele." Thereafter follow instructions for tempering, raising the beard, and final sharpening and tempering. The shank at the end is to be beaten broad like the eel-hooks of to-day. Largest hooks are not to be made of needles, but of shoemakers' "nailes" (nails). I wonder what the good dame would think if she saw the processes as they are successively completed at any of the great hook factories of the present time. Nearly 400 years makes a vast difference in the methods of mechanical work Curiously, however, the cuts given of the "hamour," "knyfe," "pynsons" (pincers), "clam," "annelde" (anvil), "wreste," "megge," and "fyle" are not very much different from the tools of these names in use now; indeed, these types seem likely never to change until hand-labour is superseded entirely by machinery. Query, will this ever come to pass?

The peculiarity of the hooks thus figured was, however, not so much their coarseness and want of finish as the extraordinary distance between the point and the shank opposite—or open-zen, to use an ugly but expressive word. I have these drawings before me now, showing the hooks attached to the "lyne," and I can assuredly affirm that the chances are a hundred to one against a fish being hooked unless the cumbrous piece of mechanism managed to become securely lodged in the maw. The line of direction is very widely divergent from the line of impact, and it is a certainty that the best hooks are those alone where the two are the most closely coincident. The same fault must be found with the gorge hooks figured by Nobbes in his "Art of Trolling" (1682), though it might have been expected that in nearly two hundred years such an obvious fault would in some degree have been reduced, or corrected entirely.

The progress of improvement in fishing-tackle of all kinds till within the last century has been very slow, and the remark applies with great and signal justice to hook manufacture. Even to the present day the round bend is preferred to the Pennell with its very close coincidence of direction and impact as compared with other makes. Perhaps a little explanation of this incipient complaint may be welcome to the reader at this juncture.

In considering the subject it is necessary to ask "What are the desiderata in hooks?" and Mr. Pennell, with great precision, argues as follows: Penetration; holding power; strength, lightness, and neatness. I don't think anybody can grumble at the reply; and, assuming this, let us see what the answer actually implies.

Penetration.—This, of course, means, in a good hook, the maximum of ease in its passage into the jaw of the fish, and is brought about by means (*a*) of an exquisitely-fine point, and a near coincidence (as I before intimated) between the angle of impact on that spot where the hook's point touches the mouth of the fish and the direction of the force applied—in other words, the pull of the line on striking. Let any reader, in order to understand this clearly, take a hook of gut, and, placing it against his finger, draw gently towards himself. He will find that in nearly every make of hook the hook's impact is distinctly away from the direction of the gut, so that in striking the point enters obliquely, thus increasing the difficulty of penetration very greatly, and invariably, no matter how the hook may have been seized. In the case, also, of the Kirbys and snecks, where the point turns sideways, the same principles obtain, though the extra "catching" power of these makes may probably overbalance the defect. The "Crystal" roach hook is perhaps —barring the Pennell—the nearest approach to perfection in penetration, being Limerick shaped, long, and somewhat barbward inclined in the shank, and strong and light, with good holding power, though this latter is the weakest quality in the "Crystal." Of the five makes of hooks in common use—viz., round, Kirby, Limerick, sneck, and sprout, there is not one which even approximately avoids the evil of divergence to which I have referred; and more than this I find great fault with them all for the extreme outstanding of the barb; so wide is this of the hook that it is often, especially in pike-fishing, impossible to strike it home. No hook should be used with a barb very widely outstanding.

HOLDING POWER—Consists in the efficiency of the barb and the closeness of the point to the opposite shank. I have said the barb ought not to be wide; at the same time, I am of opinion it should be long, and I am not sure but, if it were turned shankward slightly after having been opened from the shank, that its efficiency would be impaired. This is at present, however, a matter for experiment which I hope to decide before this series reaches its end. The shankward tendency of the point of a hook increases the holding power even yet more pronouncedly, and at the same time aids penetration on the theory I have before explained.

STRENGTH—is useful in all mechanical operations and constructions only where it is wanted, and it should be increased in proportion as it is required. Increased strength is required in modern and usually-employed hooks just in the bend above the barb, because it is at that point that the chief strain falls on striking. Generally, however, this part is of the same thickness as the rest of the bend, and this would not much matter were that thickness sufficient, and did not lightness and neatness become desiderata. The Limerick shape has a very nasty knack of breaking at this point, in fact I have seen good fish repeatedly lost when these hooks have been used. The moral, therefore, is let the hook be thickened there and reduced in maximum of barb and shank.

The Pennell hook, the principles of which I have been almost entirely expounding, fulfils the expectations in practice which its inventor claims for it; still it is not a perfect weapon by any means, and, though based as it is upon the existing form of Limerick make, it is not exactly my ideal. In my "Practical Fisherman" I have shadowed forth a hook with a shank so shaped that the angle of impact does not exist as such, it being swallowed up by the line of force, or, in other words, the lines of impact and force applied are identical; the holding power, by virtue of closure of the bend, shankward, is also greater, and the barb and point of a design entirely original, in that it is not rigid when passing into the jaw of the fish, only being so indeed when it is rendered so by the struggling creature. The point of my hook also is not like others, it is bayonet shaped, and thus its penetrative power is greatly increased without loss of strength. Of course these are chiefly used for large fish, especially so for salmon and pike. For smaller fish the Pennell is by far the best.

Some little reservation may be, perhaps, made in connection with the foregoing remarks regarding eel, and such hooks as are not used where it is necessary to actually strike the fish. An entire revolution in hook-making for such quarry, even it were possible is not needful. The eel will hook itself on almost any shape of hook, owing to its extreme voracity and fearlessness. By no means is the eel an artful fish in the sense of acquired cunning, and, as compared with the roach—which Walton terms the "water sheep"—it is a complete fool.

Of course, as the attentive reader will readily have perceived, I have been speaking of the single hook. The same arguments do not apply to the brazed triplet, supposing that all of the three points enter at once; but, *cæteris paribus*, they do apply when it is considered that in not one case out of ten does more than one hook enter the fish. Hence I advocate the making of triplets on the same principle as single hooks, or, in other words, I advise that triplets be made from the Pennell pattern singles.

I adverted to the making of hooks four hundred years ago. Perhaps it is but fair that I should generally indicate the processes of their present manufacture. Briefly, then, the wire is received from Sweden chiefly, in coils of different gauges, and it being of the purest iron is necessarily soft. It is cut into the desired lengths. Then, by means of a specially made knife, it is barbed. This operation consists in cutting half-way through the wire at one end, and raising the upper section by a turn of the knife blade. Next the wire is bent to the desired form; then it is heated till the proper colour is attained, and plunged into oil. By this procedure sufficient carbon is taken up by the metal to transform it from iron to steel. The hooks are then either blued or polished, the former by means of a chemical mixture and the latter by shaking in a bag into which a little fine emery has been thrown. They are then counted and packed.

Such is the general procedure, and it is astonishing what immense numbers are manufactured. "What becomes of the pins?" might fitly be said of the fish hooks, for it would seem incredible that so many as are made could be disposed of.

To be continued.

GUT AND HAIR.

TURNING over the recent back numbers of the FISHING GAZETTE, I find "March Brown" paying me the compliment of requesting me to reply to certain queries which naturally arose from my article upon the above subject. On the following week, instead of doing so, I answered him most curtly, and in a manner which, after this lapse of time I feel demands not only an unqualified apology to "March Brown," but to the whole of the readers of the FISHING GAZETTE, to whose service I respectfully devote myself. The only excuse I can offer, is, that at that particular time I believed I required a blue pill, my head not being in a sufficiently analytical condition to go into the experiments which were involved in properly answering "March Brown's" inquiries. Having been much exercised since by a touch of conscience, I have tried to remove the charge of grumpiness, by looking up amongst my notes, at least some few facts which bear upon the question—namely the relative strength of human (for accepted distinction) and animal hair; in the latter, that of the horse being the special consideration:—

Montague Marriot, an accomplished angler, says that the finest hair for twisting comes from Buenos Ayres and other South American ports, the best being mane hair, sometimes 5 feet long. J. C. Wilcox, the author, of the "Sea Fisherman," says, in the *Field*, in reference to this statement, that "this seems very extraordinary," and asks where any such hair is procurable in England, from 30 inches to any greater length. He further states that the fineness of the hair would be a great recommendation for a sea-fishing line, as it would, of course, give increased strength. The chief want is black hair, of which these sea-lines are made.

A correspondent who seems to claim especial experience from having arrived at the age of fifty-six, writes, "I fished with nothing but hair-lines in my boyhood, and have still in my possession some of those lines, good and sound yet; in my opinion, the secret is in the hair being taken from the tail of a horse, rather than from that of a mare, the finishing-off part of the latter being subject to be moistened otherwise than by water from the clouds." But we would ask whether this would not occur more with the opposite sex?

This not too ambiguous hint caused me to make inquiries how the horsehair weavers for chair coverings treated this material to render it so supple and lasting; and I found in Spitalfields, from ocular demonstration, that the hair, before being used in the loom, is soaked for some time in urine. I afterwards learned from the late Mr. Wix that he was acquainted with this fact, and that he subjected his choicest hair periodically to a salt-water bath of this nature. In the "Compleat Fisherman," an odd old book, if possessed by any of my readers, he will find statements confirmatory of the above, but they cannot be quoted here. The fishermen of the Channel Islands always prefer the tail of a young living horse, and the lower part being cut off, as useless, from dirt, &c., it is carefully washed, tied up in small bundles, and hung up to dry in the open air. Black hair is preferred for the lines, and of a medium thickness; for, acting on the principle that union is strength, they prefer a large number of hairs of medium size to a smaller number of coarser hairs. The favourite number of hairs is thirty-six. They have great objection to use hair from a dead animal; and, as many of the fishermen are likewise farmers, they prefer it from their own horses or those of their friends. White hair is generally, and not unnaturally, supposed to have lost its vitality, and consequently its strength. But it is often used for a length of two or three fathoms at the end of the line from the presumption that the colour is less observable by the fish. It is said that there is no material so durable as hair in salt water, which singularly agrees with the rationale of the process of its preservation by the weaver.

In Derbyshire the fishermen prefer hair as a rule, on account of the lightness, freedom from entangling itself, for its becoming straight in the act of throwing, durability, colour, &c., and its adaptation to the clear limestone waters of that county, where trout and grayling are the principal quarry, But when these fish are above a pound or so in weight, considerable risk of losing your fish, with hair, exists.

Hair can be stretched to more than one-third beyond its length, and it will contract again to its ordinary dimensions. This for bottom fishing, its non-swelling properties and elasticity, are in its favour. We have known gut repeatedly soaked in boiling water part with its cohesive gelatine, so as to assume almost the character of floss silk, which it, in fact, is, minus its natural gum, and becomes more like a blow-line than a concrete thread.

But to my text, from which I have greatly wandered: the actual length and strength of human hair. Sir Charles Bell makes allusion to a woman who had hair six feet in length, and Tennyson speaks of the Lady Godiva—

> Anon she shook her head,
> And showered the rippled ringlets to her knee.

But, to leave poetry for fact, Robinson's "Essay on Human Economy" tells us that a single hair from a boy only eight years of age supported the weight of 7812 grains, and that one taken from the head of a young man aged twenty-two years supported 14,285 grains. It "March Brown" turns to Hair Manufacturers, in the London Directory, and will inquire of any of the owners of the names therein, he may learn much of interest respecting human hair; or if he be fortunate enough to pick up a copy of Prince's Book upon Human Hair, published for the proprietors of Macassar's oil—but by no means a trade, though a thoroughly scientific work—he will there find a tabulated list of strengths of the hair of various nations.

CREEL.

CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETIES.

THERE was a large attendance of delegates, representing about forty clubs affiliated to this association, at the monthly meeting at the Star and Garter Hotel, St. Martin's Lane, Charing Cross, on Friday evening in last week. Mr. J. C. Murray, the chairman of the association, presided on the occasion, supported by Mr. Thomas Spreckley, president, and Mr. W. H. Brougham, secretary of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, who had been specially invited to attend.

After the transaction of the ordinary business, Mr. Murray remarked that it afforded him much pleasure in having the attendance of Mr.

Spreckley and Mr. Brougham, and he was sure the same feeling existed amongst them all. There could be no doubt it was through the energetic labours of those gentlemen that the protection and preservation of the Thames fishery were mainly due, and with this feeling the Central Association, at its last meeting, voted the sum of ten guineas towards the funds of the Thames Angling Preservation Society. He had now the gratification of handing over that amount, and asking all present to accord a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Spreckley and Mr. W. H. Brougham for their attendance that evening.

This having been enthusiastically responded to, both of those gentlemen, in practical speeches, acknowledged the gift, and assured the meeting they had only one object in view—that of securing good sport to all classes of anglers.

The meeting was afterwards addressed by Mr. A. Allison, Mr. F. C. Hatfield, and others, and the subject of coarse fish propagation discussed, the delegates expressing their approval of the response which had been made by the Thames Angling Preservation Society in reference to the application made to it by the combined committee of the three association. An additional club was enrolled, and the affairs of the Central Association were regarded as being in a very healthy condition, Mr. R. Stebbings discharging the duties of his office as secretary with fidelity and zeal.

ANNUAL DINNER OF THE BRENTFORD PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The establishment of an angling club in the county town of Middlesex is of significant importance, as forming another link in the chain of suburban angling societies on the banks of the Thames with Putney Battersea, Hammersmith and Richmond. The hostelry where the Brentford Piscatorials meet is peculiarly adapted for an angling club, as the grounds slope down to the river, and fish may be taken therefrom. The neighbourhood of Brentford is somewhat proverbial as the habitation of the poacher, and the establishment of a club advocating sportsmanlike principles and upholding the Thames by-laws in their midst may have some effect in convincing those men that the sober law of fishing rights will be vindicated, and the locality made rather too warm for such characters as lawbreakers. There was something very pleasant on the occasion of the first annual dinner of the Brentford Piscatorial Society in the prospect of future care for the value of this portion of the Thames fishery by such a gallant body of piscators as have been enrolled as members, with Mr. Kenneth R. Montgomery at the head as president, and Messrs. Thomas Layton and Henry Croxford as vice-presidents. The society has also been successful in enlisting the valuable services of Mr. J. H. White as secretary, and who has expressed himself desirous of emulating the character and position of the neighbouring club on the other side of the water at Richmond. The dinner, which took place on Thursday evening in last week, was held in a spacious and comfortably-fitted marquee on the grounds of the Waggon and Horses, at Kew Bridge, where covers were laid for forty guests, and all in the course of the proceedings were occupied. A very excellent dinner was served up by Mr. J. D. Thaxter, the treasurer, and proprietor of the charming hostelry, and which was substantially appreciated. The tables were exquisitely decorated, and when it became dusk a profusion of oil-lamps gave the interior a very pleasant and romantic appearance. Very shortly after the appointed hour of seven o'clock, Mr. Kenneth Montgomrey occupied the position of chairman, with Mr. T. Layton in the vice-chair. The Thames Angling Preservation Society being represented by Mr. W. H. Brougham, the West Central Association of London Angling Clubs by Mr. Thomas Hoole, and the local press by Mr. G. Thomason, the proprietor of the *Middlesex Chronicle*. After the loyal toast, the Chairman at once introduced the toast of the evening, "Success to the Brentford Piscatorial Society," which, he remarked, was founded to encourage legal angling and the suppression of all unfair fishing; the members were also determined to do all in their power to prevent the river from being illegally netted. There was, he considered, a wonderful amount of enthusiasm amongst the bank anglers; his own experience of this class of sportsmen was that they were thoroughly devoted to the pursuit of angling, and always appeared satisfied with their day's sport. It was well known to all practical anglers there were successful as well as unsuccessful days; all classes enjoyed fishing, and he had himself tried to catch most kinds of fish, from the sportive gudgeon to the lordly salmon—all of which required endurance, patience, and skill, as well as fine tackle. He believed angling outdid every other sport, such as hunting or deer-stalking—the work of which was done by huntsmen, stalkers, keepers, and beaters; and fishing was indulged in by the highest to the lowest in the land. The chairman concluded a thoroughly practical and interesting speech by asking those present to drink with great heartiness to the success of their society, which was done with the warmest enthusiasm. Mr. White, in his reply, said that when the club started, on the 28th of November last, they had only a dozen members, and they had at the present time thirty-five respectable anglers. He would endeavour to do all he could to keep up the success of the society and emulate the example of the Richmond Piscatorial Society. Mr. Cuxford then gave "The West Central Association," which had done so much to obtain railway concessions and other advantages for the members of angling clubs. He looked upon angling as associated with our mercantile life, as it was by perseverance the anglers acquired success, and he was quite sure a successful angler would be a successful man of business. He coupled with the toast the name of Mr. Thomas Hoole, as the secretary of the association. Mr. Hoole briefly replied, as he said he had two other meetings to attend that night. The associations, of which there were three in number, were now combined for the purposes of coarse fish propagation, which at their request had been taken up by the Thames Angling Preservation Society. He promised the members to get the Great Western concessions extended to Brentford Station. The Chairman, in proposing "The Thames Angling Preservation Society," said it needed very few remarks from him to commend it to their high approval, as it was well known how it laboured in the interests of fishing; and they were honoured on that occasion with the presence of Mr. Brougham, whose name he would associate with the toast. After a compliment of musical honours, Mr. W. H. Brougham first of all congratulated the club on its success, and then, referring to the work of his society, he regarded as amongst the helpers, first of all, the professional fishermen, who were the natural allies to Thames preservation; but he was sorry to say, when asked for their assistance, their great desire was to know how much they were going to receive for it; then there were the angling clubs, and he was sorry to say only about sixteen out of one hundred and sixty clubs directly supported their work; and then there were the anglers, and he was sorry to say they did not as a body support the protection of the fishery. The names of successful anglers were conspicuous by their absence on the list of subscribers to the society. Mr. T. Layton, in a very complimentary speech, proposed "The Health of the Chairman, to which Mr. Montgomery, receiving musical honours, briefly responded. "The Vice-Chairman" and "The Press" completed the list of toasts. The musical arrangements were good; and the following prizes were distributed during the evening:—Mr. W. Turner, of Hounslow, oil painting (executed and presented by Mr. H. J. Clarke, who is a member of the society), for best specimen of roach; also roach rod (secretary's prize), for best catch of roach in one day; Mr. T. Taylor, second prize, a pin; Mr. J. Mount Stephens, first prize gross-weight, winch and jack line; Mr. J. Allan, second prize gross-weight, winch and jack line; Mr. T. Waight, third prize gross-weight, fly rod; Mr. J. W. White, for best catch of jack in one day, reach rod and winch (presented by Mr. A. Emmerson); Mr. J. Allan, silver watch, for best catch of roach in one day, pegged down (presented by Mr. Mount Stephens).

THE FISH SUPPLY OF LONDON.

A meeting of the Society of Arts took place on Wednesday, the 10th inst., at its premises, John Street, Adelphi, Mr. Birkbeck occupying the chair. Mr. Spencer Walpole read a paper on "The Fish Supply of London." He said that the same source from which the whole of the four millions population of London drew their fish supplied also the whole of England, and even some foreign countries. In 1880 about 130,000 tons of fish were brought to London, which meant a daily distribution of about 400 tons. He repudiated the idea that fish would ever become scarce, maintaining, as he did, that the North Sea, at any rate, was practically inexhaustible. Although the supply of fish to London had vastly increased, it was still very dear, and this he considered was to a great extent due to the excessive rates charged by the railway companies. The consequence was that water-borne fish had of late years increased 100 per cent., while land-borne fish had only increased 25 per cent. in the same time. After expressing his opinion that the market, however improved, ought never to be removed from the waterside, he said it would be bad both for seller and consumer if it were attempted to multiply markets, as in no trade was the tendency to centralisation so strong as it was among fishmongers. He considered that were an adequate market provided the price of fish would be much reduced, although at the same time he did not believe all the stories of extortion and running up of prices by the Billingsgate ring. Billingsgate might be made into such a market by the widening of its approaches; but if the cost was too great, then the chief centre of the fish trade ought to be removed to some more convenient spot.—*City Press.*

A YEAR OF LIFEBOAT WORK.

Happily the work of Saving Life from Shipwreck on the shores of the British Isles has assumed such proportions and efficiency as it obtained at no former period. In this good cause the National Lifeboat Institution has, of course, taken a prominent and active part, having contributed last year alone to the saving of 1121 lives from various wrecks, while the Board of Trade and the Coastguard, by means of the rocket apparatus, rescued upwards of 500 lives. These facts are learned from the annual report of the Lifeboat Institution, which has just been issued.

Last year eleven new lifeboats were launched. The number of lifeboats now under the management of the Institution is 271.

During the year 1881 the receipts of the Institution amounted to £36,419, while the expenditure was £37,781. As usual the items of receipt and expenditure are fully detailed in the financial statement, which has been audited by Mr. Lovelock, public accountant.

The valuable and earnest co-operation afforded by the local branch committees and their honarary secretaries, is suitably acknowledged, and so are also several munificent contributions to the institution.

It is hardly necessary to add that the managing body of so great and philanthropic a society as the Lifeboat Institution fulfils a national public duty, and its committee are amply rewarded in its administration by the sympathy and liberal support which the community extend to it. Thus fortified they may unhesitatingly leave no effort untried which shall contribute to the efficiency of their life-saving machinery, and fit it to perform the great work the originators of the Institution had in view—"The Preservation of Life from Shipwreck."

We will only add that contributions are received for the Lifeboat Institution by all the London and country bankers, and by the Secretary, Richard Lewis, Esq., 14, John Street, Adelphi, London.

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

> "Glory is like a circle in the water,
> Which never ceaseth to enlarge itself."
> —SHAKESPEARE.

I have had reports of the capture of several fine fish during the past week—captures which have become daily enlarged, until this morning a well authenticated fish, of 7 lb. odd, had culminated into one of 15 lb., *a la* the circles of water above cited, ever growing from one little splash until sight and space render them invisible. At Surly Hall and Bray three or four takeable fish have been had, but not above 4 lb. the largest. At Maidenhead the Earl of Ravensworth, fishing with Harry Wilder on Friday last, had the fortune to take three trout, scaling respectively 5 lb., 3 lb., and 2¼ lb. Captain Haynes, R.N., also out with the invincible Harry, took three fish, the best of which scaled 2½ lb.; the others, being under 2 lb., were returned to the bosom of their Father Thames. From Marlow I glean that Mr. Richard F. Jackson, on Thursday, off Stonehouse Point, caught a fine trout in splendid trim, which scaled 8 lb. to a tick. Mr. J. was fishing alone. At the Marlow weir yesterday (Wednesday) a gentleman, out with young Hatch, took a pretty fish of 5 lb. I may here incidentally mention that old Hatch, of Marlow, an excellent and respected fisherman, has recently, and very suddenly, gone to other and possibly happier fishing grounds. Two more trout have succumbed at Hambleden and one at Sonning. Thursday evening.—Weather delightfully fine, in fact, scorching; river in grand fettle; so now, before the "madding crowd" arrives, is the time to angle for ye trout.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Ballynahinch.

The following are the number of fish killed for the week:—On the 10th and 11th, Mr. E. Middleton caught one each day, weighing 10 lb. and 11½ lb. On the 12th, Mr. T. A. O. Taylor, one, 10½ lb. On the 13th, Mr. T. A. O. Taylor caught the first "peal" of the season, weighing 6 lb.; same date, Mr. W. H. S. Openshaw caught three salmon, weighing 9 lb., 13 lb., and 15 lb. On the 15th, Mr. T. A. O. Taylor, two, 10 lb. and 10½ lb.; same date, Mr. Openshaw, one, 12 lb.; and on the 16th, Mr. W. H. S. Openshaw caught one, 10 lb.—WALTER BLACKADDER.

Coquet (Weldon Bridge).

On the 11th, Mr. Headley killed a good basket and Mr. Oliver and Mr. Wear each a good basket. On the 12th, Mr. Armstrong, of Gosforth, killed a basket 9 lb., R. M. Warwick, 4 lb. On the 13th the river is very small; bright; the sport was bad, from two to six brace. On the 15th, Mr. Oliver killed 7 lb. The trout are taking the willow fly at present. If the weather continues fine as it is at present there will be some good sport with the drop minnow. Trout last week have been a good class, averaging from 10 oz. to 18 oz.—A. GLASS, Anglers' Inn.

Dove.

We have had nasty cold winds all the week, and at night the thermometer has been down at almost freezing point. Trout, therefore, while having risen fairly well, have been rather backward considering that we are now getting past the middle of May. We want warm rain badly; agriculture requires it as well as angling. The ground is literally parched, and the Dove is at the time of writing getting very low, and is as clear as gin. The takes during the week have averaged from six to eight brace. The best time has been in the middle of the day, when the sun's warmth has to a large extent mitigated the icy severity of the breezes. Dibbing with the house-fly has now commenced, and ant eggs are being used by bottom-fishers with good effect. The appearance of the May-fly has been considerably retarded by the bitterness of this week's weather. It will not be freely on the water until June.—THE SPLODGER.

North Lincolnshire.

The weather is becoming much too bright for fly-fishing during the day. Anglers who wish to do anything of note will defer their operations until the evening, when the fish are better on the feed. I caught a beautiful basket of fish one evening during the past week in a tributary of the Ancholme. I had ten fish, all over ¼ lb., some well on to 1 lb. each, and that in a stream where there were none six years ago. Amongst them was one pretty Fontinalis, two years old, and which weighed above ½ lb. I transferred this and seven of the trout safely to the Manor Fishery, and hope to utilise them for breeding next season. A fortnight ago I sent some "Yorkshire Notes," copied from the *Craven Herald*, but in the hurry of writing for five papers I quite overlooked the insertion of the authority from which they were taken, and added my signature in lieu thereof. It should have been "*Craven Herald*," countersigned only by me as attesting the correctness thereof. Your correspondent has a strong objection to copying from the other boys without making a proper acknowledgment.—THOMAS FORD.

Taw and Tributaries (N. Devon).

Water getting back very low and clear. The Taw is lower and fishable, and some fine salmon have been taken with the N. Devon minnow (not the angel, but the solid one). The bass have not come into the rivers, nor the mullett, but should the weather remain fine and clear they will shortly arrive and good sport will be had. I have heard of a few dishes of trout being killed, and amongst one basket was a trout 1½ lb. weight. Many salmon; one gentleman got three, another two, and others one each. An application was made at the Board of Conservators for another month to be added to the net fishermen's time for fishing, but only half of the time voted; but it will rest with the Home Office to decide, and if *they* knew that salmon were poached by *them* all the year, they would not get it.—RUSTY GAME.

Test.

Water very clear and low. Weed cutting been going on for the last week; will be pretty well over by to-morrow. Where they have been cut wholesale, fish are very shy, and no sport can be expected. It is owner's own fault and they will believe it in time. A spent May fly was brought to me last evening. The fly will, I fancy, be a week earlier than usual; low water and hot sun conducing to their development. A few fish have been killed during the past week, but it is only to be accomplished by brute force and by those who can drive a fly dead against the wind. The wind has been north-east for some considerable time, and I see no prospect of a change. Some evenings the fish rise well from 7 to 8.30. The most killing fly, I find, is the indiarubber one. The pattern was given me by one of the best fishermen in Hampshire, and I now swear by it; it floats beautifully when tied on an eyed hook.—HAMPSHIRE.

Thames (Goring).

Water now in good order for trout-fishing. I have seen four this week. Prospects look well for the coming season. There are a good many perch; I have seen a good lot of them. Chub and barbel have been up by Goring Bridge very thick. There are plenty of fish here.—JOHN RUSH.

Tweed and Teviot.

For the past seven days the weather in the south of Scotland has been most variable. During the latter part of last week the border streams were flooded with "snow broo" from the surrounding hills, and the air was bitterly cold. The weather this week, however, has been delightfully fine, and the rivers have subsided almost to their summer level. A heavy, warm rain is much desiderated in order to cause a flood, which would have the effect of cleansing the river-beds and of carrying to the sea the shoals of salmon smolts so numerous at present, and which simply tantalise the angler. The solar rays during the day have been too bright to admit of successful angling, but in the evening tolerably good takes of both salmon and trout have been obtained. On Thursday, on Birgham water, Mr. Novette captured a nice salmon of 14 lb. A number of captures are reported as having taken place on the Floors casts, but no particulars of these have come to hand. After sunset on Saturday, Mr. Pringle Elliot, fishing on the Ednam House water, caught a salmon of 8½ lb, and had a run with another which he failed to bring to bank. Mr. James Kerss killed two salmon on the Hendersyde water on Monday, and on the same day and on the same water Mr. Charles Kerss also landed two fish. After seven o'clock on Tuesday evening Mr. James Kerss obtained a couple of salmon on the Sprouston water. On Wednesday, on the Hendersyde lower water, Mr. James Kerss secured two salmon, and on the same water three baskets of trout, from 9 to 11 lb. each, were obtained. On the Sprouston water two baskets of trout were caught, which scaled about 10 lb. each. A very nice dish of 9 lb., one of the trout composing which weighed 1¾ lb., was caught on the Makerstoun water. Night-fishing for trout has been enthusiastically prosecuted since the advent of the prevailing fine weather, and day-fishing, which is exceedingly unproductive, is now little resorted to. Fishing with worm on Hempseedford, on Tuesday, Mr. Elliot caught a fine common trout, weighing 5 lb., while his tackle latterly gave way in running what ostensibly was a larger fish. Further down the stream, a good basket was taken, one trout in the lot weighing 2½ lb. Baskets weighing from 3 lb. to 4 lb. have been pretty numerous on both Tweed and Teviot, while the smaller waters also yield fair sport.—MAXWHEEL.

Wye and Derwent.

The weather during the past week has been sharp; frosty nights, with a bright, hot sun during the middle of the day; which has been very bad indeed for the artificial fly fishers, in the middle of the day. Only in the rough parts of the stream there have been several good baskets made by experienced fly fishers. Trout have risen freely in the evening, principally at the "May yellow," and a light dun which is now on all of our Derbyshire rivers; and baskets from two brace to nine brace per angler have been made. The following flies have all killed fish: The "May yellow," light dun, dotteril, black-gnat, gravel beds, and spinner flies. Dibbing all up and down the Derwent, has been followed with good success, with the natural flies, viz., down backed, or oak fly, house fly, and small blue-bottle flies. On last Saturday, a gentleman-angler killed eight brace of fine trout on the Darley Dale water by dibbling. Two of the trout over a pound apiece, and many more anglers have likewise been doing well. The Derby Trout Killer, has killed some very fine trout the last thing at night, in various parts of the Derwent. Last night, Wednesday, there was a handsome trout of 1¾ lb. killed, close to Matlock Bath Station Bridge. The bottom fishers in the Derwent only fish early and late during this hot weather. Sport with them has been but middling, the fish being killed chiefly with maggots and ant eggs. Sport on the ponds continues to be A 1, especially of an evening with the artificial fly. The best killing flies have been the small honey-dun bumble, golden-spinners, and sand flies.—GEORGE JAMES EATON.

CLUB REPORTS.

ANCHOR AND HOPE.

The Central Association's return visit was paid to the above club on Tuesday, the 16th instant, the following clubs being represented:—Odds and Evens, Clerkenwell Piscatorials, Barbican, Buckland, Little Independent, Original Clerkenwell Piscatorial, Second Surrey, Crown Angling Society, United Brothers, Peckham Perseverance, Bermondsey Brothers, Anglers' Pride, and City of London. The following contributed to the harmony during the evening—Messrs. W. Hale, Drum, Mills, Barber, Hobart, Smith, Watling, Frost, Bowman, Allen, Rymer, and Sherman. During the evening Mr. Stebbings (of the Central Association) presented the club with a very handsome teapot to be fished for.—DANIEL DAVIS.

May 17.

AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members are requested to attend the club on Wednesday, May 24, general meeting night, to arrange the annual dinner, privilege tickets, Anglers' Benevolent Society tickets; also respecting the United London Angling

Association's Fishery Society, respecting the breeding of fish and renting of fisheries, and other important matters appertaining to the club.—J. WORLEDGE.

May 17.

ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

I beg to enclose the names of the gentlemen forming the committee for the year commencing May 1, 1882:—President—T. Spreckley, Esq. Vice-Presidents—S. Morgan, Chairman United London Anglers' Central Committee; L. Bonvoisin, West Central Association of London and Provincial Angling Societies. Committee—G. Manning, Izaak Walton Angling Society; Bates, Piscatorial; R. Murphy, Good Intent; G. H. Field, South London; J. Aldrige, Hoxton Brothers; J. F. Welch, Cambridge Friendly; J. T. Cundall, Alliance; T. Crumplen, Gresham; W. High, Original Alexandra; W. H. Beckett, Good Intent; C. A. Medcalf, Amicable Brothers; R. Marshall, North-Western; A. Clark, Albert; and J. Jennings, Bostonian Angling Society. Treasurer—P. Geen. Trustees—Messrs. R. Murphy, G. Manning, and G. H. Field. Steward—G. H. Field. General Secretary—R. Ghurney. Since my last report I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of a donation of 5s. from T. Crumplen, Esq., and from the donation boxes of the undermentioned societies:—Bostonian, 16s.; Stoke Newington, 5s. 3d.; Bridgewater Brothers, 5s. 10d.—R. GHURNEY, general secretary.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

This society held its weekly meeting on Thursday, J. Ferrand Clark, Esq., in the chair. The secretary, having read the minutes, reminded the members that this was the time for any notices or proposals to be given if intended to be brought before the annual meeting, to be held on Thursday, June 1; the committee would then retire in accordance with the rules, and as one or two members would vacate their seats in any case, there was now an excellent opportunity to bring forward new men, who would infuse fresh life, even to this ever vigorous society. For himself, he would only say that he intended to take no active part in the election beyond what his duties demanded, and that his position as secretary was quite open, and he would like to see a new one, who should have his hearty co-operation Mr. Brett weighed-in 3 lb. 14 oz. of nice trout; Messrs. Robertson and Edward Bennett also weighed-in; and Major the Hon. E. R. Bourke, one of the vice-presidents of the society, has taken some splendid salmon. Mr. Young read an interesting paper on "A day's Trout-fishing in the Darenth," which was followed by a very pleasant discussion. Mr. Jardine presented a beautiful copy of the second volume of the Manchester "Anglers' Evenings" to the library, and it was also resolved to purchase the FISHING GAZETTE for the past year, which would give an epitome of the society's operations for the past year. It is hoped there will be a large attendance at the annual meeting, as it is understood that the business to be transacted will be of an exceptionally important character, and some unique cases of specimen fish will be on view. Mr. Jardine, in responding to a vote of thanks for his valuable present to the library, gave a useful and scientific account of the Derwent and other rivers. The proceedings closed with very hearty thanks to Mr. Clarke for presiding.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The annual supper and distribution of prizes of the above society will take place on Monday next, May 22. The chair will be taken by Mr. J. C. Murray, chairman of the Central Association, vice, Mr. J. Obbard. Supper on table at 8.30 precisely.—THOS. WM. LUCY, secretary.

BURTON ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

The committee, in presenting the report on the second year of the association, do so with a feeling that the interests of the members have been advanceed, so far as the limited funds allowed. During the year a keeper has been put on the Newton Water, and places likely to be netted have been well staked, so that poaching and illegal taking of fish are reduced to the narrowest limits. The committee deplore the foul state of part of the water, but, from a communication from the Trent Fishery Board, it is hoped the sewerage will be diverted in less than two years' time. Arrangements have been made, with consent of the Trent Conservators, for the netting of baits for the use of members in pike fishing. Thanks are due to E. Salt, Esq., for the privilege of mooring the punt to his banks, also for the interest he takes in the association. There were 46 members on the books, with four resignations, making now 42 members. The balance shows against the treasurer, but, it is hoped, by being economical and obtaining new members, to be able to balance the accounts more satisfactory another year. Members having friends to propose are particularly asked to attend the annual meeting, as new members can only be proposed at general meetings.

GODALMING ANGLING SOCIETY.

The first annual meeting of this society was held on Monday evening at the Sun Inn. The Mayor (Mr. Edward Stedman) presided, and there was a fair attendance of members. The report of the committee, read by Mr. Dowse (hon. sec.) was of an interesting and satisfactory character, and unanimously adopted. The officers having been reappointed, the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman. We extract the following particulars of the doings of the society from the report:—The oommittee thanked the landowners, occupiers, and others with fishing rights for the valuable permissions conceded and general support given to the society. The first meeting, at which the society was established, was held on the 31st May, 1881, and Major-General Marshal kindly consented to become president. The society at present numbers 112 members, including subscribers. Alluding to the negotiations with the riparian owners, the report stated that the society had acquired permission to fish from Mr. Blackman's meadows above Eashing Bridge to the Guildford and Horsham Railway Bridge at Shalford. This stretch of water includes important privileges in the river above Eashing Bridge, the mill pool at Messrs. Pullman's, the backwater at Messrs. Spicer's mills, and the intermediate waters between Eashing Bridge and Messrs. Pullman's mills, most of which had not been previously accessible except by special permission. With regard to the stocking of a portion of the river with trout, the pecuniary position of the society would not justify the expense. Prizes offered by the society for the heaviest takes of fish had created considerable interest among the members, and prizes had also been offered by friends of the society. The prizes had been awarded as follows:—For jack, Denyer; roach, H. Lewer; dace, J. Cooper; gudgeon, Court, There were no entries for bream, chub and tench. Lewer was also the winner of Mr. Steere's prize of a roach rod for the heaviest roach, and Messrs. Herne and Norris's prize of a box of cigars for the same description of fish. The prizes were distributed by the Mayor (Mr. E. Stedman) who had the warmest thanks of the committee. The gift of a quantity of fish from Mrs. Hall, of Witley, which had been conveyed into the river, was acknowledged. One hundred jack had been purchased from Mr. Marden, of Frensham, and turned into different parts of the river. The finances of the society were flourishing, and had been strengthened by the transfer of £10 15s. 1d. from the old society to the present, and the society was indebted to the executors of the late Mr. H. Stedman, who was the secretory of the old angling society, for the augmentation. The committee consider the society had been instrumental in preventing netting and other practices injurious to the fishing, and they appealed to all lovers of the "gentle craft" to second their efforts in this direction, and help them with liberal contributions. The members were also asked to individually do their utmost to carry out the objects of the society. Prizes will be competed for on the opening day, the first Monday after June 15.

WALTHAMSTOW ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this society held their annual supper at the club house, the Common Gate, Markhouse Road, Walthamstow, on Wednesday the 26th ult. A capital supper was put on the table by the host, Mr. D. G. Casey, the treasurer of the society. After the cloth had been drawn, the president, Mr. C. F. Haines, proposed the usual loyal toasts, which were cordially responded to; also the prosperity of the society, and the honorary secretary, Mr. H. Howse. The president then presented the prizes:—Mr. Jas. Latham, 6 silver spoons and 4 guineas, for jack and roach (heaviest jack, 9 lb. 16 oz.); Mr. D. G. Casey, 3 guineas, for roach and chub; Mr. G. Lancaster, 2½ guineas, for dace, bream, and barbel; Mr. W. Berry, 2½ guineas, for roach; Mr. R. M. Smith, 1½ guineas, for perch; Mr. J. Latham, jun., 1 guinea, for jack; Mr. J. Howell, jun., 1½ guinea and jack rod, for gudgeon and roach; Mr. W. Howell, ½ guinea and roach rod, for roach; Mr. W. Tinyay, handsomely fitted tackle case and 10s. 6d., for tench; Mr. George Chillingworth, Nottingham winch, for roach.—H. HOWES, hon. sec.

WALTONIANS.

The annual dinner of this old-established society took place on Wednesday, May 10th, Mr. Brady in the chair, faced by Mr. Waltham. After doing justice to an ample repast, the usual loyal and patriotic toasts having been given, the prizes for the past season were distributed to the fortunate ones. Harmony was started by Mr. Waltham, who is gifted with an excellent voice, and as a consequence was called upon to oblige more than once during the evening. Other members contributed to the harmony of the evening, both in comic and sentimental singing, Mr. Starr's rendering of the "Good young man that died," causing great amusement. The toast of the visitors being proposed, was responded to by Messrs. Bonvoisin and Beckett. Mr. Bonvoisin then proposed the Waltonian Angling Society, coupled with the name of Mr. Packman our secretary, which was responded to in the usual hearty manner. Our worthy secretary, whose popularity is unbounded, responded in his usual business-like manner. The healths of Mr. Brand, founder of our society, and Mr. Marriott, our reporter, were drunk; and a most enjoyable evening was brought to a close by a vote of thanks to the chairman and vice-chairman, but not before a heavy and substantial list of prizes had been announced for the ensuing season.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

The anniversary dinner of the above took place on the 17th at the St. Paul's Tavern, Westmoreland Road, Walworth. Mr. J. Weatherhead presided, assisted by Mr. Bayley. Between fifty and sixty were invited to partake of the good things provided by Mr. C. Bansback, whose catering needs no praise from me, as it is well known to all at this end of London. The cloth having been removed, the rest of the evening was devoted to harmony and the giving of prizes for the coming season (a list of which I will give in my next). In consequence of the large number of prizes (sixty-seven) given and competed for during the past season, the evening of the 1st of June has been appointed for their distribution to the following gentlemen: Mr. Boalch leads with ten prizes. £5 15s. 6d. in cash, a gold pin, two brass winches, Rolfe's picture, a side of bacon and a half a ton of coals. "Bravo, Mr. Boalch, you have earned them." Mr. J. Weatherhead has six, £5 5s., a gold pin and a guinea hat; Mr. Bayley ("Le Péré,"), £3 3s., guinea hat, and a writing desk; Mr. Bedford, £3 13s. 6d., a guinea hat and set of hair brushes; W. Brown, leg of mutton and trimmings, two gallons of gin and two rods; Mr. Delehaye, £3 3s. and a silver watch; R. Cain, £1 11s. 6d., box of cigars and a box of sweets; Mr. F. Grigg, £1 11s. 6d. and a silver cup value £10 10s, "lucky dog." Mr. C. Bansback, £3 3s., pin, studs, and solitaires; Mr. J. Collins, 10s. 6d., a felt hat, and two pictures of birds by Mr. W. Hart; Mr. T. Pearson, 10s. 6d. and a £2 2s. portrait; Mr. C. Beale, six bottles of wine and a diamond ring; J. Howard sen., 10s. 6d. and a pair of boots; J. Howard, junr., £3 13s. 6d.; Mr. Piolaine, box of cigars, pipe and tobacco; M. La Feuillade, set of tankards; Mr. Irons, £1 1s; Mr. Mawby, pair of boots; Mr. Schwartz, musical album; M Renault, two illustrated vols. of piscatory lore and 10s. 6d.; Mr. Evans, cigar case; Mr. Fox, 10s. 6d., and Mr. Russell, 10s. 6d. On this evening all members are requested to attend to receive their prizes. The cricket match between the Walworth Waltonians and the Surrey Piscatoria's will take place on the 6th of June, at the Greyhound, Dulwich, as before.—PIXIE.

TESTIMONIAL TO MR. GREVILLE FENNELL.

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Subscriptions will be gladly received by Mr. Thomas Spreckley, Treasurer, 13, Cannon Street, E.C.; or by the Hon. Secretaries, Mr. W. H. Brougham, Swayfield Villa, Hounslow, and Mr. P. Geen, Lowther Lodge, Lonsdale Road, Barnes.

May 18, 1882.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Adam Smith.—We really cannot identify the insect you sent, owing to its having been completely smashed and dried in transit. It, however, looks like the larvæ of one of the Ephemeridæ order of flies. In sending any further specimens, immerse in spirit of wine, or whisky, &c., and pack securely in a hard wooden box.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

VARNISHING RODS, HAIR AND SILK LINES, BUBBLE-EMITTING TROUT, &c.

Sir,—One of your correspondents asks for information regarding the varnishing of rods. As I have just renewed the coats of seven jack and fly wands, whilst some others have still to pass through my hands; and as the dressings which I impart never fail to do their duty and be serviceable, my remarks may be useful. Most angling authorities recommend coachman's varnish or spirits of wine and shellac. The latter preparation is, however, not particularly good. I have often used it, but have found that the solution of lac is not strong, and that the spirit does not evaporate sufficiently quickly to produce a firm, clean coat. Red sealing-wax must not be used as a substitute for pure shellac, as the coat given becomes to a certain extent streaky and opaque. The menstrum which I employ instead of spirit is the best rectified naphtha, which dissolves much more lac than the alcohol, evaporates well, and gives a thick, clear coat. For varnishing rods I find that 12 oz. (not more than 16) of naphtha to 2 oz. of shellac is a very convenient proportion, but for knots and silk wrappings in casts and other kinds of tackle a little time may be saved by making the solution, or rather, in this case, mixture, somewhat stronger. For applying the varnish a flat camel's-hair brush ¾ inch wide is required. Before using the solution, shake up the bottle, so as to thoroughly mix the sediment of lac which fills the lower half of the vessel, and pour one or one and a half table-spoonfuls into the varnishing glass; then take one of the joints of the rod, holding it by both ends, and pass it two or three times before a red fire, turning the piece slowly round at the same time, so as to heat both sides of the wood and old coat of varnish without blistering the surface. Having done this, immediately apply the brush nearly full of the lac solution to the whole of both sides of the wood, and then once more move the joint slowly with a rotatory action twice or thrice before the fire, again being careful not to blister the surface. Rear the joint vertically on the top of the mantelpiece, and allow it to remain two hours; after which another coat may be applied, when, after the lapse of a similar period, a third or final dressing may be given, the warming process being never omitted, either before or after the application of the varnish. Leave the rod standing on the mantelpiece all night. The implement may be used for fly-fishing the next day, but it is as well not to put it into the rod-bag before three days or a week have transpired, as the varnish dries slowly on the wrappings. Such a coat as the foregoing will last one or two years even, if the angler fishes on every third day.

The first coat is always the most difficult to lay on, as, owing to grease, foreign matter, and difference in the nature of the coats, the new layer does not seem to take "kindly" to its predecessor. As several of my rods consist of rent-cane, or have rent-cane tops—not such as are now made with knots in the wood every nine inches—I have to be very careful not to let that which is excellent deteriorate through want of proper habiliments. Some of these rods have caught thousands of fish in different parts of the world; and are, notwithstanding, practically just as good now as they were the day they came from Blacker. The varnish should never crack away from hickory joints; in cane rods, especially, the upper treble splints of rent-cane implements, there is a tendency for the coat to separate into small pieces; but this will hardly happen if the dressing has been applied with due care; and more than one application should never be needed in a single year of incessant fishing.

The scarecrow theory of a well-varnished rod is mainly a myth in practice, the sight of a dull moving stick being calculated to impart approximately as much fear to trout, as is a bright line; whilst the reflection of a round rod is nothing to be compared to that of a flat surface of the same width, for the light is disseminated instead of culminating; and the angler has always the remedy of a longer lines or different mode of casting.

Reverting to two of your recent editorial remarks, Mr. Editor, I must just add a few comments simply in defence of the opinions I expressed about eighteen months ago in your columns, in an article on fly-lines. You stated a short time since, that hair and silk fly-lines were antiquated pieces of tackle, and that the whole silk-braided lines are infinitely superior. I acknowledge that some of the latter are in many respects good; but I believe I am entitled to speak, as I do not belong to that class of anglers who "have never tried," and constantly fished with such lines, having three now in the house, two of which I believe I may consider of the really good variety; whilst the third, if not first class, was, at any rate, sold as such by Farlow. More I have possessed, but the finest of those that remain has had plenty of trying work, and become much curtailed. I will not abuse this line too much; it has in many respects been a faithful servant, but I still maintain the tightly-plaited, or cable-laid twisted hair and silk, is better than anything else yet brought out for fly-lines for trout, &c.; but, perhaps, for nothing else.

I see in an advertisement the properties of a fly-line are supposed to be "fineness, strength, and scientific construction," whatever the latter property may be; but to these requisite qualities I would add lightness, provided this lightness do not exceed the specific gravity of the water, when the line has been fairly immersed in the stream.

If the strand be much heavier than water, as in the braided and dressed silk lines, &c., the cast of flies is dragged to a considerable depth in pools, and even streams, whether you wish such a thing to occur or not; and the angler cannot bring it back to the surface, when employing a long line, without committing to the fly such rapid dragging movements as are wholly unnatural. This may be all very well if it be wished to sink the flies as in windy weather—the only time when the dressed silk line is really allowable—or, perhaps, occasionally in deep streams, or elsewhere, when sinking and drawing. I am aware some anglers find it difficult to cast the flies with a very fine hair and silk line, but in this case they should use the finest drawn gut collar for points, and, if this expedient do not assist them out of the dilemma, then hair casts equally as fine must be used. I only know that the finest hair and silk line may be made to deliver the fly correctly as far as five times the length of the rod, and afterwards be caused to manœuvre the fly naturally, either at or below the surface; but that for such a length of strand the dressed silk line either plucks the fly, in most cases, below the water to a considerable depth, or whips it back along the surface of the smooth pool towards the angler, until the "bellying" line accommodates itself to the demands of its own specific gravity; whilst in the case of the hair and silk line, the very nature of the surface tends to resist such an action. These, Mr. Editor, are the opinions which a thorough practical experience of both varieties of lines has at last caused me to entertain.

I must say a few words in relation to bubble-emitting trout and the roving fish of the same species. In the whole course of my fly-fishing experiences it has been one of the very rarest occurrences for me to observe shoals of roving trout, for these fish are not so fond of each other as to do this except when very young. In nearly every instance in which I have seen such movements there have been palpable signs of suspicion, not quite amounting to fear, on the part of the fish, plainly showing that if they had not already obtained a glimpse of myself, rod, or their attendant shadows, they had seen or felt something that rendered them, one and all, restless and not at ease. On the other hand, I have seen coarse fish constantly roving; whilst my experience in this case, though considerable, is small as compared with my adventures amongst trout. When suspicious, or terrified, the coarse fish behaved themselves at first much in the same way as the trout.

The only case I can at this moment find bearing strongly on the point of movement, as set off against stability, amongst my notes, occurs in my diary of camp life in the Tills Tjeld, in Norway. I extract the words verbatim from the account written on Thursday, June 27. "Went after dinner to try a nook in Over Smeddal with the fly, as I thought I had seen a school of trout rising there in the morning when the water was still; but the appearance was evidently owing to some other cause, such as rising gases, &c., for no trout were forthcoming." The nook was a rather broad backwater or arm of the upper lake; and, on thinking the matter over, I concluded I had been deceived by the rising of very large bubbles from the ooze and decaying organic matter at the bottom of the water under the influence of the sun, which had only recently been able to exert its power in that locality, after the melting of the winter's ice. On the 11th April and 7th June of the same year I had two remarkable examples of the stationary position of myriads of trout in still water. In 1875, in Wales, I repeatedly had magnificent opportunities of inspecting pools full of fish, in which trout were practically stationary until they had seen my approach, when they began to move in shoals. In England I cannot say that I have noticed any great movement of these fish in any way partaking of a gregarious nature, otherwise than in such instances as those to which I have already referred, whilst of Scotland I may make the same observation; and I have at no time had to alter my system of fishing for trout in any but very exceptional cases, to suit such alleged movements, if we debar the consideration of those resulting from suspicion or fright.

The nearest approach to intermittent wanderings of the recluse and wary trout, I have observed when daping with the natural fly and grasshoppers, in the deep pools of a rocky, wood-clad ravine, where a good fish certainly might now and then be seen to have a feeding ground of several yards in length, over which the trout went on regular patrol, always falling back to its favourite station at the foot of the area; but this, though in a pool, was close to a strong current.

The bubbles with which many fish are credited are for the most part gaseous emanations from the ooze of the watercourse, or from dead animal and living or dead vegetable matter in the water itself.

Turning to the subject of gross weights, I must record my vote as altogether against competitions for prizes in angling, so far as they have to do with takes of fish. I hold that the love of the pastime is a sufficient incentive to craftsmanship and luxury exquisite enough for all true sportsmen.

One thing more I must notice. I see in Mr. Ford's Yorkshire notes a report relating to two rivers over which I was once conservator; and I also observe in this instance a good take credited to a man who was a most inveterate poacher, was convicted of netting, and who constantly poaching his fish at night, left them in place of hiding, and then professed to catch them with the rod next day.—I am, sir, yours, &c., **The Raven.**

[Having recently tried the silk line and the hair and silk plaited line against each other, we can only say that we infinitely prefer the waterproofed braided silk. The hair and silk is all very well for casting with the wind, but directly you try to throw the least bit across the wind you are powerless; but with the solid silk you can do anything. We shall never use anything else. The great secret is to make your rod and line match well. Never overweight your rod.—Ed.]

MORE PRIZES FOR THE TOURNAMENT.

Sir,—I have just purchased of Messrs. Bumpus, Holborn, the following books:—Darwin's Work on Worms, Macaulay's Critical and Historical Essays, Letters and Speeches, ditto; and the History of a Crime, by Victor Hugo. I have ordered them to be delivered at your office, and place them at your disposal as prizes to be given at the forthcoming angling tournament.—I am, &c., **A. J. Marriott.**

[Many thanks. Other prizes will be "thankfully received" by the committee of the Anglers' Benevolent Society, and acknowledged by us. They can be sent to the Editor of the Fishing Gazette, 12, Fetter Lane.—Ed.]

ANOTHER FINIAN ATROCITY.

Sir,—All Mr. Forbes' real Thames trout fry—1500 in number—which were placed in the rearing ponds at Sunbury, have been stolen. There can be no doubt but that this was the act of Finians.—I am, &c., **Creel.**

THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.

Sir,—Will "Marlow Buzz" kindly explain how to get to "Mid-Thames" in an hour's ride from London for a 2s. 6d. return ticket? Would that the Great Western Railway had such liberal views as some other lines on such matters.—I am, &c., **W. B.**

May 15.

HOOKS WITHOUT BARBS.

Sir,—A good many years ago I fell in, one March evening, at Domodo'gida, with a native fishing enthusiast, very poor indeed, but as happy in his enthusiasm as man can be. He carried me off to his room—such a poor place it was—and showed me how he made his hooks out of needles. Then and there I wrote down what he did. Here it is.

Take a needle, No. 10, with a pair of pliers at the large end, heat it gradually in the flame of a candle, beginning at about one-third of the distance from the point and going on to the point; repeat this process till the needle is red hot.

Then, with a pair of round pliers, bend it, beginning at the point, and so on, bit by bit, till you have the shape you want. Then heat it again red hot, and dip it into cold water. Then rub soap or grease on it to give it what colour you please. Lastly, with a cutting pliers, cut it off at what length you like.

This poor fellow had plenty of English hooks, but held them in supreme contempt. Unfortunately the snow was beginning to melt on the lower slopes of the Alps, and the river was foul, or I would have had a day with him.

I bought a dozen of his flies, and send you one of the few I happen to have left. I have tried them in England, and, though I did not stick to them, as far as my trial went it was in favour of the hooks. I caught some small trout with them, and purposely held them rather loosely to let the barbless hook fall out if it liked, but it did not. My trial, however, was far too short to be a real test of the hooks. Still, there is one thing in their favour—viz., their sharpness. It requires some self-confidence to begin a thing opposed to the practice of nearly all mankind from the beginning of time, as far as we know. The most ancient hook I ever saw are those found at Pompeii, now in the museum at Naples; and they were barbed, and heavy clumsy affairs altogether. Angling in the Sarno seems to have been a favourite pastime with the Pompeians. I wonder what they caught.—I am, &c.,

NEMO.

[The fly is exactly like those described by us the other day as being exhibited at Edinburgh.—ED.]

THE BERESFORD ANGLING SOCIETY.

SIR,—In the otherwise correct report of the annual dinner of the Beresford Angling Society appearing in your last week's issue, there occur two errors. The first makes me say that my "experience of angling was something like Sam Weller's knowledge of London, extensive and peculiar." Now, as I am a somewhat indifferent angler, this startling proposition doubtless proved highly diverting to my friends, who must have thought my vanity, which had been latent, had become blatant. What I really said was that "my knowledge of angling societies was like," &c.

Further on your report speaks of the "death" of Mr. Dr. J. Whitaker. I am happy to say that I met my esteemed friend, Mr. W., last Tuesday, who appeared, it is true, somewhat poorly, but worth any quantity of dead Mr. W.'s. Your insertion of these corrections will oblige.—I am, &c.,

May 16th. W. H. BECKETT.

[The word "death" should have been printed "absence;" otherwise, the report is as we received it.—ED.]

THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF THE MUNDELLA ACT.

SIR,—I noticed in your issue of the 15th, under the heading of Club and other Jottings, that it is proposed to alter the laws regarding the fishing for coarse fish. I have read the various proposed alterations carefully, and think, with one or two exceptions, they will be of great benefit to anglers at large. But I think the size of one or two kinds of fish could be altered to advantage both to the angler and fish. If carp are allowed to be taken as short as 8 inches, would it be fair to stop the taking of all roach under 9 inches? In the water I am in the habit of fishing in, I have often taken as many as eight or nine dozen roach in a day, and out of that number have not had twenty fish up to 7 inches and not one up to 8 inches. I well remember once having the pleasure of Mr. Geen's company while fishing this water, and amongst five of us anglers our takes, though numerous, were, I believe, a blank so far as sizeable fish went, taking 7 inches for the standard. Mr. Geen stated at the time that unless the roach were thinned out by turning in a number of jack, or by some other means, we should never have fish of a good size. I ask, would it be fair to us who are in the habit of fishing this water during the open season, to be restricted from taking fish under 9 inches? No doubt in the Lea and Thames, where roach often reach 2 lb. in weight, 9 inches is small enough. But I can truly say that it is a rare occurrence to take one here up to ½ lb., and I believe there was not one taken during the whole of last season up to 1 lb. in weight.—I am, &c.

J. GIBBS.

147, Malins Road, Landport.

USE OF THE SLIME OF FISHES.

SIR,—Will you or any of your readers kindly inform me if the slime we find in such profuse quantities on the bream acts (as I have been informed) as a preventitive against cold; presuming this is the case, how do you account for this and other species possessing far less in the winter than in the summer and autumn months? J. V. T. tells me he was informed by Mr. Frank Buckland that it acts as a kind of second or outer skin, and that the eel suffers pain at the loss of it. This is such an extraordinary statement I should like to know more about it. It is a singular fact that out of many hundreds of bream I have caught I have never yet seen a diseased one. May not this be owing to the medicinal properties of this singular formation.

MARK ANTONY.

P.S.—As some anglers might doubt any one saying he had caught fish in a diseased state, I beg to say I have often caught fish in a very bad state of disease, notably the roach; and I once caught a flounder with a sore on its back as large as a damson.

M. A,

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

THIS (Friday) evening, the monthly meeting of the West Central Association will take place at the Portman Arms, Great Quebec Street, Baker Street, Mr. L. Bonvoisin presiding.

The annual supper of the North-Western Angling Club is to take place on Thursday evening, the 25th inst., when Messrs. Julius Harding and Harry Winn will occupy the chair and vice-chair respectively; truly, two goodlier men could not be found.

A visit was paid on Tuesday evening to the Convivial Angling Society, the Bull and Bell, Ropemaker Street, Finsbury: but, owing to the letter fixing the date having been delayed in delivery through an oversight in the addressing, only two or three days' notice had been given, and the attendance was very small. Mr. Crockett occupied the chair, Mr. Kelson the vice. Among the singers were:—Messrs. Crockett, Kelson, Simpkin, Brown, Winn, Sparrow, Hodges, Bonvoisin, Ghurney, Chambers, &c. Twelve clubs were represented, viz., Amicable, Waltonians, City of London, Convivial, Odds and Evens, Reform, Bermondsey Brothers, Little Independent, Hoxton Brothers, Act-on-the-Square, Stepney, and North-Western. The roll was called by Mr. L. Bonvoisin, the district officer, who, after making some remarks about the renting of waters by the United London Anglers and the coarse-fish propagation scheme, which were received in a manner which could leave no doubt of the warm interest taken by club anglers in these twin questions, said that, having in view the circumstances which had led to so small a meeting, he would have no hesitation in agreeing to the suggestion that had that evening been made, that the society should receive a complimentary visit—(hear, hear)—the date of which was afterwards fixed for Tuesday evening, June 13. Mr. Ghurney also addressed the meeting, his remarks *re* coarse-fish culture being not only well received, but frequently cheered.

Mr. Stebbings' letter in last week's GAZETTE is perfectly correct in substance, no amalgamation has taken place between the Central Association and the East Central or the West Central; but surely it would only have been gracious to have added—and I hope not having done so was an oversight on Mr. Stebbings' part—that all three associations are actively co-operating on several questions, notably on those relating to the renting of waters, obtaining and working railway concessions, coarse-fish culture, &c.; that the benefits of the Anglers' Benevolent Society are extended to the members of all three alike; and that it is generally felt by all the right-thinking men of all three bodies that such co-operation is not only beneficial but absolutely necessary; and that it is desirable it should be extended to all questions of general interest, if any lasting practical good to anglers and angling is to be the outcome of efforts now being made.

Some fair trout have, I hear, been taken at West Drayton.

Apropos of trout, I have a most amusing letter from Haslett, the well-known Chertsey fisherman. He says: "There are plenty of trout here. The other day, while out with Mr. Allan for a few hours, I saw six feeding, but not a sign of a jack; if there were as many jack as trout we should look for some winter fishing. The bream have been looking up their spawning grounds in the back waters, and there was quite a grand show; the roach have been busy, too, but not so numerous as one would wish. I hope to have the pleasure of sending you a fish before the trout season is over. I have waited for a month for customers that have not put in an appearance, and will now have a try on my own account, but would rather have a customer; am open to fish with any gentleman for a week and catch two trout, or no pay. If I take, or hear of any good fish being taken, I will let you know without fail."

I hope Haslett will get a customer, and be saved from committing so dreadful a deed as fishing by himself.

The visit to the Hoxton Brothers on Monday night was a perfect success, the room being crammed—it was a house-warming in a full sense of the word—and I am told Mr. R. Ghurney was jubilant. Mr. Ghurney, as secretary of the Hoxton Brothers, works very hard, and I don't know whether the secretary has most reason to be proud of his club or the club to be proud of its secretary.

Mr. Hoole is receiving applications from all quarters for the new tickets. All who have seen the tickets admitting they are the neatest ever issued; every angler who sees will want to possess one.

THE SEVERN BOARD OF CONSERVATORS.

THIS board met at the George Hotel, Shrewsbury, on Monday, the chair being occupied by Mr. Willis-Bund.

The Duke of Beaufort was elected a member of the board, and a resolution was passed expressing the sense of the meeting of the valuable services that had been rendered by Mr. Spencer Walpole to the fisheries of the country during the fifteen years he has acted as inspector; and, while congratulating him upon his appointment to the important post which he has been called upon to fill, they felt that his removal from the office of inspector was a great loss not only to that board, but to the whole fishery interest in England.

After one or two matters of minor importance had been dealt with, Mr. Humphrey Owens's new bye-laws for preservation of fish in the upper waters of the Severn were discussed, and, with a few modifications, adopted.

A memorial was presented to the board, signed by between 400 and 500 of the inhabitants of Shrewsbury, praying the board to allow the corporation to have the control over the fishing within the borough, with power to prohibit netting.

It was stated that netting was carried on in such a manner as to make what might be one of the best angling resorts in England a very poor place for sport. Complaints were made that the netters, who were not men who fished for a living, took a number of samlets when they could catch nothing else, and that it was their practice to take fish at a time when they were quite out of condition.

The chairman of the board pointed out that the board had not power to stop netting in any district while netting was legal, but he said the board would no doubt co-operate with the corporation in an endeavour to obtain an Act of Parliament for the prevention of netting in the borough. A resolution agreeing to such co-operation was ultimately passed.

A CORRECTION.—By a printer's error, Mr. Jardine is made to say in his letter to us last week, that all the pike taken on the 3rd of January last under 8 lb. were returned to the river; it should have been part were returned to the river and part given to friends living in the locality in which they were fishing.

MR. FRANCIS GEORGE HEATH has accepted the editorship of *The Journal of Forestry*, the new volume of which, just commencing, will give considerable space to all subjects interesting to lovers of the country.

THE BRUNSWICK PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

On Wednesday, the 17th inst., the first annual dinner of the above society was held at their headquarters, the Brunswick Arms, Brunswick Street, Stamford Street, S.E. (which by the way is worthy of a visit if only to see the display of fresh-water fish, completely covering the entire sides of two compartments), under the most satisfactory circumstances.

The chair was very ably filled by Leo Bonvoisin, Esq., and the vice-chair by Thos. Hoole, Esq. There was a good muster of members. Among the visitors were Messrs Walkley, Cook, Bradbury, Hards, Walters, Morris, Sims, Dunn, &c.

The ménu was varied and ample, and exceedingly well done, the dinner being put on the table in the usual excellent manner, in which Host Keeble has distinguished himself on other occasions. After doing justice to the viands the tables were cleared.

The Chairman, in very graceful terms, gave the first toast of the evening, viz., "The Queen and Royal Family."

Mr. Hoole, in his well-known style, sang "Good Old Jeff," which was loudly applauded. Mr. W. Allsop, who presided at the piano, gave the next toast, "The Brunswick Piscatorial Society." He then beautifully rendered "My Sweetheart when a Boy."

The Secretary, in responding, stated that although at the present time their number was but small, he trusted during the ensuing season to add a good many members to the roll. Mr. Bonvoisin then gave a very amusing recitation entitled "The Frenchman and the Rats." Mr. Morris sang "Ye Men of Harlech" in Welsh. Mr. W. Booth, "Jack's Yarn."

Then came the toast, "The West Central Association," proposed by the secretary, who dilated on the immense benefits derived therefrom. Mr. Bradbury sang "Tom Tough." Mr. Bonvoisin, in responding, among other remarks, said the association wanted the support of all—he spoke of the culture of fish—capitalists buying up the best waters; so we must look after ourselves and secure water that would furnish us with sport. He strongly advocated the cause of the Anglers' Benevolent Fund, as it was most deserving of support. Mr. Bonvoisin then presented the prizes. Mr. Keeble sang "Glorious Vintage of Champagne."

The Secretary proposed "Kindred Societies," which was responded to by Mr. Walkley. Mr. Hards sang "Nil Desperandum."

The next toast was the "Chairman," given by Host Keeble (with musical honours), who spoke in very eulogistic terms of the untiring exertions of Mr. Bonvoisin. Mr. Worth sang "When the Bird is on the Bough." Mr. Bonvoisin, in responding, in the course of his reply said that no man deserved credit for doing that which he liked.

The next toast was given by Mr. Walkey, the "Vice-Chairman" (with musical honours), and spoke very highly of the inexhaustible manner in which Mr. Hoole worked for the cause of angling. Mr. H. Dunn sang "The Midshipmite." Mr. Hoole responded, and said he had wielded a rod for twenty-five years, and nothing gave him greater pleasure than to be amongst anglers. Mr. W. Sims sang the "Dorking Night."

Mr. W. Booth proposed the "Visitors," coupled with the names of Messrs. Hards and Bradbury. Mr. Allsop sang "Good-bye at the Door." Messrs. Hards and Bradbury very suitably responded,

Mr. Fullen proposed the next toast, "The Treasurer," to which Mr. Keeble responded.

The next toast was "The President," proposed by Host Keeble, to which Mr. Pullen responded; and in doing so said he had a pleasing duty to perform, viz., to propose the "Secretary," and spoke in laudatory terms of the efficient manner in which he performed his duties.

The Secretary in responding was deeply sensible of the kind manner in which the toast had been given, and said he was always ready to do anything in his power in connection with angling.

Mr. J. Weston proposed the next toast, "The Press," who spoke of its immense value in ventilating angling topics. Mr. Pullen responded.

The Secretary proposed "The Host and Hostess," to which Mr. Keeble responded. "Auld Lang Syne" being rendered, concluded a very happy and enjoyable evening.—Esox Lucius.

CANADIAN FISH-CULTURE.

Visit to the Newcastle Hatching-House—New Method in the Hatching of Whitefish—Introduction of the German Carp into Canada.

California Salmon for the Maritime Provinces—Description of the Glass-Bottle Hatchery—Deterioration of River Fisheries Explained—Preparation for Receiving "The People's Fish"—Curiosities in the Hatchery.

The history of the origin and development of fish-breeding by artificial means is one so interesting, and its object of so great commercial importance, that it has always received from the public a large share of attention, and from the Government all the aid which seemed needed to its success, The project, it need not be said, in Canada, was largely, in the beginning, experimental, for at the time when Mr. Wilmot so urgently proposed giving it a test there was not on the continent another similar establishment. The work was, therefore, commenced at Newcastle with nothing complete save the idea of the continued supply and re-generation of the fisheries; all the appliances needed to the prosecution of the work had to be devised and made, for there was no institution to which Mr. Wilmot could go for inspiration or models. As in the beginning of every artistic enterprise, the appliances first used were only in a measure adapted to their uses; but now, after long study and many contrivances, all that the present stage of fish-culture seems to need has been supplied, though there is not any doubt, as the institution grows older, provided it be proved that it has compassed the objects of its institution, its sphere will grow larger as demands upon it increase, and internal improvement will develop with its growth. At the present time the institution is working in concert with what seems to be nature's idea, and devoting itself to the production and development of the fisheries having commercial importance in their respective provinces. It would not be wise, for example, to try to set Lake Ontario swarming with dolphin or South Sea seal; neither is it wise, so far as what is known in the history of fishes shows, to attempt to overawe a certain class of fishes into increasing and multiplying in waters which by choice they would not make a *habitat* the year round, and which may be incapable of sustaining their existence at all. Novelty is not alone the most interesting of all the sciences, but the search after the novel is highly commendable, provided the explorers stop after experience has taught that no tangible benefit can come of further search. The whitefish and the salmon trout are both commercial fishes, of much importance in Ontario's trade, and inhabit Lake Ontario. No doubt they are the descendants of some adventurous salmon who, perhaps thousands of years ago, came up from the Atlantic, and never found their way back again. It is well that the money to be expended for fish-culture in Ontario is to be devoted to the propagation of these whitefish and salmon trout; and the public will be glad to know that the eggs obtained for the hatchery are got from the fish caught for the market, so that there is no sacrifice of the spawn fish for the sake of experiment, and the ova, if not used in the hatching-house, would be lost. The changes from time to time in the methods employed in breeding in the hatchery have been referred to, and it may not be uninteresting, before describing a new method just adopted in the establishments, to state what for years the method in whitefish hatching was. The ova were put into a tray, through which a stream of water unceasingly flowed. During the time the ova remained in the incubating condition, from day to day large numbers, though relatively to the whole number few, of white eggs appeared among the rest. Each white egg was a bad egg, and it was essential that such should be at once picked off. If allowed to remain it began after a day or two to put forth processes, which processes seemed to be a

FUNGOID EXCRESCENCE,

which laid hold of and contaminated the next egg; the process went on, the affected eggs grappling others, till every egg within touch became a member of the foul confederacy, and was spoiled. It may be said that Professor Huxley and other distinguished writers on fishes have lately pointed out that the marked decadence of the salmon in several of the Scotch and English rivers is due the destructive work of the fungoid pest, but whether the pest is a protoplasmic parasite or a vegetable aggressive excrescence has not been defined. By the way, this might prove an interesting study for some of our own scientists expert with the microscope. Mr. Wilmot also states that the same disease has prevailed to a serious extent in many Canadian rivers, and he showed the writer fishes which had been attacked while under his own eye with the fungoid disease. One was a salmon trout, which, for its beauty, Mr. Wilmot had kept. Forty hours after the excrescence appeared upon it the fish was dead. Mr. Wilmot is of opinion that the excrescence is of vegetable origin, and that the disease menaces only the higher and more sensitive order, the salmon family for example. This is why it becomes apparent that the salmon does not thrive, but dies out in those rivers which for the greater part of their course run through a cultivated region. In olden times these rivers ran through a continuous forest, which protected them from the too great influence of the sun. Now the country is bare, and with each rainfall large quantities of organic matter are carried down into the rivers from the country on both sides; while evaporation is more rapid and far greater by reason of the full force of the sun upon the river. Thus there is a superabundance of organic matter in the river now on the one hand, and a lesser volume of water on the other; hence in the summer heat in such a river will the salmon die. Put a salmon into such water as the citizens of Toronto have often drank in the dog days, and it will die. It will become attacked by the fungoid enemy, and will be killed by it in forty hours. Out in the Newcastle hatchery two kinds of water are used, the creek and the spring. At this season the salmon seems to thrive as well in the former as in the latter; but put it into the same water in the heat of summer and it will die. Mr. Wilmot has made the experiment. The same fungoid that attacks the fish it is that the unsound egg develops. It is therefore the continuous duty of those in charge of the hatching-houses to pick off the infected egg as soon as it shows itself. In the case of the salmon fry, of which the egg is as large as a pea, this is quite a practicable task, but in the case of the whitefish fry, the egg of which is no larger than a grain of partridge shot, and where several millions of them have to be scanned, and the bad ones picked out one by one with a wooden pincers, the task was almost impracticable. Thus in the hatchery at Sandwich it was found necessary to employ from thirty to forty little boys and girls to pick the eggs, and corresponding numbers for similar work in the other establishments.

(*To be continued.*)

WORMS IN MACKEREL.

I should be glad if someone could tell me whether the following is a common or unusual fact. I was splitting a mackerel for broiling, which had been washed and cleaned by the fishmonger, and observed some very small transparent discs, which seemed to be strung together and adhering to the (soft) roe. On looking more closely I found that each disc was really a very minute coil, unpleasantly suggestive, and that the roe was so full of them that they could not be removed without tearing it into shreds; a sprinkle of salt confirmed my suspicions; some of the larger discs uncoiled themselves into thread worms, quite an inch long. Now, are these parasites common in mackerel? because I remember once offering some of the fish to an old French lady, who declined with a shudder, saying it was "full of worms!" for which she was laughed at. If this mackerel had been boiled, the worms would have been cooked too, and eaten; it was perfectly fresh, and a fine, large, full-roed fish. I am afraid I shall disgust others as much as I was disgusted myself, but I shall shudder at mackerel as did my French friend; and I think many people would be glad to know of this, that proper precautions may be taken.—PETIT VER.

[The above query appears in the *Bazaar*. We can answer it in a general way by saying that the intestines of fish are rarely, if ever, entirely free from animal parasites; and fish, like pork, should be thoroughly well cooked before it is eaten.—ED.]

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N.B.—No connection with any other persons assuming the same name.

GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY.

SEASIDE.

Two Months, Fortnightly, and Friday or Saturday to Monday, (first, second and third class) TICKETS are issued by all Trains, at Reduced Fares, to Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Walton-on-the-Naze, Weeley (for Clacton-on-Sea), Harwich, Dovercourt, Aldeburgh, Felixstowe, Southwold, Hunstanton and Cromer.
For full particulars see handbills and time tables.

WILLIAM BIRT,
General Manager.

London, April, 1882.

WHITSUNTIDE HOLIDAYS.

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Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, MAY 27, 1882.

RIVERS OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

PERHAPS there will be no better time to give a digest of the fishable rivers of Wales than at the present; and to do this with accuracy, we are greatly indebted to the thorough experience and courtesy of Mr. William Pritchard of Wrexham, who has admirably classified the several groups of streams into districts for our use.

THE VALE OF CLYWD.—Rhyl (head-quarters). This district is very large and may be divided into three portions (1), all along the coast from Rhyl to Chester; (2), from Abergele and up into the heart of the country; (3) the Vale of Clywd from Rhyl to Ruthin. From Rhyl, the railways will take the angler to all the the places named; of which the rivers Clywd and Elwy are the principal. The only station in immediate connection with Rhyl is Rhuddlan. Inn, the Black Man. Salmon, sewin and trout. Leave must be obtained of the riparians, but this is seldom refused. There are about three small rivers in that locality, and the largest may be fished as far as the village of Dyserth and on to Newmarket.

ABERGELE AND PENSARN.—First proceed to Bettws and on to Llanfair-Talhaiarn, for the river Elwy; and further on for the Aled, and on to Llansannan, a convenient station for the Aled The river Brenig, the lakes of Llynbean, Aled and Alwen, are not far distant.

LLANDULAS is a convenient minor station. The Dulas runs by the village, and can be followed on, with other streams adjoining, to Llangerniew which is convenient for the Elwy, the Hyrdd, and Dyffryn Gallt. The village of Colywn further towards Conway is also a very useful place for following the rivers up towards Llangerniew. The third portion, from Rhyl to Ruthin, is an important one and the first station is St. Asaph. (Inns, Mostyn Arms, Plough, and Railway Inn.) This station consists of an extensive extent of country, and is considered the best in the vale. The river Elwy runs right under the city, and the river Clywd only a short distance on the other side, so that both are available to the angler. A favourite spot to begin fishing is at Rhuddlan bridge to Rhyd-y-Dau-Dwr where the river Clywd and Elwy fall into the Voryd river and which is about 1½ miles from St. Asaph. Another chosen spot on the Elwy is Pontrallt-Goch. From St. Asaph, take the train to Trefnant Station, and fish the river Clywd as far as Pont Ruffith where the river Wheeler falls into it; follow that river, which is a good one for large trout, to the valley of Bodfari, a minor station, and where accommodation can be had at the Derorben Arms. Follow the river to four crosses near Caerwys, then fish the river Chwilor which runs towards Newmarket. At Tefi-y-Dorf you have, in addition, the river Ffynnon Fair which you can fish as far as the village of Ysceifiog. Following the river on the lower road towards Denbigh, Pontnewydd is a prominent place for the angler to begin close to Cefn Mansion; then follow the river to Llanfair-Talhairn (Harp Inn), and on to Llangerniew (Stag Inn). Denbigh: this is not so important a place as St. Asaph, but it will be found a useful station as it has direct roads into the heart of the country to both rivers and lakes. Although somewhat distant, it is available for the rivers Clywd and Clwywedog which run towards Ruthin. Llanrhaiadr is a convenient minor station between Denbigh and Ruthin. A good river, the Ystrad, runs from the Clywd to Nantclyn. Denbigh may be also used for the river Aled and for the lakes Aled, Elwy, and Llynbran, which abound in fish. The distance to those lakes is 8 to 10 miles, and well worth the journey. Ruthin station is somewhat like Denbigh, the Clywd runs through close to the town, and there is a small river flowing through Llanfair, Llanrhyd, and Llanbedr. The Alyn is only about three miles distant, commencing at Llanarmon. Fish on to Llanferris in one direction, and to Llandegla on the other. The other rivers in this part may be fished as follows:—To Llanfwrog, Pont Uchaf, Gyffeiliog and the river Bechan; this course may be followed to the lakes of Llynbran, Aled, and Elwy. Another course to Llanfair and on to Llansledan; another to Llanfwrog, Efenechtyd and to Clocarnog; for the river Clywyedog. Take the train as far as Derwen station, on the Ruthin and Corwen line, from thence various rivers may be fished back to Ruthin. Those who wish a day's fishing on the Dee, can take the train from any station in the vale of Corwen.

To be continued.

THOUGHTS ON THE THEORY OF FLIES.

BY ROBERT BALDERSTON.

(*Continued from page* 220.)

THE Naturalists have some very serious objections to make to these premises and surmises, which are rather awkward bugbears for their opponents to grapple, and which they will find it better to leave alone.

1st. Very great doubt may be thrown upon the statement made by the Nondescript alliance regarding rejection of the pattern which is like, and reception of that which is unlike, the fly at the moment on the water. It is not meant here to impeach the veracity of the opposing faction, but rather to demand a more full elucidation of the matter; as amongst anglers generally such preposterous statements regarding sport and all the circumstances connected therewith are daily heard, and believed or discredited according to the credulity of the unhappy listener, that only authentic and well verified statements can be adduced. Luckless indeed must the angler be who, on the strength of some fictitious exploit, sallies forth a score of miles or more for meagre sport, merely because foolish enough to trust the honour of a boastful friend; for a fly-fisher has always to weigh arguments and accounts to which he listens before having even an approximate idea of weights and numbers given in various stories of captures he may hear; as he knows full well the mere words of narrative count for nothing, and that deductions must be made on every hand before the truth is reached.

He has been led to understand from what he has seen in others—certainly not in himself—that the mountain air or the peculiar nature of the sport have such an influence on its devotees that numbers lose all significance; and that conditions and details get so interwoven with others from some mystic fishing grounds, that when he has heard all and learnt all, it is so associated with unknown quantities that he has then neither time nor inclination to work out the problem, but is perforce obliged to allow himself remain in ignorance; the tale of his angling brethren, to which he has listened, yielding no reliable light. On account, therefore, of this peculiar influence of the air and the exciting nature of the sport, it is as well for all anglers who wish to be argumentative in matters relating to their pastime, to commit at once to paper in writing whatever circumstances they may consider peculiar or worthy of notice; and to do this on the spot where the thing occurred, or at the end of the day's sport, entering the account in a note-book specially devoted to the subject. By adhering to this plan, a single wonderful feat, or a simple fact which has occurred once or twice in the angler's rambles, will not be multiplied into a dozen or more such incidents; this multiplication arising more from the constant tendency of the angler to gloat or ponder over any unusual feat, so that in the space of several years the memory recounts not only the real facts, but memories of memories, which are themselves at length supposed to be the real actions; whilst indeed they are only the imperfect images of one thing, not recognised as the same because so incomplete. In therefore remarking that great doubt may be thrown upon the statement made by the Nondescript alliance, allusion is made to this multiplication of single events, making them appear repetitions of similar, but not identical, circumstances. Now a single occasion occurring at rare intervals, like the one advanced, cannot be brought forward as bearing any weight against the practice of the naturalist; but when it is urged as being a thing of constant occurrence, some remonstrance against such perversions of truth must be made, the frequency of such occasions being doubted in the absence of any record of the number of times in which the supposed anomalies occurred.

2. The preceding objection was only raised against the presumed frequency of the alleged caprice; no question being made as to the cause of this whim, and no doubt being expressed as to the accuracy of some of the premises. But what was the cause of fastidiousness?

Was it a desire on the part of the fish to eat something of which they knew nothing, in preference to devouring a likeness of insects on which they were undoubtedly feeding at the time? The cause of the caprice was the imperfection of the artificial representation, coupled with the inartistic mode of manipulating that structure on the water. A slender, delicate dun is very difficult to imitate with such materials as feathers and silk; whilst the dry floating state, with wings erect, is still more difficult to represent. It is not to be wondered at that such a cunning fish as the trout should reject the bait on account of failure in either of these respects, or both combined. On the other hand, it assuredly was no desire on the part of the fish to eat something of which they knew nothing, in preference to devouring the likeness of insects on the water at the time; for the anomalous flies were, although somewhat imperfect representations, the water-cricket, black gnat, and cowdung, &c.; as the black and red hackles are simply bad dressings of these flies. These hackles, too, can be manœuvred much more naturally than can the bad patterns of the duns, which do not display deceptive movements; whilst the quivering fibres of the former cover defects with naturality, all of them being rude copies of first-rate killers, taken from the naturalist angler's list. The argument of these outlandish fly-fishers, regarding the taking of nondescript flies by trout, is therefore at once confuted on the ground of imperfect handiwork.

3. Neither have these angling demurrers any ground for supposing that the fish took their red and black hackles, &c., as nondescripts, simply because another fly was swarming on the water; for, as already shown, the prototypes of these are general flies, existing throughout the year to a greater or less extent, and no doubt actually upon the stream amid the crowd of duns, though very sparsely scattered.

4. In refutation number two it was stated that the artificial dun might be rejected, because of its imperfections both in dressing and manœuvring. Now the cowdung, house-fly, black gnat, and many others, are insects easily represented, not only in colour and form, but more especially in their mode of behaviour on the water. The case, as regards the foregoing heads at least, may therefore be reduced to this: "The trout refused a bad, and were hooked by a good, imitation."

5. The number of fish caught in each instance by the substituted fly is not stated, and may not have been great; neither is it proved that a dry, or even the wet, dun would not have caught the trout if on the line at the time; for fish on such occasions may for long refuse, or play with, the fly, and after a time take it surely and ravenously.

6. When fish are feeding on the dry floating duns, as has already been stated, they are not easily taken, owing to the difficulty of representing that particular state. A fly which has been employed some time becomes so soaked with water that, despite a few casts in the air to dry the hackles, the bait floats for a moment or two only, and then sinks some distance below the surface. The Nondescript alliance, in changing to another cast, have forgotten that they are also changing from a wet to a thoroughly dry set of flies; and that these, if made of proper materials, will retain their floating power for a long time, especially if the angler wishes it should be so. Many fish may be caught, simply owing to this change; and there is no proof or testimony given to show that had a dry cast of duns been substituted, still better sport might not have been obtained. It is a well-known fact that a fresh cast of flies often kills fish for some time, and then suddenly loses its otherwise unaccountable killing power.

7. Another circumstance exerting a considerable influence over the selection of the fly by the trout is worthy of attention, though apt to be overlooked. When the natural insects swarm on the water, fish rest, in pools, much farther from the bottom than they are in the habit of doing at other times; and, in the streams just under the surface; so that, unless the fly is taken as it drops, which is very often the case, trout are so near as to detect blemishes in the bait or tackle, and the angler is acquainted with the results of such reconnaissances. With faulty lures, and plans of operation likewise defective, the creel remains empty, or only casually receives an occupant; and the unskilled and prejudiced practitioner has the annoyance of seeing the great trout rising all around his flies, or rolling over the cast in utter disdain of himself and tackle.

8. Let the individuals who think they are in the habit of catching fish with nondescript flies, after the refusal of the Naturalist's patterns, adopt more perfect representations of the actual insects discarded—dressed on hooks as good as those which accompany the so-called nondescripts, tied to gut as fine and clear—and they will find themselves in a better position for comparing respective merits; insomuch that the asserted anomalies will now be discovered to have ceased to exist. It is undoubted that many excellent flies are rendered useless by being tied to defective hooks and gut.

It is, therefore, apparent that the unorthodox professors plainly belong to the unreasoning section of the brotherhood; that they argue from false premises and build up doctrines upon these still more erroneous; and that whatever success attends their practice begins when they deviate unconsciously from crude theory. The untruth and absurdity of such doctrines having been thoroughly exposed, the surmises, and most of the premises, on which they are based may be at once and for ever dismissed. One of the premises, however, remains for discussion; as well as a circumstance which may considerably affect the grounds on which Formalists, Colourists, and the Nondescript alliance, as a whole, base their opinions. In dealing with this one remaining premise, the Naturalist may ask, "After all, what is this nondescript of which so much has been made?" Two meanings have been given to it.

I. It is the representation of a fly which is not actually in season; that is, which has not yet assumed the imago state, or has ceased to exist as the year declines.

II. It is something employed as a bait by anglers, apparently endowed with life, but belonging to no group of known animals, or rather a copy of nothing known or described.

When the Nondescript alliance employ the first definition only, the meagre and shallow basis on which they lay their arguments is easily apparent; for it has been shown already that the adduced heterodox flies were "general flies;" insects not out of season during any of the angling months, and therefore not nondescripts. Perhaps these flies were used during a month in which they do not appear in the angler's list; but, for all that, when in season, most of the angler's best flies, having once appeared, no matter what the month, do swarm more or less upon the water during the remainder of the angling year. On the other hand, when used before the inaugural month—or, rather, before the month in which they are said to appear in books on angling—it is not shown that the real insects were not already on the water. The nature of the season greatly influences the time of arrival of insects; one year flies may be seen a month earlier than usual, another it may be as much later before they are observed. No book on angling can state when the appearance will really be; the average date may be mentioned, that is all. Moreover, in naming any particular time as being that in which a certain fly may probably be used with advantage, it is to be understood that it is meant, that at such a time a certain insect usually exists in numbers sufficient to stir up the fish to frequent brisk rising in quest of it as food, and therefore that the angler will find it worth his while to attach its imitation to his link; but it is not stated that such a fly is not developed sparsely at an earlier date; and, if appearing sparingly, why may not the scattered individuals at times be more rank when the season happens to be less inclement. Besides this, when an insect is not swarming on the water, it may still be there in small numbers, although unnoticed and even sought. If, however, a solitary specimen or two of some insect, either too early or too late, should happen to float along the stream, who shall say that even a hungry or old and wary trout would rise much less eagerly to it, should it meet the fish's gaze, than to some more plentiful variety? Why, then, may not trout take a first-rate pattern of some real insect when manœuvred naturally by some old craftsman; although the real creature be a little out of season, it resembles a reality; it is sure to take fish, but it is not not said "sure to take fish as well as any faultless patterns of the flies swarming on the waters, and favourites with the trout." The first has likeness in form and colour to something natural, but wellnigh forgotten; the second has this likeness added to the presence of the reality, on which trout were feeding without feeling the pricking hook of anglers, or the restraining gut. The fish do indeed take so many of these with impunity, that they get for the time unsuspicious; so that, when the artificial form is suddenly presented, they rise at once to it and may be hooked. This is an undoubted fact. Let, then, the angler be on the alert to make sure that the hook is struck truly home—for it is the first rise of each fish which is the important act at such times—for, once missed, the trout relapses into its former state of wariness, and, with truth and falsehood before its eyes, when warned, it is not slow to discriminate the virtues of the one and the vices of the other.

(*To be continued.*)

A PLEA FOR THE EEL.

THE family of the *Murana anguillas* has in recent days to sustain very heavy charges against its character for harmlessness; but, in this respect, what creature on the earth, or beneath the water, is exempt? Still, it is refreshing to learn that the traduced eel, however lowly, can find a champion. For this chivalrous purpose, Mr. T. W. Wickens, a member of the Ant (Norfolk) Preservation and Anglers' Society, comes to the fore, as shown by a letter addressed to the hon. secretary of that association. Mr. Wickens writes:—"Sir,—In compliance with your wish, I beg to state that my observations with regard to eels differ from most others; but as I have, to the best of my ability, formed them according to reason and common sense, there may be some truth in them. I contend, firstly, that eels greatly benefit the preservation of the rivers and broads, and induce materially to promote the increase of other fish. Secondly, eel-nets destroy very many more eels than they take. Through having always observed in my angling wanderings that the more eels there were in a river, the better the angling for other fish, I was led to consider how that could arise. In some rivers about the end of May, there were an enormous number—millions and millions—of very small eels, thinner than a straw, and an inch or so long. The edges of the banks were clouded with these little eels, always working up the stream, and around the mill pools were immense numbers. Women and children came there with small hand nets, and took them by quarts. They entitled it 'eel fair,' or as they made the little eels into compressed cakes, or pies, it might have been 'eel fare.' It is noteworthy that these young eels arrive just at the very time when the other fish have about finished spawning, and are greedy after food to repair their exhausted energies. Take roach, perch, dace, bream, &c., at that time, open them, and you will find them gorged with these little eels, which appear to suit them well, for they rapidly grow into condition and get fat; therefore the eels supply the other fish with enormous quantities of food, just at the very time they most require it. Some people will say that the eels eat the spawn of other fish. I doubt that, to any great extent. When eels, as well as other fish, are about the process of multiplying they are sick and ill, and out of condition, and eat little or nothing; but by the time they recover and require food, the spawn of other fish is hatched and out of danger. You have here, in Norfolk, the strongest possible proof of the truth of these remarks. The best angling is in the Yare, and there you have the most eels, because you have no eel-sets there. The worst angling is in the Ant, where they have too many eel-sets. Thirdly, all eels going down the rivers and caught in the eel-sets, are not going to the sea (if at all, of which I am in great doubt) certainly, at that time. At certain seasons vast numbers are loaded, so to speak, with countless ova and destroyed before they have shed it. Leave them alone, and they would, naturally enough deposit the germ of their little ones in the river, before their supposed retreat to the sea. It appears by this, that a great benefit would arise by fixing these eel-sets, not as at present, in the very heart of the breeding places—where, generally speaking, very small eels only are taken—but within a short distance of the sea, and then only empty fish would be taken of much larger size and also in vastly increased numbers. I write this with diffidence, and subject, if wrong, to correction; my anxious wish being, if possible, to arrive without prejudice at the simple truth." Mr. Wickens then quotes Francis Francis, Cholmondely Pennell, and others, to show the nutritive character of eel-food upon salmon, pike, and other fish, and goes on to say "eels destroy a vast quantity of the larvæ of all sorts of water-insects, as well as the predacious water-beetles, than when nothing can be much more destructive to the spawn of the fish; and those insects abound to such an enormous extent in these Norfolk waters, that the quantity of embryo fish destroyed by them every year must be prodigious. These larvæ are so destructive that, in fish culture, the gravel, sand, or silt used in the troughs, is first boiled or baked to destroy the brood of water-insects therein and save the ova. Nature provided these eels for purposes of great utility, and the eels seem to supply food for fish and waterfowl, in the water, as the worms feed the birds on land; and it seems to me that as the martins, swallows and bats, destroy in the air the various moths and insects, so do the eels in the rivers, as they progress in size, destroy vast quantities of water-beetles and larvæ of insects, which, if left undisturbed, prey upon the spawn of the fish. That is, if the eels are not disturbed by man to any greatly appreciable extent in the course of progress alloted to them by nature. Swans do an immense amount of mischief to the spawn of fish. One swan would devour a gallon of spawn in a day. They should be kept out of the rivers and broads in March, April and May."

If there be any truth in the above hypothesis, we may perhaps recognise in the known fact that the Barking and Crossness sewage, intercepting and destroying the adult and young of the eels, cuts off the food of the fish in the Upper Thames; and thus the falling off of the river resources, may be thus far accounted for.

CREEL.

A DAY OF DAYS.

THE thirtieth of July, 1881, and it was a Saturday too, opened very brightly—too brightly to promise anything like success to him who was intent on tempting the silvery denizens of the Inver. The day before had been somewhat damp in the evening, and the night more so; but oh, the sun was burning hot as we sat at breakfast in the "little hotel" at Lochinver. The old hostelry is now called "little"—the grand resort of the grand swells being known as the Culag. Both are excellent houses of entertainment, in the hands of the same lessee; and but that there is a guinea a week difference in the cost of board, and that the Culag is more pretentious looking, we can see no difference between them. The management of either is admirable; a mile separates them, but a telephone unites them. The telegraphic communication is instantaneous, and it is *viva voce*. As this Highland correspondent of yours, Mr. Editor, sat talking to a clergyman of the Church of England, hailing from the very south of glorious Devon, arrangements were being discussed for the day's proceedings. He apparently, did not care for a long walk, while walking was a matter of indifference to me. So it was agreed that I should give him my lower beat on the Inver, which is within gunshot of the hotel, while I walked about three miles to his lower beat on the Kirkaig. Having started his reverence, in grand spirits, to what he hoped, and I thought would be the scene of his conquests, I at once walked over to look up that famous Trojan, "Little Grant," the keeper, who was always my "guide, philosopher, and friend," on the river bank, and found him at the Culag busy trying to send away dilatory sportsman, and their clever, civil, careful gillies. I had not been long at the Culag when it became clear that, through some misunderstanding, the beat I was to take on the Kirkaig had been giving to the Hon. Charles Erskine, a keen angler, as well as a good one, and an enthusiastic—he vacating No. 2 beat on the Inver, which I took as a sort of "Hobson's choice," although at first there were stern vows that I would be "salmoned!" if I went to it. Grant is a perfect Bismarck when he likes, and as nice a little mannie as ever poor sinner need look for or ask to have with him at a riverside; and he, somehow or other, poured oil on the troubled waters, mollifying me almost completely. Away we went, briskly enough, over the occasionally boggy, rough ground which his Grace the Duke of Sutherland, through his *alter ego*, Sir Arnold Kemball, K.C.B., permits to remain, as a reproach to himself and as a source of no small disgust to anglers on the left bank of the Inver. As we stepped along we saw the Devonshire cleric fixed, but not in a fish, at the "Ladder pool," a very common catastrophe at that spot. Full many a good fly has been lost through overcasting—a fault I am not able to be guilty of—where the Ladder pool rolls rapidly along and looks, what I always found it, one impossible to angle successfully. Salmon rise on it, and sometimes get hooked there, but one to be landed there is a matter of the future, so far as I am concerned; yet Grant and others consider it a grand pool! Feeling deep sympathy, that fellow-feeling which makes us "unco' kind," we passed by the friendly Englishman, wishing him better luck. He was in good hands, with Norman for his man, anyhow, we knew.

At last Grant and myself got to the "Red" pool, the first on our beat, and the best on the Inver. Our stock of flies was very limited. There were several "duffers," and not a few "dummies"—fellows that had been expended on duty. The stream did us no good, but as we moved down, every now and then a big fellow would be seen taking the cool of the day, and showing himself mightily—a fearfully bad sign. The very tail was reached—a spot never without fish—below it was horribly rough, broken water. Last cast across to the big stone—the fly is allowed to drift as if going clean over the brim, and then it is moved gently against the stream—a splurge—a rush, as the water was going, when all would be over—a gallant resistance, and then along the pool our gentleman rushed "like mad." He fought a brave battle, and only gave in when he couldn't help himself. We rested, had a "nip," and went up to the "Island" pool. Tried it; no go. "Whirlpool," ditto. The "Dyke" pool the same, of course; never knew it better! Then on to the "Long" pool, our last. There the liveliest grilse that ever was seen "came" just where Grant said it would. Conscience! how it did skip along, like a living telegraphic message! The ground was level, and if the fish had scope to "play," the angler had ample room to do his part. Such a frolic as it was; and the agony of suspense, as the beast scrimmaged along very much on the top of the water, was something desperate! However, there was rejoicing when on the green sward glittered No. 2, while we expected that day none. Another small "liquor up," and away down to the "Red" pool again. *En route*, whom should we meet, but John Smith, one of the keepers of Mr. Whitbread, M.P., and Grant hints that I should have look at his flybook. Mr. Smith makes his own flies. They looked beautiful, truly, and I came into possession of some. We were just at the "Island" pool then, and we tied on a "captain"—one of the Smith's—with which, while Grant and Smith were having a chat and pipe, I began to thrash the water in that rough, uneducated sort of way which the uncultured in the art always show—when as the fly was coming gradually along the side of the stream, I saw a flash of silver-grey, and knew that the *Salmo salar* was well on. Here I may remark that anglers in the Highlands never "strike;" at least, the best of them say that the fish hooks itself, and so much the better. Grant and Smith quickly heard my shout, and speedily came with counsels of the wise and strong to the unlearned, and No. 3, a real beauty, was landed. We then turned back and tried the "Dyke" pool again, much to my disgust. Eureka! a dozen casts or so, and No. 4 was on, a vigorous, restless beggar, that rushed all over the pool, but came to basket, notwithstanding. Good—four fish; and we looked for none! We tried the "Whirl" pool patiently and diligently, but it was no go. On to the "Long" pool we went again, and again a grilse "came"—a regular trimmer! It seemed emulous of proving how "Long" pool fish can "play," but it gave in at last. No. 5. Tried the "Whirl" pool again; not a rise. The "Dyke" pool came next. I was just preparing to draw in for another cast, when I got a sort of under-water tug, the boil from which was scarcely perceptible. "I'm into him, Grant!" "It's in a log then, Sir," was his reply. "If it is a log there is life in it," said I, and so, indeed, there was, and abundance of it. However, by and by, the gentleman gave in, but proved a slippery customer to gaff; was very like a "Long" pool fish, in fact. The day was magnificent, and it was now nearly 6 p.m.. We gave a sort of trial to the "Island" and "Red" pools on our way home, but saw nothing. Indeed we were not keen for more, or there is little doubt, if we had been, that we would have waited for a while and got more. As has been said, we expected a blank and we bagged six, and our concern was how to get them home with us over Sir Arnold Kemball's nasty path. Grant searched for luncheon-paper twine by the way, and got enough to secure the fish in true angler's style. He then took off his jacket, and turning it inside out, put most of the salmon across his shoulders. Thus we walked home in triumph, and, if the truth must be said, each of us felt as proud as a peacock with two tails. And we were ready for the ginger ale and whisky which Miss Ross, the ever kind and attentive housekeeper, gave us, even before she telephoned Culag that we had arrived, with six salmon. It was thought, when the message reached the swell establishment, that the telephone, if not telling lies, was anyhow humbugging. Bravo little Grant! My day of days was destined to be a legacy to the anglers I left behind me to beat. But among them all Grant was the wee Highland prince. We got three, and even four, a day after, but not six.

Perhaps some of your readers—if any anglers can possibly be ill-natured and peevish—may exclaim "much ado about nothing." But I risk all that, as it is desirable to magnify the value of patience, perseverance, and placidness on the part of all mankind, but especially that delightful clan whose chief and model is gentle Izaak Walton; for he, though safe across that "bourne whence no traveller returns," is still named with lovingness, and looked up to as, the *facile princeps* of the craft.

It would scarcely be right to close my chapter in a day of days in 1881 without expressing a hope that in 1882 we may foregather with the Erskines, the Almonds, the Burstalls, the Pretymans, the Neills, the Smiths, and the Grants, Burds, Kerrs, McLeods, Mackenzies and Macdonalds who, under the pleasant rule of *the* Burns-Brown, had so many pleasant days last year.

The season, so far, has been and is marvellously mild and open; so that if the bagnets are made to observe the weekly close time in the spirit and letter of it, glorious sport may safely be looked forward to. The rivers promise to be not dry, anyhow. Since October we have had gale after gale in close succession, and rain in such abundance that waterproofs were of little avail. Sport on dry land was impossible, on account of the torrents, and on the deep. deep sea the frequency of the gales made matters piscatorial equally out of the question. There was a high tide on 22nd November, which flooded the humble cottages of many an humble fisherman and crofter, and causing the increase of dangerous fever until it has become epidemic in some places. Houses unroofed by the gales, laid open to the incessant rain, and flooded by the sea! What could we expect but sickness? But we are not Irishmen, those deserving souls, or something would be done for us. As always happened, the more desert on the part of the poor the less regard on that of the wealthy. I am not a groaning Waltonian, but, seeing, that my countrymen will not condescend to commit murder, it is evident that no fishery company will be set going to encourage Highlanders. It is an odd world we live in, my masters—at all events, the people in it are extremely, singulary queer in their modes of distinguishing and rewarding good and evil. Half a million sterling to stir up the Boycotters, Moonlighters and other heroes whom a beneficent Government and a discerning public delight to pet. Don't put me down for a cross-grained, growling, good-for-nothing malcontent; but how can I close my eyes to what is startlingly unworthy? We need encouragement and help in order to live—not in order to hide behind hedges and bang away at the first man we owe a grudge to. By the way, a thousands of thanks to him who contributed "One Day of my Life" to the GAZETTE. It did my heart good to read it, stirred me up, and made me feel amiable. I trust he'll send you more. My cry is that of the horse-leech, "Give, give!"

CAMPBELL ROSS.

MORE PRIZES FOR THE "FISHING GAZETTE" TOURNAMENT.

MR. WARNER, of the Welsh Harp Fishery, who kindly promised every assistance in carrying out the tournament on July 8, at three or four o'clock, also renews his promise of £5 worth of angling tickets as prizes. Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., of Redditch, are good enough again to promise a trout-fly rod fitted with Hardy's winch-fitting. Messrs. F. T. Williams and Co. say, "We shall have much pleasure in presenting to the Anglers' Benevolent Society our new pattern ebonite spring centre winch with a line, value £1, to be competed for at the forthcoming tournament. It may interest you to know one of our customers took a fine trout of 3¾ lb. in the Lea last week. He was using our 'Crystal' roach hook."

Mr. Wm. Sang, of Barnard Castle, has kindly sent six copies of his pocket "Dictionary of Trout Flies."

In addition to the above, we have a picture by Mr. Greville Fennell in frame, a Freake fishing bag from Mr. Malcom, a splendid jack-rod from Mr. G. Yarde, &c., standing over from last tournament.

Any other donations will be "thankfully received" and acknowledged. A tournament on a large scale is also spoken of in the provinces as to come off this summer.

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxfod," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY AND THE HOLIDAYS.

We have received the new programme of the Great Eastern Railway, giving particulars of the arrangements made for the Whitsuntide Holidays, and the additional facilities offered by this Company for obtaining tickets at City and West End Booking Offices, and at Liverpool Street Station. Holiday makers should consult this programme, the Great Eastern Railway being a great favourite with London anglers. It can be obtained at the Great Eastern Railway Stations; at Messrs. Cook and Sons, Ludgate Circus; Messrs. Gaze, 142, Strand; 70, St. Martin's Lane; Mr. Whiteley's, Westbourne Grove, &c.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of this society is announced for Thursday, June 1, when it is hoped the members will attend largely, as a new committee and officers have to be elected, on whom the future of the society will, of course, greatly depend. We are glad to learn that numerous papers on subjects of practical interest to anglers are in hand, and that a complete programme for the season will soon be issued. The society has also other projects in view; and we trust will secure such a working committee in the ballot about to be taken as will enable them to do even more, if possible, in the coming year than they have in the past.

THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Musical evenings, under the more popular name of smoking concerts, have become a permanent institution in this old-established angling club, as it has been decided to make them monthly items. The second of the series took place in the club-room, Ashley's Hotel, Covent Garden, on Monday evening last, when Dr. Brunton occupied the position of chairman, and Mr. Norman F. Harrisson the vice-chair. The large room was completely filled with nearly 100 members and visitors, amongst whom were Doctors Startin and Coates, Capt. Alfred, Messrs. F. H. Lemann, B. Perelli-Rocco, C. P. Wheatstone, W. H. Brougham, James Lander, J. Pattison, S. C. Harding, H. Grey, Thomas Crumplen, J. Bates, J. Ross-Faulkner, R. S. Fenning, W. B. Adlington, T. Gillatt, G. Gillatt, David Goodger, F. C. Hatfield, &c., &c. The musical arrangements were principally in the hands of Mr. N. F. Harrison, who throughout the evening displayed great energy in that department, and Mr. Pond, who accompanied the songs on the piano, evidenced first-rate skill both as a pianist and a vocalist. His solos on the pianoforte were warmly applauded. It would be invidious to make a selection of names either as vocalists, instrumentalists, or readers, as all did their work so well, and it may fairly be said that a more successful or enjoyable evening could not possibly be held. The concert was kept up until midnight, and an universal expression of approval was accorded on leaving. Previous to the concert, Mr. J. Ross-Faulkner registered a handsome Thames trout of 6½ lb., and Mr. Bates showed a fine tray of trout taken that day out of the Itchen. The collection of fish specimens which were awarded the gold medal at the Edinburgh Exhibition are now safely returned, and have been arranged according to species on the walls of the club-room, the 40 lb. pike from Suffolk and 4½ lb. black bass from America being conspicuous objects, as also two very fine bream and one chub, kindly lent by Mr. Winton. As this is the time for the renewal of the privilege tickets, Messrs. Thomas and Co., of Coleman Street, have designed and supplied a most suitable leather case, which is made to hold the privilege cards, the card of membership recently introduced in this society from a design by Mr. N. F. Harrisson, the little brochures published by the club, the railway ticket, a pocket for address cards, and places for postage stamps, and supplied to the members at the trifling charge of two shillings. A more unique ticket-case could not possibly have been invented, and this is also due to the inventive genius of Mr. Harrison. In their separate departments as honorary secretary and honorary librarian, Mr. James Lander and Mr. H. Gray are labouring to keep up the prestige of the old society, and the performance of their work is accompanied with great success. B.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

Mr. Thos. Spreckley, fishing with Hackett the other day, managed to get a nice trout on, estimated at between 8 lb. and 10 lb., but after an exciting run the fish's teeth proved more than a match for the gut trace.

Messrs. Geen and Hobden had a long day after the trout, but, to use Mr. Hobden's own words, "didn't even see a fish feed all day, much less catch one."

A well-known member of the T.A.P.S. and an eminent surveyor of piscatorial proclivities have been down to Sunbury on business bent; and it is the latter's opinion that that stream and those ponds, with some slight alterations and enlarging, would be the very thing for coarse fish culture. Not a bad idea. What say the powers that be?

In a contemporary I read of the capture of a fine 8 lb. trout, from Walton's sedgy Lea, which, after an exciting struggle, was, in the absence of gaff or net, safely landed in a small washing tub procured from the keeper's cottage.

Mr. Hoole asks me to state he will feel extremely grateful to the secretaries of angling societies if, in the event of giving up office or changing their address they will be good enough to inform him of the same; dozens of letters are annually returned through these two causes, and often cause long delays to advices reaching the societies, and in some cases serious inconvenience to individuals.

A new angling society, to be called the London and South-Western, is forming, and will shortly enrol on the West Central Association books.

A rare muster of anglers and friends at the "Hammersmith United" on Thursday, 17th. With Mr. P. Geen in the chair, and Mr. Adeane in the vice, things went along swimmingly. Among the singers and songs were, Messrs. Reynolds, "Jolly Angler"; Adeane, "For a widow I am a dangler" (I can't help the words rhyming, the report was sent to me in verse); Retters, "The Frenchman"; Green, "Chiming Bells of Long Ago,"; our old friend, host Chandler, of the Rent Day, "Joe in the Copper"; Dobell, "Simon the Cellarer"; Mr. Melville, "Harum Scarum"; Penney, "My Guiding Star." That Mr. Burgess' songs were appreciated is proved by the number he had to sing, "Dear Nancy," "Merry Family," "The Broken Jug," "Little Miss Muffit," and the "German Band"; Mr. Messenger, "The Sussex Warbler"; Mr. Downing, "The Dutchman," &c., &c. The Hammersmith Club, an offshoot of the Hammersmith United, was numerously represented, the best feeling prevails between the two societies, and several friendly competitions are likely to come off between them during the coming season.

THE MAKING OF FISH-HOOKS.

An interesting account of how a Swiss angler makes his own fish-hooks out of needles, appears in the last issue of the Fishing Gazette. But the writer must, of necessity, have omitted to state that after the hook be made red-hot and then plunged into cold water, it must be what is technically called "brought back" to a spring temper. When taken out of the water, the hook will be as brittle as glass. On the small scale of making one hook at a time, the easiest way of bringing it back would be to lay it upon a piece of hot iron (an iron poker would do) and at the moment the wire becomes blue, to throw it off. Hooks are not difficult of manufacture. No one in this country would even think of making their own, but in out-of-the way places, where they are not to be procured, there need be no great difficulty in making them. If steel wire cannot be procured, needles may. To make up for the want of a barb, the point should stand out a little, on the principle of a chisel, which we all know cuts the more keenly into wood, owing to the bevel on the upper surface of the edge. The shank of such a hook should be perfectly straight Under the barbless conditions the strain on a hooked fish would, by the resolution of forces, pull the hook out of its grip, if the shank were conversely rounded. Even with a barb, a hook highly arched in the shank may be drawn out of its grip by a prolonged and steady strain. The strain on a straight shank and a slightly standing-out point, only drives in the latter deeper and deeper. To illustrate this, let us suppose a hook to form the greater portion of a circle, and a strain be brought upon one of its terminations by a line affixed thereto, when it is clear that this strain would draw the whole out of any thing it was inserted to, such as a fish's lip. When a boy, I made tens of thousand of hooks, my father training me carefully in every branch of business, and also in fishing and shooting. I was a good trout-fisher at ten years of age, and my father gave me my first gun—a flint, and a good one it was—when I reached the mature age of twelve.

J. D. Dougall.

THAMES TROUT.—IMPORTANT CASE.

William Kirby, watchmaker, Chain Street, was summoned for having taken a trout of less weight than 1 lb., viz., weighing 9 ounces, contrary to the Thames Conservancy bye-laws, in the Thames on the 11th inst.

He pleaded guilty.

Mr. Henry Creed, solicitor, said he appeared on behalf of the Reading and District Angling Association to prefer this information against the defendant, and he had received instructions to press the case very strongly. He had also instructions from Captain Etheridge, Superintendent of the Upper Thames, to say that he quite concurred in this prosecution and he would make an example of the defendant. One reason why the Association wished to press the case was that the defendant was a well-known experienced fisherman, and he knew well the law, and had clearly broken it. The full penalty which the law imposed was £5, and he was instructed to ask for a fine of that amount. Mr. Creed then stated that the defendant was seen to catch the trout in question while fishing at Caversham, and to retain possession of it, though evidence could be given that the fish only weighed 9 ounces. On being questioned the defendant at first denied taking it, but afterwards produced it. Mr. Creed added that Captain Etheridge would have been present but for a prior engagement.

The defendant said the fish was hooked top and bottom, and would have died if he had returned it to the river.

Mr. Creed said he had ample evidence to disprove that. Mr. Butler (the secretary of the association) saw the fish, and he would say the injury the fish received was very small.

In reply to the Chairman, Mr. Creed said that undersized fish were bound to be returned to the river, however badly they might be injured.

The Chairman said the costs were 8s. 6d., and the Bench would impose a fine of £1 besides. He warned the defendant that if he offended again they would impose the full penalty. It was a great shame to kill fish in the manner he had.

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

" My business in this State
Made me a loooker-on."
—SHAKESPEARE.

My business this week has made me little else than a looker-on of the river, and also of lack of sport by toilers and spinners, who thoroughly deserved success. The water is in magnificent order for trout work, but few punts have been out to my knowledge, or surely sport would have accrued. At Hurley, a pretty fish of 5 lb. has succumbed to the prowess of a stranger. I knew the fish was there, and have over and over again tempted him with glistening baits; but I piped in vain, and he fell a prey to a brother rod, whom I congratulate fairly and squarely on his success. At Henley, Dr. Brooks has taken a fish of 5 lb. from Marsh Pool and returned another captured beauty. In reply to a query I see addressed to me in last week's GAZETTE: if W. B. will inquire at Paddington, I think he will find he can get down to Maidenhead and back for 2s. 6d. from May to October in less than an hour each way, or to Bourne End and Marlow for 3s. return.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Ancholme.

The Ancholme anglers are beginning to wake out of their lethargy, and are already preparing for the advent of coarse-fishing. For the first time in its history the quiet town of Brigg has an angling club. It has been inaugurated under the most favourable auspices, and a goodly number of members have already joined, whilst suitable rules have been made and officers selected. Mr. T. Watson has been chosen as president, Mr. R. Stringer vice-president, Mr. A. C. Finney treasurer, Mr. G. Clark secretary, and nine or ten other local gentlemen as committee. The resources of the Ancholme are well known, and many are the visits made to this river, especially by the Sheffield anglers. By reasonable terms for membership and the judicious arrangement of angling contests, it is hoped that the society will receive the patronage it so richly deserves. The weather has been too bright for heavy bags on the trout streams; I caught ten one evening during the last week, and on another a brace weighing respectively 1¼ lb. and 2¼ lb., also two *salmo fontinalis*. The black gnat, hawthorn, oak fly, are out in full force; but we are all anxiously awaiting the advent of the green drake, which is the premier fly for the chalk streams hereabouts.—THOMAS FORD, Caistor.

Ballynahinch.

This last week we have had very bad fishing weather, low water, and east winds. Still Mr. W. H. S. Openshaw on the 19th succeeded in killing a fine summer fish, 12½ lb. But nothing has been done since. Mr. Openshaw, above mentioned, is the only rod that has fished all the week. There is little or no appearance of a change.—WALTER BLACKADDER.

Coquet (Weldon Bridge).

On the 17th, Mr. Hutchinson, of Buckenfield, killed a good basket, 8½ lb.; Mr. Marell, of Felton, killed 5 lb.; the Rev. Mr. Oliver, 4½ lb. On the 18th, Captain Saltmarch killed 4 lb.; Mr. Swinney Morpeth killed nine trout, 4 lb. On the 19th Captain Saltmarch killed a good basket, 8½ lb. On the 23rd, Mr. Thompson, Sunderland, killed 2 doz. good trout; Mr. Tripp, Sunderland, fifteen splendid trout; the Rev. Mr. Oliver, 6 lb. The river is very small and clear, and fishing up stream with worm is the sport at present. On the 24th, Mr. Stebb, jun., killed 7 lb. of splendid trout.—A GLASS, Anglers' Inn.

Dove.

The long-wanted rain has come at last. The Dove was getting as low as a puddle, and sadly required freshening up. Vegetation, too, was suffering greatly everything being at a standstill. There has been a good deal of electricity in the atmosphere all the week, which has to some extent affected the fish. But there has been a fair rise on every day, and as anglers may now be numbered by scores on every length of the water, many of them have been well rewarded. All kinds of flies are now on the surface, and the trout will bite almost anything in the shape of a wing. The best reports come from Rocester, Sudbury, Dovedale, Ilam, Ashbourne and Mayfield. The members of the Norbury Club are also doing well. The average takes this week is quite six brace per rod. The May fly will shortly be out in full force.—THE SPLODGER.

Findhorn.

This river has been in bad order for fishing lately owing to low water. At Relugas, Mr. George Rigs, gamekeeper, killed four fine salmon within a week. On Tuesday of last week he got one weighing 8 lb.; on Thursday one weighing 10 lb.; on Saturday one weighing 12 lb., and on Monday one weighing 10½ lb. The pools are reported to be well stocked, and with propitious weather good sport may be got. In the meantime the water is so clear as to be very unfavourable to successful fishing.—B. FOORES.

Ifracombe.

The rain this week has improved the streams for angling. A few trout has been taken this week from the Wilder stream. Two monk fish were caught last week with hand lines, and a few fine cod and ling. Saturday some fine lobsters and crabs were taken from the pots; one crab weighed 8 lb., the others from 2 to 4 lb. each. Mr. Teape and friends were out for an hour or two on Monday; they brought in 10 bream, weighing about 5 lb. each, one skate 60 lb. Other boats brought in a good quantity of cod, ling, and whiting. Some fine plaice where also caught with ground lines. Wednesday two boats out; one brought in 4 ling weighing 61 lb., the other 2 cod 39 lb. The trawling skiffs has been down in the Bay several times this last fortnight. Their catches of fish has been very small, mostly thornback, a few pairs of soles and some plaice. The sport continues very good for rod and hand lines from the pier and jetty for small pollack, glovers, tamlin, cod, &c. Weather at present very fine.—E. COMER.

Lee (South of Ireland).

Angling is losing interest as the fine weather approaches. The bright sunshine of summer is unfavourable for fishing, even when practised by the most dexterous hands. Hence lately I have had little to chronicle, but this week there is a departure, and with a plentiful abundance of rain we have a fine run of fish and a prospect of good sport; and we have what may not interest Waltonians so much, a great advance in vegetation; the crops were undoubtedly very backward in consequence of the drought. The rain has come opportunely, and neither agriculturist nor angler would object to a little more of it. There is a very slight rise in the river, and salmon and peal are rushing up in great quantities as far as the height of the water will permit them to go. On last Monday three hauls of the net in the pool under Wellington bridge resulted in a total take of seventy-six; and the same night the poachers, who were very busy, landed a large number of salmon. These were principally fish that in consequence of the low state of the river, could not ascend the water-works weir, and congregated in Wellington Hole, and in the pool under the weir. Mr. Wm. Haynes had a very successful day on the Blackwater last week, having landed five springers to his rod. His brother George was out on the Lee on Tuesday and caught two. The net men in the tidal waters are every day making good hauls, showing that the break in the weather has fetched up the fish from the ocean depths.—ANGLER.

Nairn.

Fair sport has been enjoyed this season on the river Nairn. Gentlemen have landed average numbers of unusually large salmon, and trout are by no means scarce. The weather is scarcely suitable for the water, but pools are believed to be well stocked. No complaint is now made regarding the salmon disease which was reported to exist at the beginning of the season.—J. B.

Severn and Teme (Worcester).

Our streams in this district are in fine order for angling, and some good sport has been had amongst the trout, though the fish did not run large—from 4 oz. to 14 oz. I have not seen a one-pounder this week, but they are in fine condition. The members of the Boughton Angling club held their annual dinner at the club house, the Portobello Inn, on the 16th. Since then Mr. Bosworth, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Langford and myself were out together; our take of trout weighed 17 lb. 10 oz. Mr. C. Watkins weighed in 2½ brace last night; he caught them after tea, and within ten minutes' walk of the club house. The trout are rising well every evening; the flies I prefer are the yellow dun, red spinner and orl fly.—J. A. GRIFFIN, St. John's.

Suir and its Tributaries, Clonmel.

The cots did nothing last week, owing to the fine weather and water so very low. Dudley's was then in nice order, and James Donohue killed the first peal for the season, weighing 5 lb.; Tom Russel got a salmon there also of 10 lb. We have continued rain since Sunday last, so that we have a nice fresh in the river which will bring up plenty of peal to the upper waters. On Tuesday Tom Hogan killed a fine salmon of 26 lb. at Roulmaquorish; Mr. J. L. Wirrall, jun., one of 12 lb. at Newcastle; Hon. Hely Hutchinson one of 6 lb.; last week he got six fish in five days. The streams are all in splendid order for trout fishing, and while the river continues a bit high and beer colour, there will be excellent fishing in the evenings. The rails are the principal flies at present; green drake just coming on the water.

Taw and Tributaries (N. Devon).

Waters are now rising and good fishing may be expected next week. Not much sport to record but a few dishes and fish small; some of the best catches were with the maggot and coachman fly at night time.—RUSTY GAME.

Thames (Walton).

Reports from Walton in the FISHING GAZETTE are conspicuous by their absence, and it is peculiar that there are plenty of trout seen daily (I have myself seen several on the feed opposite my place), still there appears to be nobody to attempt a take. A gentleman fishing from the bank here hooked a beauty, but somehow he managed to get away. This seems to have been the fate of all those hooked, and Mr. Lucken, at Sunbury, seems to have had the only trout taken in this neighbourhood. I enclose a bill which speaks for itself. The number of eels lost is 25 lb., which, at a low figure of 1s. 3d. per lb., makes Hone's loss over 30s. Trade has been very bad with the fishermen lately, and George has been no exception, and to make matters worse he has been suffering from his old complaint, asthma, and I think that if you could put a line in your paper, many of his patrons would like to subscribe their mite. Any amount forwarded to me shall be acknowledged in your paper. I have nothing to report this week. A gentle rain is falling and the wind is south. Everything in favour of trout-fishing, but nobody to try.—HENRY WOOD.

[The bill offers £1 reward on the conviction of the party or parties who stole 25 lb. of eels from George Hone's punt, on Saturday night, May 13.]

Thames (Windsor).

Since my last report several trout have been had in this neighbourhood, Lumsden, of Eton, having no less than five in ten days, two of which, I believe, were returned, the others ranging from 3 lb. to 5½ lb. At Old Windsor, one of the members of the Windsor and Eton Angling Society, Mr. Pritchard, took a good fish, going 7½ lb., on 23rd inst. Mr. Howard, of the Friendly Anglers, fishing with James Gray, took two on 21st inst.; one had to be returned, and the other weighed nearly 4 lb. One of the Eton College students, Waterfield, has been trying the fly in the weir stream that runs through the college grounds, and succeeded in getting three fish, two with the Alexandra, and one with the coachman. Unfortunately, they were under size and had to be returned. This is a good sign that we are well stocked with trout, as the fishable water for fly in the neighbourhood of the college does not consist of more than fifty yards, unless a boat is used. Several good fish have been seen in the Windsor weir stream, and I expect daily to see one of them come to grief. Water in capital order at present, but as it looks stormy a quantity of rain may be expected, which would put colour in it.—B. R. BAMBRIDGE.

Tweed and Teviot.

Very little salmon angling has taken place on these streams during the past week, the weather being too brilliant for day fishing—and any captures that have been made have been effected in the early morning or in the evening. On Wednesday last week Mr. James Kerss killed one salmon on the Hendersyde water, and on Saturday he secured another fish. I have been informed that on some of the upper casts of the Tweed five salmon were killed in one day lately. Since Saturday no salmon had been got on the Hendersyde water until Wednesday, when Mr. James Kerss caught a couple. The net fishings on the Tweed continue to be much about the same as at the end of last week. Salmon are scarce at the mouth of the river, and trout are not appearing in such large numbers as should be the case at this time of the year. Rod fishing for trout proceeds apace, the best baskets being got during the evening. On Thursday last some splendid takes were obtained in several of the minor Border streams. Fishing in the Bowmont, Mr. Thomas Herbert, Yetholm, caught 15 lb., and Mr. James Storey, Cocklawfoot, and Mr. John Kerr, Yetholm, angling in the same river, secured baskets weighing 11 lb. 5 oz. and 10 lb. respectively. On Kale water Mr. John Currie, Morebattle, killed 3 lb. 9 oz., and in the same stream Mr. John Shotten had half-a-dozen trout, weighing collectively 1 lb. 14 oz. Mr. Robert Gray, Morebattle, caught 5 lb. 6½ oz. also in Kale, and a dish of a like weight was secured by Mr. T. Black, Yetholm, while angling in the Colledge. In four hours Mr. R. Black, Yetholm, caught 2 lb. 4 oz. The weather on Thursday last was not so bright as for a few days past, and there is every appearance of a heavy rainfall. A flood in the rivers, which have nearly assumed their midsummer level, would greatly improve the the chances of anglers.—Maxwheel, May 25.

Wye and Derwent.

Thunder clouds have been hanging about nearly the whole of the past week, with slight showers of rain falling daily; but we did not have enough downpour to discolour the water till Thursday. Both rivers are muddy from the limestone roads, and are rising. This rain falling will benefit anglers very much, especially the trollers and bottom fishers. Sport during the week with the artificial fly has been but middling, and only small baskets have been made, with the exception of a few experts, who have killed their six to nine brace of an evening, chiefly with small black gnat and yellow duns. There have been some nice trout killed by dibbing with the natural flies, under the bushes and trees in the middle of the day. Several trout, nearly 1 lb. apiece, have been taken; trolling the last thing at night has also been followed with good success, chiefly in the Derwent (the Darley Dale length). The bottom fishers have done well during the past week on various parts of the Derwent, with both maggots and ant eggs, and a good many trout up to 2 lb. each have been killed; one old veteran got sixteen fish out of one swim on Wednesday night with rhe ant egg, close to Matlock Bridge. The night-line party on various parts of the Derwent keep killing a few trout. Mr. W. King, of Matlock Bath killed a most splendid, well-fed trout, of 3 lb. 6 oz. on one of his light lines with live minnows. I hear that there have been four trench taken out of the Cromford Canal between Lea and Whatstandwell that weighed over 10 lb. Sport on the ponds still continues good, both with artificial fly and bottom fishing. There is no appearance of any green drakes or May flies on either of the above rivers yet. We generally expect them to be at their height about the 6th of next month. The artificial floating May flies or green drakes are a complete failure on either the Wye or Derwent. There is every appearance of the Whitsuntide holiday piscators having a first-class time of it next week.—George James Eaton, Starkholmes, Matlock Bath.

CLUB REPORTS.

THE UNITED LONDON ANGLERS' CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

Important Notice!! Change of Privilege Tickets.

Secretaries and members are hereby informed that the present privilege tickets, cerise, will be cancelled on Thursday, June 15th, and the new tickets, green, come into operation on Friday, June 16th. Instructions to secretaries: —secretaries are requested to send the names and addresses in full, of members requiring the new privilege tickets to the secretary of the Central Committee as soon as possible, and all tickets applied for will be ready for delivery, at the Central Committee Room, on Monday, June 5th, 1882, from nine till eleven o'clock. It is to be understood that all tickets applied for will be charged, as no deduction can be made from the list of tickets made out. The charge for privilege tickets and yearage will be 1s. All holders of privilege tickets will be charged 1s. in addition for card of membership of the United London Angling Associations Fishery Society, established for the purpose of acquiring, renting, stocking, and preserving waters for the exclusive benefit of its members, such sum to be paid on the delivery of the privilege and the society's tickets. The committee respectfully solicit the patronage of societies enrolled on the Central Committee. They defray all the expenses of printing, posting, rewards, watching and preservation of the River Lee from their funds. They also pay an annual subscription to the Thames Angling Preservation Society. Tickets will be forwarded by post on application. N.B.—Members of all clubs that have been enrolled on this committee are entitled to their privilege tickets without any extra enrolment fee.—By order, R. Ghurney, Secretary, 10, Baches Street, Charles Square, Hoxton, N.

CITY OF BRISTOL ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

A special meeting of this association was held at the club house, Tuesday May 9, 1882, for the purpose of making a presentation to one of the committeemen who was about to leave this country for America. Mr. J. A. Jones, the president, in making the presentation to Mr. H. Parsons, consisting of one set of jack tackle, spoke with extreme regret with having to part with one who had been so long amongst them, and he felt sure that the association would feel its loss; in so saying he was only speakimg the feeling of both present and absent members. But still, it so happened that the best of friends must part, and in making this small present he only regretted that they had not had more timely notice, when no doubt it would have been considerably largely subscribed to. He would now wish him a safe and speedy journey to those parts of America he was going to and also the best of success when there, hoping they should soon have the pleasure of hearing from him. Several members spoke, wishing him a hearty success in the new country. Mr. H. Parsons, in responding, said that he much regretted to have to leave them, but he did so to try and better his position in life, and hoped he should be successful; and in returning thanks for this useful present, for it was a very useful one to an angler, he would have the first jack that he caught with it stuffed and present it to the association if he could get it brought over; and likewise that they should be sure to hear from him. In concluding he said he hoped the association would continue to prosper.—J. H. Stantial, hon. sec.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members met as usual on Thursday evening, Chas. Bates, Esq., and afterwards Captain Alfred, in the chair. The secretary having read the correspondence, including an interesting letter from Mr. Wood, of The Anglers, Walton, gave the usual epitome of the events of the week, so far as the objects of the society were concerned, and announced that Mr. Jardine had weighed in fourteen trout, ten of which went 15 lb. 4 oz., the other four going 2 lb. 14 oz., a total weight of 18 lb. 2 oz. The largest weighed 2 lb. 3 oz., the smallest about 11 oz., many lesser fish being returned to the stream. They were all taken with the ash fly, in private water. Dr. Brunton brought up five trout weighing 10 lb. 5 oz., the largest 2 lb. 15 oz., and magnificent fish they were. The Doctor gave a very interesting account of his hour and a half's fishing, the whole of these being taken in that time, and many more of the same size returned to the water. The secretary again reminded members that the annual meeting was to take place on Thursday next, when the committee and officers for the ensuing year would have to be elected, and hoped there would be a large attendance on the occasion. It was intended to issue a circular in the course of two or three days, which would be sent to all members. Messrs. Bates and Parker were elected auditors. Several of the members intend trying the trout on Monday next, when a good show is again anticipated. It was also announced that several important papers being in hand, the first of the series would be read next Thursday week by J. Callaghan, Esq., on his experiences of fishing in Ireland. In drawing attention to the Anglers' Benevolent box, the secretary said he was pleased to find its weight increasing, but he would be happy to take charge of larger contributions, or forward subscribers' names to the secretary of that "honest anglers'" fund. A long discussion on matters relative to the Great Internation Fisheries Exhibition of 1883 then took place, in which several members, including Mr. Jardine and Mr. Crumplen, took part. Following this, Dr. Brunton gave a graphic account of his hour and a half's fishing previously mentioned, which he described as one of the most extraordinary in his long experience. Mr. Jardine also narrated his adventures in his usual able manner, the meeting closing with very cordial thanks to the gentlemen who had so very ably conducted the proceedings.

HAMMERSMITH UNITED ANGLING SOCIETY.

The combined visit to the above society, and the Hammersmith Angling Club, took place on Thursday last, May 18, at the Builders' Arms, Bridge Road, Hammersmith, when the large club-room was well filled by at least eighty gentlemen. The chair was taken by Mr. Philip Geen, the president of the H.U.A.S., and he was ably supported by Mr. Adean, of the Westbourne Park Society, in the vice-chair; Mr. Tom Hoole and Mr. Penney acting as stewards and contributing to the comfort of the visitors. A most pleasant evening was passed by all, and many capital songs were well rendered; Mr. Reynolds' of the H.U.A.S., leading off with "The Fine Old English Angler"; Mr. Peachey, of the H.U.A.S.; Mr. Jones and Mr. Melville, visitors; Mr. Downing, of the Hammersmith, Mr. Messenger, of the Hampstead, Mr. Fair, of the Queen's, Mr. Penney and Mr. Toms, of the H.U.A.S., and Mr. Burgess, all contributing to the evening's enjoyment, the "Merry Family" of the latter gentleman, and also his parody on the same song, deserve special mention, as also does Mr. Jones' "Vagabond." In reply to an invitation to speak to the meeting on any matters of interest to the anglers, Mr. P. Geen, in the course of an address in his well known spirited style, mentioned that with their usual generosity the Society of Arts had given the free use of their hall, for Monday, June 26, when the chair would be taken by Mr. E. Birkbeck, and the long expected paper on the propagation of coarse fish would be read by Mr. Marston; he also remarked that he was sure this paper would be very interesting and practical, and hoped it would lead to the re-stocking of some of our almost depleted lives; the presentation to Mr. Bonvoisin would also take place on that evening. On the roll being called by Mr. Osman sixteen clubs answered; Mr. Osman then proposed "Health and Prosperity to the H.U.A.S." to which Mr. Geen responded on behalf of both clubs. A very pleasant and interesting evening was then terminated by a vote of thanks to the chairman, proposed by Mr. Hoole and Mr. Downy, who expressed the pleasure the Hammersmith Club had derived from combining with the H.U.A.S. to receive the visit.—R. W. H.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The first annual supper of the above society took place on Monday last. Mr. J. C. Murray, Chairman of the Central Association and United London Angling Associations' Fishery Society, in the chair, Mr. J. Obbard, vice. After ample justice had been done to the good things provided by host Morris, the chairman distributed the prizes to the several winners, Mr. T. Longman taking five; Mr. Obbard, four; Mr. Lucy, sen, three; Mr. W. Longman, two; Mr. W. Gorsuch, two; Mr. Neagus, two; and several other members one each. After the health of the Queen had been drunk, the vice-chairman proposed the health of the Army and Navy, which was responded to by Sergeant Major C. Murray, the hero of Lang's Nek, lately decorated with the distinguished medal. The health of the chairman, vice-chairman, secretary and visitors, and success to the Original Clerkenwell Piscatorials having been responded to, harmony was indulged in, ably assisted by Mr. W. Gorsuch and Mr. Taylor on the violin and guitar, till the hour for closing. Several valuable prizes are promised for the season 1882-3.—Thos. Wm. Lucy.

PECKHAM BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

At a meeting of the above club on Tuesday last the president, A. Brodie, Esq., promised a challenge cup of the value of £5 5s., to be won three times before becoming the property of the holder. Messrs. Reed, sen., Reed, jun., Gendle, Stidolph, Sweet, Cox, Bignall, Williams, Garrad, Minard and Page also promised prizes for the ensuing season. The first match will take place on Sunday, June 18th, at Weybridge.—W. H. Page, hon. sec.

ST. JOHN'S.

The half-yearly dinner of the above took place at the Three Compasses, Cow Cross Street, on the 17th. Mr. G. Pledge presided, assisted by Mr. F. Thorling. Between thirty and forty were invited to partake of the good things provided by Mr. H. Gill, whose catering needs no praise from me as it is well known. The cloth having been removed, the rest of the evening was devoted to harmony and the giving of prizes for the coming season, and a heavy and substantial list of prizes has been announced for the ensuing season (a list of which I will give in my next). During the evening we had some first-rate music by Mr. T. Newton and A. D. Hull, and some good songs by the members and friends. As the books of the society will shortly be closed, gentlemen wishing to join this society can receive every information of Mr. H. Gill, Three Compasses, Cow Cross Street.—F. Thorling.

May 22.

WEST CENTRAL ANGLING SOCIETY.

The annual supper of the above society will take place on June 16 (the opening day of the waters for angling), at the club house, the Cross Keys, Theobald's Road. The supper will be supplied by our host and treasurer, Mr. R. I. Beard, sen., the chair will be taken by Mr. C. Ball, and the vice-chair by Mr. Gr Randall. After the removal of the cloth, the winners of the numerous prizes taken during the previous season will be announced, and prizes for contest during the forthcoming season entered on the books. The opening match of the season will be fished at Amberley on Sunday, June 18. The distribution of prizes taken during the previous season will take place at the club house on Friday; June 23. Mr. W. Webster gladdened the eyes of the members on Sunday last with a splendid trout weighing 3½ lb., taken by him in the Lea at Ware, with one of Mrs. Williams' crystal hooks.—R. I. Beard, jun., sec.

WOOLWICH BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Monday evening about forty members and their friends met at the Prince Regent to celebrate their fourteenth anniversary. The dinner was served - Host Gladwin's excellent style, which was fully appreciated by all presen The chair was occupied by W. Reed, and the vice by A. Bridges. After th removal of the cloth the usual loyal and patriotic toasts were given and responded to. The toast of the evening, "Prosperity to the Woolwich Brothers Angling Society," coupled with the name of Mr. John Shipston, the secretary, was given by the chair, and duly acknowledged by the secretary, who congratulated the club on its success during the past year. The results of their fishing, he might say, had far exceeded previous years; although some members had not been successful as previous years, had yet had some good sport. And as an encouragement for the future exertions, he was enabled to announce a good prize list for the coming season, there being already in hand a sum of over £10, which he believed would be largely augmented before the opening of the season, when the allotment of prizes would take place. Votes of thanks were accorded to the host and hostess, the chairman and vice-chairman, and responded to. The proceedings were very much enlivened during the evening by the good singing of a number of the members and visitors present, when one of the most enjoyable evenings was brought to a close by singing "Auld Lang Syne" and "God Save the Queen." During the evening the prize list was increased by the Host £2 2s., Mr. Beech £1 1s., Mr. Shipston 15s., Mr. Davis 10s. 6d., Mr. Weaver £1s. 1s., Mr. Hemmings 10s. 6d.—John Shipston, sec.

THE UNITED STATES AND THE LONDON 1883 INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION.

OUR readers will be glad to hear that the Americans intend to send a most splendid exhibit for our edification next year. They have voted a preliminary fifty-thousand dollars to defray expenses, and will also lend free of charge a man-of-war to convey the exhibit and the commissioners. This is splendid and we prophesy that in extent, completeness, interest and value, the American exhibit will be second to none.

MR. JARDINE AMONG THE TROUT.

As an enviable result of two days' trout-fishing west of Salisbury, Mr. A. Jardine took fifteen brace of trout, total weight 31 lb., all with artificial fly—iron blue cow-dung, and Wickham's fancy. The largest fish, weighed-in at the Gresham Angling Society, were as follows:—One 2 lb. 3 oz., one 1 lb. 13 oz., one 1 lb. 12 oz., one 1 lb. 9 oz., one 1 lb, 8 oz., one 1 lb. 7 oz., one 1 lb. 6 oz., one 1 lb. 4 oz., two 1 lb. 3 oz. each; total, ten fish, weighing 15 lb. 4 oz.; and, in addition to the fifteen brace kept, six brace of others were returned to the river under 11 inches in length. What lovely jack and trout waters Mr. Jardine "knows of"!

Curious Situation for a Bird's Nest.—Workmen engaged on one of the screw steamers at present being built in Leven Shipyard, Dumbarton, for the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand, are "immensely taken" with a curious fact which has come to their knowledge within the last few days. It is that at the top of a shore which supports one of the beams on the upper deck of the vessel a bold little bird, of the kind known as the white-winged sparrow or "shelfie," has been found to have built her nest and deposited three eggs therein. The curiosity of the thing is enhanced when it is stated that the spot selected is not isolated or retired in any respect, but immediately under the deck beam as described, near the centre of the vessel. While the operation of riveting the stringers and deck plating has been going on, the resolute bird has been busily setting her house in order, By happy chance the vicinity of her home does not require to be oparated upon until long after the surrounding parts, the spot being exactly where a space is left for the erection of a winch foundation. Facetious workmen aver that the little creature, like a wise builder, must have studied the plans before beginning operations. Workmen are constantly employed within a few yards of the nest, but the bird seems thoroughly domiciled, even although the noise and movement about the ship are distracting enough even to persons accustomed to shipyard work. The roughest of the workmen look with intense kindness on their little rival in the building trade, and she hops about the uprights and staging, in the vicinity of her home, as any other bird, safely embowered in some pleasant greenwood, might do. It is anticipated that the eggs may be hatched in two or three days, and the young brood brought to maturity before the rude necessities of shipyard progress will have despoiled her home.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

THE PROPOSED FRESHWATER FISHERIES ACT.

Sir,—I desire to thank Mr. J. Gibbs, of Landport, for calling attention to this subject, as it will not only give me an opportunity of correcting the error respecting size of roach—which should have been seven inches, not nine—but will also, with your kind permission, enable me to write a few lines on other points which, in my opinion, it is desirable should be made clear to all, so that when the bill is finally drafted no angler shall be able to plead that he is taken by surprise.

No doubt, sir, you, together with many others, were astonished at the almost perfect unanimity which was displayed at the Society of Arts room when the resolutions, which will form the groundwork of our bill, were passed. Questions so important and intricate, which under ordinary circumstances would lead to lengthy discussion, and anything but an unanimous vote, were carried, one after another, as if they were mere questions of twice two. The explanation is to be found in the fact that for years the West Central Association and the United London Anglers had been working out these problems, so that we might be ready with our opinions when the time should arrive that our coarse fish interests would be deemed of sufficient importance to justify legislation. Could you learn the number of speeches made, and the letters written by our friends Messrs. Bonvoisin, Hoole, and Ghurney, upon the one question of undersized fish, it would astonish you. At times these indefatigable workers must have felt that agreement upon this important matter was impossible; but "peg away" was their motto, and the result was that sizes were decided upon which have recommended themselves for adoption to every angling and preservation society in London, and many in the provinces.

Mr. Gibbs asks a very pertinent question, and one which has been put to me frequently by anglers from all parts of the country. More especially has it been laid stress upon by our friend Mr. Walker, the secretary of the Sheffield Association. They in effect say—Is it fair to restrict those who fish in rivers where roach seldom exceed seven inches to the same standard as those who fish in such rivers as the Thames, Lea and Colne; why not leave the question of sizes to the various preservation societies which you hope to see spring up wherever there is water to preserve. I venture to say that this argument is unanswerable, especially as, without exception, every correspondent is willing and anxious that a clause should be inserted which shall make the sale of undersized fish—as per our standard—an offence against the law.

It is now proposed that the clause shall read:—

If any person or persons, at any time or season, sells or has in his possession for sale, any of the following fish of less dimensions than:—Jack, 18 inches; dace, 6 inches; barbel, 13 inches; perch, 7 inches; chub, 10 inches; carp, 8 inches; roach, 7 inches; bream, 9 inches; tench, 8 inches; he shall be liable, &c., &c.

No one who has devoted so many years to the subject of our coarse fish rivers, lakes and canals, the fish and the anglers, as myself, can be blind to the fact that the future welfare of all these are dependent on speedy legislation and the appointment of a responsible individual to whom we may look for the carrying into effect of our new act; together with the enforcement of those laws which were intended to purify our rivers, but which are now in many instances so glaringly transgressed that fish life has become impossible.

We must in my opinion respectfully insist on the absolute necessity for the appointment of a freshwater fisheries inspector; and we should urge upon the Government the desirability of following out in this case the policy inaugurated by the recent appointments of "Factories Inspectors" from amongst the most practical of the workers themselves. We do not want a profoundly learned professor whose knowledge is so vast that he would, seven eighths of his time, be occupied with more profound and, to him, more interesting subjects; neither do we want such a man, as there are far too many of, who will make us all sorts of promises of never failing to keep in view the object for which the coarse fish anglers worked for his appointment, and then in a year or two fall away and begin to think and talk of nothing but the salmonidæ.

You paid me, Mr. Editor, a very great compliment in so prominently associating my name with this post. Did I think myself competent, and were I free to accept it, I know of no position which I should be so willing to undertake. What an unlimited field of deep interest and usefulness it would open up to a man who could throw his whole heart into the work; working, not solely for the money which the appointment will bring, but with the hope and determination that ink-black rivers shall once again run pure, and be the means of giving sport and pleasure to all comers.

I intend to speak, to write, and to work, to get this post created; not for P. G., but for the best possible man amongst us, and not necessarily a Londoner.

I cannot help saying that we are more indebted to yourself than to any other individual for most valuable information as to what continental countries are doing for their inland fisheries. We are by this means enabled to gather the fruits of years of study and experiment, and we are shown as clearly as possible how to make coarse fish waters pay a net profit of twice the amount derived from the surrounding land. Surely this in itself is a sufficient reason why Parliament should be willing and anxious to assist in the passing of such a measure as we shall submit to it. We are further encouraged to hope that we shall be successful, from the fact of our having so many friends on both sides of the House of Commons, and from our being so unanimous as to the objects we desire to achieve.—I am, &c.,

P. Geen.

[copy.]

"24, Blue Boy Street, Sheffield.

"Dear Sir,—In reply to yours respecting the proposed amendment of the Freshwater Fisheries Act 1878, my committee are unanimous as to the necessity of an alteration in the law so as more effectually to protect the fish. Our member, the Rt. Honble. A. J. Mundella, acknowledges this necessity, and promises to assist anyone who will try to make the law more perfect and effective.

"My committee paid very great attention to your suggestion that we should try to induce the Government to follow in the footsteps of many smaller countries, and appoint a freshwater fisheries inspector; they think it a matter of the greatest importance, and hope that the London and country anglers combined will make the necessary effort to bring about the appointment of a fit and proper person, whose duty it shall be to enforce the Rivers Pollution Acts and our new Freshwater Fisheries Act.

"In reference to the proposal that, in drafting the new bill, we should commence with repealing those portions of the 1878 Act which apply to our fish, and from thenceforth keep our legislation separate from the laws affecting the salmonidæ, we agree with you, and are prepared to leave this matter in the hands of your association.

"My committe, while desiring to see eel and flounder fishing permitted during the fence season in tidal waters, with rod and line only, is very anxious that the clause should be so drafted as to prevent abuse, and they suggest that from sunrise to sunset be added.

"We are strongly against the proposed clause in respect to sizes for the different fish, as there are many ponds, lakes, and scores of miles of water, where the fish do not grow to the sizes mentioned; the committee desire that this clause be left out altogether, and that the various associations decide the question of sizes as may best suit their waters.

"Another clause requiring great care in drafting is the one in respect to the taking and retention of fish for bait. Evil-disposed persons take, and will continue to take, every possible advantage of any loophole.

"I have also to ask your most careful attention to the wording of the clause which permits the capture and retention of fish for scientific purposes. Publicans here have glass or aquarium cases put in their windows to attract customers, and the fish to fill them are obtained—for scientific purposes, of course—openly and as frequently as required. Very strong restriction should be placed on the scientificially-fishey publican.

"In respect to the fence months we can suggest no improvement on the resolutions carried at the Society of Arts.

"I have in conclusion to give you the committee's warmest thanks for your communications, and to express the hope that you will shortly be present at one of our meetings in Sheffield—Yours, &c., T. Walker.

P. Geen, Esq.

"P.S.—I have just received yours respecting the alteration of the sizes clause. You may rely on the staunch support of the Sheffield anglers, who will be delighted to see the sale of undersized fish made illegal; it was the disgraceful sight of small fish in our markets which caused us to work for the Mundella Act."

A STRING OF QUERIES.

Sir,—Can you, in the first place, tell me what make of hook the one enclosed is? It seems of a very good form, and it is nearest in shape to the twisted Limerick, but not so round in the bend?

2. What is the peculiarity of the rod joint which you recommend in your review of the Edinburgh Exhibition—made, I think, by Dickson? The ordinary loops for tying together the joints of a rod are a great nuisance in catching the line, but the screws are objectionable as they must give a little by use, and then your rings are not in a line.

3. In speaking of casting at your fishing tournament do you always understand that the distance is the length of line from the reel to the fly?

4. I see in a back number your advice to a querist as to killing trout, in which you recommend what—if you will excuse me saying so—seem to me two rather nasty, as well as complicated, methods, viz., putting a thumb into the trout's mouth to dislocate its spine, or sticking a knife into the same. Surely the most simple and quickest manner of killing them is by a blow with the end of the handle of the landing-net on the top of the head about one inch behind the eyes.

5. Have any of your readers ever found an American glued rod come to pieces when wet? I have seen it asserted that they do; and, if so, it would be worth while knowing where these defective rods came from, as I heard an American maker assert, not long since, that his rods, even if boiled in water, would not do so, as they were fastened with a waterproof cement.

6. Have any correspondents given a practical trial to the eyed hooks for salmon flies, and with what result?

7. Could you, some day, devote half a page of the Gazette to illustrations of the different makes and sizes of hooks? The numbers of hooks are now so various that, in descriptions of flies and the size of hook intended for them, it is perfectly useless attempting to understand what sized hook is really meant; and I should imagine that numbered drawings of, say, half a dozen sizes of each of the different makes would be very acceptable to many of your readers. —I am, &c., M. B.

Answers to M. B.

(1) The hook sent is a short-shank Kendal, made by Allcock, of Redditch, used chiefly by Thames roach anglers. Some use a wider and rounder bend. We much prefer the sneck bend for flies.

(2) The rod-joint, made by Dickson, of Edinburgh, is a very good one, and cannot very well get out of order. Mr. Francis Francis told us he had used it for three years, and was quite satisfied with it, and he is not easily satisfied. It is a combination screw guide, and over-screwing is prevented by a metal stop.

(3) We feel sure the measuring was all from the reel, but will get Messrs. Jardine and Wheeldon to settle this point.

(4) If you are wading a rapid trout stream and don't want to walk ashore to kill every fish you catch, you will find our plan of breaking the neck of the fish much the safest. You simply hold him in the net, insert your thumb, and then quickly bend the head back at the shoulder and your fish is dead in an instant. As for its being nasty, anglers are not so squeamish as to think so, we fancy; it is far more humane than whacking your fish on your boot-toe or using a stick, which often only stuns the fish. For big trout the use of the knife is to be recommended, as it ensures quick death to the fish. But it is not likely anglers will all adopt one plan; they will please themselves. We only give our experience.

(5) We do not like the glued-up rods, and our experience has not extended beyond testing their casting qualities, which, in all we have seen, have been very far behind our hard wood rods.

(7) We have long thought of giving this illustration of the various sizes and makes of hooks with their respective sizes, &c., and will endeavour to do so shortly.—Ed.

MACNEE'S FISH-SCALE FLY.

Sir,—Will you kindly permit me to say to your very numerous readers who, in consequence of your notice, have sent to me for specimens of my new flies, that, owing to illness in my family, I have had to leave Edinburgh and return to the country. My address is Loch Tummel Side, Pitlochry, N.B. I will endeavour to kill some large pike soon to enable me to send you some loch size flies; but you have so kindly showered down upon me so many customers for flies that I cannot see my way to get a day to myself. I am perfectly bewildered with orders and all seem in such a hurry to obtain specimens of the new fly.—I am, &c., James Macfee.

[Mr. James Macnee is a professional fisherman on Loch Tummel and deserves great credit for his invention which, while it is not intended to supersede the ordinary artificial fly, forms a splendid auxiliary in bright still water when trout are shy.—Ed.]

SMALL TROUT AND LARGE TROUT.

Sir,—Will you kindly give me the following information? Are the small trout caught in the streams of Devon, Worcester, Sussex and Lincoln *S. fario* or are they brook trout? If the former, would they not grow larger in more extensive waters?—I am, &c., Vortex.

[They are all *Salmo fario*, and will grow up to any weight if they have a quiet life and plenty of good food.—Ed.]

LARGE LEA TROUT.

Sir,—Mr. J. Grimme caught a trout of eight pounds at Flanders Weir Fishery, on Thursday last; also one of two pounds and one of four pounds weight at Carthagena Weir, Broxbourne, on Saturday, all taken with the "Bell's Life" spinner.—I am, &c., Anti-live Bait.

CONSIGNMENT OF YOUNG FRY FOR THE THAMES FROM HUDDERSFIELD.

Sir,—At the annual dinner of the Thames Angling Preservation Society last year, Mr. Byram Littlewood, of Cecil Street, Huddersfield, in replying to the toast of "The Visitors," promised to send, through Mr. T. Spreckley, the treasurer, a contribution of at least 10,000 fry of salmon, trout and charr during the next season of fish-hatching. In redemption of this liberal promise, and as an evidence of Mr. Littlewood's sincerity, Mr. Spreckley received a letter from that gentleman couched in the following terms:—"I am quite ready now to send you a lot of salmonidæ of ten different kinds, all suitable for the Thames. They are of the following kinds:—*Salmo salar* from east and west coast of Scotland, Great Lake trout, English and German fario, Loch Leven trout, salmon trout, Welsh charr, Windermere charr, Alpine charr, a new kind, better than either trout or charr, *Salmo carpioni*. There are also salmonidæ, and only to be had from Lake Garda in Italy, and for which I am awarded a diploma for having introduced them for the first time into Great Britain. They grow to 15 lb. and 20 lb. I shall also send some American charr, *Salmo fontanalis*—these are not trout, as commonly called so, but they are charr." In reply to this letter, Mr. Spreckley informed Mr. Littlewood that the nursery at Sunbury was quite ready for the youngsters, and he could send them as early as convenient. On the following day a memorandum was received to the effect that by the Great Northern train leaving Huddersfield at 10·20 that day two carboys of fish would be sent, and arrive at King's Cross at three o'clock. Mr. Spreckley sent one of his men to meet the youngsters at King's Cross, and to take them with all possible despatch to their new home at Sunbury, a somewhat difficult journey to undertake, as there were several changes to be made on the road. On the arrival at King's Cross Mr. Kellow found the young fry in splendid condition, and to all appearance none the worse for their lengthened journey. The journey to Sunbury was successfully completed in about three hours, and under the directions of Mr. Kellow the fish were safely landed at the Sunbury Rearing Ponds, in the same healthy condition as when they first got into his charge. It is evident from this there is no difficulty in transporting Mr. Littlewood's healthy fry to any distance, and with several changes of conveyance. It was the opinion of some practical men at Sunbury the young fish were more healthy and strong than any previous consignment.—I am, &c., B.

[There is an old saying that one should never look a gift horse in the mouth. We are as grateful as anyone for the kindness which prompts these gifts from Mr. Littlewood, but we cannot help wishing that he knew the fate that most certainly awaits his young salmon and salmon trout, his English, Welsh, Swiss, Alpine and American char—in fact, the whole batch of his salmonidæ. They will simply be thrown away. The Thames is utterly unsuited to such fish. The char ought to go into a cold, deep lake, and not in a hot, muddy-bottomed river; the salmon and salmon trout cannot go to the sea, and must also die of disease or be eaten by the jack. The common trout may do if not turned in until they are half a pound each at least; but they will not stop in the main river, they will run up to the tributaries—or down the jack.—Ed.]

THE WEST CENTRAL ASSOCIATION.

Sir,—The Central Association at their last delegate meeting fixed the yearage for the new privilege ticket at 1s., as before.—I am, &c.,

R. Stebbings, hon. sec.

SLIME OF FRESHWATER FISH.

Sir,—Can you or any of your numerous readers give me any information as to the constituents or an analysis of the slime of salt or freshwater fish? Can I find this in any work on fish?—I am, &c., E. A.

HASTINGS PIER.

Sir,—Will you kindly inform me through the Fishing Gazette whether I can fish from Hastings Pier, and what class of fish and what class of tackle required, and bait? By doing so you will greatly oblige an old angler.—I am, &c., W. Johnston.

Charlton, May 22.

[Take a strong jack rod and fish ledger fashion, *i.e.*, feel the bites by holding line in the hand? Use stout gut, and the ordinary sea-hooks, which do not rust. Lug worms and mussels or shrimps are best baits. You will catch whiting, codling, eels, dabs, &c.—Ed.]

Bold Capture of an Otter.—A fine female otter was captured on Tuesday week by a labouring man in a ditch at Eynsham close to the river. The man in a daring manner sprang at the animal and seized it by the throat. It was put into a sack and brought alive to Mr. Darbey, Market Street, where it was killed and will be preserved. Its weight was nearly 19 lb., and measured 4 feet 1 inch. It appeared to be four years old.

George James Eaton, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether the may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[Advt.]

Dogs.—*Naldire's Prize Medal Dog Soap* destroys Fleas, Cleanses the Skin, and Improves the Coat and Health of the Dog. "Naldire's Soap is harmless to Dogs, but fatal to Fleas."—Frank Buckland. Price 1s, of all Chemists, Perfumers, and Grocers. N.B.—See that you get *Naldire's* Soap.

CANADIAN FISH-CULTURE.

(*Concluded from page* 238.)

CHIEFLY to get rid of this difficulty a

NEW METHOD OF HATCHING WHITEFISH

has been lately adopted in the hatching-house at Sandwich. The method was to put the ova upon a perforated tray, through which a stream of water flowed continuously, and from these trays to pick off the affected eggs. Now, instead of this tray a glass jar is used. The jar is cylindrical in form, and is capable of containing from 150,000 to 200,000 eggs. These jars are arranged side by side in a straight line, and in rear of this row runs a water pipe. From this pipe a number of smaller ones branch off, each connecting with the jar. It is in the conveyance of the water through the jar that the merit of the invention lies. A glass tube, the length of the jar, and about one inch in diameter is inserted into the jar. The lower end of the tube is larger than the upper portion, and is notched as one sometimes sees the top of a lamp chimney. Now the end of the branch water pipe, which is rubber, is put over the top end of this tube; the water is forced down and escapes through the notches in the lower end, and flows up through the eggs in the jar and escapes by a spout at the top of the latter. It will easily be seen that the motion of the water from the bottom to the top of the jar sets the fry in motion; and the diseased egg having less specific gravity than the sound one, comes to the surface and is borne away through the spout. Thus the work which in Sandwich it took forty little boys and girls to do can be attended to by one, indeed is accomplished of itself. This then is the great merit of the invention; but it likewise is superior to the old way in requiring only about half the quantity of water for the ova, and this, as in the case of Sandwich, where the water has to be raised by steam-power, is an item well worth considering. As to the effect upon incubation, there is none one way or the other, the process going on as well on the tray as in the jar. The system cannot be applied to salmon fry, for the continuous motion would addle the egg. These jars are now exclusively employed in whitefish culture at Sandwich. At the present there are in that hatchery one hundred and fifty jars, each containing upwards of 150,000 eggs, or the whole aggregating about 24,000,000. The principle present in the glass jar existed in a tin jar which had been invented by Mr. Wilmot several years ago, and been used for some years past in the Newcastle hatchery. A patent, after the invention, was taken out in Washington, but nothing was charged to anyone for its use. After a certain number of years the patent expired, and an "enterprising Yankee," getting the idea from the Newcastle tin jar, constructed a glass jar. The American having produced the glass jar, Mr. Wilmot saw it was best, and used it in the establishment. The Yankee patentee came over, and thought he should be "allowed something" for the use of his patent. Mr. Wilmot was much amused; certainly did not treat the request seriously. But he set at work, and instead of using a glass jar with a tin top, like the Yankee inventor's jar, he had his entirely constructed of glass, which is a decided improvement, for it shows if the work of separation is being properly carried out. It may be here stated that the hatchery at Newcastle has been the model school of the continent. It was the first established, and every step it has since made has almost invariably been copied by the American fishery officers.

INTRODUCTION OF CARP.

The most important movement made in the fish-breeding division of the fishery department for some time is the step which has been taken towards the introduction of the German carp into our Canadian rivers. The carp is known in Germany as the "poor man's fish," because it is more plentiful and is produced in rivers unsuited for the higher order of fish, and is of consequence cheaper. It is extremely prolific, of rapid growth, reaching three or four pounds in one year, and up to fourteen pounds at its full growth; while, better than all, it thrives upon the very fungus-producing or vegetable matter which will kill a member of the salmon family. The carp is a vegetable feeder, in contradistinction to most of the other fishes, which are animal feeders. Therefore the ponds and streams abounding through the provinces and sur-charged with organic matter or spohrs are exactly adapted for the sustenance of the carp. An experiment of how this fish would thrive in America was made three years ago by Professor Baird, who brought several from Germany and put them in ponds which he had created for them. They throve wonderfully well, reaching the maximum of growth for each year till they attained maturity. Last season Mr. Wilmot, through Professor Baird's courtesy, obtained thirty or forty carp, which he has kept since. Most of these lived, and have thriven so well that Mr. Wilmot had several ponds near the hatchery ready for the reception of a sufficient number for breeding purposes. Next season, therefore, hundreds of thousands of carp fry will be in process of maturity at the Newcastle hatchery. It is the intention to supply all the suitable ponds and rivers as fast as practicable, which will be at a rapid rate when all the hatcheries in the Dominion will have begun the work.

TRIAL OF CALIFORNIA SALMON.

There are now in the Newcastle hatchery 250,000 eggs of the California salmon, which have been obtained from California, likewise through Professor Baird's courtesy, for the mere carrying cost. Besides this number, 300,000 have been sent to the house below Grand Falls on the St. John River in New Brunswick. It is believed, and it does not seem unreasonable, that the salmon from the Pacific coast will thrive as well in the Maritime Provinces as in its native waters. As for the River St. John, it needs supply from some quarter, being now almost entirely barren of fish.

PROGRESS OF FISH-CULTURE.

The number of salmon, salmon-trout, and whitefish eggs in the Dominion hatcheries now is about 34,000,000, which is considerably in exceas of last year's number. There is, likewise, being established on the Restegouch River New Brunswick, aalmon hatchery, which will be much the largest in the Dominion. This building will be not less than 100 feet by 40 feet. It is also proposed to erect a breeding-house for salmon at some convenient point in British Columbia. During next season it is decided to remove the cause of complaint on the Miramichi, N.B., respecting the alleged taking of breeding salmon off the spawning beds for the hatcheries, by catching the fish on the common fishing grounds instead, and keeping them in ponds prepared in conjunction with the hatchery there. It is the intention now to take for the house about 200 female and 100 male salmon; which allowing 7,000 eggs to each fish would give 1,400,000. The numbes of eggs which will be used in the Restigouche house will be largely in excess of this. Then as to the progress in the increase of the fisheries from all these eggs and all this culture, several practical fishermen, perhaps because they do not understand the subject, maintain that fish culture does nothing but waste money. All the writers of note upon fishes give opinions contrary, and to their testimony is added the strong argument of men like Mr. Wilmot. Prof. Buckland and other writers agree that the number of fishes' eggs maturing in a course of nature does not exceed four or five per cent.; while it is known by actual computation that an average of seventy-five per cent. of the eggs mature in the hatching houses. This difference is thus and reasonably explained. Take the case of the salmon. She deposits her ova on the spawning bed, but before she can succeed in covering it, and often she does not securely cover it, it is borne away by the current. Then in rivers subject to heavy floods the river bed at the spawning grounds is frequently scoured and the eggs totally destroyed, while there are always on hand a number of freebooters ready to feast on the eggs. In the hatchery the art of man keeps all these dangers away. The fish is liberated just after it has absorbed the umbilical sack and begins to look for food; so that in all respects it would seem as well equipped to do for itself then at if it had remained covered under the gravel and rocks during the winter. Certainly all the argument is on the side of the theorists. The hatchery at Newcastle now is so full that, instead of keeping the little fishes, as has been the custom, till the spring, it will be necessary to put them now into the lake. So long, however, as care has been taken that the water in the nursery was maintained at the same temperature as the lake water, the little creatures will be as well let go now as in the spring.—*Toronto Globe.*

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III. After the Jurors have awarded the prizes, the covers above referred to shall be opened in the presence of the Chairman of the Essay Committee and the Secretary, who shall declare the names of the successful competitors.

IV. The Committee of Management have power to publish the whole or part of any, that may be submitted to competition. Essays not published will be returned on the application of the writers, but the Committee of Management do not make themselves or any of the officers of the Exhibition liable for the loss of any Essay or Essays.

V. The Judges are not bound to award a prize unless they consider one of the Essays deserving of it.

VI. No prize shall be given for an Essay which has already appeared in print.

VII. All Essays, with the motto attached, must be addressed to the Secretary of the Great International Fisheries Exhibition, 1883, London.

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Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 1882.

THOUGHTS ON THE THEORY OF FLIES.

By Robert Balderston.

(*Concluded from page 243.*)

In employing the second definition of the feathery-bait the Nondescript alliance, commit a still greater mistake; for at the outset they start from the premise "that they themselves, as well as the fish, are fools;" the first for employing baits, the semblance of something living, whilst that something does not live, viewed according to their own discoloured conception; and the second, for attempting to eat something which, according to the first portion of the premise, cannot exist; for something life-like must resemble something living, and in this case it is a fly; otherwise the angler might as well make his fishing sorties and go fly-fishing with a bare hook and give it life-like motions. In fact, the feathers of the so-called nondescripts, are tied on, much in the same way as are those of other flies, especially the kind called "buzz;" the bodies are alike, and the only attempt on the part of those who use such lures, to make them as unflylike as possible without destroying the poor creatures' killing powers too much, is the combining of colours in an extraordinary way or the adding of tails prodigies of structure. After all these poor attempts to make a nondescript, the completed bait is fairly like a fly, and, when manœuvred, closely resembles a disordered and drowning insect. As these creatures possess all colours, the attempt to select something unnatural in this respect, is to a certain extent a failure, though some uncommon hue may be chosen. The matter of colour leads to a subject worthy of consideration: the colour and form of things on or in the water, as observed by fish lying at a lower level and in various positions. The power of distinguishing colours may be so affected by the relation of the fish to the fly and light, that at times the Colourist's theory is utterly at fault; while that of the Formalist may stand triumphant. When trout are below the fly, and light comes directly thence to that inferior position, it may frequently happen that the sunbeams, or light of the sky, is so dazzling as to render kinds of colour unapparent, though not hindering the detection of the insect. This dazzling power, however, is not so great as some anglers suppose. Owing to the lateral position of the eyes, the retinas do not become so flooded with light as they would were these organs both on the top of the head. When, then, the dazzling influence is small, owing to depth of water, lack of intensity of light, or difference in position, the colours, instead of being indiscernible, are more vividly depicted than they appear to the angler; for the hackles, wings, and tinsel of the bait become so replendent and lustrous under the beams of the sun, that in some respects the beauty which the natural insect possesses, instead of being decreased in the imitation is increased materially; not, perhaps, that this is any great advantage, but that it does increase its visibility when the fish are lying low in the water. Now this is one of the advantages of fishing with the sun shining to a certain extent in the direction of the cast; for then the trout which are lying nearer the angler, if he is fishing up-stream, are not dazzled by the light, and can therefore appreciate the beauties of the lure, provided it has sufficient naturality to be deceptive; if it has not, by all means let the fish be dazed or somewhat dazzled. But in angling down the stream, the reverse is the case; and it is better for the sun to be shining slightly towards the angler, for the fish lie beyond the cast. When dazzled, or when the light is not sufficiently strong to illuminate the hackles, as at twilight, most flies appear black. Hence the good qualities of so many deadly killers which are black, or tend in that direction, as the black palmer, black gnat, water-cricket, black ant, and even the house-fly and iron-blue dun. Hence the killing powers of many of the so-called nondescripts, which are either black; or may be deadly when in positions where they appear black; for, as before stated, the Nondescript alliance adhere to a general fly-like form, though they denounce naturality for adopting such a shape more or less varied. But it is not to be supposed that trout are not usually cognisant of the colour of their prey; in fact, they are generally aware of the exact hue, partly owing to keenness of sight, and partly because occupying lateral positions near the surface, where they can readily detect the colour of the fly on or in the water, or, in fact, even in the air before alighting. Form, therefore, may always be detected, though sometimes the fish only waits to ascertain that it is a fly-like shape which is descending on the pool; whereas colour is not so certainly discernible. General form, consequently, ranks first; colour is certainly worthy of a second place; special shape may be ranked after colour, whilst special colour-markings, though last on the list, are worthy of great attention, and may secure for the angler the victor's place, both in weight and number of fish, when measuring his skill against a rival, all other things being equal. It may, moreover, be remarked that the master who employs special varieties of flies and imitates the insects actually on the water, deservedly ranks before his compeers. Because, not only does he employ, and attempt to do, the right thing; but also his constant practice in depicting the various actions of many different insects, so perfects his system of manœurving that he far outrivals, in one great branch of the art, the adept who, though master of one or two particular modes of working the flies, is ignorant or unskilful in matters concerning the others.

Many authorities have advocated certain colours for particular states of the water, for what exact reason cannot be decidedly stated; but it has, no doubt, something to do with visibility, naturality, and experience, all combined. A bright orange-red hackle and a black palmer have been found very killing in a heavy rolling freshet. Now both of these colours are the two hues most distinctly visible in such a water; but not only this, there are, during such a flood, a great number of caterpillars red and black, beetles red, brown and black, but especially black, yet many red or sometimes brown, for either of which the reddish hackle and palmer may, in the discoloured water, be easily mistaken; the fish feeding boldly when the river is heavy and being equally ready for a cow-dung fly, a beetle, or a caterpillar.

Thus experience declares these two colours are good, and many anglers will almost swear by the red and black palmers, seldom fishing except in this state of water, and doing little at any other time with other flies. For deep pools or lakes, a bright yellow or orange fly has been much recommended; and it is in deep pools, under bushes or nettle-clad banks, that the red palmer is often very killing, the hairy caterpillar, red or red and black, dropping naturally in such places into the water. The greendrake, of a greenish yellow colour, is often killing in lakes and deep waters elsewhere. It is a natural fly of large size and easily distinguished colour, hence of great visibility.

The stone fly may likewise be used in lakes with success, and also in heavy, rough streams in strong rivers; it also is of large size, and visible in water where smaller insects are overlooked. The sand or sedge fly, a large reddish brown or yellow insect, is easily discernible, and so has been found a killer in deep waters generally. The ruddy variety of the whirling dun is a fly of moderate size, bright colour, and clear delineation, and is one of the very best killers in all waters, and in part owes its great killing power to its being easily mistaken for two of the best flies on the angler's list, namely, the yellow and blue duns. For low water small pale and iron-blue duns or hackles on minute hooks, and the small grey mottled mallard beetle, are the most natural and deadly baits. In cold windy weather the blue dun, whirling dun, and March brown, or flies closely resembling the latter, are most efficacious. In warm windy weather the cow-dung, alder and oak flies, bluebottle, and hawthorn fly are found upon the water. In the evening, small light duns, brought into life by the heat of the day, such as the pale evening dun, are plentiful in summer. During a sudden shower the spinners are peculiarly fatal, whilst at twilight anything in the shape of a fly is greedily devoured. It has generally been owned by anglers of all shades—Naturalists, Formalists, Colourists, &c.—with a certain feeling of haziness and hesitation, that even if trout do mistake the artificial lure for an insect, or whatever their ideas may be on the subject, one thing at least is certain: it is, at any rate, undoubted that salmon do not make any mistake when they endeavour to swallow the gaudy, glittering, many-coloured lure specially contrived for their peculiar advantage; for few have been audacious enough to presume that the structure is meant for the copy of any insect. The long-bodied, sparsely-winged and hackled salmon lures have not inaptly been compared to the huge and attenuated dragon fly; some of the bushy lures may have almost as close a resemblance to humming birds. Dragon flies, assuredly, have an aquatic origin; but with how many humming birds can a young salmon have met? Disbelieving the bird theory, others have no less presumptuously declared that the bait resembles nothing in heaven above, nor in the earth beneath, nor in the water under the earth; this being, no doubt, the reason of the salmon's adoration. Yet stop; rush not so headlong to a rash conclusion; but before so bluntly denouncing the structure as lifelike, but still resembling nothing living, wait till your knowledge is a little more complete. Let it be admitted that your experience of earth and air is not utterly despicable, but pause awhile. The master of the art will not yield you any admission further. You know the depths of ocean, do you? You have followed the young salmon to ocean's murky depths, and are well aware of all the glittering, many-coloured denizens of the deep? Tush, it is not so! Away with you! What know you of the sea's dark mysteries, or of the sparkling lights of its dim remote sub-aerial halls? You are beside yourself if you say, "Nothing in the sea!" Walk into the museum of the Naturalist, and a few of those many-hued and dimly-sparkling candles of ocean's inmost rocks and caverns may be seen. An animal, the very size of your gaudy silver and gold, purple, blue, and green, your many-tinted salmon lure, with moving, glittering, many-coloured scales and hairs planted all over its lovely lustrous form, may there be seen; the namesake of the Queen of Love and Beauty, the lovely Aphrodité. Here is your gaudy salmon lure, such as the Britannia and Undine, clad in regal purple, the long-lost reminiscences of which are briefly re-awakened in fresh water to gladden the triumphant angler's heart. But are not other iridescent forms found in the watery deeps? Rich-hued actimae, medusoids, and polyzoids of every size and shape and countless colours. Such myriads, indeed, that it were a feat impossible for even an aged salmon to remember each after an absence in fresh water? So numberless that anything of many colours, actively moving, and of bulk like that of ocean prototypes, has such magnetic influence that the huge fish is drawn towards it, and bristling jaws enclose a rare, and, for them, too fell deception.

Thoughts on the general theory of flies naturally lead to the attentive study of the numberless varieties of insects on which trout feed most voraciously. It is as well to review the natural history of these creatures alone, and not mingle the two phases of the case together. These subjects at last involve the fly-fisher in the abstruse and practical system of manœuvring elsewhere discussed, including the most important operations in the whole art; perfection or consummate deftness in which stamps the owner as a master of the pastime. Before the old angler I need hardly demur in placing at such length, and disposing as my own thoughts dictate, so many pithy points. The goal I have sought to reach is, on one hand, truth; good craftsmanship on the other; and it is for the old practitioner to judge if I have conned the art aright. Upon the young fly-fisher I must urge that, though the subject may appear tedious at the first glance, it is worthy of much consideration; and is, as laid forth by me, whether rightly or wrongly, the the result of long years of pleasant labour by the river side in many countries; moreover, it is by toil proficiency is attained. We cannot all be born masters, though we may inherit a love for the art. Therefore, follow up unceasingly all the best maxims by the banks of the stream; and perhaps, in time, you may croak more loudly than THE RAVEN.

BLANK DAYS.

By J. P. WHEELDON.

I MET a very good friend of mine the other day, whilst mooning meditatively through St. Paul's Church Yard; and being an ardent gossip, he instantly buttonholed me. If I could have shirked him decently, I would assuredly have done so; for, apart from the fact, that he thinks no sooner is one "Scotch cold" swallowed, than it is an immediate signal for filling the tumblers afresh, and emptying them again as speedily as possible, but he is an inveterate and painful stammerer. Therefore with a frame of iron and a stomach capable of sustaining any number of liquid assaults of any known quantity, quality, and strength, he can very soon settle me; while his longing for gossip, and particularly fishy gossip, is as unbounded as his hospitality and his capacity for swallowing whiskey.

"My-de-de-did-dear fuf-fuf-fuf-friend," he at last sputtered out—"How are you-an-an-an-an cuk-cuk-cuk-come and have-a-a-whiskey." In vain did I assure him—which, by the bye, was an utterly unnecessary untruth—that I had just had one. "All the more reason," he instantly blurted out, "why you sh-sh-sh-should have another." I pleaded liver next, and his immediate reply was that, "Whiskey, so long-long as you take e-e-e-nuff of it, is the fuf-fuf-finest med'cine for liver in the whole bl-bloo-blooming world, my boy." After that I hauled down my fighting flag and surrendered; and the very first question that my chum put to me, after nodding over the edge of the tumbler and moving it slowly across his upper lip, and just under his nose in a very mysterious manner—motions which may either be a sign of Freemasonry or Fenianism, and I'm sure I don't care which—was this, "Why," said he, "how is it that in every blessed article you write, old fuf-fuf-fellow, you're always catching fish and nev-nev-never have any bl-bl-blanks."

Blanks! Good heavens above, why I've perfectly revelled in blanks in my time, and I doubt not that every fisherman that has ever handled a rod has had his full share into the bargain, if he were only honest enough to admit it. The marvellous fisherman—that man who is always doing something to rouse the bile or enthusiasm, as the case may be, of his many friends—is the man who has ample time, money, and opportunity at hand. That is the stuff of which your "crack" is made, as a rule; and I fear me sometimes, that the item "money," plays no inconsiderable part in the size and multiplicity of his bags. This gentleman probably goes out day after day, week after week, and his blanks are kept carefully in the background. The captures only—and in some cases they are the result of commercial speculation—come to the surface, and the world lifting up its hand says, "What a wonder he must be." I know sundry men whose names hardly ever come to the front, and I know others whose names literally coruscate as bright particular stars in the piscatorial firmament. I should much like to have a shy at one or other of the stars, nominating a hole-and-corner man as my representative, and somehow fancy that in an all-round game I should have a bit in hand. Fancy! it isn't fancy, I am certain of it.

Can I, say you, call to mind a blank or two, as a refreshing difference to papers which may frequently tell a reverse tale? I can that. Tons of 'em. I recollect an occasion when, after a lot of trouble and beating about the bush, I got permission to fish in a private park, through which a most beautiful section of the Mole runs. I had as companion one of the best anglers that ever fisted a rod; and I think, if I recollect aright, we took down with us something like five thousand Nottingham worms, tough as bits of wire, and scoured as bright as kitchen pans at Christmas time. The principal pool, and a very extensive one it was, lay at the foot of a delightful dell, which we christened "the wilderness." It was clothed, each side of it, with Scotch firs and great sturdy oaks, round the roots of which grew a perfect carpet of blue hyacinths, thick green moss of the brighest and most verdant hue, in and amongst which tall brackens and ferns flourished luxuriously in the moist cool shade. In going down the sides of this deep dell to reach the calm placid pool lying below, one had to be very careful, owing to the quantity of matted ivies of every description which trailed over the surface of the ground. I once caught my foot in some of these tough bines, and the result was an utter cropper and a fine growth of gravel rash along the bridge of my nose. At the head of the pool were some sluice gates, through which the current flowed lazily. It was intensely still in the dell; and the water falling with a sleepy subdued plash and murmur, and then going dimpling and curling downwards through the centre of the pool, was the only noise, and the only sensation of life, in the place. Even that was transitory, as the motion was soon lost in the deep shadows cast by overhanging trees.

When I first saw the pool, a year or so before I ever wetted a line in its solemn depths, I had been rabbit shooting in some covers on the opposite side. After the day's sport was over, I had followed the keeper upon a short cut through the woods, and pushing through the tangled trees, down the sides of this dell, we had struck the sluice gates, over which we presently passed. Of course I looked over. Did ever any angler in the world pass a bridge of any sort without peering over it? Not he, I'll warrant, and by the powers, I saw a shoal of topping great perch—eh, such "Tommy Splorgers"—slowly and sleepily, as befitting such a deep solemn secluded pool, sailing round the black slimy timbers of the sluice. "Are there many fish here, Morgan?" I queried in an unconcerned tone. "Fish is it!" said Morgan, a Welsh man, by the bye, and a very keen sportsman, "Fish, sir? Hech but there's shust cartloads, whateffer." "Cartloads, eh!" said I inquiringly, "and what are they then?" "Ah!" he replied, "And it's now ye'll shust puzzle me—there's them with the striped backs, peerch ye'll call them; and there's big pike, and shoals of of other sorts which lay sunning and basking all day long whateffer." They'll be bream I thought, or else, what so likely, big carp, and I'll never rest till the old lady gives me permission to try for them. Thus it was that I badgered and worried till I got it; and now, there we were, two fairish anglers well armed, with the family away up in town, monarchs of all we surveyed, plenty of capital bait, and Morgan ready and willing to give us every possible assistance.

It looked absolutely a certainty; and no man counted chickens so rapidly, or built more towering castles in the air than I, when, at the close of a charming day, my friend and I brought the sack of worms up to the hatchway and baited the pool thoroughly well. We left them the next day entirely to themselves; but on the morning of the following, daylight found us fishing carefully with float and leger. Breakfast time came round without either having had the shadow of a bite. "Funny, is't it, old man?" said my friend, as after winding up the lines, we leaned the rods against the trunk of a noble oak preparatory to going up to Morgan's cottage in quest of eggs and bacon. I said it was; moreover, I thought it, too; and when we got back, and, finding the sun shining full down upon the pool from between the boughs of the trees, saw the surface literally alive with a great shoal of bream, amongst which there were one or two veritable "scorchers," I thought it was funnier still. Dinner time came; not a bite. Tea time, ditto. The light died out, my big quill began to grow very hazy and indistinct, bats to squeal overhead, and the state of the poll was precisely in the same condition; we stuck to it till it was absolutely too dark to see, and Morgan came down to see if anything was wrong. I well remember how eerily his voice sounded as he shouted to us from the ridge of the gloomy woods above. The result, at the end of day, was an absolute, unmistakeable blank.

Many pipes did we three—Morgan, my friend and I—smoke that night; and many were the theories discussed as to the curious issue of the day's sport. The keeper was confident we had not baited properly, and thought if we had tried blood and grains, a sweet mixture, that we should have fared better. I differed, and so did my friend; but we, nevertheless, determined next day upon trying some big boluses of paste upon triangle hooks. If a fishing day could have been specially ordered, surely there never could have been one like this. Imagine everything in our favour. A soft sou-westerly wind, which barely ruffled the leaves of the oaks or caused the aspens to tremble. A day when fleecy masses of white clouds sailed slowly over a beautous arc of palest turquoise blue, and the hum of the bees' wings, hovering over the nodding heads of hundreds of blue bells, sounded drowsily and sleepily. Not one solitary touch did we get the whole day through, not a bite of any description; and if any two men went home disappointed and disgusted, we did. On another occasion I had an opportunity of fishing the same pool, and the result was precisely similar. Although I knew that it was "chock full," as the keeper said, of splendid fish, somehow I did not "hanker arter it" quite so much after that second and third edition.

I call to mind a certain day upon a delightful bit of trout water, where abided some perfectly awful trout, but a stream wherein my favourite game of spinning was strictly tabooed. It was a water abounding in stickles, hatch-holes, and foamy bits of weir head; but it was "Fly sir, nothing but fly," said the keeper; "and bear in mind, please, that we strictly bars the Alexandra." It turned out to be a scorching hot day, the water was as bright as crystal, and there was a beastly glare and glitter on the river, that made all notions of fly-fishing hopeless. I sat under a fine old oak, standing in a field bordering the river, wherein a lot of haymakers were at work, and owing to the presence of a multitude of gnats, nearly asphyxiated myself with tobacco. The hay makers' beer-barrel stood under the tree, in company with sundry frugal dinners, tied up in blue and white or checked cotton handkerchiefs. Presently the labourers came trooping in, and amongst them was one remarkably pretty girl, to whom, as she happened to sit near me, I tried to make myself as agreeable as possible. And indeed, I was getting on very swimmingly, until an ill-conditioned young male person, about six feet high, and with a fist like a shoulder of mutton, growled out "Yow'd better drop that young man; an' yow, Polly gal, yow coom and set by mey, or mebbe ar' shill poonch sumbuddy on the noase." He did not mean me, of course, or otherwise I should have felt bound to resent such a piece of familarity. Nevertheless, Polly went; and presently, as they trooped back to the field to their work, sundry hearty guffaws of laughter went up to the brazen sky, and I was left all alone in my glory—feeling still an aristocrat, yet, perhaps, not quite so much bloated as usual.

It was nearly dark, and the river was alive with dimplingrings, just as though a handful of shot had been thrown in here and there. A clinking good fish was rising just under the bank at my side, and covering him with a big "Wickham's Fancy," always a good fly on a strange water, he had it in a jiffy. I did not hit him hard, and I only felt one fell tug at the top joint, nevertheless, he was gone, breaking the gut just above the fly link. I cursed a little, and put up another. Another great fish, I should say a full five-pounder, was rising boldly in a patch of clear water, amongst some very thin weeds. Him I covered, although a little behind, perhaps, and letting the current sweep the fly round, he came up with a rattle. And now, thought I, I'll be very careful, so I treated him to a gentle snick only, as I almost felt the line tighten in the darkness. The instant he was struck, he bounded out of the water like a buck shot through the heart, and with one terrible fierce rush, was across at the other side. There he was fast somewhere directly, amongst roots I expect, and do all that I would, I could not clear the line. I pulled gently, and then hard. No go. Then I put my rod down amongst the long grass and taking the line in my hands, pulled at it until I began to wonder what sort of a trout it would have held in clear, open water. Five pounds! bah, so it would ten, said I quietly to myself. "Now then, you must break sometime," I added, apostrophising the line, and I pulled at it harder still. It parted with a faint twang, and as I stepped quickly back to pick up my rod and gather up the loose line, I heard a sharp quick crack and I had put my foot—oh, only on the middle joint, and it had snapped in twain, as clean as a carrot. After that I went home, and my muttered meditations on the long homeward journey, and particularly when I thought of my dear old slaughtered Chevalier, were peaceful, not to say holy.

ANGLERS ON WHIT-MONDAY.

WHIT-MONDAY is always noted on the Thames for the influx of Cockney anglers; if the word anglers can be rightly applied to them. In spite of bye-laws or Acts of Parliament, which they appear to know nothing about, the river-keepers will always find them on the banks. They are for the most part very harmless people—if they are told the law is against them, and the act of angling renders them liable to a summons, they peacefully desist, though with a look of sad disappointment. "What a pity to stop those people from enjoying such an innocent amusement," remarks a bystander; and when he receives the reply "They are breaking the law, and we must teach them better," he adds, "For the little harm they do, they might be allowed to go on." The keepers are not offensive in their remarks, nor have they ever attempted to make an example on Whit-Monday. They do practically right in stopping the men or boys from fishing—they have a moral duty to perform ; and in explaining what the law is, and how necessary it is to be vindicated, they probably, for the first time, cause some of those people to think that, after all, there is such a thing as doing wrong, and their future life may be influenced by the thought that has accidentally been aroused. Under the old law of what was termed "the glorious first of June"—Whit-Monday has sometimes been on its very threshold—I have seen shoals of pleasure-seekers turn out of Hampton Court station, with their fishing rods, and I have witnessed the look of regret at the check which the river keepers have given them. I am speaking of a time when clubs were few, and when angling clubs neither recognised a close season or a standard of fish. There were no Central Associations then, to teach the members of angling clubs, the principles of true sport; and "railway concessions to anglers" was an unheard-of phrase. In the number of rodsters who visited old Father Thames last Monday, I am satisfied the club men would be conspicuous in their absence. I met some anglers on that day—respectable anglers—going by train with their angling implements. I soon inquired "How is this?" and "where are you going?" The reply was, "To the Black Dog water at Feltham, which does not come under the Freshwater Fisheries Act, of 1878, as it is private water, and one shilling per day is charged to anglers. It generally opens on the first of June; but as Whit-Monday this year is so close to that day, the proprietor of the water has consented to make the commencement this year on Bank Holiday;" and, as one friend facetiously remarked, "It is always a Bank Holiday there, as the fishing is all from the bank." This was a closer; but still I hold to the opinion it is far better to wait until the sixteenth of June for a general commencement. The "Black Dog Fishery" enjoys that designation from the name of the public house where the permission to fish is obtained, and it is not a bad place to go to—there are plenty of roach and perch, and big ones too. It commences at a blacksmith's shop, and the anglers can fish for a considerable distance beyond that point. If any of my friends would like to go there, they will not regret it; but let them first, after they have alighted at Feltham station—where they will find a very courteous station-master, and a lover of the rod, in the person of Mr. Martell—go across to the "Railway Hotel" for a lubrication, and my friend Mr. John Harris, the proprietor, will point out on the bar wall the measurement of some fine perch caught close to the aforesaid blacksmith's shop, and he will, if necessary, enlighten them as to the exact spot. Last season, Mr. Doman, Mr. Hawkins, and other neighbours of mine, made some splendid takes of roach and perch—I say splendid, quite as much in reference to size as to quantity. The roach anglers usually fish with a long line, and a nice red worm is a favourite bait. The angling there on this Whit-Monday, was not very much, nor the fish in over good fettle. As far as the Thames is concerned, I have found the anglers getting nothing but bleak, and as proud of them as the regular anglers would be in the season of a good roach or perch. I always advise the keepers on Whit-Monday, to do their work as kindly as they can, and it has never failed to have a proper result; nor do I apprehend it will be otherwise, from the various cautions last Monday. The thought occurred to me, as I witnessed some of the anglers at work, what a capital thing it would be for the West Central Association to circulate on that day, a nicely written paper on "The principles of True Angling," and whilst pointing out the seasons and sizes of fish to invite the reader to become a member of an Angling Society; and that on writing to my energetic friend, Mr. Thomas Hoole, he would, on stating their address, give the applicants the name and place of the nearest club. Methinks I already hear Mr. Hoole responding to the idea with "Bravo, B."

B.

[Good Lord, deliver us! Does "B" mean this little sermon as a "goak," as Artemus would say? We fancy we see "B," next Whit Monday, on the towing-path, distributing nicely-written tracts on the "Principles of True Angling," as practised by the three associations; with an appendix showing forth the brotherly love of club anglers, the morality of their prize system, and their dislike of whiskey, tobacco and late hours, dedicated to "B," and written conjointly by Messrs. Hoole and Stebbings.—Ed.]

Gregory's Spinning Baits. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxfod," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[Advt.]

THE SECOND "FISHING GAZETTE" TOURNAMENT IN AID OF THE ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

We have much pleasure in announcing that a certain angling club, following the example of the Gresham, is going to come down very handsomely in the matter of prizes for the forthcoming Tournament; and Mr. J. Gillett, 40, Fetter Lane, writes that he "will have much pleasure in presenting one of our best cane fly rods with two tops, fancy whip, &c., &c., as a prize at the tournament," and hopes to be present on the occasion. N.B.—The tournament is to commence at 4 o'clock p.m., on Saturday, July 8th, at Mr. Warner's Fishery, The Welsh Harp. Applications for tickets should be made at once to Mr. Ghurney, secretary of the Anglers' Benevolent Society, 10, Baches Row, Charles Square, Hoxton.

DEATH OF MR. W. J. BULLOCK.

On Thursday morning, May 31, died, at his residence, 20, Colville Square, Mr. W. J. Bullock, one of the most genial and kind-hearted of men and most enthusiastic and successful of anglers. He contributed several articles on trout and salmon fishing to this paper, and his series of articles on "Spinning for Trout with the Natural Minnow," attracted much attention; in this, his own favourite branch of the art, he was *facile princeps*. Only a few weeks ago he was fishing the rivers in the Lake district, and intended to have described his wonderful success in some articles in this paper. His death was caused by a general break-up of the system, brought on by business losses and anxieties. It is with deep regret we announce his death.

STEVEN'S DOUBLE-HOOK MIDGE-FLIES.

Mr. R. C. Steven, of 15, West Street, Berwick, whose flies we have noticed favourably before, now sends us some samples of his double-hook midgets. These diminutive yellow, blue, olive, and golden duns, &c., &c., are beautifully dressed; and, by a very happy thought, their killing powers are doubled by having, in place of the ordinary single hook, two single ones tied together, *not* back to back, but parallel, so that they look like one hook until you examine them closely. Before using them, the points must be separated a little. We can recommend these double-hook midges strongly, because the great drawback in using the single-hook midge is that it is so minute that if you hook a good trout the hold is necessarily so slight that the particle of flesh soon gives. We have often experienced this. Now with two hooks embedded in the flesh, of course, the chance of holding is doubled. Trout streams are already getting low and as clear as crystal; the only chance of killing fish in the day time is by fishing up stream with gossamer tackle, the finest drawn gut, and very small flies.

NOTICES OF BOOKS, &c.

Crisp's Handbook to Angling. Guide to the Broads, Rivers, Lakes, and Decoys of Norfolk and Suffolk, &c., &c. Published at the *Independent* Office, Yarmouth. Price 3d.

This is a very cheap and useful little guide, containing particulars of the fishing, and a list of seventy fishing places. Coarse-fish anglers who have not yet tried Norfolk and Suffolk should take our advice and go to Yarmouth or Lowestoft. The sea air is magnificent and the fishing cannot be surpassed. In a future edition of Mr. Crisp's guide, we trust he will take out the directions for the manufacture of salmon-roe bait, which, by Act o Parliament, is an illegal bait, and renders the angler using it liable to prosecution as a poacher.

The Second Annual Report of the Council of the Scotch Fisheries Improvement Association. Published at the Office, 6, Hill Street, Edinburgh.

An unusual interest attaches to this report, inasmuch as it contains Mr. Archibald Young's notes on the recent Edinburgh Fisheries Exhibition. Many of our London exhibitors' and the clubs' exhibits are highly spoken of by the Scotch Salmon Fisheries Commissioner. The report also contains a list of Scotch fishery associations and angling clubs, which will be very useful as it is the only list of Scotch clubs in print we think. The reports of the progress of the association is very satisfactory, seeing it has only been established little over two years; we wish it continued prosperity, as it is doing a great work.

Summer Tours in Scotland.

The above is the title of a neat little guide to the various tours taken by Mr. David MacBrayne's steamers, the "Columba," "Iona," &c., from Glasgow, to all parts of the Highlands which can be approached by water, and in the Western Highlands the water dissects the land in every direction. The angler will find Mr. MacBrayne's steamers offer him wonderful facilities for getting at the best fishing in the Highlands; and the beautiful coloured map and many illustrations add greatly to the value of this handy and most useful little guide.

Drawn Gut Lines.

Messrs. Gillett, of 40, Fetter Lane, have sent us some samples of their drawn gut lines for notice. They are very nice indeed, beautifully fine and nicely stained, while the price for each is only 8d. They are three yards long. Our fly-fishing friends should make a note of this item.

Mr. A. W. Warner, Fishing-tackle Maker, of 35, Cannon Street, Birmingham, sends us his new price list. We have in past years often spoken highly of Mr. Warner's goods, and anglers will do well to possess his list. Mr. Warner had the honour of fitting out the Marquis of Lorne with salmon and trout rods and tackle for the Canadian waters. H.R.H. the Princess Louise got some very heavy salmon, as well as the Marquis. Mr. Warner's "Invincible Blue Upright" is still one of our most valued flies for a rapid trout stream. Mr. Warner's list is nicely got up, and can be had post-free by sending post-card to above address.

NOTES ON THE EEL.

The following may be interesting. Every season I manage to take a good few eels, and I quite coincide with T. N. Wickens, Esq. I have noticed, over and over again, when removing their entrails, their stomachs have been crammed with water-beetles, larvæ of water insects, and a creature very much resembling the common shrimp, only smaller: this seems an especial favourite. These eels being caught so very early in the morning, the process of digestion could not take place. In fact, nearly all the food taken in the night up to the time they were hooked being in a perfect state.

There is no doubt millions upon millions of animacules devoured by the satyr (amymone)—the *Linceus sphericus* of Muller, the *Pediculus aquaticus*, or water-louse, of Baker—and, for aught I know, the little cyclops, vulgarly the jumper—in the end become food for the eel. On a warm day you should go into a bed of weeds in a rivulet or stream, and get about a dozen of the last named on your naked legs, and watch their extraordinary movements; only be careful that ferocious young gentleman, the water-devil, does not let a little blood out of your leg. The above named, with many others, feeding upon animalcules, in their turn become the prey of aquatic larvæ and coleoptera, such as water-beetles, &c., and these in due course find their way into the stomach of the eel.

Thus not only do they destroy many creatures that live on the spawn, as well as the very young fry of fish; but it is well known they are wonderful scavengers, and get rid of an immense amount of matter highly deleterious to the water.

In a summer flood on the low-lying grounds of the Trent, when the water has not been more than 12 to 18 inches deep, I have seen eels in the neighbourhood of a deep pond gorge themselves to such an extent with dead worms killed by the flood, that they have been so sick you could toss them out of the water with a stick without the least difficulty.

Mr. Wickens, in his capital letter, says:—"When eels as well as other fish are about the process of multiplying, they are sick and ill, and out of condition, and eat little or nothing; but by the time they recover and require food, the spawn of other fish is out of danger." This is so true, more especially with pike, that I cannot understand anybody believing to the contrary. I should say about the time the eel is preparing to bring forth its young, an immense amount of spawn must be hatched, and the fish well formed and quite prepared to take care of themselves, and by the time the eel has recovered from having young there is an abundunce of food in the water for it. Water beetles not only feed upon the spawn, but they attack and destroy immense numbers of the very young fry. In fact, so voracious are these creatures, they have been known to eat the dorsal and pectoral fins of both gold and silver fish." Dr. Burmeister also mentions that a specimen which he kept devoured two frogs in the space of forty hours, and, nevertheless, when he dissected it shortly afterwards it was found to have entirely digested them. When you take into consideration the size of this beetle, as compared with two frogs, even if they were small ones, this feat beats all your Ben Brusts out of the field. This, then, and other formidable gentlemen of the same kind, eels devour, and in due course save thousands upon thousands of the finny tribe for the hook of the angler, for which kindness he ought to be for ever grateful.

In conclusion, if the anglers, instead of making a raid upon the useful and succulent eel, would get the T.A.P.S. (ye gods, what visions of jollity those four letters suggest) to drive those highly poetical, yet dreadfully destructive swans from the Thames during the close season, a considerable amount of the spawn that goes down their throats might, in process of time, go down the throat of the angler instead.

Mark Antony.

P.S.—I enclose you the eel-hook I use. The taft is made entirely of horsehair, taken from the tail of a stallion, not the mane. They will last out six of the ordinary whipcord tafts. What do you think of it?

[This would be all very well for the eel's case, only, unfortunately, he is in the best condition and has an insatiable appetite just when our coarse fish spawn, from March to June. The "taft" would be good for a night line.—Ed.]

NORTH-WESTERN ANGLING CLUB.

The thirtieth half-yearly supper of the above took place on Thursday the 25th ult., and was a great success, Mr. Leo Bonvoisin in the chair, faced by Mr. Harry Wynn as vice. After ample justice had been done to the good fare provided by our worthy host, Mr. Wetenhall, and the cloth cleared, the Chairman proposed the "Queen and Royal Family," which was duly acknowledged in the usual manner. This was followed with some good songs by Messrs. Wynn, Stead, Kelsey and Aldis. The Chairman then proposed the "West Central Association of London and Provincial Angling Clubs," coupled with the names of Messrs. Geen and Hoole, to which Mr. Geen first replied, touching upon many points that he considered necessary good for the anglers of the whole of the United Kingdom. Mr, Hoole followed, referring to his duties with the association, and upon being called upon by the chairman for a song, gave "Good Old Jeff"; then Mr. Garling, a visitor, gave "Tickled Me So," in a style that kept those present in a fit of laughter during the whole of the time he was rendering it. Mr. Underwood followed with a sentimental one, which greatly assisted in bringing the faces of the company into shape again, both songs receiving an encore. After which the Chairman proposed the toast of the evening, viz., "The North-Western Angling Club," coupled with the name of the secretary. Mr. Hill replied, and after thanking the members for the kind manner in which they had received the toast, gave an account of the doings of the club during the past season. The aggregate weight of fish weighed-in was 1209 lb. 1½ oz., Mr. Stead being at the top with 226 lb., Mr. Underwood next with 141 lb., and Mr. Marshall third with 117 lb. He also gave an account of the receipts and expenditure during the past six months, and said he was happy to inform those present that the club would commence the new season with a good balance to its credit in the hands of the treasurer. Then followed Mr. Marshall with one of his amusing songs, after which the Chairman proposed the health of our worthy host and treasurer, Mr. Wetenhall, which was duly drunk. Mr. Wetenhall, in his reply, remarked that during the fifteen years the club had been in existence, he was proud that the whole of that time he had held the position he now holds; he had seen it pass through many severe trials which, in his belief, would have broken the backs of many clubs of its kind; but he was happy to say it had boldly faced them all, and was as strong now as ever it was. He then proceeded to present the prizes, Mr. Stead coming first, taking five, viz., heaviest jack, club 21s.; gross weight perch, club, 10s. 6d.; heaviest perch over 1½ lb., portraits value 30s., presented by Mr. Mayman; gross weight chub, umbrella, presented by Mr. Hillier; and gross weight all fish, pair of boots, presented by Mr. Kelsey. The following also taking one or two prizes each:—Mr. Bonvoisin, gross weight barbel and heaviest tench, both club, 10s. 6d. each; Mr. Underwood, gross weight jack, club, 21s.; Mr. Patching, gross weight roach, club, 21s.; Mr. W. Roxbee, gross weight bream, club, 10s. 6d.; Mr. Shackell, heaviest jack taken at the Welsh Harp, season ticket, presented by Mr. Warner; Mr. Fareman, same terms, cup, presented by Mr. Austerberry; Mr. Plumpton, sen., gross weight jack from Welsh Harp, season ticket, presented by Mr. Sawyer; Mr. Mott, gross weight dace, landing net, ring and handle, presented by Mr. Dillon; Mr. Harding, gross weight all fish, pair of boots, presented by Mr. Wetenhall; Mr. Marshall, same terms, 21s., presented by Mr. Gooch; also one day's outing ditto, 10s. 6d., presented by Mr. Harding; Mr. Grindley, ditto, 10s. 6d., presented by Mr. Herriott; Mr. Isaac, heaviest jack, 10s. 6d., presented by Mr. Underwood, and gross weight all fish, 10s. 6d., presented by Mr. Field; Mr. Pearse, gross weight all fish one day's outing, cup, presented by Mr. Holmes; Mr. Weaver, same terms, &c., 10s. 6d., presented by Mr. Billings; Mr. Holmes, ditto, album, presented by Mr. Grindley; Mr. Greenwood, ditto, fancy table, presented by Mr. Halse; Mr. Smart, heaviest jack, picture, presented by Mr. Bonvoisin. After which a good list of prizes was given in for the coming season. Mr. Bonvoisin also brought before the notice of those present the two handsome book-cases that the club was now possessed of, and was successful in obtaining a number of promises of books for same. Then followed the encore songs of Messrs. Stead, Underwood and Garling, the latter again setting the company into motion. After which the Chairman proposed "The Press," and coupled with it the name of Mr. Widdecombe, of the *Camden and Kentish Town Gazette*, who, in his reply, said he always looked forward to the suppers of this club with a considerable amount of pleasure. After which Mr. Lealand gave the "Mince Meat Knife." The vice-chairman then proposed "The Visitors," which was responded to by Mr. Packman, sen., of the Waltonians, and, as time was drawing to a close, the secretary proposed "The Chairman and Vice-chairman," Messrs. Bonvoisin and Wynn replying. Mr. Rodel ably presided at the piano, and a most enjoyable evening was brought to a close in the usual North-Western style, with "Auld Lang Syne."—H.

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

" You know
What great ones do, the less will prattle of."
—SHAKESPEAR.

I am a fisherman at heart, and try and try to catch a Thames trout, but as yet this season have not succeeded, and can thus only prattle about what the great ones do, and write myself down one of the less. The river is in first-rate order for trout fishing, and good work during this condition of the water will assuredly result in reward. At Windsor, Bray, and Maidenhead I hear of the capture of some ten decent fish, and Marlow has not been backward in coming to the front with two or three fish of fair calibre. I may here mention that Mr. Maskell, of the George and Dragon, Marlow, has recently added much to his snug hostelry, and gives every attention to piscators, and feels like a fish out of water if his well is not full of bait and plenty of "jacks," or any other gorgers to eat it. At Hurley, two gentlemen fishing in the back waters, caught two nice trout and lost a " screamer," and from Henley I glean that Mr. Johnson has had a fish from Marsh Pool, Mr. Towsey two fish (returned, as just under two pounds), a patron of W. Parrott a fine conditioned trout from near Marsh Pool. At Hambledon, Mr. Barrett a fine trout of 7 lb., and several smaller ones, taken with fly, returned ; also at Hambledon on the 30th ult., Tom White, of Marlow, with two patrons, a fine conditioned trout of 7 lb. Thursday Evening.—Water in prime trim, but a nasty east wind has sprung up during the day, which, if continuous, will lessen somewhat the chance of sport ; but I think a good angler should in all cases say—" Blow the wind."—MARLOW BUZZ.

Ancholme.

A second meeting of the Ancholme Angling Association has been held at Brigg at the Nelthorpe Arms. Mr. T. Watson ably presided, and the greatest unity prevailed. The new rules were duly approved and passed, whilst an addition of twenty-five new members took place. The green and grey drakes have appeared on the trout streams, and are taken with the usual avidity. The rains of last week improved the fishing, but the wind is once more in the east, and the days are almost cloudless. This makes against the angling, except in the evening. After the drakes are over we shall have the usual run of summer midges. One good evening fly is made from a very small feather from the top of a dotterel's wing, with bright yellow silk and 000 hook. With the finest drawn gut or hair, I have caught with this when almost everything else has failed.—THOMAS FORD, Caistor.

Ballynahinch.

For these last eight days, weather has improved considerably for angling, waters risen a little, and wind mostly to the west. Peal and white trout have been showing well on the lake, but none of the latter have been taken as yet. Mr. Walter Scott fishing three days on Monday, got a salmon $9\frac{3}{4}$ lb, and on Tuesdae got a very nice peal $5\frac{1}{2}$ lb. clean run.—WALTER BLACKADDER.

Coquet (Weldon Bridge).

The river is very small and clear, and the sport is not good, unless with worm and minnows in the shade. On the 20th Captain Saltmarsh killed a good basket with worm—$8\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Mr. Edwin Armstrong killed 5 lb. on the 27th ; Mr. Laing, Sunderland, killed a dozen good fish ; G. Armstrong two brace. On the 29th Mr. W. Hardy, Alnwick, made an early start with minnows, and killed a splendid basket—19 trout, $10\frac{1}{2}$ lb. ; Mr. E. Armstrong, one dozen ; Mr. G. Armstrong, four brace ; Mr. G. Laing, one dozen. On the 30th Messrs. Robertson, Smith, Cairns, and Hardy, from two to six brace. On the 31st Mr. Cairns a good basket, $1\frac{1}{2}$ dozen splendid trout.—A. GLASS.

Dove.

We have had large numbers of holiday anglers out this week, and their exertions have been well rewarded. The river, after last week's rains, has been in rattling order ; and if holiday makers and piscators generally had ordered the weather from the American weather-makers, it could hardly have been supplied in more perfect order. The trout have been rising first-rate, and good dishes have rather been the rule than the exception. The best sport on the open lengths was had in Dovedale, where nearly all kinds of flies have killed well ; also the worm and maggot. At Ashbourne, Ilam, Mayfield, Rocester, and Uttoxeter, sport could hardly have been better. Barbel are now scouring on the gravels, and coarse fishers are ardently longing for the opening of the season on the 15th. I see that a storm is predicted, but it looks a good way off, judging from the weather as it exists as I write to-day (Thursday).

Lochs Vennachar and Lubnaig.

Report of fish caught on Lochs Vennacher and Lubnaig for last week :—Mr. Steel and friend, Edinburgh, on Vennachar, killed two salmon, 18 and 21 lb.; a beautiful yellow trout, 5 lb. ; a lot smaller, average, $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. At Lubnaig. Major Moore, Sterling, and friend, on 27th, killed forty-seven beauties; average, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. and mine host of the Crown, on 23rd, killed thirty-three to his own rod ; weight, $12\frac{1}{2}$ lb.—A. MENZIES, Crown Hotel, Callender.

Maelog (Anglesea).

The trout on the above lake rose well to fly during last week. On the evening of 22nd ult. Mr. Worsley, of Liverpool, five fine fish ; on the evening of 25th ult. and morning of 26th ult., Mr. J. E. H, of Ruckley, Salop, fishing with his son, twenty fish, nine of $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. and upwards. The present week has seen fair bags taken by Mr. Lyne, of Manchester, both in river and lake, the well-known teal wing and claret body fly doing most execution. The sea fishing has been also very good.—R.

Taw and Tributaries (N. Devon).

Water very low and clear ; wind still east. The change of wind to the S.W. had the prospect of raising the rivers and making them more fit for fishing, but it only lasted for a few hours, for the water was discoloured only and did not rise. I saw a dish of four dozen caught on Monday, and heard of some other catches, but the sky has been clear and the sun shone very power ful, that every fish could see the deception. It was only early mornings and late at night that any sport could be got.—RUSTY GAME.

Thames (Windsor).

Very little has been done in trouting this last week, only a couple of fish being had ; one by James Gray, 30th ult., out of the Windsor Weir stream, weight 5 lb., and one by Mr. Bentley, 28th ult., opposite Old Windsor Church, going 6 lb. A great many fish have been playing about. On the Weir stream yesterday evening I noticed several, some of them really good fish.—B. R. BAMBRIDGE.

Tweed and Teviot.

Since my last effusion on the angling in these rivers, the weather has been very bright during the day, and while this is all very well from a pleasure-seeker's point of view, it renders the angler's calling very unproductive. Last Wednesday Mr. James Kerss was successful in killing two salmon on the Hendersyde water, and later in the week he hooked other two—one of which was a strong and heavy fish—but did not succeed in landing any of them. No takes are reported from the Sprouston or Ednam House waters. On the Floors upper waters his Grace the Duke of Roxburghe, on Monday this week, caught three salmon, and on Tuesday he was also plying his line on the silvery Tweed. The rivers are very low at present, and angling for salmon must needs be very tame until a flood takes place. Trout angling is now in full swing, it being a very pretty sight to see the expanse of water above Kelso Bridge thickly dotted over with anglers, while the setting sun lends a peculiar charm to the scene. One gentleman, angling on the Tweed with preserved minnow, bagged 15 lb. of trout, and takes with fly have been very frequent. On Saturday night last Mr. Alex-Walker, jun., Sprouston, while fishing on the Tweed, landed a river trout measuring 22 inches in length and weighing 4 lb. On Wednesday night last Mr. J. O. Wilson, stationer, Kelso, caught a nice dish in the Sprouston water, one trout weighing $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. and other two about 1 lb. each.—MAXWHEEL, Kelso.

Wye and Derwent.

The Whitsuntide holiday piscators have had but a middling week of it on these rivers with the artificial fly, owing to the weather being so excessively hot and bright in the middle of the day. The drake, or May fly, is now out on the above rivers, but not in very great quantities at the present time, and the fish have not began to take them at all eagerly yet. What flies I have seen are very fine ones, and there is every appearance of a first-class May fly season in Derbyshire this year. I have not heard of a single fish being killed with the drake up to the present. Trout are now feeding on the little blacks and yellows. They are completely glutted with the smallest black fly possible, the yellow dun, and the smallest insect blight that falls from the trees. The abundance of flies now upon these rivers makes fish very particular, and they require most careful fishing. Early in the morning, and late in the evening, are the best times to catch your dish of fish, especially while this bright hot weather continues. We have had great quantities of anglers down here fishing from all parts of the country, and I am very sorry to say their takes, as a rule, have been very small with the artificial fly, and only small creels have been the order of the day. Dibbing with the natural down-looker or oak fly on the Derwent has been followed with poor success in the middle of the day under the bushes and trees. There were six trout killed on the Whatstandwell water yesterday (Wednesday) with it, that weighed over 5 lb. I hear that Mr. Musgrove has killed six fish between Ambergate and Whatstandwell that were fully 5 lb. each fish, one with another. The groundbait fishers only fish early and late on the Derwent, but they have succeeded in taking several ground trout with both maggots and ant eggs.—GEORGE JAMES EATON.

Yore (Yorkshire).

The weather has been brilliantly fine during the past few days, and the majority of Whitsuntide anglers have returned home with light baskets, the water also being very low and clear. Several fair dishes have been caught with the stone fly, which is now on the decline, on some portions of the river, the flies being almost as difficult to obtain as the fish. On Monday I killed some very nice trout with this bait, and could have done much better if the sun had not been so bright. For evening fishing the killing flies at present are the May brown, yellow dun, black spider, and red spinner. The black midge was very thick on the water on Monday evening, the fish splashing at them all over the river, but no other fly was of any avail. Thunder appears to be hanging about to-day ; a good flood would improve all kinds of angling greatly.—FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

FIFTY years ago a curious and by no means reverent custom, was observed at Aysgarth Church, Aysgarth. As the parish was very large, and the means of transit not always ready or easy, the inhabitants found the church the most convenient place for paying and receiving money. So on Sunday, immediately after service, they met in the vestry and squared their accounts. From the clerk's desk during service were announced all the sales, fairs, and missing or found articles in the parish. On one occasion the then vicar, a Mr. Wood, found in the vestry a written paper offering a reward for the recovery of "a black pointer dog with four white spots." He expunged the "spots" and inserted "eyes." The clerk not noticing the alteration, gave out "Lost, a black pointer dog with four white eyes," &c., to the astonishment and amusement of the congregation. The indignant official did not wait long for his revenge. He took the opportunity of abstracting a leaf from the vicar's sermon. The words preceding the missing leaf were "Moses had." The sermon proceded all right till these words were read, but the reader finding no connection between them and the next page, again read "Moses had." The clerk, looking up from his desk said, "four white eyes, sir." It is needless to add that this state of things has long passed away.

DOGS.—*Naldire's Prize Medal Dog Soap* destroys Fleas, Cleanses the Skin, and Improves the Coat and Health of the Dog. " Naldire's Soap is harmless to Dogs, but fatal to Fleas."—FRANK BUCKLAND. Price 1s. of all Chemists, Perfumers, and Grocers. N.B.—See that you get *Naldire's* Soap.

CLUB REPORTS.

ANCHOR AND HOPE.

The third annual supper of the above club took place on Tuesday, the 23rd inst., at the club house, William the Fourth, Canal Bridge, Old Kent Road. A capital supper was put on the table by the host (J. H. Rolling), treasurer of the society. After the cloth had been drawn and the usual toasts responded to, the secretary read the report, showing the society to be in a flourishing condition, both as regards members and finances. Several prizes were given, and many others promised; the remainder of the evening being devoted to harmony—there being some capital songs during the evening. After spending a thoroughly enjoyable evening the meeting broke up, at 2.15 a.m., with "Auld Lang Syne." The next return visit, South London district, will take place at the above club cn Tuesday, June 6th.—Daniel Davis.

May 5.

ALEXANDRA SOCIETY OF ANGLERS.

The members of the Alexandra Society of Anglers dine at the Pied Bull Hotel, St Margaret's, on Sunday, June 11, being their annual club dinner.—F. Wagner.

BERMONDSEY BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

An Eastern District visit will be paid to the above society on Tuesday, June 6th, when the favour of as many members as can make it convenient to attend will oblige.—Wm. Allen, secretary.

BOSTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

The annual dinner and distribution of prizes will take place on Tuesday next, June 6th, at the Club House Dalby Tavern, Dalby Street, Prince of Wales' Road Kentish Town, N.W. Mr. Goodge, chairman; vice: Mr. Grathen, will be glad to see any friends that can look in that evening.—J. Jennings, hon. sec.

May 31.

CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The fourth annual supper of the Clerkenwell Piscatorials will take place on Monday, June 12, at 9 o'clock, at the Horse Shoe, Clerkenwell Close. Messrs. Emblem and Morgan will preside on that occasion. After supper the annual distribution of prizes to the successful winners will take place.—B. Stebbings, sec.

May 31.

CROWN PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

This society is progressing favourably, the Thursday concerts proving very successful. Last meeting night there were several valuable prizes given and promised for the opening season. A complimentary visit will take place at their head-quarters, the Crown Tavern, Clerkenwell Green, on Tuesday, June 13th, 1882, and the following gentlemen have kindly promised to preside on this occasion:—Mr. Murray, of the Central Association, faced by Mr. Bonvoisin, chairman of the West Central Association, when we hope to have the company of all those that can make it convenient. Music provided.—W. H. Burwash, jun., sec.

May 31.

GOOD INTENT.

On the 21st inst., Mr. H. Brookwell brought in a pretty trout, 4 lb. 3 oz.; Mr. W. H. Beckett, one, 1 lb. 9 oz. On the 29th, Mr. Beckett, three nice fish, 4 lb. 3 oz. On the 31st, Mr. W. Roberts, four fish, one fish 2 lb. 6 oz., the others 1 lb. each, all from the Lea. Our district visit No. 2 West Central, takes place on Wednesday, the 14th inst., when we should be glad to see as many friends as can come on that occasion. No tidings of the medals from Edinburgh yet.—R. Murphy.

GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our nineteenth annual distribution of prizes will take place on Tuesday, June 6th; Mr. W. Phillips chairman, Mr. J. Page vice. One hundred and twenty prizes will be distributed. We shall be pleased to meet our brother anglers on the occasion. The annual supper will take place on Tuesday, June 13th.—J. A. Fitch, jun., sec.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of this society was held on Thursday evening, Dr. Brunton in the chair. The meeting was largely attended and great interest was excited by the ballot taken for the members of the new committee. The gentlemen elected were Mr. Bentley, Mr. Harding, Mr. Bates, Mr. Austin, Dr. Lloyd, Mr. Parker, Mr. Frost, Mr. Graham Bennett, and Mr. Cartwright. It is strongly hoped that the society has secured a good working committee, and that truly good fellowship will prevail, so that it may still carry on successfully the objects for which it was founded. Lord George Hamilton, M.P., was re-elected president of the society amid a storm of applause, Major the Hon. E. R. Bourke and Mr. Alderman Fowler, M.P., being vice-presidents as before. We believe the society will soon strengthen its position in the city, and that another M.P. is likely to join its ranks; Captain Alfred being unanimously re-elected curator, and Mr. Bryant librarian. Mr. Crumplen received an ovation on again accepting the office of hon. secretary, probably heightened by a little discussion which took place earlier in the evening, to which it is needless further to allude. It was understood that his duties had been of a very arduous character, and the new committee will doubtless make some arrangement for him to have efficient assistance. Mr. Towse, the popular assistant secretary of the great International Fisheries Exhibition, brought up a specimen case of the American black bass, kindly lent by G. S. G. Page, Esq., Commissioner of United States Fisheries, and further added that that gentleman had very kindly undertaken to give the Gresham Angling Society an account of fish culture as carried out by the United States Government, an announcement which was very warmly welcomed, and for which a vote of thanks was quickly passed. Dr. Theodore Cash, who was present, has also kindly undertaken to read a paper on "The Barbule of the Barbel," a kindness which will be fully appreciated. It is intended to issue a complete list of papers to be read very shortly. A special vote of thanks was passed to Messrs. Jardine, Knechtli and Brett for the magnificent cases of pike and perch taken by them and preserved by Saunders for the society, under Mr. Jardine's superintendence. The evening closed with a warm vote of thanks to Dr. Brunton for presiding so ably over a meeting more than usually important, and which terminated in a very amicable manner.

IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The distribution of annual and special prizes took place on Wednesday, May 31, 1882. Prizes to the amount of thirteen pounds were presented by the president to the different winners, after which the secretary announced that there were up to the present time forty-one prizes to be fished for during the ensuing season, value over twenty guineas. The members will compete for three special prizes on Sunday, June 18, 1882, at Sawbridgeworth. All fish weigh according to the rules of the society. No competitors to leave London before the morning of the competition. The members will also compete for two special prizes on Wednesday, June 21, 1882, at Waltham, between Waltham Bridge and the lock at Ordnance Factory. Same conditions as the prizes fished for on the Sunday previous.

June 1.

KINGFISHER ANGLING SOCIETY.

Last Sunday night, about 11 p.m., Messrs. T. Stevens and S. D. Browning, of "Ours," succeeded in capturing two poachers, who were using a drag-net about 35 feet long, near Little Britain Bridge, in the river Rockingham, West Drayton. They were evidently trying to capture the roach that can be seen spawning in large numbers in the immediate neighbourhood. The fellows' names and addresses were taken, and Mr. T. Stevens has the net in his possession. It is unfortunate that our friends could not neglect their business to prosecute the poachers at Uxbridge. I almost forgot to mention that Mr. G. Hulbert, of the Westbourne Park Piscatorials, was present and rendered great assistance. It is not an easy task to tackle these hulking roughs at night and requisition their net; however, it has been done, and thanks are due from every honest angler.—G. A., hon. sec.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

A special meeting will be held on Monday next, June 5th, to arrange prizes for the season 1882—3. Members are requested to attend on that evening at 9 o'clock precisely.—Thos. Wm. Lucy, secretary

TRAFALGAR ANGLING SOCIETY.

The eighth annual supper will take place on June 14, the same to be paid for out of the funds. Members in arrears not clearing the books by June 7 will not be entitled to receive a ticket.—J. Gaze, sec.

TESTIMONIAL TO MR. GREVILLE FENNELL.

There are few men living whose life has been more devoted to the interests of anglers and the ventilation and introduction of angling subjects than Mr. J. Greville Fennell, or, as he is most extensively known, "Greville F."

Mr. Fennell is now in his seventy-fifth year, and at the early age of eighteen he commenced writing on subjects relating to angling.

He has recently suffered severe domestic affliction, and himself not in the full enjoyment of his usual health and strength, the opportunity of recognising his services has occurred; and it is earnestly hoped that a prompt and liberal response will supplement the effort which is now made to offer him not only a substantial appreciation of what he has done, but an evidence of respect for him in the maturity of life.

Thomas Spreckley, Treasurer,
13, Cannon Street, E.C.
W. H. Brougham,
Swayfield Villa, Hounslow.
P. Geen.
Lowther Lodge, Lonsdale Road, Barnes.
} Hon. Secs.

May, 1882.

PRELIMINARY LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	£	s.	d.
Proprietors of the *Field* ..	20	0	0
Mr. Thomas Spreckley (treasurer)	10	10	0
Mr. J. Paul, M.D.	5	5	0
Mr. P. Hood, M.D. ..	5	5	0
Sir H. W. Peek, Bart., M.P.	3	3	0
Mr. H. W. Davis	3	3	0
Mrs. H. W. Davis	2	2	0
Mr. P. Geen	2	2	0
W. E. (London)	2	2	0
Mr. R. B. Marston (Fishing Gazette)	2	2	0
Captain Etheridge	2	2	0
Mr. W. Marriott	2	2	0
Mr. N. H. Davis	1	1	0
Mr. J. Beningfield ..	1	1	0
Mr. T. B. Sharpe	1	1	0
Mr. A. Nuthall	1	1	0
Mr. Alfred Jardine ..	1	1	0
Mr. E. A. S. Douglas ..	1	1	0
Mr A. T. V. Shaw ..	1	1	0
Mr. H. B. Eyre	1	1	0
Mr. Thomas Cliff	1	1	0
Messrs. J. Teale and Co. ..	1	1	0
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Mr. J. White	1	1	0
Mr. E. Frost	1	1	0
Mr. F. C. Clench	1	1	0
Mr. A. J. Little	1	1	0
Mr R Lloyd	1	0	0
Portsmouth Waltonian Angling Society ..	0	10	6
Mr. W. Lock	0	10	0
Mr. R. Howse	0	10	0
Mr. W. Wakefield ..	0	5	0

Advertisements inserted free by the Proprietors of the *Field*, Fishing Gazette and *Land and Water*.

A well-known north-country angler, whose boast was that he could catch fish with any man—honestly, when they were to be so taken, but whose motto was "fish I am here for, and fish I mean to have"—set his heart upon the capture of a fine salmon, which was known to be laid in the bridge pool. All honest means having failed, he was reduced to the painful necessity of a loaded, or leaded hook, which he very ostentatiously baited with a worm. His picturesque get up and known skill caused him to be a special object of attraction to a bevy of young ladies, who were showing some Sunderland friends the lions of the place. A youth in the party was greatly taken with the fly-fishing, which was quite new to him; and when attended by no results had his supreme contempt. A baited hook, however, was quite another thing, and meant business, and he now keenly watched the result, but judge his astonishment upon the salmon being hooked, played, and landed, to find the fish caught, not by its mouth, as he had been accustomed to see them taken at home, but by the vent! "Ah!" said skipper, "our Tees fish are queer petted things, and when they take to eating worms you never know which end they will swallow them with!"

George James Eaton, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether the may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[Advt.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

THE THREE ASSOCIATIONS FISHERY SOCIETY.

SIR,—The proprietors of the River Wey Navigation, from whom we have rented four and a quarter miles of the river, kindly gave me notice of their intention to draw down the water between the Weybridge and Newhaw Locks, on the night of May 30th.

I had several important engagements for Tuesday evening and Wednesday, and was therefore unable to go down. I was naturally very anxious for the safety of the fish, especially as I knew the number of rascals who would appear on the scene with all sorts of appliances for their destruction. They have defied me to interfere with them on previous occasions, and I should have been pleased to witness their discomfiture in this instance.

The notice was so short that there was no time for consultation. Thompson, the T.A.P.S. river keeper, in whom I have great confidence, was just the man to manage the job. I wrote him to take it in hand, and to report to me the result I have just received that report, and, as it will no doubt be interesting to many of our readers to learn that we have fish in that water, and that they have been properly protected at a time when they would otherwise have been at the mercy of the Weybridge out-of-season, and out-at-elbow piscatorials, I will ask you to publish it.

I should like to add that I wrote to the president of the T.A.P.S. informing him of the liberty I had taken in asking Thompson to leave his ordinary duties. Mr. Spreckley, replied he was pleased that Thompson should have assisted us.—I am, &c., P. GEEN.

[COPY.]

Eastworth, Chertsey, June 1.

SIR,—I beg to report to you that I have watched the river Wey, which has been emptied, and, to the best of my knowledge, not a fish has been taken out.

Mr. Bungard, the chief inspector of police, sent me a man; he met me at Newhaw at 10 p.m., and remained with me till six in the morning. I found by the foreman of the river that they would not fill-in till about eleven or twelve o'clock that night; so, knowing that the river mustn't be left, I engaged another man (one I could trust) to assist me during the day. I engaged him from six in the morning till twelve at night for 5s. He is an ex-policeman. He relieved me while I went home to refresh, and then we both stuck to it till the water came in again and the river safe.

It was well that you took the precaution to have the river watched, for as soon as it got wind it was going to be drawn the idlers were about with sacks and baskets and landing nets to get the fish out. They couldn't make it out seeing me and the policeman there; they said they always were able to do it and ought to now. I told them the water was rented and they wouldn't be allowed to do so again. But, however, they went away again grumbling, and then again all day up to the time of the water coming down I was troubled with the street arabs after the fish, and some of them led us a fine dance, for as soon as our backs were turned for another part there would be a lot more come. We had to keep on the move all the time.

The water was lowered down to about 6 inches, so low, indeed, that the fins of the fish were above the water, and a splendid lot of fish they were too. I saw a few thousands of them, roach, chub, dace, and jack, and a few tench. Of course the biggest of them got in the deep by the flour mill bed, and there were a few bushels of them there I know by the agitation of the water. I am told that the last time the water was drawn off these fellows took away sacks full of fish and sold them, but I can answer for it, this time they didn't take one. I suppose you will want it watched now you have taken it over.

Mr. Bungard asked me to tell you that he charges 5s. for his man for the night; he is so busy or would have written to you. My expenses are 2s. and 5s. for the man, which will make 12s. in all. What am I to do, am I to charge it to our committee or to you?

Hoping, sir, that what I have done will meet with your approval—I am, &c.,
ALFRED THOMPSON.

HOOKS; AND CHARACTERISTICS OF *ABRAMIS BRAMA*.

SIR,—I ask your permission to allow me to thank Mr. J. H. Keene for being so good as to appreciate the merits of my invention so highly as to have the temerity to appropriate whatever honour may be due to the results of a long experience as his own; notwithstanding that several years have transpired since—after having already proved that existing ideas were erroneous, by imparting a proper inflection to various hooks—I brought out practically, and not theoretically, an implement with the requisite qualities, which Mr. Keene is now so kind as to adduce as the eliminations of his own inventive genius.

This hook was described and represented in diagrams some years ago in the FISHING GAZETTE, long after it had been practically and thoroughly tested—as I would not for a moment foist on the public a theoretical and untried instrument; moreover, the form was that which you yourself were convinced, at the time of publication, a hook should assume. The firm which produced the implement for me made more than one pattern of the hook, the best only being retained. A rejected pattern proved incontestibly that both Mr. Keene's and Mr. Pennell's ideas in relation to the shank were incorrect. The latter gentleman advocates the thickening of the main bend in order to secure rigidity. In my first hooks this plan was adopted; but the consequent attenuation of the end of the shank resulted in such a flexibility of the whole hook that in small trout flies the advantages of a good inflection of barb piece were annihilated; so as to make the hooks, under pressure on a bony or cartaliginous jaw, assume an ordinary Limerick or other allied form. As the result of a series of experiments on bodies of varying hardness, on the jaws of trout uncaught and of those which had already been brought to shore, I proved conclusively that the thickness of the wire from the end of the shank to the root of the barb piece should be, for all practical purposes, the same throughout its whole extent in a hook of even an approximately correct bend. A very trifling thinning of the end, however, I allowed at the head of the shank, more as a matter of convenience in relation to the tying of gut and fly-making than for any other cause. And now, turning to the minor bend at the base of the barb piece, I have only to remark that in a theoretically perfect and rigid hook there would be no strain whatever at this point, as Mr. Keene alleges; there would be no curve, but a pure, mathematical angle. On striking a fish a kind of jar would take place; but no strain that is a result of lateral leverage; yet, as the materials of hooks cannot be obtained possessing perfect rigidity, the inventor has to modify his machine in accordance with the properties of the things which he has at hand. On this account we find there is always a certain amount of leverage or strain, at the minor bend under the influence of pressure; even after we have imparted to a hook an inflection of barb-piece and point, so as to make the line of impact and line of force identical. So much is this the case, that I have had good sport with a set of hooks at which the line of impact or inflection, when produced, struck the shank at a point one third of the way down its length; whilst the mere fact of such a feat simply shows how ridiculous old ideas relating to inflection and impact have always been. The hooks last named were some which had been manufactured with the lines of impact and force identical, but which in some strange way became much more inflected in the process of tempering. In practical working we discover that the minor bend cannot efficiently be replaced by the typical angle of Euclid; as neither glass nor wire retain their perfect strength when doubled, even in a heated state, too suddenly on themselves; besides this, the exact degree of heat for such a delicate operation is difficult to attain.

Here, then, it is found that a bend must be substituted for the angle, yet an exceedingly slight curve, which differs little from an absolute angle; is all that is needed to obviate entirely the brittleness which otherwise would be produced by bending. The cases of fracture, to which Mr. Keene alludes, at the root of the barb piece, usually occur owing to three defects: 1st, too great eflection; 2nd, substitution of an angle for a minute curve; and 3rd, improper tempering or bad material.

The patterns of hooks which I have already mentioned as becoming too much inflected during the process of tempering, were also a good, but in the case of my agents, a rare instance of bad metal; the maker, however, told me that manufacturers are wholly at the mercy of the firms that supply the wire, the quality of which cannot be thoroughly ascertained until after the hooks are made. From the foregoing reasons it may be seen that any thickening of the minor bend is wholly unnecessary; and like the corresponding enlargement of the great bend in the Pennell hook, only causes the fly to float or sink in an improper position in the water. The fragile nature of the wire at the root of the barb and point, is due to other causes, being mainly the fault of bad workmanship. I wish Mr. Keene joy in the employment of his bayonet points, and deflected, or rather reflected, barbs. I can simply record that, in the first case, I had far rather have been without the hooks than with them, had not some good flies been dressed thereon; whilst, in the case of the barbs, I have always found the form insufferable; have only been too glad to replace them in their proper position; and, in case they broke off in the latter operation, to employ new flies; as experience has amply proved that a hook without a barb is a worthless machine when barbed steel is to be had. For though small fish may occasionally be caught fairly with a simple pointed hook, when they can be transferred to land at once, without playing, or sometimes when the line can be kept uniformly tight, still no sane man could believe a barbless hook to be in any way favourably comparable with an orthodox pattern; besides this, one of the great objects in the hook, which I invented years ago, and which I was the first to prove, both theoretically and practically, to be the form that hooks should actually assume—not merely as a subsequent shadowing forth, when others dared not grapple with the difficulty—is the assumption of a shape in which the barb-piece and barb are least obtrusive, whilst more effective in obtaining and retaining their hold on the fish.

Mr. Keene is again wrong in relation to Pennell's hook, which is not built on the Limerick principle—a principle that the latter gentleman says he abominates—but is merely a Kendal sneck-bend, somewhat thickened at the main curve, a trifle more inflected, yet without the lateral deflection.

I await the results of Mr. Keene's researches, which have yet to be developed, and thank your contributor for his magnanimous forecast of what his opinions will be, which lead him to adopt my views, and consequently patterns, almost in their entirety—even to the discarding of less inflected hooks, such as the "Crystal" and Pennell varieties; and for so kindly appropriating them as his own—a thing which indeed I might have expected, as my hook was a free gift to anglers, and any one might therefore think every thing connected with it, his own special property. I must remind you, Mr. Editor, that I have another hook, built on exactly the same principle as the first, but slightly modified in one respect, which I also intend to give to the brotherhood; and which, likewise, has had some years of practical work, though only intended for fine fishing for brook trout. To this, in a former article, I once made a passing allusion; and one of your printers was so good as to add the word "patent," which I know was not in my manuscript when I sent it. As this implement is *not* patent, Mr. Keene may perhaps inform us that—although, like its compeers, it has for long been in private circulation amongst my own angling friends—he shadowed forth the design in days gone by. Very well, I wish you luck with your designs, Mr. Contributor; but they both are my inventions.

Turning now to another subject, I have to report the capture of a lake bream in the Yore, a little above Ripon. The fish was shot by a rifle, and subsequently handed to me, as curator, for exhibition and preservation. Bream are very rare in this section of the Yore; and as there is such a close resemblance between the lake and white varieties, I give the detailed characteristics of the fish in my possession:—

Abramis Brama.

Body, extreme length, 24 inches; length to fork of tail, $20\frac{7}{8}$ inches; depth, $8\frac{1}{4}$ inches; width, $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches; girth, $17\frac{1}{2}$ inches; weight, $5\frac{1}{2}$ lb.

Head, length to rear of opercular valve, 5 inches; depth at nape of neck, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches; girth at nape of neck, $9\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

Scales of lateral line reaching a width of 1 to $\frac{7}{8}$ of an inch.

Nostrils, each with double apertures, and transverse groove in front, just above the lip.

Head small; opercular arch rounded with air-tight branchial valve.

Branchiæ, three pairs, and arches provided internally with semi-cartilaginous flexible processes or branchial fringes.

Mouth small, toothless; lower lip shorter, above which a groove runs to an inch behind the buccal orifice; lower lip curved upwards as a tubercle internally.

Colour, generally a rather dark or silver grey, with a slight tinge of yellow. Body whiter below the lateral line than above. Upper aspect of head olive green; the whole of which was somewhat yellower than the rest of the body. Bright yellow spot on left pre-operculum. Irids yellow.

Form, as far as posterior extremity of anal fin, oval; vertically depressed.

Lateral line of 57 scales, 12 above and 8 below. Couch gives much fewer in his plates both of lake and white bream.

Pectoral fin, 17 rays; lower border crescentic; second and third rays longest, not reaching to the ventrals.

Dorsal fin, 11 rays; last ray double and of same length as first, which is rather less than half the length of second. Anterior root much behind that of ventral, and only very slightly in advance of vent; second and third rays longest.

Ventral fin, 9 rays, reaching vent; second ray longest.

Anal fin, 27 rays; anterior border arcuate; third and fourth rays longest. Yarrell mentions this fin as containing 27 rays, but Couch limits the number to 24 or 25.

Caudal fin, 19 rays (by 10), with five successively smaller, imperfectly developed supplementary rays supporting each border, making 29 rays in all. Couch gives 17 as the number.

Colour of fins generally dusky to a bluish grey, the pectorals being much the lightest in hue; the dorsal and caudal rather dark, and the anal the darkest of the number, with a decidedly deep bluish or smoky grey shade.—I am, &c.,

R. Balderston.
Curator and Librarian of the Ripon Naturalists' Club
and Scientific Association.

[We remember Mr. Balderston's hook, and like the shape very much, but consider the point should have the side twist, in spite of Mr. B.'s theoretical objections. Does Mr. B. know what kind of bream it is which so abounds in Semmer water near Hawes? This lake runs into the Yore.—Ed.]

FELL BECK FISHING.

Sir,—Will you kindly tell me, in your next issue, the best place in Westmoreland for fell beck fishing and the best place to stop at?—I am, &c.,

Fisherman.

[Perhaps our correspondent who wrote about the Fell Becks will answer this, although "Fisheman" might gather from that article a good idea or two as to where to go.—Ed.]

HAIR AND GUT CASTS, FLY LINES, &c.

Sir,—Believing that your columns are ever open for the furtherance and advancement of angling in all its branches, I will lay a comparison before you, which I hope will convince you of the superiority of hair and silk fly line to prepared silk braided. In the first place, we will take hair and gut casts. I will bear all criticism from my brother anglers, if I am wrong, when I say that hair lashes or casts are far superior (providing you can obtain strong hair) to the finest gut. The great secret of success in fly-fishing for trout and grayling, and even dace, in fine waters. It always was, and always will be, an acknowledged fact that you may take a dish of fish with hair, when you might throw and cast in vain with gut, in the Derbyshire and other extreme fine waters, with the same flies, and why?—because of its lightness and buoyancy. But here is an obstacle—where is this strong hair to be obtained? This is the only difficulty. We occasionally do come across this very rare article, and then we have more applications for it than we can supply. I must say he must be a skilful angler (an adept) to use hair; plenty of space to kill his fish, no bushes, stakes, piles, or stones.

I have quoted the above comparison for the simple fact of explaining the reason I give that hair and silk plaited and tapered fly-lines are superior to prepared silk braided lines, or any other yet introduced. Of late years we have been able to obtain very fine gut; but to use this to advantage we must have a good plaited hair trace, collar or point, or a well-made hair and silk plaited line for buoyancy and lightness on the water, to depend on using the dropper flies to advantage. Those who use prepared silk, or other lines than those mixed with hair, can only depend in a great measure on the point fly, or stretcher. I thoroughly agree with the writer who signs himself "Raven," in your number of May 20; I thank him very much. I must say a more able and accomplished letter on this subject (I should say a greater authority) I do not wish to quote; good, sound practical experience. You see, he adds, the great requisition is lightness, and advocates hair and silk, and states that some anglers have a difficulty in casting the fine hair and silk line. In this instance I would advise them to use not quite so fine a tapered line, it will still lie light on the water, and as they progress in the manipulation or casting the fly, the finer the line they will devise. I see again in the same number, May 20, an article "Gut and Hair," signed "Creel," a full substantiation of my words—lightness, &c.; and adds, justly, freedom from entangling itself, for its becoming straight in the act of throwing, durability, &c.

The great and main object is, when casting a long line on the surface that it should fall and lie light, and not drag through the water.—I am, &c.,

Trout.

[Having fished the Derbyshire streams for fifteen years, we may claim some little knowledge of them, and will back our drawn gut collar against any hair ever grown, and our plaited waterproofed silk against any silk hair ever plaited or twisted; we cannot say more than this.—Ed.]

HOW THE CASTS WERE MEASURED AT THE "F. G." TOURNAMENT.

Sir,—I have noticed query No. 3, by M. B., in last Saturday's Fishing Gazette, and have seen Mr. J. P. Wheeldon to-day about it.

We think your correspondent M. B. has mixed up two different things, for the length of cast from a fly-rod should be from point or top of rod to fly; and in "casting from the reel" the length of line should be measured from the reel.—We are, &c.,

A. G. Jardine.
May 30, 1882. J. P. Wheeldon.

FISH SLIME.

"Mark Antony" sends us the following for publication:—

In reply to your note, I did some years ago make an examinination of some "fish slime," but at the present moment I am unable to find my laboratory memorandum, where I recorded the results.

I remember, however, that I found a viscous or glutinous adhesive substance, composed principally of carbonate of lime, and in some cases (especially in salt-water fish), an additional element of chloride of sodium.

About this time I met the late Mr. Frank Buckland, and he told me that in nearly every case, especially in that of the eel (*anguilla*)—this slime was a true skin, which greatly protected it from cold, and its removal caused the most acute pain.

You are at liberty to incorporate this in any communication you may feel disposed to make, and in the event of disopinion I will exhaust the subject in an article for you.—I am, &c.,

J. V. T.

Chemical Laboratory, 1, Carlyle Square, Chelsea, S.W.,
29th May, 1882.

WORMS WANTED.

Sir,—I shall be glad if any of your readers could tell me where I could buy some worms, such as brandling and smalll red-worms, in quantities.—I am, &c.,

354, Moseley Place, Birmingham. W. J. Evans.

FISHING AT SANDOWN.

Sir,—Can you or any of your readers kindly tell me if there is any good sea-fishing at Sandown, Isle of Wight; and, if so, what tackle one should take.—I am, &c.,

W. R. West.

May 31.

SHREWSBURY SEVERN ANGLING SOCIETY.

A special meeting of members of this society was held on Tuesday week at the Club-house, 59, Mardol, Shrewsbury. The chair was taken by Alderman Groves, and amongst others present were—James Watson, Esq. (Berwick), the Rev. E. Myers, Councillor J. Groves, Messrs. Hawley Edwards, C. Matthews, F. Jackson, H. Smith, W. A. Smith, R. Ellis, sen., J. Woodfin, Milner, R. O. Jones, Wycherley, Morris, Geo. Groves, Fred H. Morgan, hon. sec., &c.

The Chairman said as this meeting had been called in the interests of the public at large, and not for a particular class, he had readily consented to take the chair. He warmly supported the steps that had been taken by the society to preserve the sport in the river within the limits of the borough, in the interest of the holders of rod and line licenses. It was a well-known fact that gentlemen would come to Shrewsbury during the season if anything like sport could be secured for them. It was a matter for regret to see so many of the fry of salmon hawked about, which had manifestly been caught by net.

Mr. Hawley Edwards said, as they knew, he presented the memorial from this society to the Board of Conservators at their last meeting, and he thought they would all be satisfied at the manner in which it had been received. The Board were quite willing to co-operate with any steps the Corporation might wish to take within the immediate vicinity of the borough; that being so, they had advanced one step in the right direction. There were two courses open to the Association: one was by getting the Corporation to take the matter up and support an Act of Parliament vesting in them the entire control of the river within the borough. If that were done there was no doubt that the Board of Conservators would support the Corporation of Shrewsbury in their application. The only difficulty with which that course might be met was that Parliament might say, "You are asking us to deprive persons within the borough of the right of fishing with nets." His answer to that would be, in the first place, that no person had a right to fish in the river without the consent of the riparian owners, if they chose to exercise their rights. Therefore, assuming that the riparian owners in the borough would be willing to support the Corporation if an Act conferred upon them the entire control of the river within the borough, that difficulty would be got rid of. The other matter was a question of expense, upon which he was not in a position to give much information, because he did not know what an Act of Parliament would cost. The preliminary steps might be taken by the Corporation, and they might then ask that some guarantee should be given to them in that direction. There was another course open to the association, and one which, he took it, would oust the Board of Conservators entirely so far as trout and coarse fishing was concerned, and that followed from a decision which had recently been given in one of the superior Courts as to the rights of the riparian owners as to fishing in a stream. If the riparian owners would agree to lease the fishing, the whole question of an Act of Parliament might be got rid of, and the owners could lease the right of fishing to the Corporation or any other body. At present, the granting of a license by the Board of Conservators did not give the holder of such license a legal right to fish unless with the consent of the riparian owners.

These observations led to much conversation as to what would be the best plan to pursue, in the course of which Mr. Watson thought it would be well to conciliate the riparian owners before they went for an Act of Parliament.

Rev. E. Myers thought that the practice of allowing ducks on the river was the cause of the destruction of thousands of young fish and myriads of spawn.

The Chairman replied: I'm afraid you could not stop that if the owners claimed the right of navigation.

Mr. Hawley Edwards stated that even now holders of licenses for netting salmon could be prevented fishing by owners of land adjoining the stream on either side; and that owners on either side had a legal claim to the centre of the stream, with a right to pass over it just the same as in the case of a highway.

After further conversation, the following resolution was agreed to:—"That the following gentlemen form a committee, namely, Messrs. Watson, Groves, Morris, Wycherley, Edwards, Myers, Ellis, and the secretary, for the purpose of ascertaining from the riparian owners within the borough their willingness or otherwise to grant to the Corporation of Shrewsbury, or a body of trustees, the right of fishing for a term of years so far as their respective lands extend, keeping in view their existing rights; and also, if necessary, to draw up a memorial to the Corporation if they entertain the matter."

The following letter, addressed to the secretary of the society, was read from Mr. Willis-Bund:—

"Dear Sir,—I am much obliged to yourselves and the Shrewsbury anglers for the kind appreciation of what the board did at their last meeting. I am sure that the board will always be only too happy to co-operate with the anglers in preserving the fish and promoting true sport. I wrote to the Mayor of Shrewsbury to say that we must apply to Parliament to give us power to make regulations as to coarse fish, our present power extending over salmon only; and the town clerk replies that the matter shall be attended to. Meanwhile, I trust your Society will do their best to promote action by the town council in the matter.—Yours faithfully, J. Willis-Bund."

THE UNITED LONDON ANGLING ASSOCIATIONS' FISHERY SOCIETY.

ESTABLISHED 1822.

President, P. Geen, Esq.; chairman, Mr. J. C. Murray; vice-chairman, Mr. R. Ghurney; trustees, Messrs. Jennings, Cundall and Hatfield; hon. secretary, T. Hoole. Bank—London and County Bank (Limited).

RULES.

I.—That the name of this society be "The United London Angling Associations' Fishery Society," and that whenever in these rules the word "society" is used, the said United London Angling Associations' Fishery Society shall be meant.

II.—That all meetings of the Society be held at the Star and Garter, St. Martin's Lane, Charing Cross, unless otherwise determined.

III.—That the society be in union with the West Central Association of London and Provincial Angling Societies; the United London Anglers' Central Committee; and the Central Association of London Angling Clubs, hereinafter called the three associations. That the committee be composed of 36 members, 12 from each association, to be elected annually.

IV.—That the sole objects of the society be to acquire, rent, stock, and preserve any water or waters for the exclusive use of its members, except where the committee deem it necessary to make exceptions, all of whom must hold a privilege card from one of the three associations; the tickets of membership of the society to be issued by each of the associations with the privilege card, and that one shilling per annum or such sum as the society may decide upon at its annual meeting be charged to each member for the said ticket, and handed by the said three associations to this society, which shall defray cost of printing only.

V.—That the society shall be managed by an executive committee of fifteen members, five from each association, five to form a quorum, who shall elect their own chairman, vice-chairman and secretary, one from each association. No member of the executive to hold more than one office.

VI.—That three trustees, one from each association, shall be elected annually, eligible for re-election, who shall have a right to be present at all meetings of the executive committee and vote at all meetings, such trustees not to be elected from members of the executive committee.

VII.—That the executive committee have full power to acquire and rent any water or waters without reference to the society.

VIII.—That the committee shall frame such regulations regarding close seasons, or the sizes of fish, or weights of fish to be taken from its waters, as may be deemed desirable, such regulations after being submitted to the joint committee of the three associations and ratified by them, to be binding on all members of the society.

IX.—That the executive committee shall have full power to do anything needful to carry out the objects of the society, also to prosecute or order the prosecution of any person or persons reported guilty of illegal fishing, poaching, netting, or doing anything injurious to the society's fisheries; and may also reward any person or persons concerned in the detection thereof.

X.—That three auditors, one from each association, be elected annually to audit the accounts and certify to their accuracy. That there shall be an annual meeting of the society in May, to approve of a report drawn up by the executive, a copy of which report shall be forwarded to each association.

XI.—Under no circumstances shall the funds of the society be used for the cultivation of salmon, trout or grayling.

XII.—That all funds shall be deposited with the London and County Bank, Limited, until required, and withdrawn only by the trustees after a vote of the executive committee.

XIII.—That the meetings of the executive take place on the second Monday in each month, and the meetings of the full committee once in three months, viz., second Monday in June, August, November, and February; the secretary to have power to convene a meeting of the committee at any time, should occasion arise for so doing.

XIV.—That these rules shall be final and binding, and cannot be altered or added to unless the executive call a special meeting of the society for the purpose.

XV.—That this society shall not be broken up so long as one third of the delegates are willing to continue it.

T. HOOLE, hon. sec., Mortlake, S.W.

FISH PRESERVATION IN BELGIUM.

THE Belgian Legislature has taken a laudable initiative in framing some salutary regulations for preventing the pollution of streams and favouring the increase and better preservation of freshwater fish. The network of canals and small rivers that intersect the country are well worked by the native lovers of angling, and, from personal experience, it may be stated that there is scarcely a realm in Europe where the rod and line are in greater request. In general, except in the Ardennes, where the hilly streams furnish excellent trout, the fish are poor, and of the so-termed coarse species, but good sport is to be had even with tackle of the most primitive material and with the simplest bait, in close neighbourhood of almost every town of the various provinces. The permission to fish in the running or tidal waters, and the canals, which are State property, is granted to rich and poor alike, and obtainable by annual licence in the several districts for a merely nominal sum. A special authority, rarely granted, must be procured to use nets or other engines for the wholesale capture of the finny tribe; whilst the holders of the licence are, by the terms specified on the document, individually constituted either as informers or preventive agents in any infraction he may notice against the fishing laws. The practice, it would seem, might be advantageously imitated in the United Kingdom for the benefit of the innumerable votaries of the gentle craft.

The Academy of Belgium, with the desire of fully seconding the views of the Government in the recent revision of the laws affecting pisciculture, and favouring the increase and preservation of fresh-water fish, has offered a premium for the best essay or treatise on the subject. One of the members has placed the sum of three thousand francs (£120) at the disposition of that scientific body, to be adjudged for the most complete and satisfactory answers to the following questions:—

1. The names and nature of the special ingredients used in the principal industries which, becoming mixed with the waters of streams, rivulets, &c., render them incompatible with the existence of fish, and also improper for the alimentary usage of human beings or cattle.

2. A list of the rivers, streams, &c., in Belgium which are at present depopulated of fish by this state of matters, and an indication of the special industries in the vicinity or on the banks of these rivers, as well as a list of the edible fish found therein before the establishment of the riverside factories.

3. The study and proposal of practical methods for the purification of water discharged from factories, to render them compatible with fish life without detriment to industry, by combining the resources offered in the construction of deposit-tanks and filters on the employment of chemical agents for deodorisation.

4. Separate experiments and their results upon the ingredients used in special manufactures that cause the death of fishes, and upon the resisting powers that every species of fish, fit for food, can offer to these causes of their destruction.

The essays or treatise must be written in the French language, and further particulars may be obtained upon application to the secretary to the Royal Academy of Arts and Sciences of Belgium, at Brussels.

"HELGRAMITE,"—DOBSON OR DOBSELL.

THE helgramite is a "killing" bait for black bass. By that name it is known in the south, in the north it is known as Dobson or Dobsell. Our rivers and canals are full of them and yet a large number of fishermen never saw them and few have used them. By anglers who know, it is in constant use from the last of June until the close of the fishing season. In appearance and shape it very much resembles the thousand-legged worm, and has pinchers like a pinching bug. It grows to be about 3½ inches long, and is of a dark brown colour; it instantly clings to any objects it strikes, and lives entirely under the water and feeds upon decayed vegetation and matter of all kinds. It protects itself from fish by hiding under rocks and drift in the bottom of streams, or in the crevices of submerged stone walls. They are found under cobble stones and rocks, on the riffles, or clinging under the timbers of old and decayed dams and rotten driftwood. In the canal and feeders, they live in the walls of locks, on the gates, bridge timbers, and sunken boats. They are caught in the riffles by standing in the stream with a minnow net, set so as to hold the upper end of the brails together in one hand; the lower end of the brails spread so as to stretch the lead line on the bottom of the stream; then with a hoe turn over rocks and stones as far up the stream as you can reach. Being thus disturbed, the helgramite will curl up in a ball and drift into the net, from which it must be taken before resetting the net. Timber and driftwood must be turned over, for they will be found underneath. The difficulty in finding them in canals is because of the water being too deep to wade. The theory of some naturalists is that the helgramite develope into butterflies, and that the butterflies dig holes in the river bank and deposit eggs that are hatched the next year into helgramite; but the more practical fishermen say that hundreds of small ones are found through the season, with the larger ones on rocks and decayed wood in the streams, showing that is where they breed and multiply. In early fall they burrow into the banks of the stream and remain in that condition until spring. As bait, they are better than craw-fish, and when used are hooked under the shell that covers the neck. All kinds of fish take them readily, and the angler is not annoyed by turtles eating them off his hook. They will live for months if kept in a cool place, in a bucket or box, partially filled with pieces of moist decayed wood.—From an Ohio gentleman living near the Wabash and Ohio Canal.

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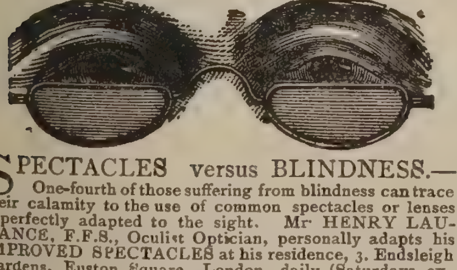

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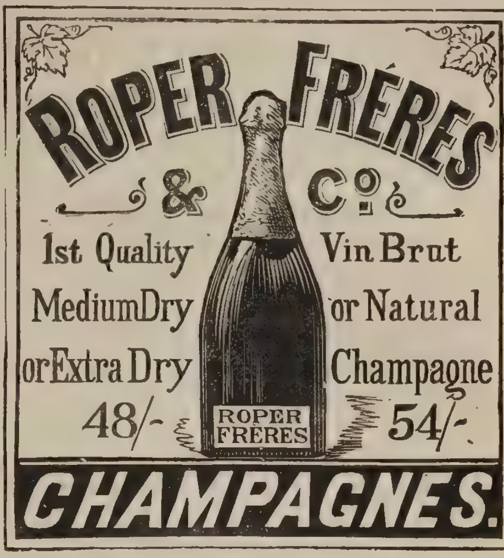

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Applications for tickets will be treated according to priority, but a preference will be to applicants for "season tickets." Boats for angling and stands on the river will be allotted by the head keeper, and no angler will be permitted to use a boat or fish a stand that has not been so allotted. Superior accommodation can be had on application to Mr. T. MULLARKEY, at Glendalough Hotel, Recess, Galway. Anglers are requested to take out their licences in the Ballynahinch district, as by doing so they increase the fund for the preservation of the district.

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Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 1882.

THE GREAT INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION 1883,

A MEETING of the General Committee was held at 24, Haymarket, on the afternoon of June 5, His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, K.G., in the chair.

Present: His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, K.G.; Count Gleichen; the Marquis of Hamilton; the Earl of Ducie, P.C.; Lord Suffield; the Hon. Sir Alex. Hamilton Gordon, K.C.B., M.P.; the Hon. A. T. Fitzmaurice; Sir Fredk. Bramwell, C.B.; Colonel Christopher C. Teesdale, R.A., C.B., V.C.; Edward Birkbeck, Esq., M.P.; John A. Blake, Esq., M.P.; John Pender, Esq., M.P.; Charles Poland, Esq.; E. Lonsdale Beckwith, Esq.; Mr. Deputy James Bell; W. L. A. B. Burdett-Coutts, Esq.; W. Oldham Chambers, Esq.; Henry Ffennell, Esq.; Alfred G. Jardine, Esq.; J. J. Karmé, Esq.; Professor Leone Levi; T. J. Mann, Esq.; Colonel J. C. D. Morrison; R. D. Odell, Esq.; J. L. Sayer, Esq.; James Stevenson, Esq.; C. Cecil Trevor, Esq.; J. W. Willis Bund, Esq., LL.D.; W. H. Williamson, Esq.; Fredk. Wiseman, Esq.; W. Fell Woods, Esq.; H. E. H. Jerningham, Esq., M.P.; Jethro Hornblower, Esq.; Jas. Weston, Esq.

Sir B. T. Brandreth Gibbs, the director and secretary, read the minutes, which were approved.

His Royal Highness then called upon Mr. Birkbeck, M.P., the chairman of the executive committee, to read the report, which would be found to be a *résumé* of all the important matters that had been transacted by the executive committee.

EXTRACTS FROM REPORT.

The executive committee has the pleasure of laying before the general committee the following condensed report of its proceedings since the last meeting:—

Her Majesty was graciously pleased to approve of the general scheme of the prospectus that was submitted to her.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, in proof of the interest he takes in the fishing industry, has permitted his name to be added to the general committee.

A public meeting was held at Willis' Rooms on the 27th of February, under the presidency of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales.

The offices at 24, Haymarket, have been taken, and the necessary furniture and fittings obtained.

The executive committee has unanimously elected Sir Brandreth Gibbs as director and secretary.

The executive committee has already received through the Foreign Office an intimation that the United States Congress propose to vote the sum of $50,000 for the purpose of defraying the expenses attendant on the exhibition of their collection, which will be so extensive as to occupy 10,000 square feet, and must therefore form in itself a very attractive feature. It is proposed to send the collection over in the Government new steamer, specially constructed for fishery purposes.

The time for entries to be received from the United Kingdom, Ireland, America, Europe, and Canada has been extended to September 1, as a final limit.

The Committee has announced that it is ready to receive and consider the offer of money-prizes made by private individuals or public bodies.

Sub-Committees have been formed for the consideration of the following subjects:—

1. An Essay Committee.
2. Deep Sea Fishing, including Herring, hand and long line.
3. Mackerel and Pilchard.
4. Shell-fish and Oysters.
5. Freshwater Fish, including Salmonidæ.
6. Pisciculture.
7. Life-saving, &c.
8. Loan Collections.
9. History, &c., of Fishing.

The proper legal form has been prepared to be signed by Guarantors, setting forth the limit, &c., of the liabilities attaching to each Guarantor, and the majority of these forms have already been returned duly signed.

The total number of documents sent from the office, in addition to the daily correspondence and ordinary work, amounts to upwards of 39,500, consisting of prospectuses, entry forms, &c., in English, German, and French, invitations, letters to Mayors, &c. All the exhibitors at the Norwich and Edinburgh Fisheries Exhibition have had prospectuses and entry forms sent to them.

The Executive Committee has appointed Messrs. Lovelock and Whiffin, public accountants, as auditors, to make a monthly examination of the accounts.

The Executive Committee has the pleasure now of drawing attention to an important matter, which must form one of the special features of this report, viz.:—Their proceedings with respect to the site of the exhibition, and the arrangements connected therewith.

The Sites Committee having viewed several localities, eventually came to the conclusion that, if it could be obtained, there appeared no site equal to the Horticultural Gardens at South Kensington.

The Fisheries Exhibition are to have the entire use of the Gardens, with right to erect glass, lean-to, or other temporary building, as they may deem fit. To erect such buildings anywhere throughout the Gardens (except a square portion allotted to the Royal Horticultural Society for their one or more great horticultural shows).

The Fisheries to make water-tight (sufficient for their own purposes) the roof of the conservatory and circular galleries, and to whitewash and distemper the inside of the arcades, circular galleries, &c. In consideration of these improvements, Fisheries not to make any further payment for the use of the site; but if, after the close of the Fisheries Exhibition, and when all the receipts and expenditure have been finally adjusted and balanced, it should prove to have been a financial success, the Royal Commissioners of 1851 are in that case to receive one-half of the net balance remaining.

On the motion of Sir A. Gordon, K.C.B., M.P., seconded by Lord Suffield, it was resolved that the report be received and confirmed. In moving this, he expressed his opinion that the interest of the general committee and the exhibition had been well attended to by the executive committee.

On the motion of Sir Fredk. Bramwell, seconded by John Blake, Esq., M.P., it was resolved that, considering the national importance of the Great International Fisheries Exhibition, and the magnitude of the expenses connected therewith, that application be made to the Treasury for a grant in aid and to the Government for general recognition. In moving this resolution, Sir F. Bramwell said that in the former exhibition, although of far less importance, aid was given, and, under these circumstances, he thought, if this application was made, it would be well attended to, more especially having regard to the extremely influential patronage of their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Edinburgh.

His Royal Highness having inquired whether any of the members present had any subject to bring before the committee, Professor Leone Levi suggested that the executive committee should consider the propriety of appointing a special sub-committee having regard to the economical condition of fishermen.

His Royal Highness, in reply, said, Perhaps I may be allowed to answer Mr. Levi's question, because it happens to be a point in which I take special interest; and you may have seen what I said at an original meeting at Willis's Rooms, where I expressed my great hopes that there would be a conference dealing especially with the economical condition of fishermen and the owners of boats, and that with regard to the safety of their lives that would also be taken into consideration; and I think the subject which has been brought before the committee would be dealt with better by conference at the time of the exhibition than by taking any steps with regard to obtaining any special information, and it would be better for individual persons to bring forward at that time what their opinions are on the matter, and then it would be treated exhaustively. I may add, as to the condition of fishermen, that I am preparing a paper on the fishing population, containing information which has hitherto not been obtainable, and which I hope will be of service.

Mr. W. H. Williamson having asked to what extent the banks had subscribed to the exhibition, and that Sir John Lubbock was well able to bring the matter before the various bankers, and also to what extent the railways had given their support, Mr. Birkbeck, in reply, read a list of subscriptions given by the various bankers and several of the railway companies, including the North-Eastern Railway Company, which had guaranteed £400 and subscribed £100.

After various remarks by members, the Earl of Ducie, in moving a vote of thanks to His Royal Highness the Chairman, said it was a great advantage having the patronage of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Edinburgh, especially as we were about to have the great benefit of the practical experience of His Royal Highness the Chairman, which would be most satisfactory to the executive committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Birkbeck, who gratefully acknowledged the assistance given by his Royal Highness.

His Royal Highness, in returning thanks, expressed his willingness to be of any service, and that he would give his best attention to the service of the committee and the general interest of the exhibition between now and when it took place.

LEA ROACH-FISHING.

By J. P. Wheeldon.

THERE is perhaps no class of fishing under the sun which has so many admirers, so many sturdy ardent votaries in its cause, as that of roach-fishing. To my mind it has always been a matter of exceeding wonder to think that, with rivers like the Lea and the Thames, absolutely teeming with all sorts of fish, the bank angler, at any rate, hardly ever attempts anything but sitting patiently and enduringly over a roach-swim.

In the Lea this is always strikingly apparent, and early Sunday morning at Liverpool Street is a wonderful sight. The streets are nearly deserted, save for the presence of some extraordinary kennel-hunters for unconsidered trifles, while only at rare intervals a solitary night-cab crawls along. From all the four points of the compass, however, anglers, and no other class, are seen making their way to the big station. Some few come singly; others, and more frequently, in pairs; while occasionally half-a-dozen may be noticed tramping along together, side by side, each man with a look of serious concern set upon his face, as though he felt that the business of the day had fairly begun, and that its issue was of grave, solemn, and momentous import. These are usually members of some little suburban fishing club, determined to have "a day's out" together.

Here and there,—yet among the great throng of many hundreds, gathered together for each of the early morning trains, very infrequently—may be observed a man with a small zinc bait can. He is almost certain to be a stumpy man, very red in the face, and owning a quantity of whisker. He is great at making jokes, at which every now and again a hearty burst of laughter arises; he is great likewise in the matter of boots, and leathern gaiters, coming to the very summit of his little stumpy thigh. This is a sample of the Lea jack man, and therefore mark him well. In that little can he has got about three big roach and four small gudgeon. The roach are packed gravely side by side, and gasp unhealthily. The gudgeon wriggle merrily on the bottom of the can, and, being a trifle more vigorous in their constitutions, stand the close confinement better. Presently you may find this gentleman up at "the broad water" at St. Margaret's, the far-famed "Gulls," at "Brogsbun;" that lovely stretch of deep solemn-looking water, weed and lily fringed, ominous, besides, of weighty tench and eke of mighty carp, and "situate, lying and being," above the charming weir at far-famed Carthagena. If not here, then will you find him between the St. Margaret's water and Black Pool, or somewhere about "October Hole." There, or at one or other of the places named, you will stumble across him just as surely as that eggs are not composed of pickled salmon; and, just as surely, he has a long clay pipe in his mouth, a bottle of beer, sunk somehow in the cool water at the roots of the reeds, and he stands watching a great green and white bung, with two or three pilots attached, which is lying nearly motionless at the edge of a bed of weeds, save for a little wriggle and downward stoop every now and then as the hampered bait tries to steer off.

This style is apparently the only notion with regard to Lea pike fishing, and little else is ever attempted, save, it may be, in one or two instances where good "all-round men," try other dodges.

But look round now at the crowd of men, all eargerly intent upon getting tickets at the little booking window. There are tall and short men; fat and thin men, with brown and healthy faces; men of bibulous and florid cut; others whose cast is of "the pale and sickly" order, from close confinement at the bench or loom in a fetid sickly atmosphere, or from hard work through the long tiring week in little better than a cellar, where the air is reeking of moist unhealthy exhalations and bad drainage from the surrounding dens and rookeries. Ah, sleek and saintly Mawworm; ah, reverend friend Stiggins; snuffle not unctuously, nor lift up thy holy eyes blazing either with the soul-inspiring nectar brewed of pine-apple rum and two lumps of sugar to the tumbler—or else, which is, of course, more likely, from thy known character for chastity and godliness—nor tell me that I am paving the way for the wrath to come by picturing the Sunday morning as a day of rest and recreation for these labourers with thew and sinew. Rather, let me tell you, that I believe there are truer and honester converts ever made, where nature preaches from the great book of her own faith and religion, than you and your devoted band of savers from destruction can at any time boast of, let you snuffle ever so fatly, or moan and posture fittingly with outspread hands, asking a blessing upon all sinners save thyself, who art at once the most dissolute and depraved, because thou art an abject hypocrite and an ass. *Revenons a nos moutons.*

Every one of the crowd intent upon procuring tickets are roach men. Save and except the fat man with the very little bait-can, there is not a single exception. How do I know it, you say? Well, look round, and note carefully each man's equipments.

Every one of them has either got a little wooden box, painted dark green—reminding an observer closely of the little Savoyards' guinea-pig or marmot cage—or else a short square wicker basket, either of which makes an excellent seat. In this box is contained food for the day, in the shape of portentous hunks of bread and meat, cold meat pie or pudding, or else an alarming quantity of bread and cheese, a pinch of salt, and a tasty Spanish onion. At one side of the box there is a sort of little rack, into which slides a flat tin bottle, holding a quart or so of liquid. It is usually beer, and good beer too; but I may perhaps be permitted to hint, in view of a hot and drouthy summer setting in, that cold tea, without sugar, and a squeeze of lemon-juice therein, is, for refreshing properties, a street in front of the other, and I advise anglers to try it. At the bottom of the box or basket may be noticed, if one is curious upon such matters, a heavy substance tied in a bundle and enclosed in a rough cloth or towel. This is the ground bait, upon the manufacture of which the Lea roach-man pride's himself. It is simply soaked bread worked up with bran. It must not be too soft, nor must it lean unduly to the other extremity. There is a happy medium, and the great secret is that it must be soft and pliable, yet hard, dry, and firm, so that a bit as big as a nut nipped on the shot—a wonderfully killing process, which I will describe presently—shall "shale" off gradually, not in large flakes or particles, yet leave a little tempting train of tit-bits for roach, floating in the water.

As the Lea roach fisher is, without any question or argument, the best roach-fisher in the world beyond all comparison, so is his tackle and bait, and pre-eminently his rod, excellently chosen, and especially fitted to the sport in hand. I do not fancy that he bothers his head about too many baits. First on the list, and a great and deserved favourite, is paste. It is a bait which, as a rule, if the fish are biting even a little bit, will kill as well as anything. There is no better paste than that made from the crumb of sweet and yet perfectly stale bread, worked up with a little water and thoroughly clean hands; or perhaps even better still, an arrowroot biscuit, from which the brown outer crust has been entirely scraped away, broken up, put into a clean cloth, then slightly wetted, and worked up until it becomes a firm enduring paste, and white as snow. Gentles come next; and perhaps, if I mention caddis and red worms, I shall have exhausted all the bait the Lea roach-fisher ever uses.

The tackle used, is almost invariably made up from single horsehair of good and approved quality. A man who can boast of having a hair line in his possession which, season after season, stands the repeated assaults made upon its tenacity and strength by big roach, is a happy man indeed. Yet there are many such among the Lea men; and every man's tackle—from the bit of silk "topping" at the upper end of the line, used to whip round the joint and make the line fast, to the float painted jet black, with just half an inch of white quill at the top, down to the small round shot affixed with extreme regularity and care, and the round wide bent hook—is, every atom of it, marked with a special air of delicacy, strength in fit hands, and excessive accuracy and neatness.

Then there is the rod. It is one that to the Lea, or in the hands of a London rodster, is special and peculiar. It is built solely for one purpose, and, as a weapon singularly adapted for the sport under notice, is simply perfect. The honour of originally building this excellent rod is, I fancy, due to Mr. Sowerbutts, of Commercial Street; and a wonderful impetus was given to the trade some time about the period of the great match when Woodard, of the Lea, lowered the colours of the then almost invincible "Nottingham Bailey." The butt is made of hollowed yellow line, the whole of the other joints of splendidly seasoned tough West India cane. It is usually about 18 feet in length, all the joints fitting into two. When put together it is light, handy, as straight as an arrow, and stiff and springy as a rod of steel. There is yet plenty of play in it; and it is a very pretty sight, indeed, to watch an adept upon a good swim killing, pounders, and, now and again. something bigger, with such a weapon.

We will now, if it pleases you, reader, just imagine that we have followed Woodard, Billy Bates, or the great Joe Hackett, to a swim, say at "the Ploughed Fields." In front of us flows "the sedgy Lea." It is autumn time, and the stubbles are brown and red, and yellow, while the leaves on the limes and maples are fast following the same order of colouring. The water is just of the right tinge, brown and yet green, withal a tint of blue pervading it in certain lights, and clear as crystal. The angler casts a quick hurried glance round, fixing his basket-seat down on the bank, and close to the fringe of water flags. Be sure that just at his left hand there is a little opening in the reeds, where the water comes close in and almost up to his feet. There, first and foremost, is deposited the landing net. Next the balls of groundbait and the bit of paste, wrapped in a piece of clean linen rag are produced, then the tackle-case, and these are all placed at his left hand. Now, sitting squarely and firmly upon his basket seat, the yellow cane rod is drawn from its case; and one notices how entirely unlike other rods it is, and how much time has evidently been spent on the whippings of silk which cover it from butt to point, in thin black rings. Then he carefully—ah, very carefully—unwinds one of his pet hair lines, lingering lovingly for a moment over the float. Next the bit of silk topping is twisted round the "little button on the top," and fitting the point into its place, he attaches the plummet. With a gentle swing outwards, he drops the plummet, even still more gently, into the head of the swim to his left hand, and tries the depths gradually down. Each movement of the plummet makes a charming jarring noise through the hollow cane, which vibrates through the entire length of the rod. Very possibly the depth of the swim hardly varies an inch throughout its entire length; and now, putting the rod down, so that the line may soak and stretch, the angler takes up one of the balls of groundbait, and making up a dozen pellets, of the size of a pigeon's egg, he plumps them in, one after another, each ball as it drops into the water sending up a little sprayey shower, which falls tinkling amongst the widening rings on the surface.

He lifts the plummet up, and puts in its stead upon the hook a little white pill of paste, big as a pea perhaps. Then gracefully and easily he swings his bait out, the float plashes gently in, and instantly settling upright at the head of the swim, glides slowly down, only the atom of white quill showing above the surface of the water. Swim after swim succeeds, but not a fish will touch the dainty bait. He puts a fresh bit of paste on; and anyone watching his proceedings carefully, may notice that two inches above the hook, there is a single shot fixed on the hook link of hair. Taking up a bit of his stiff groundbait, he nips it round this shot in a little irregular mass, big, perhaps, as a good-sized nut. Then he alters his float a little, adding two inches to the right depth. Out swings the baited hook once more, and now, as the shot sinks, only a very small bit of the quill is seen, while the float wants "helping a bit," as it works its way down the swim. In a very few seconds the effect will be seen. The groundbait, as I have said, "shales," off in tiny and tantalising fragments, while the little pea of white paste rolls along, over the moss-covered pebbles on the bottom of the swim. It is too much, at last, for that portly fellow at the head of the shoal, and he slowly sails up and "lips it" for one second. The float sinks ever so little. That quick eye appertaining to "the man on the bank," sees it in an instant. He raises his wrist only, with a smart gentle stroke; a melodious "tang," like a jarring note struck upon a harp string, echoes through the line; and while the fine top bends beautifully over, and the strained line twangs out, a smile of triumph curls his lip, and he says to himself, "Got yer!"

THE AVON (WILTS AND DORSET).

THIS river is formed, in the early part part of it, of two chief branches rising respectively on the south side of Bishops Cannings, on the south side of Stanton, and between Woodborough and Beeching Stoke. Bishops Cannings is three miles from Devizes (inns, Bear, Castle). Drews Pond brook not far from this empties into the Lavington stream. There are no trout in the former, but the latter stream contains some good fish. Thus far is the north-western branch of the river. The other, or north-eastern, is joined by the union, at Pewsey, of two small streams, one rising at Wootton Rivers in a corner of Marlborough Forest; the second running by the villages of Easton and Millow. At Pewsey there is a station, Great Western Railway; the inn is the Phœnix, which is also not far from Savernake Park. A little further down is Earford (Avonford). A mile further down is Nether Avon; there are trout of a fair size in both. The united stream, flowing in from Pewsey, is joined by a third water rising between Alton Priors and Alton Barnes, in all of which there are trout galore. Not far from this, and near Woodbridge, is Rushall Park, the property of Lord Normanton, who is very liberal to anglers.

The Avon now assumes the character of a voluminous stream and courses through a tortuous channel along a fine valley as it approaches the town of Amesbury (inn, George). The trout-fishing about this, particularly in the grounds of Amesbury Abbey, is extremely good but equally exclusive. We have very successfully fished it, leave being granted to us without limit, after a simple and respectful request, and being told by a then churlish landlord at the inn, that it was useless trying. The angler may be better treated at the Nag's Head, Bulford, and may get a day at Mr. Long's. But at Porton, South-Western Railway, where trout and grayling abound, there may exist some difficulty as Sir Edward Antrobus strictly preserves. Below, the Avon skirts the grounds of Lake House, a picturesque residence of the 16th century. It then flows on through meadows that are channeled for "drowning," as the irrigation is termed, to Stowford (inn, Swan), a favourite haunt of the late Mr. L. Rolfe; leave from the farmers used to be readily granted. The trout taken here are of a good size, as the jack pick up most of the small ones. We shortly after this enter Wilton Park, the seat of the Pembrokes (inn, near the gates, Pembroke Arms.) The village of Wily and station is near this, which gives or takes its name from a tributary of the Avon, over which the Salisbury and Warminster Railway passes, following the valley and close to the stream the whole of the way. There is no fishing to be had by strangers about Warminster.

We have now come thirty miles by the Avon, trout and grayling in most places *en route*. About Stowford the pike are fine, fat and fearless, doubtless being so well fed upon the sapid flesh of the salmonidæ around them.

After passing Bemerton, where the good George Herbert, as described by Isaac Walton lived, we enter Salisbury. (Inns, White Hart, Red Lion, Three Swans.) Stations, Great Western and South-Western Railways. The cathedral is situated in a valley at the confluence of three streams; our river, the Bourne, and the Wily, and near the junction of a fourth, the Nadder. Much useful information respecting the surrounding waters, used to be obtainable at the Bull's Head, a commercial house. There is likewise a fishing-tackle maker's in the town, Mr. Charles Gibbons—in Bridge Street, who has a natural eel bait for pike, singularly tempting to that fish—where serviceable hints of open and other waters may be gleaned.

The Bourne rises in the hills south-west of Great Bedwell, and flows in a southward course past a number of villages, including Boscombe.

The Wily rises on the borders of Somerset, from an ample spring in the parish of Kilmington, called Blatchwell, enters Wilts, and supplies the four villages of Deverill, commonly said to mean Dive-rill, and to be so-called from a rivulet—a source of the Wily—which dives underground near Maiden Bradley, and at Kingston Deverill becomes a permanent stream. Then the Wily rambles on to the town of Warminster (inns, Bath Arms, Lamb), where it receives the little stream of the Were on which the town is situated. The Wily now changes its course from northward to eastward, and flows past Bishopsrow and Norton Bavant to the town of Heytesbury; then pursues its course by many villages to Stapleford, and is there in close proximity to the Winterbourne, one of several chalk streams that only well up or break out in the winter months. Plenty of trout throughout; and while the farmers take a special care in preserving from the poacher, they seldom refuse a respectable angler trying his skill. From hence the Wily's course is southward to Wilton. The Wily here, says Lewes, is augmented by the Nadder.

The Anglers' Diary for 1882, tells us that the Avon is preserved by the Sarum Club of ten members for four miles. Secretary, Mr. H. Selby Davidson, 40 King Street, E.C., and Andover, Hants. At Britford near Salisbury, the Avon is preserved by the owner of the Moat. We have, however, written to Mr. Selby Davidson, without the necessary confirmation or acknowledgment of our application.

The Nadder flows from Shaftesbury, Tisbury—where a chalk stream joins—Dinton, Wilton, Winterbourne, Grately, Porton to Salisbury.

The Avon, now considerably augmented, passes at the south of the cathedral, and makes a right angle down the valley towards Christchurch and the sea. Between this angle and the back of the cathedral some hand rails will be seen, which are close to the stream, and continue for about 100 yards. These were erected, by the desire of Lord Portsmouth, for the convenience of the Hon. Mr. Fawcett, the Postmaster-General, who, although blind of both eyes from an accidental shot in each eye from his father's fowling-piece, is a good and successful angler. At Britford, just over the Avon on the right, there is an inn, from the gardens of which the stream can be reached by an ordinary rod. Our road is now on the right of the river. The first place of importance is Longford Castle and grounds, which, together with the water between it and alisbury (with a slight exception, the propery of Mr. Jervoise), is claimed by Lord Folkestone. There are but few trout, but the pike of large calibre are abundant, and other fish plentiful. The writer and his friends have never had any difficulty to obtain a day or two, but there is an exception made, as there is at most aristocratic residences, not to fish within a certain distance of the mansion. Our next reach is Trafalgar, the seat of Lord Nelson, to which the same remarks may be applied. We are now 6 miles from Salisbury, and are shortly at Downton and enter Hants; at the old-fashioned inn every information may be obtained of the course to be pursued to use the rod on the intervening water. Then Braemore, the seat of Sir Edward Hulse, Bart., who is very kind to anglers. His water widens out into a shallow broad just below a mill and extensive dam, to which salmon and trout come up to spawn; and it is at this time that the pike follow them, and, lying in wait in the deeps below, make great havoc amongst them. We have taken on more than one such occasion full one hundred weight of pike. The little Bat and Ball inn on the common close by, is a clean, comfortable, and cheap hostelry. After passing Burgate, we enter Fordingbridge (inns, the Star, Greyhound). The former hotel was the better house, but we hear it has been closed for some time. The Hon. Mr. Coventry, holds a good length of water here, to fish which application should be made to Mr. J. Hannen, his steward. The Marchioness of Anglesea, holds the continuous stream downward until we nearly reach Harbridge. Our next attractive station is the pretty hamlet of Somerley, where Lord Normanton claims a fine length of the Avon. He is very liberal to anglers, but during certain seasons of the year, reserves the privacy of particular districts for the quietude of the wild ducks, which, with game, breed in surprising quantities on this estate. We then pass Ellingham and Ashley, and enter Ringwood, where, at the White Hart Hotel, about 3½ miles of the water is preserved by the proprietor, who charges 5s. a day, and the landlord of the Crown, three miles, 2s. 6d. a day. Salmon are frequently taken here with the fly. The roach are remarkable for their excessive weight, pike and perch heavy. We have never had any trouble in getting leave of most of the owners from the preserved portions down to the Shepherd Springs. The club which once existed here at the Woolpack Inn, Sopley, is there no longer. Between this and Christchurch, the Avon is claimed by Mr. Mills; from whom the landlord, Mr. Newby, of the King's Arms Hotel, Christchurch, leases between one and two miles close at hand and free to his customers. This is the water in which Mr. Arabin caught his 34lb pike some years ago; and recently Mr. Henry Newby of the Exeter Hotel, Barmouth, killed one of 22lb, and Mr. Sanderland one of 24lb. The roach-fishing is first-rate. There are no trout, and visitors are not allowed to fish for salmon. Mr. Turner, a saddler here, is an angler, and as such will assist to the best of his abilities any brother of the rod. Mr. Tizard, of Christchurch, we believe, can give permission to fish (except for salmon) in some portions of the river. In the public water, or "run," as it is called, about 250 salmon have been taken this season (1882) with the net. This is 200 more than the average number caught in a corresponding period for the last seven years. The fish have also much increased in weight during that time; 34-pounders, both with rod and net, having been common, This, it is presumed, is accounted for by the annual season commencing on the 12th August, at the same time when the main body of the grilse (or peal, as they are called here) run in from the sea. The weight of the fish have increased from 9½ lb. average in 1869, to 16½ lb. in 1881. The smolts are also watched from end to end of the Avon and it is conjectured, from the number seen yearly at the Christchurch end of the river, during the last week in April, that they stock all the rivers on this part of the coast. There are also plenty of pike, perch, chub. These latter fish have greatly increased since they were introduced into these waters by the late Mr. Arabin. There is excellent mackerel-fishing in the season, at the mouth of the estuary, where a boat can be had.

PLAYING A 60-lb. FISH UNDER DIFFICULTIES.

ABOUT ten years ago, when the diamond fever was at its height in South Africa, I along with an old chum, determined to try our luck on the fields, and in a very short time after we had made up our minds we were ready to start; in fact, all the preparations we had to make was packing our knapsacks and buying an extra supply of gunpowder, as we intended to hunt up a few buck on our way. My chum was a young Yorkshireman, who had just landed and was eager for anything in the shape of sport; and the prospect of a tramp through Natal, over the Drakenburg mountains and through the Orange Free States, was just about the style of thing to start him going. Neither of us had much money, which was another inducement for walking the distance, instead of by the usual bullock waggons which traded between Port Dunbar and Griqualand. Some of our friends who were staying at the same boarding-house wished us to join them and go up with a trader who would start in a few days. I felt inclined to do so, but my chum would not hear of it; he had made up his mind to see the country and have some sport at the same time. This settled the matter, and early on the following morning we started off on a tramp of five hundred miles, which we accomplished in first-rate style and had some good sport at the same time. On our arrival at the Diamond Fields, we spent a few days in looking round and at last decided to work an old claim at Bulfontein; which, however, die not pay working expenses, but nevertheless, we worked away from sunrise to dark, hoping for better luck. My chum soon learned the customs of the country, and, sooner than be beaten, he commenced jumping claims and selling them again. It was rather a risky business, but it paid handsomely for a time, until the place got too hot for him. It was a perfectly honest business, but it made too many enemies, as every digger soon knew that, if they gave him a chance, he would jump their claim. He carried on this game for about a month and cleared about two hundred pounds by it, when he determined to go in for another business which promised to do well for us both. He had been one afternoon to the riverside diggings, which were about twenty miles from Bulfontein, and on his retnrn he was full of the new business and explained the matter to me while we smoked our pipes over the camp fire before turning in for the night. He had explored the Vaael river for about five miles and found it to be full of fish, which we knew would sell well on the diamond fields; and before we turned in that night, it was fully arranged that we should visit the river next day and go further into the matter. We started before sunrise and at noon we were on the banks of the Vaael; and after resting under the shade of some rocks, smoking our well-coloured pipes, my chum determined to give me a more practical sample of what we could do with a properly organised fishing station; he had all the plans arranged and we talked over the prospect of making it pay. He cut a rod from a wild cotton bush and fixing on a strong piece of whipcord, about ten feet long, on which he tied a large hook, and left me, to seek for a bait. He tried to find worms, but could not, owing to the sandy nature of the soil; he was not to be beaten, but determined to get some bait somehow. A partridge rose close behind us, and as we had both our guns with us, he was soon our own. We baited our line with its entrails, which my chum threw well out into the stream and we waited anxiously for bite, Some minutes passed and no sign of a nibble, which caused him to stick the rod into the soft mud and we, laid in the cool shade of the rock smoking our pipes and watching the stick.

I am not an enthusiastic fisherman, but my chum was, and while cutting up a pipe of hard tobacco, his attention was taken off the line. After lighting his pipe, he turned to see if the stick was all right. I noticed him start with surprise, and without saying, he made a rush past me, but just too late to catch the rod which disappeared into deep water out of his reach. He ran after it up to his middle, but had to return without it. "Jack," he exclaimed, with an expression of delight on his sunburnt face, "get well up on them rocks and look out for the stick when it rises again," at the same time he was quickly undressing himself. The river was about seventy yards opposite to our resting-place and as I looked up and down it from my elevated position on the top of the rock, I could see large fish rising in all direction, but could not see our fishing-rod, My chum stood ready on the river bank, waiting for it to appear in sight, which it did in about five minutes' time, three-parts across the river, bobbing up and down like a large float. A strong tide was running down, but the fish was working away against it up-stream at a great speed. My chum saw it at the same time as I did; he ran along the bank for about one hundred yards and taking a header in from a rising bank, was soon swimming with the tide down where I could see the rod, which now laid flat on the water. My chum caught hold of it, just as the fish was making another plunge; now commenced a struggle—it was a case of pull devil, pull baker, and after a few minutes' hard fighting, I could see that my chum was getting the worst of it. He was under the water half the time, and I begged to come out and wind, which he did, while I kept a lookout for the fish. After taking a good pull at a flask of Cape smoke, and resting a few minutes, he was ready again and in after the rod, which was laying gently in a pool of slack water, about fifty yards further up the stream. I thought the fish had broken away—but such was not the case, for as soon as he felt my friend had hold of the rod, he plashed up in the water at a furious rate, and darted off into deep water in the tide way, and then, for the first time, showed itself on the top of the water. At the sight of him I gave a cheer, which my chum answered as best he could, after blowing a mouthful of water into the air. It was fully ten minutes after this that it showed signs of exhaustion; and as it was now back into the slack water, again my chum had the best of it, and played him in fine style, and worked him in gradually into shallow water, and the prize was our own—it was a monster, weighing at least sixty pounds, and very much like an English barbel.

The Berlin missionary, whose station was close at hand, came down to the river just in time to see it landed, and, as we wished to be on good terms with him (as we intended to start a fishing station near his place), we gave it to him, and in return he invited us to his house, or rather castle, to help him to eat it. We started a fishing station, and for a considerable time we worked three nets and made a good thing out of it. AFRICANDER.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

ON Monday evening last the monthly meeting of the United London Anglers Central Committee was held at the Bald Faced Stag, Worship Square, Finsbury, Mr. S. Morgan presiding; some important business being transacted and the balance-sheet for the last half-year being distributed.

The annual supper of the Phœnix Anglers turned out a complete success, Messrs. Clark and Bentley contributing thereunto not a little by the admirable manner in which they discharged the post of chairman and vice-chairman respectively. Among the visitors present were Messrs. L. Bonvoisin, chairman, West Central Association; Thos. Crumplen, hon. sec., Gresham Angling Society; J. H. Stead, North-Western Anglers, and a number of gentlemen from the Little Independent Angling Society. A West Central No. 2 district visit will be paid the Good Intent Anglers at the Crown Inn, Church Street, Shoreditch, on Wednesday evening, when a large muster is anticipated.

The following appears this (Wednesday) evening in the columns of a contemporary, the *Echo*:—"A Shetland fisherman is fortunate in having made an enormous 'catch' in the shape of a monster turbot. This exceptional fish weighs 1 cwt. 17 lb., is 6 feet 2 inches long, 3 feet broad, and 8 inches in depth; the gourmands are happy in being provided with such an exportation."

A No. 3 W.C.A district visit will be paid the Excelsior Angling Society, the Hope, Bird Street, Kennington, on Wednesday evening June 14, when brother anglers who have an hour to spare and will look in, will be made heartily welcome.

The eighth annual supper of the Trafalgar Angling Society will take place at the Mitre Tavern, St. Martin's Lane, W.C., on Wednesday evening, June 15, when Messrs. Humphries and Richardson will occupy the chair and vice-chair respectively.

Mr. Hoole, in a letter just received, says he is very busy, as orders for privilege and fisheries tickets are pouring in wholesale. It may save a lot of trouble and delay if I may be allowed to state that the charge for the privilege ticket is the same as last year, namely 1s., but that by an arrangement between the three associations no privilege ticket will be issued without another ticket entitling the owner to fish the various waters to be rented by the representatives of the associations for the use of the London anglers, the charge for the two tickets being 2s. This rule is equally binding upon, and will be strictly acted up to by, Messrs. Hoole, Ghurney and Stebbings, secretaries respectively of the West Central, East Central, and Central Associations.

Respecting our editor's humorous note to B.'s homily in last week's FISHING GAZETTE, as several gentlemen have, under the impression I was "B.," subjected me to a good deal of good-humoured chaff, I wish to be allowed to state that I am not "B."; and, indeed, that Mr. B. and myself are by no means of one mind on several important subjects, as most careful readers of the FISHING GAZETTE may on frequent occasions have noticed.

I am glad to see the Greville Fennell testimonial progressing favourably. It should not be forgotten that the veteran writer and angler was a pioneer of fishing interest half a century ago, when the many influential gentlemen who now interest themselves in furthering angling prospects had not yet had their sympathies enlisted in the cause. There are few men who more gratefully acknowledge useful advice and valuable assistance on matters piscatorial freely asked of, and gladly given by, Grev. Fennell, even when stricken down by painful illness and scarcely able to hold a pen, than does the writer of these notes.

GREY MULLET IN THE SUFFOLK DEBEN.

COMING up to London the other day from a visit to Norfolk, a gentleman in the same carriage being attracted by one of Mr. Sach's enamelled scarf-pins I wore, the conversation naturally flowed into the channel of the fish-resources of the county we were then passing through. This was Newbridge, on the Suffolk Deben, which contracts here considerably after its upward course from its estuary, between Bawdsey and Felixstowe, into a narrow stream which is observable from the railway. My fellow-traveller told me that, born in the neighbourhood of Campsey Ash, and once holding two farms in there, he was of course well acquainted with the river and its resources; but agreed with a statement he saw in Fennell's "Rail and Rod," that although good, if not large, bags of roach and perch may be occasionally made all the way up to and above Wickham Market, the net of the poacher, as soon as the fact become known, renders a second visit of the angler to the same spot a cause of disappointment. The most suggestive article to me, however, and what may be equally so to others, was that shoals of young grey mullet were in the habit of occasionally coming up with the tide and penetrating far into the pure fresh water. On one or more of these occasions, notice having been given of their presence, he had personally assisted in placing a net across a narrow and shallow part of the stream, and thus, by intercepting their return to the sea, extraordinary numbers of these fish were captured. From the similarity of the name grey mullet to the grayling, it would seem that the notion has obtained throughout the locality that the presence of the latter fish was common in the Deben; of which, however, there are no signs or likelihood, from the character of the water and soil over which it runs.

It may be of interest to know whether the grey mullet still frequents this portion of the Deben, and if so, of what size they are taken with the net, as the old ones are proverbially crafty enough, according to Oppian, and since confirmed in modern times, to avoid the mesh—

"When encircling seins enclose."

and—

"O'er battlements of cork undarting flies."

while the first to jump, followed, like a flock of sheep, by the rest of the shoal.

The presence of the grey mullet in the Norfolk Waveney and Bure rivers, which have only one outlet to the sea, has given rise to some speculation and it has been determined, with every apparent truth, that these fish, obtaining access to these waters by the entrance at Gorleston at the mouth of the Yare, run up by the side of the Denes into Yarmouth harbour, and thus into the Bure and Waveney, which, more particularly at Oulton Broad, forms a *cul de sac*, and they become so far trapped. Indeed, the sea trout during the present season have been likewise inveigled, and seen, by those who could recognise their characteristic peculiarities, in Oulton Broad in shoals, and two or more have fallen to the angler's bait while bottom-fishing. —CREEL.

BIRMINGHAM PISCATORIAL ASSOCIATION.

THE annual meeting of the members of this association was held on Monday evening, at the Grand Hotel, Colmore Row; Mr. Oliver Pemberton, J.P., presiding. The annual report (read by the hon. secretary, Mr. J. Gregory) stated that the association continued in a most flourishing condition. With the single exception of pike-fishing, the members and their friends visiting the rivers—the Trent and Tame—had met with a fair average amount of sport. Many excellent baskets of roach, chub, and other fish had been taken during the season. Pike-fishing had not been a success, which the committee had every reason to believe had been owing to the unsettled state of the waters almost all through the pike-fishing season. For the first year since the formation of the association, the committee had given a special prize of a silver cup of the value of £3 3s., called the "association prize," for the best specimen of any fish caught by a member in the association's waters. The prize had been awarded to Mr. W. Reynolds for a carp-bream, 5½ lb. The receipts during the year from subscriptions, entrance fees, and friends' visiting tickets, amounted to £252 18s., and the balance at present in hand was £6 17s. 5d. The officers and the committee congratulated most heartily the members on the undoubted progress made, and tendered their best thanks to them for their cordial support, which had largely contributed to the prosperity of the association.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said he must congratulate the members on the success of the association during the past year. They were now entering upon their fourth year of existence, and he was glad to be able to state that the society was in a condition of great prosperity. There was complete harmony amongst its members, who were pursuing a delightful recreation in one of the loveliest rivers that could be well imagined. He was also able to state that the river was thoroughly well stocked with fish. The great characteristic of anglers had been eminently shown in that association—namely, the perfect friendliness and agreement which existed amongst its members. The adoption of the report was seconded by Mr. A. Eaden, and carried.—Votes of thanks having been accorded to the officers for their services during the past year, the following gentlemen were reappointed for the ensuing year:—President, Mr. O. Pemberton; vice-president, Mr. Adams Parker; treasurer, Mr. J. Allday; hon. secretary, Mr. James Gregory. Mr. W. Reynolds and Mr. James Botterly were elected auditors; and a committee was also appointed.—A vote of thanks was passed to the proprietor of the Grand Hotel for the gratuitous use of the room for the various meetings which had been held in connection with the association; a similar compliment was passed to the chairman for presiding, and the proceedings terminated.

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

" The ample proposition that hope makes
In all designs begun on earth below,
Fails in the promised largeness."
—SHAKESPEARE.

In consequence of the excellent trim of Father Thames I had hoped to have to record this week some more than average sport amid the trout, but I am feign to confess my disappointment in the "largeness." Nevertheless, some few Trojans have been had here and there, thus proving that Thames trout proper, beyond those turned in by the various associations, are not an extinct species. At Maple Durham, on the 2nd of this month, the worthy Esculapius of Henley (Dr. Brooks) had the fortune to capture a fine trout of 7 lb, and I sincerely congratulate him on his success, for a more persevering angler of over seventy years old does not exist on the Thames. There are brooks and brooks, but this gentleman is a river that goes on for ever, and always has a flood of matters piscatorial about him, and would with pleasure give any one a blue pill and black draught to know of the whereabouts of a spotted beauty worthy his biceps, triceps, and forceps. At Hambledon, on the 4th, Mr. Alcomb got a pretty little fish of 2 lb. 13 oz., and on the following day Mr. Troupe, with a fly, nailed three trout in all but three successive casts. How about Thames trout not taking the fly now? I may here mention that the gentleman that took the 7 lb. trout at Hambledon last week was Mr. J. Bedford, of Marlow, who on Saturday last in Marlow pool captured a pretty brace of trout over, I understand returnable size. At Quarry Point, below Marlow, on Saturday (east wind blowing, but, as I said in my last note, "blow the wind"), Mr. R. Jackson, of Westhorpe Park, captured a grand trout, going close upon 9 lb. Mr. Jackson is a most fortunate troutist, seems to farm beasties of this weight, and looks upon lesser beauties as mere minnows. Thursday evening.—Occasional showers falling are simply acting as gin and bitters on the gastronomic abilities of the fish, and fair sport may be anticipated during the coming week. The coarse fish season opens on Friday, and, from "information received" a treat is in store for roach, perch, and chub men; but let me ask all true Waltonians to eschew jack fishing and thus leave well alone, or autumn real sport will be admaged.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Ballynahinch.

Yesterday we had a rattling spate, which was greatly needed, for, although large quantities of both peal and trout were seen about the tidal pools, they would not take the river, it being so low. Waters should be in prime order next week; we have fine west winds.—WALTER BLACKADDER.

Bure.

The river Bure is now in excellent condition. Fish are well on the feed. Had some very good catches last Monday. One boat scaled over 5 stone of very fine old bream, and on Tuesday a very good catch of roach, some weighing 1½ lb. Should the weather continue in the same condition, good sport will be available.

P.S.—There was a conviction for illegal netting for bait on the river Bure on June 5 at Blofield. The two men were fined £4 11s. 6d. in all, with loss of net.

Coquet (Weldon Bridge).

Owing to the river being small and bright, angling requires a little handicraft. Old sportsmen make fair creels. On the 1st, G. W. Armstrong, four brace, the largest trout 20 oz.; D. Leighton, six brace. On the 5th, D. Leighton, 2½ doz. On the 6th, the Rev. Mr. Oliver killed a splendid basket, 10 lb., one trout 1 lb. and another 1½ lb., and one 21 inches long, 11 inches the girth, 3½ lb., the greatest beauty that has been killed for years; all killed with worm. Mr. Oliver gave me the fish and I sent it to Hardy Brothers, Alnwick, to be stuffed.—A. GLASS.

Dove.

The May fly is coming up fast now on the lower lengths of this river, they being always a few days earlier than on the upper parts. Splendid sport was had with them against Uttoxeter and below Rocester before the heavy rainfall at the beginning of the week, the takes ranging up to ten brace. The stream is now in capital order after the rise, and good sport ought to be had on the whole lengths of the river. The artificial fly has been killing fairly well up to now; the water being slightly discoloured, it renders it more taking. Rodsters have this week been out in good force on the open parts.—MENTOR.

Dovey.

Some splendid catches of fish have been recently made on this river, which is located amid the most beautiful of the Welsh mountains. Excellent accommodation can be had by tourists at Mrs. Jones, 3, Londonderry Terrace, Machynlleth. The river abounds in salmon, sewin, and trout.—PETER PEDAGOGUE.

Exe (Countess Weir).

Salmon fishing in the pools has been something splendid, the catches averaging eighty and ninety fish per week, the greater portion being sent to Billingsgate and other parts. They were all of fine size, in good condition, and perfectly free from the disease (*Saprolegnia ferax*) and as they are taken so soon after leaving the salt water, they have been more than usually covered with the sea lice. Upon many occasions I have observed upon removal of some of the larger and stronger of these parasites a little red patch which seems to show through the scales, which upon removal, the marks still remain upon the skin. Query, do these spots form a nucleus for catching the spores of the *Saprolegnia* to attach to, upon the salmon's arrival further up in the fresh water? At any rate these red spots must cause much irritation, and many salmon are seen from the bridge, darting into the gravel sideways, as if to relieve themselves either of the parasites or the irritation. I have been reading the "Inspectors' Report on the Salmon Disease," for this year, and which report should be in the hands of every person who takes an interest or has any practice in the salmon fisheries, but I fail to observe any notice as to the above sea lice being the cause of salmon catching the disease. The rod fishermen have not been doing so well latterly, probably owing to the large catches by the net fishermen in the lower waters. Some excellent trout have been taken both upwards and downwards, and I have also heard of some very fine perch having come to creel, which I hope is not the case; but from the quarter my information was received I am afraid it is too true, my informant being an eye witness upon their being brought into the city. A few grey mullet and bass have been taken in the estuary. In my peregrinations I have observed several perch and minnows much covered with the disease in the neighbourhood of the canal, where salmon are also frequently seen.—FRANK GOSDEN.

Exe (Exeter).

There has been but little rod-fishing for salmon during the past week, although there has been a very agreeable change in the weather, the days being very fine and sunny, but the cold north and easterly winds will not admit of its being said that it is in any way calm or even spring like. The water is in excellent order, but rather too lumpy for fly-fishing, some very good sport has been had with the worm, and the "daisies with the dorsal fin" that have been grassed, were of no mean calibre; several perch and roach have been taken accidentally, but returned again; these fish are sporting beautifully, which is good news for those awaiting the opening of the season, which will very soon be here. For two days last week we were disgusted by the sight of several hundreds (I was going to say thousands) of roach, of all sizes, full of ova, in such a ripe state that the fish themselves were smothered in it. From whence they came I could not ascertain; but suffice to say, they had been netted, which is not only a violation of the Act of Parliament, but, as Mr. Edward Jex, of Billingsgate Market, states, "an incalculable amount of (spawning fish) small brood and fry of every description of fish is destroyed solely by the use of nets, with the meshes too small to allow them to escape." That is the case here, and it certainly is a suicidal annihilation of our fish food supply, and the only way to increase the supply and decrease the price of fish, is to prohibit the use of nets, of less than two and a quarter inches from knot to knot (after being soaked), during the close coarse-fish season, whitebait nets of course not included. Speaking of whitebait, the old custom of presenting the right worshipful the mayor of Exeter (T. Andrews, Esq.,) with the first dish, was observed on Saturday, the 13th May, being twelve days earlier than in 1881, and thirteen days earlier than 1880, and nearly five weeks earlier than 1879; they were a very even and pretty sample. Mackerel are coming along, but we can only call them "jossies" at present, that being the local term for small fish. I saw some on Sunday week taking eight to weigh a pound; that is another illustration of the destruction of the people's fish food On the other hand we have exposed for sale some really fine fish of one pound and a half in weight, and over; but even at the low price asked they were dear, for the way in which they made acquaintance with one's nasal organ can be better imagined than described. Lobsters and crabs from the estuary are very plentiful. I do not recollect so good a season so early. A few prawns have come to hand.—FRANK GOSDEN, Exeter.

Exe (Tiverton).

The river is now in good order for fly-fishing, a fair number of trout are being caught of an evening at dusk. Flies killing best, aller bud, yellow May dun, black gnat, and magpie.—WILLIAM MUDFORD, Tiverton.

Ilfracombe.

Sea fishing – There have been some fair catches of ling, skate, and whiting this last fortnight. On Friday a sting ray was found at low water, which was left there by the receding tide. The oil from them is good for scalds or burns. Sunday, one boat went out with some gentlemen to try for bass, as there had been some seen in the offing; they were not successful in getting any, though they felt several bites This week there have been a great many lobsters and crabs taken from the holes of rocks leading from the jetty to the Capstone Parade. Monday, four lobsters were taken from one hole. The trawling skiff *Wave* brought up from the bay 40 lb. soles, besides plaice and thornback. Several ling and skate have been brought in by the pleasure boats, and some tamlin cod has been caught from the jetty with rod and hand lines. The sport from there and the pier is very good now, morning and evening. Weather at present squally, with heavy rain.—E. COMER.

North Lincolnshire.

The refreshing rains of the past week have proved a godsend to the angler, and some beautiful baskets of trout have been caught by local fishermen in various quarters. The best fly has been the green drake, which is this season very early, and specially fine in size, and strong on the wing. I have only been out once during the week for two hours after tea. I took three brace of splendid fish. I hope to have an evening to-morrow on new waters about twelve miles from home. The Ancholme anglers are just now very busy preparing for the advent of the coarse-fishing season.—THOMAS FORD.

Suir and its Tributaries, Clonmel.

Though river in good order, there has not been much fishing for the past week; the cot men only meet an odd fish; the run of peal very scarce as yet; the trout fishing during the day pretty good; but the evening fishing is more successful.—DORA.

Taw and Tributaries (N. Devon).

Water has risen and very dirty. At some places, where the streams were small, they cleared by the morning, and some dishes of trout have been killed; but the Taw rose some height, and only at the edges were any chances of a catch, I heard Mr. Connop took the first peal for the season with a minnow on Wednesday, and other gentlemen have run some. I saw one gent who got four dozen fish, one of which scaled 1 lb. 5 oz., and many ½ lb., other catches ranging from one to three dozen. Should the weather continue as it is, the waters will be well up for another week, and no doubt some good catches will have to be recorded. Bass have been taken with the rod and line in the estuary, and some fine salmon got by the net fishermen. Fifty good trout caught in the Bray on Tuesday. Waters rising.—RUSTY GAME.

Thames (Halliford).

The trouting has been better here the last fortnight. A gentleman, on Saturday last, fishing from the bank, caught one of 2½ lb. Mr. Palmer, of the Friendly Anglers, fishing with me, caught two more nice ones last week, one weighing 6 lb. 4 oz., and the other 7 lb. 8 oz., making the third he has taken with me this season, bringing my total up to six, which I have had the pleasure of landing this season. Weights as follows:—2 lb. 1 oz., 3 lb. 4 oz., 6 lb. 4 oz., 8 lb. 7 oz , 9 lb. 14 oz., and 7 lb. 8 oz. The river is in first-rate order, and we hope to heve one or two more before the general fishing commences, as we have seen some large ones feeding.—GEORGE ROSEWELL, fisherman.

Thames (Sunbury).

Condition of the water good; plenty of trout seen feeding. Prospects good. Mr. Titley, fishing in one of our boats, took a handsome trout of 4 lb. Mr. Lukyn took two smaller ones, which he returned into the river again.

Thames (Windsor).

There are not many anglers nowadays who can boast of the capture of two good Thames trout in one day of nearly equal weight, and Mr. G. Hockley, of the Swan, 84, Old Kent Road, is to be congratulated on pulling off the double event. He deserves them, as a more persistent angler does not come out of London; but up to yesterday the Fates have been against him, only a few small trout falling to his rod. Now he will have as nice a brace of Thames trout to adorn the walls of this well-known old hostelry as one would wish to see. I made but a hurried inspection of them, owing to his having to catch a train; but I do not think there can be many ounces between them. Their united weights were 11½ lb., of good colour, beautifully marked, and in excellent condition. I must not omit to mention the fisherman (Richard Gray), one of our steadiest and best men who piloted this gentleman to their haunts, and he acted well in sparing them for one of his patrons and best friends. Both fish were had just below Victoria Bridge. Three others have been had, one by Mr. Hawkins, of Old Windsor, going about 6 lb, which I omitted to mention last week; one by James Gray, from the Windsor weir, on the 6th inst., going 4 lb.; and one by the waterman stationed off the Eton College playing fields, which also was 4 lb. Water is in nice order, and a great many fish are showing themselves, but very few anglers are trying them. From what I have seen, the coming season ought to be a good one, at least better than last, as regards barbel, which were very scarce.—B. R. BAMBRIDGE.

Tweed and Teviot.

. Both salmon and trout angling in these rivers continue to be moderately good. On Tuesday week Lord Kensington killed a couple of salmon on Floors upper water, and on Thursday Mr. James Kerso hooked two salmon, both of which he lost. The best basket of trout that we have heard of of late was caught by Mr. A. Steel, Kelso, weighing 7 lb., one trout in the lot scaling 2½ lb. On the Ednam House water, on Saturday night, one gentleman killed eleven trout, which weighed close upon 6 lb. Several good baskets have also been obtained on the Sprouston and Hendersyde waters. On Teviot on Monday morning, Mr. A. Steel caught about 7 lb. of trout with worm. On Monday, on the Cornhill water, Mr. John Collingwood, Esq., Cornhill House, killed a very nice salmon, which turned the beam at 9 lb. Reports from the lower districts of the river, where the netting stations are situate, state that the present fishing season has been the best that has been experienced for years. The salmon fry having reached the sea unmolested, the ensuing grilse season will doubtless be a good one, as the fish are bound to be very numerous. The *Saprolegnia ferax* disease has not yet been extirpated, and diseased fish are still met with by scores. That the disease does not entirely proceed from pollution may be gathered from the fact that affected fish are to be met with in some of the smaller rivers where no contamination is known.

Wye and Derwent.

We have had a very great deal of heavy thunder, and rain fell all over Derbyshire, both the latter end of last week and on several days this week, which has caused both the above rivers to have nice little flushes in them at times. Sport during the week has been first-class all round Derbyshire, and some fine baskets of fish have been killed. Mr. Frederic Robarts, of Liverpool, was on the Wye last Tuesday. He succeeded in killing eighteen fine trout with the artificial fly. Mr. T. Dickinson and H. Houghton, both of Liverpool, also did fairly well with black gnat, dotteril, and duns, also several other gentlemen have killed good baskets with green drake and yellow duns. The May-fly is now well on, both on the Wye, Lathkill, and Derwent, and the fish are taking them eagerly, and some fine trout have already been taken. We have every appearance of a first-class May-fly season being had this year all over Derbyshire. Sport on the Derwent, both with fly, trolling, and bottom fishing, has been first-class, and baskets, averaging fully from 8 to over 20 brace per angler, have been made, chiefly from the Derwent—in fact, I never saw more fish killed in all my life, than what has been taken since the rain fell. We have any quantity of fish in these rivers now, and they run a very nice size this season—from two to three fish to the pound. Good sport has been had about Rowsley with the worm, and several ground trout have been landed. Sport on the ponds has been A1 during the week with both fly and bottom maggots and worms, being the best baits for ground-bait fishing. Baskets, from 9 to 12 brace per angler, have been made. P.S.—Both rivers in first-class condition for all kinds of angling; fish well on the feed.—G. J. EATON.

ROKEBY, NEAR BARNARD CASTLE.—An amusing story is told of William IV.'s visit to Rokeby when he was Duke of Clarence. Whilst he and Mr. Morritt were walking in the park the river "came down" with a sudden rush, and the water, as if by magic, rose five or six feet. The Duke, not knowing the habits of our northern rivers, turned and politely thanked his host for the picturesque surprise which he had contrived for him."

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxfod," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

CLUB REPORTS.

ACTON AND EALING ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above sciety, who have only met once a month during the fence months, commenced their weekly meetings on Tuesday, the 6th, which was held for the election of officers for the ensuing twelve months. The following gentlemen were elected by a good muster of members: —Dr. Lingham, president; Mr. A. C. Bocking, chairman; Mr. W. Eydmann, vice; Mr. C. Simpson, hon. secretary; Mr. Brooks, the host, treasurer; Messrs. Cooper and Dean, delegates to West Central Association. The first match will be fished on Saturday, the 17th June. The prizes being a gold pin, given by Mr. W. A. Brown; a silver dish, given by Mr. A. Eydmann, and other prizes to be decided upon by the committee on Saturday.—BLACK BAG.

ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The return visit (South London District) took place at the above club on Tuesday, the 6th inst., the following clubs being represented: Bermondsey Brothers, Angler's Pride, Peckham Brothers, Peckham Perseverance. A roving match will take place on Sunday, the 25th June, at Weybridge, for three handsome prizes. Members are requested to see conditions at the club house.—D. DAVIS.

ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Since my last report I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of £1 1s. from donation box of the Amicable Brothers Angling Society; from Edmonton and Tottenham Angling Society donation box £1 1s.; £1 1s. from T. Spreckley, Esq.; £1 1s. from H. Brett, Esq., Gresham Angling Society; and 5s. from J. Mann, Hoxton Brothers Angling Society, being annual subscriptions.—R. GHURNEY, sec.

June 7.

BOSTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

The above society's annual dinner took place at the club house on Tuesday, and was a great success. The chair was occupied by Mr. Goodge, faced by Mr. Gratton. Some excellent songs were sung by the following gentlemen:—Messrs. Marshall, Slade, Goodge, Gratton, Rexley, Constable, Hind, and several others. During the evening the prizes were presented by our old and esteemed friend Mr. Vincent, hon. sec. of the Watford Piscators. The following members were the principal winners of prizes:—J. Jennings, leading with 6; Hart 5; Seymour, Goodge, Collier, Bastain, Wright, Bell, Slade, Gratton, and Adams. Upwards of £16 was promised for prizes for the coming season. All members are requested to attend the club Wednesday, June 14, to arrange prizes.—J. JENNINGS, hon. sec.

June 7,

CONVIVIAL ANGLING SOCIETY.

A complimentary visit will be paid to the Convivial Angling Society on Tuesday, June 13th, 1882. Mr. Hoole has kindly consented to take the chair on the occasion.—W. EYLES.

GOOD INTENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this club are going to open the season by fishing for twelve valuable prizes, ranging from £5 5s. to 10s. 6d., on Sunday, the 18th inst. Roam of water, the boundary from Ware Bridge to Hertford Lock. No doubt there will be a strong muster to compete after their long rest; and I am glad to say that I have not heard of any of our members who has not strictly observed the close season, and I wish I could say the same of some of our more influential anglers. I am happy to say that the medals have arrived from Edinburgh, and will be given up to the successful competitors on Thursday evening, the 15th inst., at eight o'clock sharp, by Mr. R. B. Marston, supported by Mr. F. Clench and the rest of the London Committee. I trust all entitled to awards will not fail to be at our club house, the Crown Inn, Church Street, Shoreditch, on the above date. Our West Central district visit takes place on Wednesday, the 14th inst., when we shall be glad to have the company of all anglers.—R. MURPHY

GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our 19th annual distribution of prizes took place on Tuesday last, Mr. W. Phillips, chairman, Mr. Page, vice. Prizes to the number of 120 were distributed. The successful members were Messrs. Theobald, J. Fitch, W. Parkin, R. Watting, J. K. Fitch, Stammer, Butler, Young, Hutchings, Barker, Broach, W. Watling, Jennings, Jukes, S. Smith, Armstrong, Warne, J. Dingley, C. Watling, Mayes, Page, Walker, Baker, and Calder. Mr. Cuthbert, of the Odds and Evens, occupied the chair at our concert on Wednesday last, faced by Mr. Page. We had a large attendence, and a most enjoyable evening was passed. On Wednesday next Charles Parkin will take the chair, faced by Mr. R. Cluff. Our 19th annual supper will take place on Tuesday, June 13th, at 9 o'clock. Any of our brother anglers and friends that will favour us with a visit during the evening they will receive a hearty reception. Mr. Challen, of Pulboro', favoured us with a visit on Tuesday last, and informed me that he shall be pleased to grant the privilege of fishing from his estate as hitherto, and will endeavour to extend the same.—J. A. FITCH, jun.

June 7, 1882.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The new committee met for the first time on Thursday evening prior to the usual weekly meeting of members, Mr. Crumplen said he was glad to report that they met under favourable circumstances, for subscriptions were steadily coming in; and if the new committee worked together in the interest of all anglers there was no reason to fear for the future of the Gresham. It was decided to hold a special musical evening on Thursday, June 22, an occasion which the committee hope will give them the presence of a number of their brother anglers from various societies, whom the secretary was instructed to invite. A number of important questions having been brought under consideration, the ordinary weekly meeting was opened, C. S. Bentley, Esq , in the chair. The minutes having been duly confirmed, the usual correspondence was read. Following this came an extremely interesting paper, ably read by J. Callaghan, Esq., on his angling experience during a fortnight in Ireland, accompanied by his friend Mr. Cathercole. Mr. Callaghan gave a graphic description of his sport at Lake Connemara and other places, giving a detailed account of his trip, and incidentally touching on sundry topics relative to the present condition of the Emerald Isle. He expressed a strong opinion that any gentleman wishing to enjoy really good sport could not do better than visit the Irish lakes, where he would not only enjoy most excellent fishing, but be perfectly safe and welcomed heartily by the peasantry. The paper was followed by a very pleasant discussion, in which the Chairman, Mr. Jardine, Mr. Crumplen and Captain Alfred took part, and at the close a very hearty vote of thanks was passed. The committee are arranging for the paper promised by Mr. Page, Commissioner of United States Fisheries, which will probably be given in a larger room than the society now commands. G. Challen, Esq., having been elected a member of the society, and other candidates proposed, a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Bentley brought the meeting to a close.

June 8.

NORWICH CENTRAL FISHING CLUB.

The members of this club held a special meeting on Monday evening at the club house, the Oak Shades, Lower Goat Lane, under the presidency of the chairman, Mr. Councillor Thirkettle, for the purpose of making arrangements for the first match of the season. A discussion having been opened, in which the state of the rivers and the height of the tides was taken into consideration, it was resolved, on the motion of Mr. Burton, seconded by Mr. C. Mackie, that the match be contested on July 17, within two miles, up or down the river Yare, of the boating and yachting station of Messrs. H. Flowers and Co.; and it was further decided that the staking-out of positions be entrusted to Mr. W. Cushion, a gentleman well acquainted with the locality. Mr. Youngs, vice-chairman, moved, and Mr. Thirkettle seconded, that the boats required for the match be engaged of Messrs. Flowers and Co., and this was unanimously agreed to. The chairman very kindly offered to officiate as umpire on the occasion, which was accepted with applause, and after the transaction of some business of minor importance, the meeting adjourned till the 19th inst., when the final arrangements will be completed.

June 8.

PHŒNIX ANGLING SOCIETY.

The annual supper of the above society took place on Wednesday last, and a most enjoyable evening was spent. W. B. Clark in the chair; G. Bentley, vice. When the cloth was removed upwards of twenty-five pounds' worth of prizes were distributed, the following coming in for the biggest share:—G. Bentley, J. Grist, H. Packer, H. Parr, R. Read, T. Margetts, H. Maynard, R. Milton, W. Elbowin, H. Upton, G. Burnett, Bartrip, Murch, Titmus, and Hamilton. The health of the Qneen and Royal Family, and a song or two after the health of the president, W. B. Clark; the cheers and "He is a Jolly Good Fellow" were uproarious. After another song or two, the health of the host, Mr. Harry Murch, and then the toast of the evening, "The Prosperity of the Phœnix Angling Society," coupling with it the name of Mr. W. Elbourn, the secretary, who has seen it through many different stages, was drunk most enthusiastically. The prizes were then announced, and nearly thirty pounds were given for the ensuing season, W. B. Clark, Esq., heading the list with ten guineas. During the evening Mr. Bonvoisin and Mr. Crumplen, the secretary of the Gresham Anglers, spoke at great length upon the close time for fishing and other important matters to anglers, and all were pleased with the remarks which were passed, showing all that is done by the East and West Central Association is appreciated. The Little Independent Anglers and North-Western Anglers were well represented, and every thing went as merrily as could be wished till two o'clock in the morning, the limit of the extension.—TIGHT LINE.

June 8.

RICHMOND PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

At the Richmond Piscatorial Society, on Wednesday evening, the chairman (Mr. Clench) proposed a vote of sincere condolence with the widow of the late Mr. W. H. Maxwell, which was very feelingly seconded by Mr. Dickinson (vice chair). Mr. Maxwell was a gentleman well known in the angling world as late treasurer of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, he was also a member of the Richmond Piscatorial Society, in which he took great interest and contributed towards the success of the silver medal won by the Richmond Piscatorial Society at Edinburgh by the exhibition of his Thames trout, taken by himself at Kingston, weighing over 12 lb. It was also decided the members should celebrate their opening day on the 21st inst., when a series of prizes will be competed for, after which the members will dine at the Ship, Halliford, at 6 p.m. The chairman will present a gold mounted crystal pin for the best show of all fish (bar jack) caught in the river Thames, open only to members of twelve months' standing, who have signed the attendance book of the society not less than twelve times from June 15, 1881, to June 14, 1882, or members of less than twelve months' standing who have signed seven times. A handicap sweepstake of 1s. each member, for eight prizes, for all roach caught in the River Thames between the hours of 7.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. Entries to be made on or before Wednesday, June 14, and the weights will be published on notice board in club room on Saturday, June 17, 1882. All fish to be weighed at the Ship, Halliford. First prize, 35s.; second, 21s.; third, 17s. 6d.; fourth, 15s.; fifth, 10s. 6d.; sixth, seventh and eighth, entrance fees divided. All prizes to be taken in kind. The distribution of prizes won during the last fishing season will also take place on this occasion. The members present were:—Mr. Clench, chairman; Mr. Dickens, vice-chairman; Mr. Houghton, treasurer; Mr. Rowe, librarian; Messrs. Taman, Terrill, Crewe, J. D. Johnson, W. Abbott, H. E. Smith, H. E. Davies, Giles, Munro, Hayward, East. Visitors: Rev. Mr. Runham and Mr. Adams.—JOHN M. GRANT.

June 8.

STANLEY ANGLERS SOCIETY.

On Thursday evening, 1st inst., several members and friends supped together at the Lord Stanley, the guest of the evening being the honorary secretary. The gentlemen present were Messrs. Wheatstone, Lupton, Parsons, Letts, Finer, Paramor, Rose, W. R. and D. M. Humby, Rix, Godsell, W. B. Freeman, J. Smith, W. N. Hunter, W. Ellis, and W. Jarvis. Supper concluded, Mr. Wheatstone announced to the company that they had assembled that evening in honour of their secretary, to whose strenuous efforts the present prosperity of their society was mainly due, and to whom a presentation was about to be made on behalf of himself and some other members of the society. Mr. Wheatstone stated that the presentation had emanated from Mr. H. Rose, and by whom it had been most energetically and suceessfully carried through. Mr. Rose stated that Mr. Wheatstone had been kind enough to connect the affair very prominently with his name, but, although the testimonial was of an entirely private nature and not from the society officially, the general and hearty support he had met with proved how highly they all valued and esteemed their honorary secretary. Mr. Rose, when handing the presentation (a very handsome "Tantalus" spirit stand) to the secretary, assured him that they all felt they were not making any adequate return for the labour and attention he had given the society, but, to quote the words of the inscription, "as a mark of their appreciation of his valuable services." In conclusion, he called upon all present to drink long life and prosperity to the honorary secretary. The secretary having suitably replied, "The Stanley Anglers Society," "The President, Mr. H. Rose," "The Visitors," and other toasts, were proposed and met with an enthusiastic reception. Mr. W. Ellis kindly presided at the piano, and a very pleasant and musical evening was passed. Mr. Parsons gave one of his amusing extempore songs, in which he makes it very generally warm for everybody, and, of course, on this occasion he did not neglect the secretary. Mr. Rose, whose histrionic abilities are well known to the members, gave powerful recitals of "The Outcast," "The Crew of the Nancy Lee," and "Jack's Yarn," all of which were warmly applauded. Messrs. Humley, Freeman, Smith, Paramor, Gray, and Ellis also sang, contributing greatly to the enjoyment of the evening. The trout fishing up to the present has not been very productive. Mr. Wheatstone has taken nineteen fish from the Thames, three only weighing over 2 lb., the limit at which they are allowed to be scaled at the club, the others being all returned to the water uninjured. Mr. Walker taken four from the Thames, one only weighing 2 lb. All the above were taken spinning.

THE JUNIOR PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

On Friday last three of our members, Messrs. Palmer, Woodman, and Joyce, fishing near Harwich, caught 80¼ lb. of rudd, one going 1 lb. 15 oz., and about twelve going 1½ lb., of which six of them are being preserved by the club. On Wednesday next our second annual dinner will take place at the club house, as above.—ALFRED H. BISLEY, hon. sec.

June 8.

THE WATFORD PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The inaugural dinner of this newly established society, was held at the Leathersellers' Hotel, Watford, on Wednesday evening the 7th inst. Mr. C. E. Fry, of Elliot and Fry, of the well-known photography firm, in the chair, supported by a numerous company of county fishermen. The chairman, in poposing the toast of the evening, "Success to the Watford Piscatorials," stated that the club was fairly started with every prospect of success, having amongst its members a majority of the best known local amateurs enjoying all the advantages of the famous waters in the neighbourhood. In the course of a capital speech, the chairman expressed a wish that every member should take in the FISHING GAZETTE, and contribute to its columns. Mr. Fry who is well known as one of the best fly-fishermen in the county of Hertfordshire, was loudly cheered on taking the seat. During the evening some capital songs were sung, and altogether a very pleasant time was passed by all present, who, from all appearances, did thorough justice to host Griffiths' admirable repast. Among a few very good specimens of fish caught in the local waters, and shown during the evening, Mr. Vincent, the popular hon. sec. of the new society, had some first-class jack which were generally admired.

WESTBOURNE PARK PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Tuesday evening, June 6, being the second quarterly night, our clubroom was crowded by members wishing to pay up and obtain the privileged travelling tickets, ready for the opening day, showing the same enthusiasm for the gentle art as in years past. Six gentlemen were proposed for membership, who will be duly balloted for next week—notwithstanding the entrance fee has been raised from 1s. to 5s. It was decided to have an open match on the 18th inst., for which some good prizes have been given, among which are a box of cigars and sixty yards of best prepared silk jack line. Members requiring travelling tickets should send full name and address and 2s. at once to the secretary.—W. ADEANE.

June 7.

GORGE-FISHING AND THE SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

A CORRESPONDENT writes to us to call attention to the letters which are appearing in the *Animal World*, the organ of the above society, on the cruelty of the gorge-bait method of fishing. We are not surprised to learn that the Society intend to take the matter up, and they will have the support of all true anglers. Trimmers, night-lines, and gorge-hooks, should be scouted as poaching, and painful engines for the capture of fish.

VORACIOUS PIKE.—On Whit-Monday, while fishing for perch with paternoster, at the Stoke Newington reservoir, a small jack of about 1½lb. took the worm. As I was bringing him to bank, I saw a sudden gleam and swirl in the water and very quickly found that the small jack had been seized by a big one. I played the two for abont ten minutes and ultimately brought both on to the stones, the larger fish retaining his grip of the smaller, the latter, being hooked. I had no landing net, but a young fellow who was fishing near endeavoured to land the two fish with his hands, but failed, and the big fellow made off again. I twice after this brought both on, to the stones, but the second time the lead of the paternoster caught in the stones, and as the big fish made a sudden bolt, he tore the small one from the hook and bore him off in his jaws in triumph. I have never seen a jack so persistent; his weight must have been between 8 and 10 lb. Of course, had I landed him, he must have been returned to the water, it being a fence month.—F. HOWSE.

BALLOON VOYAGE TO THE CONTINENT.—It is stated that Sir Claude de Crespigy and one or two friends, including the baronet's sister, Miss Agnes de Crespigny, intend to attempt a voyage to the Continent in a balloon to-day (Saturday). The ascent is to be made from a field adjoining the Maldon Gasworks at two o'clock in the afternoon. The balloon is called the "Colonel," and takes 40,000 cubic feet of gas.

DOGS.—*Naldire's Prize Medal Dog Soap* destroys Fleas, Cleanses the Skin, and Improves the Coat and Health of the Dog. "Naldire's Soap is harmless to Dogs, but fatal to Fleas."—FRANK BUCKLAND. Price 1s, of all Chemists, Perfumers, and Grocers. N.B.—See that you get *Naldire's* Soap.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

THE GREAT INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION, LONDON, 1883.

Sir,—Would you kindly oblige me by inserting a notice in your next issue that the Mayor of Reading has kindly consented to place the new town hall at our disposal, and take the chair at a public meeting to be held there on Tuesday, the 20th June, at three o'clock in the afternoon? I should be much obliged if you could do this.—I am, &c., Harry W. Towse, assist. sec.

London, June 6.

THE ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT TOURNAMENT.

Sir,—You will, I am sure, and I hope your readers may, forgive me for presuming to express the anxious hopes of an angler's wife that the Benevolent Society may be largely benefited by the tournament of July 8.

I feel that the very unusual course I am adopting needs an excuse; my plea is that I very much want to assist.

I will give a prize, sir, but is that all I can do? May I not be present? I want to meet and shake hands with the committee of the Anglers' Benevolent.

My husband has told me of the good being done, the manner of its doing, and the men who do it. I have in my mind's eye a picture of their meeting-room, and the faces of the good and true men in deliberation as to the amount to be given to relieve the distressing and deserving cases before them.

How often, I wonder, does it occur that their hearts are too big, and the case too distressing, for the funds at their disposal.

If ladies may be present, I would say to angler's wives: Do as I have done; persuade your husband to take you to the tournament, and testify by your presence that you desire to encourage those who can nobly forget self and work without reward for the benefit of their unfortunate brother fishermen.

I enclose you my name and address, but I will ask you to permit me to sign myself, An Angler's Wife.

MEASUREMENTS AT THE FISHING GAZETTE TOURNAMENT—EYED HOOKS FOR SALMON FLIES.

Sir,—Messrs. Jardine and Wheeldon, at p. 261 Fishing Gazette, have not quite understood my question. I want to know—when I read that Mr. So and So has made a cast of say 22 yards (I allude especially to the artificial fly) how said cast is measured—is it the length of line out from the reel to the fly, or from the point of rod to the fly, that is always to be understood? In addition to my question, yet unanswered, about eyed hooks for salmon flies, will some of your readers tell me if they have given a trial of any length to the Manchester Company's taper fly lines, with wire centre, for salmon fishing. Does the wire centre last without breaking up or corroding? M. B.

[We understand Mr. Jardine to mean the cast in the fly competition was measured from tip of rod and not from reel. We feel certain the eyed hooks would answer admirably for salmon flies; they do splendidly for large floating May flies. Some May flies Mr. Ogden, of Winchcomb Street, Cheltenham, sent us, dressed on these hooks, are the best we have ever seen.—Ed.]

NEW ASSOCIATION AT MAIDSTONE.

Sir,—Perhaps you will care to hear of our doings piscatorially at Maidstone.

We have just formed an association under the title of the Maidstone Angling and Medway Preservation Society, and already our numbers are over one hundred. We have put a keeper on during the close season, and the result is already wonderful; for whereas last year, and for many years before, anglers were at work through the whole of the fence months, such a thing now is almost unknown, and even on Whit Monday I went the whole distance between Maidstone and Tonbridge (nearly 20 miles), and did not see one person fishing.

The society has also taken several nets, and has arranged to procure a yearly supply of trout to be turned into the river at various lock pools. The intention is to preserve the river as far up as the boundary of the Tonbridge association, and if this can be accomplished successfully the Medway will soon have some of the best coarse-fishing in the south of England.

The Mayor of Maidstone is our president, and the riparian proprietors have most of them consented to become vice-presidents.

Honorary members are daily swelling the list, and a programme of contests for the ensuing season is being arranged. I have been elected chairman of the society, and every week meetings take place on Friday evenings at the club-house, where, after the business of the day has been gone through, papers are read on fishing, fish culture, &c., &c.

Should you care to have a weekly report of the fishings news after the 16th inst., I shall be most happy to furnish one.—I am, &c., David H. Pine.

[This is good news. We shall always be glad to have reports.—Ed.]

EYE-SHADES FOR FISHING.

Sir,—The shades which you recently noticed unfortunately do not at all answer the purpose of keeping off the glare which comes upward from the water when fishing opposite the sun, and, consequently, cannot prevent the very disagreeable form of headache which this causes; tinted goggles with wire sides are the only thing for this, but they must be very slightly tinted, or you cannot see your fly. M. B.

FISHING NEAR ST. NEOTS.

Sir,—Will you kindly give notice that the fishing in the Ouse, on the manors of Diddington, the two Offords, and Brampton, is now closed; that the keepers have had strict orders to keep off trespassers and persons fishing; and that notice boards to this effect have been put up on the banks of this portion of the river. We are also given to understand that Lord E. Gordon is strictly preserving the river at the Pastons, near St. Neots. If our readers will carefully bear in mind the above arrangements many of them will be spared vexation, trouble, and the useless expense of a sixty miles' journey from London.

PIKE-FISHING IN NORFOLK BROADS.

Sir,—I have just read Mr. Davis's book on the "Rivers and Broads of Norfolk," and a very interesting book it is, and to all those who are fond of pike-fishing I would strongly recommend it; the map, as you say, being worth double the money.

I propose during the summer having a fortnight upon the broads and rivers it describes, and if there is any gentleman who feels disposed to join me, I should be glad of his companionship, as my experience of country fishing, especially when one takes up his quarters at some lonely farmhouse, is that the evenings after the day's fishing is over are apt to become dull after a week of it, if one is alone, and unfortunately my angling friends are not enthusiastic enough to give up an entire fortnight to the sport I am so fond of, viz., pike-fishing. I shall therefore be glad to hear of a companion. Any time during July would suit me.

Will you kindly give me a hint as to the best way to angle for carp, most improved bait, &c.? Apoligising for taking up so much of your space.—I am, &c., E. T. J.

24, Gordon Terraee, Putney, S.W., June 3.

[Carp-fishing was described in a recent number of the Fishing Gazette.—Ed.]

THE "ALEXANDRA" FLY.

Sir,—As the Fishing Gazette always gives an unbiased opinion on piscatorial matters, I take the liberty of making a few remarks on trout fishing, especially as to the use of the so-called artificial fly, the "Alexandra," which I am persuaded is too often used by our crack fly-fishers, to the detriment of the true art of fly-fishing with smaller and seasonable flies. I write this in the midst of the trout season, when many gentlemen are competing for prizes of specimen fish, for which some of the most influential societies have already increased their standard. Such being the case, I think it a good opportunity, before prizes are awarded, to ask if you consider that fish caught with this popular fly should not be classified with those caught with a minnow? which it is well known to resemble, thereby giving to the pure—but less successful in weight—fly-fisher, a better chance of reaping his reward. I put this idea forward in all good faith for my brother toiling anglers, as I feel sure that many of our most scientific sportsmen are just now (I am sorry to say) becoming mere pot-hunters, and, like otters, destroying the larger fish without the skill required, and to the disadvantage of the higher art of artificial fly-fishing.—I am, &c., Insectivora.

SILK AND HAIR LINES, &c.

Sir,—Though your correspondent "Trout" clearly expected his statements to be convincing and conclusive, I must say they are utterly at variance with my experience. As I have hitherto always signed myself "Trout" when writing in your columns, I feel bouud to dissent from the principles laid down by the "Trout" who was on the rise last week, and in future correspondence I must adopt a new *nom de plume*.

I detest silk and hair lines, and would not give a penny for a cartload of them; they have, as far as I can see, no merits whatever which are not shared by a really good water-proofed line, while their disadvantages are many. As to hair casts, I have never been able to get any hair good enough for use, so I cannot speak of its merits; but when your correspondent asserts that none but a very skilful angler need try it, and that he must have "plenty of space to kill his fish—no bushes, stakes, piles, or stones," he practically deprives the subject of all interest in the mind of an ordinary angler, who has no access to a piscatorial Paradise of Elysian streams. I think "Trout" must be the first of his species who ever frequented a stream possessing the peculiarities he describes. So far as I can make out, he has made a series of one-sided statements in support of his views, but has proved absolutely nothing. Harping on "lightness and buoyancy" all through his letter, he, sums up with the obvious truism that "the great and main object is, when casting a long line on the surface (where else would you cast it, I wonder?), that it should fall and lie light and not drag through the water," leaving a reader (who did not know better) to infer that this object could not be attained with a water-proofed line aad gut collar.

"Trout" expresses himself ready "to bear all criticism from brother anglers." But if I were to criticise all his statements seriatim, it would be a tedious and profitles task; suffice to say that all that "Trout" advocates as the perfection of fly-fishing is done and has been done for years, not only in Derbyshire, by anglers second to none, who abjure silk and hair lines altogether and never risk a cast with such fragile stuff as hair. If drawn gut casts (tapered of course) and a fine tapered silk line water-proofed are good enough for the chalk streams—running clear as crystal the whole year through, with their big fish of two, three and four pounds, which only take the finest dry fly cast with the utmost precision—then I maintain they are good enough for any waters in the kingdom.

I am not so presumptuous as to expect to convince the readers of the Fishing Gazette that the views expressed by the editor and me on this question of lines are the only right ones; but I think the silk and hair advocates mostly speak as if they had never given a trial to anything else. Knowing and appreciating what they are accustomed to they extol its virtues, and condemn all else. Have the writers on this subject really tried fairly what they condemn so emphatically. Do they know the ease and comfort of throwing with a good prepared line, and that the "lightness and buoyancy" of such a line are not its least merits? For my own part I write after full and repeated trials of silk and hair lines for many years; and, like the Scotchman advising his son on the subject of honesty, I can say with emphasis "A ken it weel, Jock, for a've tried baith."—I am, &c., Olim Trutta.

Question for Students of History.—Why was the first King of England, after the Norman Conquest, called William the Conqueror?—Because we find that he was very fond of sea-fishing off Hastings, and most particularly partial to catching congers. Hence his nickname, or *nom de peche*, "William the Congerer!"

Formation of a Preservation Society for Henley-on-Thames.—For years the fine reach of the Thames between Shiplake and the Temple, of which Henley is the centre, has been sadly poached; but at length, we are glad to hear, this "missing link" in the chain of fishery protection is to be taken care of. A public meeting will shortly be held at Henley, under influential auspices, to form an Angling Preservation Association for the district, and will, we have every reason to believe, be very successful. The Right Hon. W. H. Smith, M.P., of Greenlands, Henley-on-Thames, has consented to be proposed as president, and will be backed by a strong committee. Mr. Chas. H. Cook, of Southfield House, Henley, is acting as secretary pro. tem., and deserves great praise for the success of his efforts in the promotion of the undertaking.

COMPLIMENTARY DINNER TO THOMAS SPRECKLEY, ESQ.

It will be no matter of surprise that the committee of the Thames Angling Preservation Society resolved to entertain their energetic and respected President at a complimentary banquet, in appreciation of his most valuable assistance in directing the operations of the society. It may truly be said of Mr. Thomas Spreckley that during the time he has been connected with the society he has occupied a prominent position, and "spared neither time or money in energetically conducting its operations, and his arduous labours have been crowned with significant success. It may be mentioned notably, amongst other matters in which he has distinguished himself in removing existing evils in the river, that of the abolition of night lines and the prohibition of snatching; whilst there are other advantages he has anxiously promoted for the benefit of all classes of anglers, such as the netting of ponds to increase the stock of fish in the river, the effective staking and placing other obstacles in the tideway to prevent netting, obtaining permission from owners of tributaries to the river for their protection and preservation, the management of the rearing ponds at Sunbury, and a practical and personal supervision of the whole of the lower Thames."* In these, and other matters in which he is at the present time engaged, he has given much sound practical thought and the employment of considerable time. Having in view all this work which he has done, the idea occurred to several members of the general committee to invite Mr. Spreckley to dine with them after the June committee meeting, at the Holborn Restaurant, in Little Queen Street, which has become the favourite resort of anglers. It was determined to make the banquet of a special character as regards the items on the menu, and spare no expense in carrying it out. The whole arrangements were entrusted to Mr. T. J. Hamp, and right well did he give them completeness and effect, receiving from the committee expressions of the highest praise for his admirable catering and in serving up a dinner which it would be impossible to surpass. The banquet took place in the Duke's Saloon, and was presided over by Mr. Alfred Nuthall, with Mr. John Knechtli in the vice-chair. Of the committee there were present :—Messrs. H. J. Alfred, Joseph Andrews, W. G. Barnes, A. Beningfield, J. R. Berry, E. Blank, Hickson Briggs, F. C. Clench, W. A. Crump, T. S. Davy, H. B. Eyre, R. Ghurney, P. Geen, F. C. Hatfield, Alfred Jardine, F. H. Lemann, A. J. Little, T. R. Sachs, and C. P. Wheatstone; Messrs. W. D. Lewis and F. J. T. Moore (auditors), and Mr. W. H. Brougham (secretary). Mr. Thomas Spreckley occupied the post of honour to the right of the chairman. There was no list of toasts on the occasion, as it was considered more complimentary to the guest to limit this portion of the evening to the one special toast, that of "Mr. Thomas Spreckley," and in doing this Mr. Alfred Nuthall, as chairman, referred in graceful terms to what that gentleman had done for the anglers, and who was still deserving of all the honour they could give The applause which was frequently given during the chairman's remarks, the demonstration which accompanied the response to the toast, and the ovation which was accorded to Mr. Spreckley on rising to return thanks, must have been highly gratifying to him. In his reply, Mr. Spreckley expressed himself desirous of labouring for the anglers in the interest of the Thames Fishery, and was ready at all times, by night or by day, to help in its protection and preservation. Later on in the evening there were three toasts introduced, "The Chairman," "The Vice-Chairman," and "The Secretary." Several songs were given by Mr. Spreckley, Mr. Joseph Andrews, Mr. W. D. Lewis, and Mr. Alfred Jardine, Mr. Andrews receiving a special encore in "Where the bee sucks," which he rendered with capital effect and in first-rate style.

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* Little's "Angler's Annual," 1882.

SPAWNING OF THE "SMALL FRY."

Solomon in the old time, and Sir John Lubbock and others in the present age, have immortalised the tiny ant; Darwin also has unfolded the immense usefulness of the despised earth-worm, and I wonder whether a work will yet be written showing the undoubted curiosities in the natural history of our smallest fishes. Hard by me runs a pretty little stream, a tributary of the Gade, and I have been spending some very delightful half-hours latterly watching the movements of the spawning "small fry." The stream is not more than 20 feet wide at its widest, is practically unsheltered from the sun, and runs at a pace of perhaps two miles an hour over a chalky stratum. It is uniformly clear and comparatively free from weeds, but stones and gravel are abundant, and so are patches of the *alsinastrum* and other weeds; its depth does not exceed in any spot 2 feet, and the average is 18 inches. So much for the habitation of our "small fry."

The minnows attracted my observation first. Their size is comparatively very large—some I threw a cast net over the other day measuring 3½ inches. Just below a rustic bridge spawning the stream, and quite in the middle of the water, they are, as I write, in multitudes, occupying a patch of cleanish gravel, and maintaining themselves against the stream with salmon-like ease. Here and there a female sinks completely to the bottom, between the interstices of the stones, until her dorsal fin is just seen with the general level. Here she remains till a certain portion of the ova is exuded, as, after she rises, it will be seen by the careful observer that the eggs are apparently glued in whitish threads to the *conferva* of the stones. Thereafter follows the male, with an assumption of great importance, and I presume the operation is rendered complete. I know that this is how the minnow (*Leuciscus phoxinus*) spawns, because I only this morning (May 19th) examined a stone on which I observed the minnow lie as described, and found the attached ova, presenting under the microscope a beautiful opaline appearance. Minnows will not take a worm when spawning; and it was a treat to see them skedaddle when a quarter-pound pike came floating leisurely down.

The three-spined stickleback is also now in his full war-paint. Many of the males are already busily engaged keeping watch, and ward over the nest in which the ova is deposited. How gloriously beautiful these little fellows are.. It is difficult to describe even approximately the sheen of the gold and green iridescent armour of the little warrior. And a warrior he certainly is. I have been watching a male fish this morning in his savage onslaughts against those impertinent spawn-laden dingy females, who so inveterately seek to disturb the ova-laden and sealed nest. They would devour the spawn with relish, that their own might occupy the place; but Sir Stickleback charges and ranges over the watery field with a celerity and ferocity truly astonishing. He will not quit his post, though you worry him with the point of your fly-rod. By the bye, how these fish do lock their side spines, and yet the Gade trout prefer them to minnows. This I have proved.

It is a popular notion that gudgeon spawn in shoals in close contiguity on shallow and sandy places. My direct observation contradicts this. I have seen gudgeon at work incessantly during the last few weeks, and they are invariably apart, and almost as lethargic as the bullhead when they are in the spawning attitude. This is duly effected in the spaces of the weeds, and rarely more than two or four are found together. After this they appear in shoals of more or less magnitude. Of course the spawning water is shallow. Their shyness, when spawning, resembles that of the trout in normal season, and the least disturbance causes them to dart away in a perfectly salmonidæ fashion.

The artfulness of the bullhead (*Cottus gobio*), when feeding, is very curious in one particular. I was watching the eccentric stone-moving serpentine twirlings of the tiny lamprey—"Nine Eyes" they are called here—the other evening, when from a large stone in their rear, with some circumspection, the black muzzle of a bullhead was protruded. Presently, with additional caution, the rest of his body emerged, and taking a station just behind the other fish, I distinctly saw him snapping up the unconsidered trifles in the shape of tiny crustaceans, &c., set free from the stones as the "Nine Eyes" successively removed them. I knew of Master Bullhead's voracity, but I confess I was surprised at his broadheaded sagacity.

J. H. K.

Wait While the May-Fly Grows.—A correspondent writes —"I met a friend the other day returning from a try at the trout, and asked him if the May-fly were up?" "Yes," he said, "they are just beginning to show, but I would advise you to wait a week until they have grown bigger!" He was a member of the Watford Natural History Society, too. The idea of waiting for the May fly to grow!

The Angel Shark or Monk Fish (*Squalies squalmus*).—A fine specimen of rare fish, a species of shark, was captured at Lynn on Thursday last, and has been sent to Mr. William Howlett, naturalist, of Newmarket, to be preserved. This fish is exceedingly fierce and savage, several instances being recorded of its attacking the fishermen when extricating it from the net. It is spoken of by the ancients as being very dangerous, and as it attains to the weight of a hundred pounds or more it requires great skill and courage to take it. Like the other sharks, it has rows of teeth disposed round the jaws, and by means of certain muscles they can all be brought into operation.—W. Howlett.

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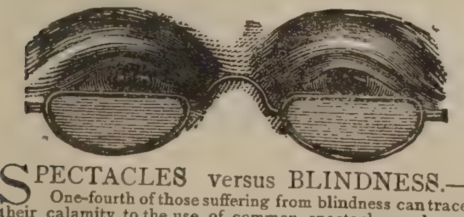

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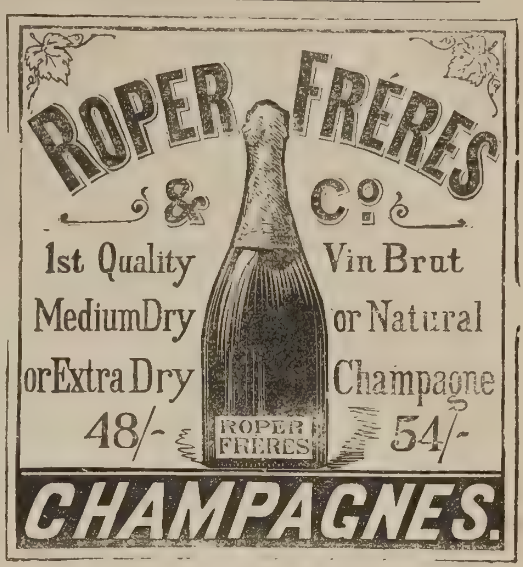

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 1882.

ROACH AND DACE FISHING IN THE AVON.

THE subject of these few remarks will be on roach and dace fishing, in the Avon and Froom (near Bristol). I shall begin by giving a few hints on dace-fishing. Dace-fishing ought to commence in April; but, as the season does not open till the 15th of June, we must begin from that date. The dace is a handsome fish, and found in shoals in quick running streams. The best bait for them in June and July is the shade-fly. It is found under hawthorn bushes, all through the summer months, from 4 o'clock in the morning till 8 at night. The best time for dace is in the morning from 4 to 10 o'clock, and from 5 in the evening until it is dark. The rod for fly-fishing should be from 12 to 14 feet long, and the tackle about 3 yards long; consisting of 2 yards of silk line and one yard of fine gut or hair. Always begin fishing up-stream, and keep out of sight as much as possible. The best way is, when you see fish rising, to creep very quietly until you get within casting distance of them, drop your fly about a yard up-stream, let it float down with the stream, and they will take it freely. When you hook a fish keep it under water till it is exhausted, so as not to disturb the others. The artificial flies that I recommend for dace are, the stone-fly, the fern fly, the black gnat, and March brown. The natural flies that I have been very successful with are, the shade-fly; the common house fly, the brown gnat, and the ash-fly; the latter is a handsome fly, with spotted wings like a small butterfly, and is a killing fly for dace or trout. The following is the way I keep them:—Get a small bottle, put a spoonful of brandy in it, shake the bottle well with the brandy, and then pour it out—drink it, if you like; catch your flies over night, put them in the bottle and cork them down; by so doing they will keep nice and moist. By following these directions, and a little practice, the young angler cannot fail to catch some dace. I will now give you a little of my experience during the season that has passed. One lovely Monday morning, last June, I took my rod, tackle, and bottle of flies; I went down as far as Crew's Hole, where one of of Mr. Butler's workmen put me across the river. Walking about a quarter of a mile up-stream, I saw some fine dace rising under some withy trees. Putting my rod together, and selecting a fly, I dropped it about six feet from a fine dace; the fish took it in an instant, and after a little struggling I landed it safely, I went on and caught 18 from the same place weighing 7 lb. The next morning I went as far as Beese's passing boat, where the owner of the boat put me across the river for one halfpenny. Looking down the river, I saw a lot of fish rising under a large withy tree, just below the Tea Gardens. I made my way down there, and caught 30 dace, weighing 12 lb. On the following Saturday, I fished opposite the Whitehouse and caught 27 dace weighing 10 lb. On the following Wednesday, I caught 29 dace with the brown gnat, weighing 11 lb. On the Friday, 31 dace and a trout ¾ lb. I hooked another between 3 and 4 lb. with the brown gnat; but I was using a tight line, and could not play it. The next day I caught 28 dace and a trout ½ lb. with the shade fly. Last season, in June and July, I caught 147 fish with the shade fly, brown gnat, and house fly, between Butler's Works, and Beese's Tea Gardens. Another good place for fly-fishing is from the powder house to the tanyard brook, at Hanham Mills, on the other side of the river, from there to Swineford, and from Swineford to Tiverton, I have never been farther than this fly-fishing. There are plenty of dace between Keynsham and Swineford; and I think anglers will be able to find good sport, fly-fishing, from the 15th June till the latter part of July. Then bottom fishing commences for them. In August the angler should go to the swift-running streams, or the tails of weirs; your groundbait should be barley meal with gentles mixed inside, and let your bait drag the bottom. The best swim that I know in the Avon is at Tiverton Weir; let the angler stand on some stone steps that he will see there. Throw your groundbait ten yards up stream from where you are standing, fish about fifteen yards out and if the fish are "on," you will have a good catch. Last August I caught 20 lb. there, from 12 o'clock in the morning, till six in the evening.

On the following Monday I caught 16 lb. at the same place. I have caught more fish at Tiverton than at any other place on the Avon. One day, in 1877, my brother William and myself were fishing at Tiverton. We started at 1 o'clock in the afternoon and at 6 o'clock in the evening we had nearly 60 lb. of fish. The same year I caught 40 lb. of fish in one day, at the same place, with yellow paste and gentles. In 1877, 1878, and 1879, there were plenty of fish caught all the way up the Avon, but since that time, sport has been very indifferent. I hope they will come on well next season, for the credit and benefit of the Kingswood, &c., district. I will now say a few words on the Froom. I shall only mention the places you can fish without trespassing. The first place that I will mention is the Grove at Hambrook. It is all shallows and scours, until you come to Mr. Lewton's field, where the water is deep, and there used to be plenty of fish there. Any one can fish this water by asking permission of Mr. Lewton, who keeps a "public" close by, and is always glad to see anglers. The next place is a field that belongs to Mr. Till, and the withy bed belonging to Mr. Hobbs, then from there to Damson's Bridge, follow on from the last mentioned place to the bridge at Huckford, where there are plenty of dace, roach, carp, gudgeon, tench and eels. All the land on the Frampton side belongs to Mr. Matthews, who will give you permission to fish right to Frampton Cottrell; above there the land belongs to the Waterworks Company but they will not allow any one to fish on their property. I have caught plenty of fish at all these places, the bait being the house-fly, sinking and drawing, and on the bottom with the caddis. Before I proceed any further, I will just say I don't think you will find better caddis in England, than those found at Hambrook. I'm not a naturalist, therefore I don't know much about them; but I know this much, that it is the best bait in the Froom for dace, roach, carp and eels. The best place to find them is in the brook that runs by the Whitehorse, at Hambrook; the caddis are found in April, but are not yellow before the latter part of May. There are a lot of anglers who go to find caddis, they get about twenty, and say they can't find any more, I have been to the above-mentioned place, and found six pints in two hours. You must not expect to find all the caddis adhering to the stones; but when you pull up a stone wait till the water has cleared, then look in the sand and you will be able to find more than twenty. The best way to keep them, is to put them in a flannel bag, dip the bag in water till it is well soaked, then hang it up in some cool place; when it has run dry repeat the same process as before and as many times as needful. I shall dwell more fully on the caddis in my notes on roach-fishing. I will now say a few words on winter fishing for dace. When the first floods of October bring the eels down the brooks, the dace go up. The tanyard brook at Hanman Mills, Bitton Brook, Corson Brook at Kelston, and Tiverton Brook, are the best places to go to, when the water is bank high. The best bait for dace, from October to January, is the cockspur worm, which is found in rotten dung or straw; get some of these, and keep them in moss for a few days, and they are ready for use. I always use two worms on a hook at a time. Groundbait with barley meal and chopped worms, and let your bait drag the bottom. Always keep your line the upper side of the float, so that when the fish takes the bait you can always strike up-stream; always strike lightly; just raise the point of the rod and that is quite sufficient to hook a fish. I think the close season for dace should commence on February 15th as they begin spawning in that month and come in season on April 15th. For roach I think the close season should commence on April 15th, and end the 1st of August, as they are not in season before that date. I know that some rivers are much more forward than others; but this, the above, is my opinion of the Avon and Froom. This concludes my remarks on dace-fishing.

ROACH FISHING.

There are many people who say they would rather eat a paper of pins fried in lard, than they would a roach; but for my part I think them very good, properly cooked; and I say, if you can't get beef, eat bacon. The roach is a nice-looking fish when in condition; it likes deep running water, though it is sometimes found in quick-running streams. Your tackle should be of the finest, as the roach is a shy biting fish. Your rod should be 12 feet long for the Avon, and 10 for the Froom. The line should be the finest you can get, 50 yards in length. I would recommend the young beginner not to use too fine gut; use a float that will carry six swan shot. Perhaps it will not be out of place here to tell how I started fishing. My father was a fisherman of the old school, who believed in strong coarse tackle, and a rod that would lift a 7 lb. weight tied to the top; but if it should break it would not do. I am sorry to say there are some of his sort at the present time, whose heads are thicker than their tackle; but in my father's younger days fish were more numerous, consequently they would bite more eagerly. I remember, when quite a little boy, going to Frenchay with my father to a piece of water at that time belonging to Mr. Mage. I have stood behind him and he has kept me taking fish off the hook. I have known him catch 18 or 20 lb. in a couple of hours, with the green grub and house-fly. The fish would take anything in the shape of bait. I may mention that all our family take an interest in fishing, and we can generally compare favourably with most anglers after a hard day's fishing.

I commenced fishing at the early age of ten. I used to borrow or steal my father's tackle, and very often left the greater part of it up in the branches of some tree. Sometimes I used to catch a fish, at other times I lost all the tackle and then I got the rod on my own back. But I did not care, I would go again. Sometimes I used to find my brother's tackle and go fishing with it, then I had to keep out of his sight for the next two or three days. But at last I became the owner of two nut sticks, a tin ferrule, a thread line, and a hook on horse-hair. I felt as proud of that as a fisherman would be of a 10 pounder at the end of his line. I used to bait with bread mixed with water, a little olive oil, and a bit of sugar. Thus you see under what circumstances I started as a fisherman. Hanham Hills is a very good place for a young beginner. Your groundbait for a day's fishing should be 2 lb. of bran, 1 lb. of barley meal, and a nice lot of bread mixed together in stiff balls. When you get to some deep running water, throw your groundbait six yards above where you stand, so as not to let it go too far down stream; plumb the water, get the right depth, let your bait drag the bottom, and you will catch larger fish. I have seen fishermen fishing two feet off the bottom, and then complain because they have caught all small fish. It has been simply through not fishing on the bottom. The ground bait above mentioned is for paste and gentle fishing. In June and July the best bait for roach is the caddis, all the groundbait you require is a little chewed bread. The roach are to be found in streams running over gravelly or sandy bottoms. They spawn in shallow water and come back to these places to clean themselves, when they go into deeper water. In August, September and October, the best baits are paste, gentles, boiled wheat, and malt. The following are some good places for caddis fishing:—The tail of the old mill at Hanham Mills, the swim of Mr. Steven's garden wall, and the mouth of the tanyard brook, I used to catch a lot of fish off the lock wall at Hanham Mills, but the man who is there now won't allow any one to fish there. May he never catch a fish! At Keynsham, there are some good places; there are good places from Keynsham to Swineford, from Swineford to Kelston, and from Kelston to Tiverton. The way I use the caddis is to take it by the back (give it a good shaking), put the point of the hook just under its head, and bring it down to the other end. Let it drag the bottom and strike directly you get a bite. Another good way to use the caddis is to throw it in the water and let it remain on the bottom. Some people call it ledgering; nevertheless, it is a very killing bait used that way. I shall now say a few words on paste-fishing. In almost all books on paste-fishing, we read of scented oils and other ingredients, but I don't believe in them, with one exception. From experience, I can say a bit of bread, a couple of days old, mixed with brandy, in a clean cloth, will beat them all. Keep out of sight as much as possible; use the finest tackle you can get, and let your shot be 18 inches from the hook. Let your float be an eighth of an inch out of the water, and strike at the first nibble. When fishing with paste, very often the fish will take the bait in their mouths, and finding the hard hook will let it go again. Some fishermen will not strike till the float goes out of sight. My brother told me he saw a man fishing and while he was watching him he had a bite. The fish took the float three feet under water, he struck and missed it. "I'll give it more time if it comes again," said he. The fish did come again, and he let it take the float three yards, when he struck and missed it again, and he said he didn't give it time enough then. The same man is about to become a member of the K. and D.; and if he hears of these few lines being read, I hope he will not be offended, but profit by what I have said, I was once standing on Keynsham Bridge, and looking over into the water I saw a lot of roach and dace playing on the shallows. Thinking I could catch some of them, I resolved to try. Dropping my bait of paste amongst a shoal of them, I saw about fifty of them rush at it, without looking or smelling, to see which should have it first. As soon as I saw the fish rush I struck, and hooked one and also landed it. Throwing in again, I saw one take it in its mouth and blow out again; then another took it and disgorged it likewise, but I did not have them, through not striking quick enough; I think this quite a sufficient reason for my saying, strike at the first nibble. Yellow paste is a very killing bait for roach in all the waters I have fished. I will now say a few words on the new baits for the Avon, viz.—malt and wheat, and I must say there were a lot of fish taken with it during the seasons 1881 and '82 at the mouth of Bitton Brook. I had several good catches there with it myself. I tried it at several other places in the Avon, but without success. I think the places you are going to fish should be baited with it two or three days beforehand, so that they will have the taste of it. To prepare it, buy a measure of malt, put it in a saucepan of cold water, let it simmer four or five hours in a bag, then take it out and plunge it in cold water, and it is fit for use. The tackle should be a single hair with short shank hook, and a float that will carry two swan shots. Fish about six inches off the bottom, and strike at the first nibble. Groundbait far out and fish the same. Only put one corn on the hook at a time. I shall now treat on my favourite bait, the gentle; it is a good bait for the Avon, as the winner of the two first prizes at our competitions can testify. The gentle is a good bait for nearly any fish in the Avon. The best way to use it is on a swim; you can either let it drag on the bottom or fish six inches off. Both ways will do for roach or dace, but by letting it drag on the bottom, you will catch larger fish. Your tackle should be the same as for paste-fishing. There are more fish caught in the Avon with gentles than any other bait. If they will not take gentles in August, September, and October, I conclude that they are not on the feed, and if they won't feed no one can make them. When you are fishing on a quick swim, strike at the first tremble of the float, but in slow or still water let the float go under before you strike. You can take more kinds of fish from the Avon with gentles, than any other bait all through the summer months. I have taken roach, dace, chub, trout, carp, perch, gudgeon, bleak, and eels with them, therefore I like them better than any other bait. How to breed them: Get a large fish's head if you can, and put it in a tin with a lot of holes in the bottom of it. When the gentles leave the fish's head, they will drop through the holes at the bottom of the tin, so that you must have another tin under it full of sand, where they will scour themselves and are fit for use in a couple of days. The gentles bred from fish are the best, because they are brighter and more lively than others. Put three or four on a hook at a time. This concludes my remarks on gentle-fishing.

I will now say a few words on winter fishing for roach. In November and December they begin to bite at the worm, and from then till March, when the close season commences. When the water is bank high, you will find the roach in close to the bank or in still holes and at the mouths of brooks. The best places are where there is a lot of sand, as the roach loves sandy bottoms in winter because it is warmer; therefore, if you know of a sand bank that's the best place you can go to in winter for roach.

The best bait for them is the small lob worm; because, when the water is dirty, the roach feed on the worms that crawl out of the banks of the river, therefore I advise you to fish with the lob-worms, as they have an earthy taste; but when the water is fining down to a nice brown colour, use the cockspur or brandling, and fish in the holes or eddies where the water is still under bushes and trees. Your tackle for roach-fishing in winter, depends upon the colour of the water. When the water is dirty, use strong tackle; but after it is clear use fine tackle. Don't use too much groundbait, it is the cause of fish feeding so shy at times. I have seen anglers when they have caught a fish begin throwing their groundbait in by hand fuls, and the result is that they frighten all the fish away. When you have baited your swim and got the fish together, small bits of chewed bread is quite sufficient to keep them together. When the water is baited to excess the fish gorge themselves, and will not touch a bait on the hook, because they are overfed. I have been for a days fishing before now without any groundbait at all, and I have caught more fish than at other times when I have had 7 lb. of bait. I know that groundbait is attractive, and what I should advise you to do is to get about four lob-worms, chop them up in small pieces, mix them up in barley-meal and throw it in a little at a time. The fishermen forty years ago did not use any groundbait at all. By the way, a fisherman told me that twenty or thirty years ago the Avon and Froom were full of fish, and they used to fish with two hooks at a time, and also catch two fish at a time; but because they can't do it now, they give up fishing. I think the fish get wiser every year, for years ago they would take any bait on any tackle; but now they will come to the bait and examine it, and if the tackle is not as fine as a hair on your head, they will go away disgusted. The fisherman of to-day must be very artful if he wishes to catch roach with any amount of success. One day, in 1881, I thought I would go to the mouth of St. Ann's Brook, at Crew's Hole, as I thought it looked a likely place for fish. I went there and commenced fishing; as soon as the bait was in the water down goes the float, and up comes a fish, of six ozs. I put in again and had another; in again, had another; and I kept on for two hours, catching them as fast as I could pull them out, when I gave out; for I had enough, and that is a great thing for a fisherman to say. Picking up my fish off the ground, I counted 90 roach and dace weighing 40 lb. avoirdupois. The next day I went to the same place and caught 13 lb. and a trout ¾ lb.; two days after I went to the same place again, and succeeded in catching 12 lb. of roach and a trout 1¼ lb. I caught over 100 lb. from January to March, 1881. But this season my best catch there has been nine fish. I blame this to the skimming nets. They ruin the Avon; and if something is not done to stop them, we may as well sell all our tackle, for there will be no fish to catch in two or three years' time. I suppose some of the netters who hear of this, will pour their wrath on my head; but I don't care, for I mean to stop them if I can; but to do this I want help. But to return to my subject. When you have a bite, if your bait is swimming, strike immediately the float goes under, but when you are fishing on the bottom in the holes, give the fish more time; you will catch more roach in the Avon by ledgering on the bottom with a small red worm, than any other way. In the winter I should not advise you to go to brooks for roach, though you may catch some there when the water is high and dirty. I should not recommend any one to fish below Hanham Mills for roach in the winter; some very good places are the backwater, and the mouth of the Tary and brook at Hanham Mills, and in all the holes from there to Keynsham; the mouth of the cut at Keynsham is a very good place when the water is bank high. There is good fishing from Keynsham right to Bradford. I have never been any farther than this roach-fishing. Another great thing you want in fishing is patience. But speaking of patience puts me in remembrance of an incident that came under my own observation about two years ago. As I was walking from Keynsham to Swineford at six o'clock in the morning, I passed by an old gentleman who was fishing opposite the new paper mills. "Good morning, sir;" said I. "Good morning, sir!" says he. "Any sport, sir?" I asked. "Not a fish," says he. With that I walked on. I commenced fishing under some withy trees this side of Swineford, where I caught forty good fish. I came back the same way in the evening, when, just as I came to the old gentleman, a little dog ran out of a house close by, and bit him on the leg. Up he jumped, and said, "Thank the goodness, I've got a bite at last." It was the only bite the old veteran had had all day. I gave him a nice lot of fish for his patience, and I think if there were more like him, their success would be greater. With these few remarks I conclude; and if any one derives any knowledge from hearing this paper read, I shall think I have not written in vain.

F. ANGERSON.

[The above interesting and practical paper was read before the Kingswood and District Angling Association. ED.]

A WET NIGHT.

THERE must be something out of the common and beyond all precedent, some inexplicable subtle charm in trout-fishing which is never found in any other branch of sport. Difficulties vanish as soon as they present themselves; and, to the true angler, no obstacle is too serious, no opposition too strong, no distance too great, to put a veto upon his favourite pursuit. I fancy a slight explanation of this bewitchment may be arrived at, without going very deeply into the matter, by just glancing at the circumstances under which we are likely to meet with this delicate and most refined specimen of the finny tribe. First let us regard his haunting places, and the character of the streams he loves best. No muddy, sluggish river, slowly crawling over black ooze, and draining miles of a flat and uninteresting country, will he choose; no canal, with its stagnant waters festering and blistering under the scorching rays of a July sun, and ever and anon stirred to their very depths by the passage of steamers, barges, or canal boats; no solemn lonely pool, in the gloomy recesses of the darkest wood, choked with dead autumn leaves, and covered with green slime thrown up to the surface by the mud below. These localities may be suitable to the heavy and clumsy bream, the lazy mud-loving tench, or the inevitable eel; which latter animal may be looked upon as the angler's "bête noir," for he is always turning up when he is not wanted, and raising the wildest hopes in the fisherman's breast, only to result in a most protracted surgical operation, and the necessity for an extra supply of soap. No, the home of the trout is to be found wherever nature is most lavish of her most perfect gifts; he is to be found in the rushing rock-bound torrents, shadowed by rugged frowning mountains, and following its mad career over immense boulders, and under cavernous recesses into the very bowels of the earth. He is to be found in the trickling hill-side burn with scarcely enough water to form a continuous stream; here, every tiny clear peaty-pool holds its troutlet, and every mimic waterfall contributes to the support of scores of baby-trout; he is to be found in the silver streams which run swiftly, but calmly, through the most pastoral and fruitful lands, the banks redolent with the perfume of sweet wild flowers, where the thirsty cattle come gratefully lowing in long single file, to take draughts of the cool water, and to stand knee-deep refreshing in the shallows, wondering with their big lazy eyes what can be the meaning of the antics being practised on the opposite shore, by an evident apprentice to the art of fly-fishing.

May we not conclude then, that at any rate part of the intense enjoyment and delight of trout-fishing, is derived from its beautiful accessories and surroundings, as well as from the difficulties to be overcome before success is achieved? As an instance of perseverance, I may mention an occurrence which took place about three years ago, when I was with my father in Scotland. We were staying at the Birnam Hotel, Dunkeld, during a very warm week in the summer, when fishing seemed almost hopeless, and exertion in the daytime became distasteful. Strolling lazily round the gardens belonging to the hotel, I entered into conversation with a magnificent specimen of Caledonian manhood. "Six feet-two in his boots," was my mental comment, as I gazed with admiration upon the stalwart proportions of my chance acquaintance. I told him of my disappointments and troubles, and asked for advice and comfort. With a musical voice and very strong accent, my friend slowly filled my mind with hope, and even enthusiasm. "No use fishing in the daytime," said he; "but start away early in the morning, and fish all night; plenty of trout to be had, and an occasional grilse, but you will want a boat." This was a dilemma; but the tall man was equal to the occasion, promised me a boat for that very evening, and volunteered himself to be my guide, and to take the oars. No more laziness after this, no more aimless wanderings, pipe in mouth, round the gardens; prompt action became the order of the day, and by nine o'clock I had prepared everything, provided myself with all necessary tackle, whiskey, and tobacco, and stood at the hotel door waiting the arrival of the boatman. Visions of a "miraculous draught of fishes" filled my brain; and I was just arranging mentally how many of my friends in Kent I would make happy with a present of a Scotch grilse, when my father's voice roused me from my dreams with this practical admonition: "Take a macintosh, my boy; and if you do *not* return from this wild-goose chase, I will undertake to break the news gently to your mother." With this cheering benediction, which was suggestive of rain, and of much more unpleasant things than that, we set off; and after a walk of about a mile we came to our boat, snugly moored under the overhanging boughs of a bushy tree. There was something peculiarly oppressive in the air as we paddled into mid-stream, and there was just light enough for us to see the copper-coloured clouds piled in portentous fashion into stormy-looking pyramids. The river ran swiftly, yet noiselessly, by us as the boatman kept the head of our little craft upstream, allowing us to drop down a few yards a minute in order to change our fishing ground.

Carefully and unceasingly I cast my flies upon the black-looking water, but no sign was made; not a rise rewarded my most artistic efforts, and the fish seemed to share in the universal feeling of depression. The silence became at last almost intolerable; nothing could be heard but the monotonous thud, thud, of the oars as they worked in the leather-lined rowlocks; but a change was at hand, and one that we had not bargined for. A solitary drop of rain splashed upon my upturned face as I was scanning the aspect of the heavens, then another, and "after that the deluge." Five minutes were sufficient to wet us through and through, and to make the bottom of the boat resemble a miniature lake. Not to be daunted, I changed my flies for spinning tackle and put up a small trout for bait, hoping to be rewarded with a grilse; but all was useless; the lightning, which became more vivid every moment, only showed me the utter dreariness o the surroundings, and also gave me a glimpse of a foam f ing rushing torrent below, which I concluded it would be wise to avoid. Before my resolutions were completed, my companion said "Look out, sir, we are just going to shoot the rapids;" and then in a moment we were gliding along faster, and still faster, until we were fairly enveloped by the spray and the troubled waters. Skilfully the boatman guided our fragile craft through the narrow channel, and in a very few seconds we were quietly floating upon the still black pool below. Here was an opportunity not to be neglected, and we had "Five minutes for refreshments," which short period convinced me that my companion was not a whit inferior to his countrymen in his appreciation of "Mountain Dew." Dropping the flask and grasping the rod with desperate energy, I bore the fury of the elements for another hour; and then, hopeless, drenched and miserable, I gave the word to put about. My consternation may be imagined when the boatman told me we could not possibly row up the stream again, but a tramp of some three miles, through a thickly wooded and boggy country, would be our portion.

I was too disheartened to become violent, but mentally I registered a vow, couched in Biblical terms, but substituting the words "Scotch boatmen" for the original illustrious personage named.

To make a long story short, I struggled towards home in the wake of my companion, nearly blinded by the rain, and every now and then coming violently into contact with mother earth, through the slippery and treacherous nature of the ground. All things, however, have an end; and after an hour of incessant toil, I saw the welcome lights of our hotel, and was greeted by my drowsy parent in terms the reverse of complimentary. "Past four o'clock, you madman; what an infernal pickle you are in, you look more like a half-drowned navvy than anything else; how many fish have you got?" "*How many fish*!" This was the last straw. I rushed out of the entrance hall into the little smoking-room to give vent to my feelings in solitude; but there my tide of misfortune turned, for I found that the good old pater had kept up a magnificent fire, and the kettle was singing away merrily; and soon, as the grateful steam of the toddy filled my nostrils, I began to realise that the pleasures of a comfortable room, a good fire, and undeniable whiskey, were very much enhanced by the previous miseries of a wet night.

QUILL GNAT.

THE "FISHING GAZETTE" TOURNAMENT.

THE second FISHING GAZETTE Tournament in aid of the Anglers' Benevolent Society, will take place on Saturday, July 8, at Mr. Warner's Welsh Harp Fishery, Hendon, at 3 p.m. Arrangements have been made with a photographer for taking several views of the affair. It is to be hoped the weather will be better than on the first occasion, or else he will get very negative results indeed. We should like to hear of some more prizes being promised.

MR. W. OLDHAM CHAMBERS.

WE are very glad to be able to announce that the above gentleman has won no less than three of the prizes for essays on pisciculture, given by the Edinburgh Fisheries Exhibition.

NOTICE.

AT a meeting of anglers to be held at the Society of Arts, Adelphi, at eight o'clock on Monday evening, June 26, Mr. R. B. Marston will read a paper on the best means of propagating our coarse fish for re-stocking our waters. At the close of the discussion, which will follow the reading of the paper, a testimonial will be presented to Mr. Bonvoisin. Mr. Edward Birkbeck, M.P., will occupy the chair.

THE WATFORD PISCATORS.

WANT of space compels us to omit this week a most interesting account of the inaugural dinner of the above new society, which has been started under the able presidency of Mr. C. Fry, a member of the well-known firm of Elliot and Fry. We wish the club every success.

THE PRINCIPLES OF TRUE SPORT.

THERE always has been, and there ever will be, diversity of opinion and difference in thought; and, so long as good harmony is maintained, the interchange of opinions does no harm. Upon "The Principles of True Sport" there may be some who differ with me, and the suggestion a nicely written treatise on the subject, for circulation amongst bank anglers who are not club men, may be humorously opposed; but the experience of nearly a quarter of a century on the Thames side, and frequent chats amongst this class of anglers, should enable me to form an opinion as to the desirability of putting into the hands of bank fishers who know nothing about the sizes and seasons of fish, or what fair honest sport is, such information as would enable them to think about matters which, to my notion, in the largely increased popularity of angling, is not undesirable. Now, if my friend L. B , who says we are not "of one mind on several important subjects,"—which, I confess, I fail to realise—would, in his excellent style of writing, pen a paper or treatise on "The Principles of True Sport," I do not think we should altogether disagree in matters essential. And whether he thinks me right or wrong, I am satisfied in my own mind such a paper would have a salutary effect amonst anglers of all ages, and might in an especial manner teach the youthful anglers a lesson which they would remember all their lives. I am not inviting controversy on this subject, neither am I trying to distinguish or extinguish myself in the idea. I have only one thought—it is that of doing good, and of making my life as valuable and as useful as I can to my brother anglers, and to all men. A treatise or paper on "The Principles of True Sport" would embrace amongst others the following heads, each item being tersely and popularly treated.

(1) The proper sizes of fish to be taken.

(2) The seasons in which fish can be angled for.

(3) The illegal and cruel practice of foul-hooking fish, commonly called "snatching."

(4) The unsportsmanlike character of bank runners, trimmers, and such-like engines.

(5) The necessity of retaining only a fair quantity of good fish.

(6) The duty of encouraging and enforcing true sport amongst the brethren of the rod.

(7) The value of becoming a member of an angling club where good fellowship and true sport are promoted.

Some persons might accept such a treatise as so much waste paper, but all minds are not callous and indifferent to plain honest advice. The desire to inculcate good wholesome truth is right, and the number of assurances of support I have received, in reference to what I said in my remarks on "Angling on Whit Monday," abundantly encourages me in still supporting the idea of such a paper being written; indeed, one practical suggestion has been made, that of a Prize Competition for the best treatise on "The Principles of True Sport." The reading of papers, which is becoming so general in angling clubs, is only another way of diffusing useful information, and there is nothing apocryphal in the plan I have suggested amongst those outside the clubs.

B.

UNSEASONABLE FISHING.—Frederick Wright, John Gadd, William Bennett, John Davis, and Lawrence Davis were convicted by the Kingston Borough Bench, on Wednesday last, for unlawfully fishing in the river Thames on Monday, the 5th of June. The case was proved by Head River-keeper R. Relf, of the Thames Angling Preservation Society; four of the defendants pleading guilty, and John Gadd not guilty. Mr. Thomas Spreckley, who was present, recommended the Bench not to deal harshly with the defendants as the prosecution was made more as an example, much trouble having been given to the river keepers by these and other anglers. The Mayor, after giving the defendants a salutary caution, fined each of them in the sum of six shillings and sixpence, including costs. Mr. Alfred Nuthall, to whom great credit is due for conducting this case, and Mr. W. H. Brougham, were also present on behalf of the Thames Angling Preservation Society. The conviction appeared to give much satisfaction, the friends of the defendants expreesing their thankfulness for the leniency of the punishment. Head-keeper Relf received great help from the railway inspector at Kingston Station, and also from one of the porters who watched the defendants from the railway bridge and was able to identify them.

SOUTH LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

THIS society celebrated its eleventh anniversary on the 7th inst. at the club room, George and Dragon, Camberwell Road. A very excellent and substantial supper was provided for the occasion by "mine host" Morris, which reflected great credit on that gentleman's ability as a caterer. About twenty-five gentlemen sat down, the chair being occupied by Mr. Bock, while the vice-chair was taken by Mr. Patterson. After the removal of the cloth and the usual loyal and patriotic toasts had been given, the chairman, in proposing success to the South London Angling Society, remarked that its position was being enhanced by the number of new members enrolled. Since they last met the rules of the society had been revised, in which revision the vice-chairman (Mr. Patterson) had taken a deep interest, and he thought that the thanks of all in the room were due to that gentleman for the great pains he had taken in the work. The new rules were now printed, by which every member would have an opportunity of seeing that the measurement of the fish is to be taken in future instead of the weight, because by measuring the fish there could be no question of whether they turned the scale or not. During the past year they had participated in some very pleasurable excursions, and referring to the challenge to the Walworth Waltonian Society, which match was fished at Bourne End, he regretted that on that occasion the weather was not so favourable as they could have wished, while the water was as bad as it could be, and this inconvenience was equally felt by the two contesting societies, one fish only being caught that secured the prize. He trusted that the coming season would not pass over without their being again able to challenge the Walworth Waltonians, and that on the occasion of the match they (South London Angling Society) would come off victorious. He believed the Waltonians were willing to accept their challenge, and he himself would be happy to see the match take place this summer.

The Vice-Chairman then proposed the next toast, "The health of their worthy secretary, Mr. Palmer," whom, they all knew, discharged his duties with unflagging energy. The toast having been drunk with musical honours, Mr. Palmer, in responding, remarked that since his connection with the society he had always endeavoured to do the best he could for their interest, and he thought his efforts had met with success. The society was never in a better position than it was at that moment, and he had to thank many of the members for the kind assistance which they had rendered him during the past year, and he could only say this, that if they considered him worthy of the post (secretary) he should only be too happy to continue in office; but if they thought otherwise, and there was another candidate in the field who might feel disposed to accept the office, he would be very pleased to resign.

The Chairman, in proposing success to the West Central Association of the London Angling Society, drew attention to the efforts which were being made by that association with the different railway companies in order to afford greater advantages in the way of granting cheap tickets and other privileges to members of the various angling societies in London, and expressed it as his opinion that the concessions would be granted. He regretted the absence, through illness, of their esteemed friend, Mr. Field, their delegate at the West Central Association, as that gentleman could explain to them more fully than he could how the matter was progressing. If the concessions were granted it would enable anglers to visit more distant places than they had hitherto, and it would open up an amount of almost unexplored ground. For his part, he did not see why, if they wished to go 100 to 200 miles off, the reduced fares should not apply. It very frequently happened that railway companies had to run their carriages comparatively empty, and they might as well run a train of anglers at a reduced tariff. It would certainly yield them an enormous profit, which they would not otherwise reap. He therefore wished prosperity to the West Central Association, and hoped their efforts would be crowned with success.

The toast of the host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. Morris, having been drunk with musical honours, and suitably responded to,

The Chairman then proposed the health of their esteemed friend, Mr. Field, whom he regretted to say was absent through illness, but which he trusted was not of a serious nature. Mr. Field had been connected with that society for a number of years, and had worked hard in connection with it. They all knew that an angling society could not flourish without a large amount of labour and attention, and Mr. Field had given it without reservation. The toast was drunk amid exclamations of approval.

The distribution of the prizes won by members of the society during the past year was then proceeded with. The number of prizes amounted in the aggregate to somewhere like £40, and in the course of the evening a subscription list was opened for prizes to be fished for during the coming season, when a like sum was collected. The remainder of the evening was devoted to harmony, and was passed in a very enjoyable manner, a number of the members, as well as some visitors, favouring the company with some capital songs.

The usual vote of thanks to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman terminated a very pleasant evening, which we trust will be repeated annually for many years to come.

SHEFFIELD ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

THE quarterly meeting of delegates of clubs connected with the above association was held, on June 7, at the Crown Inn, Scotland Street. Mr. Charles Styring, president of the association, occupied the chair, and most of the 242 clubs associated were represented. The minutes of previous meetings were read by the secretary, Mr. Thomas Walker, and were adopted. They contained a reference to the question of a proposed close time for eels and flounders, and the secretary read a correspondence which had taken place between himself and Mr. P. Geen, of the London Association, with respect to it. Mr. Geen presided over the meeting held at the Society of Arts room, on June 27, 1881; and in one of his letters he alluded to the proposed new Freshwater Fishery Bill, and expressed himself as being in favour of the appointment of an inspector to deal with the pollution of rivers, and to encourage the cultivation of fish, the empowering of Fish Protection Societies to appoint a sufficient number of water bailiffs; the abolition of netting, the improper employment of wires, gaffs, spears, and like instruments; the fixing of a close season for pike and roach, between the 1st of March and the 30th of June inclusive; and for other fish, from the 1st of April to the 30th of June; the prosecution of persons improperly offering fish for sale during the close season; the non-interference with fishing for eels and flounders with rod and line in tidal waters, and the fixing of a scale of sizes under which it should be illegal to capture or sell fish.—The Chairman explained that the London Association had the idea that eels and flounders should not be taken during the close season. When the last Bill was introduced in 1878 it was the wish of the Sheffield Association that those fish should be taken all the year round; but there had been so many convictions under the Act that they had thought it advisable to ask the people not to take such fish during the close time for fear they might get wrong. With respect to the new Bill, it was their intention that eels and flounders should be taken all the year round in tidal waters from sunrise to sunset, as they believed that such a course would conduce to the benefit of the association. They have informed Mr. Geen that they could not entertain his proposal respecting the sizes of fish that should be taken. The fish in most of their waters were only small in size, and the idea of the committee was that each place should decide on the size of fish below which they should not be taken. At all events they asked that Sheffield might be struck out of the proposal, and that they might be allowed to settle their own size of fish. The secretary stated that he wrote as suggested by the committee, and in reply Mr. Geen said he admitted the case made out as to the size clause of the proposed bill. He further expressed the hope that the members of the Sheffield Association would set themselves against the sale of under-sized fish, and thereby it was hoped a blow would struck at the practice of netting. The committee quite agreed with the proposal. The association had asked to be allowed to fish in the waters of the Boston Association for a proper remuneration, and the secretary reported that the request had been granted. The Sheffield Association rents 202 miles of water in various parts of Yorkshire, Derbyshire, and Lincolnshire. Some other routine business was afterwards disposed of.

A PLEASANT DAY'S OUTING WITH THE TONBRIDGE ANGLING CLUB.

LAST Tuesday the members of the Tonbridge Angling Club were invited by some gentlemen at Smarden to pay a visit to them for the purpose of dragging some ponds to obtain stock fish to improve the fishing of the Medway. We need hardly say that the call was responded to right heartily, and between thirty and forty members expressed their intention to be there. Through Mr. Dawes, the courteous station-master at Tonbridge, special cheap fares were obtained to Headcorn, the nearest station, and the major number went by the 10 o'clock train, a few who could not get away by that hour following later on. On arriving at their destination the party found Growns and Son with their nets, and everything in readiness, and a move was at once made for Swift's Green Farm, in the occupation of Mr. George Day, where two or three ponds were dragged with good results, and a large number of the finny tribe elected to choose fields afresh and pastures new. After some hard work, luncheon—and a thoroughly substantial meal, too—was provided by the host of the Bell Inn, on the ground. The viands were washed down by a glass of good nut-brown, and just a nipper of something short afterwards was highly appreciated. At the conclusion the word was given to move on, and we next essayed to try a pond at Mr. Jesse Stevens' Biddenden Green Farm. This, however, was so full of weeds that the scythes had to be put to work, and this upset the arrangements of some "wallopers," who skipped about like acrobats. It was decided to draw the net through without first removing the weeds, and this proved to be a good plan, as Mr. Carp was unable to escape by the skipping process, and several good fish were accounted for. After this pond was exhausted, a move was made for Mr. Thomas Offen's, at Monk's Farm, where, it was said, and said truly, that we should get quite as many tench and carp as we cared to carry away. The sport here was short, but very sweet. A nice open pond with a hard bottom does not require much drawing. Well through went the net, and although a few carp went over the corks, it was seen that, when the draw-in took place, there was an enormous haul of tench and carp—not little things, but good, respectable fish of from 3 to 4 lb. in weight. A good number were restored to their native water to increase and multiply, but a splendid consignment went with the carriers. This ending up the day, Mr. Offen kindly proffered the party some cyder—right good stingo—which was heartily appreciated. Before parting, hearty votes of thanks were tendered to the gentlemen whose waters were fished, for their kindness. The fish were placed on the rail, and Foster, our water-bailiff, with a large syringe, was as busy as a bee, and never left or forsook them till they were safely placed in the river at Barden Park. The following is the score:—450 tench, 400 perch, 308 roach, 270 carp, and 30 pike—all fish fit to take on the opening day. Thus ended one of the pleasantest and most profitable days we have ever spent.—YE MEDWAY WATER-RAT.

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

"How ofttimes with my rod in hand,
In wandering by the stream,
I've liken'd the anglers magic wand
To life's deceptive dream !

The sky, perchance, looks fair and bright,
The breeze curls on the brook,
The waters ting'd to please the sight,
Trout waiting for the hook !"

If ever the Thames was "tinged to please the sight" of an all-round angler, it was this morning when I paced leisurely along its historic banks between Temple and Medmenham, and saw here and there the rise of a lusty trout, and here and there the chase of a fairly handicapped plated perch, or heard the cluck-cluck of a loggerhead as it attempted to engulph a water-dazzled fly. The late rains have simply made the river perfection for roach work, and in my next note I anticipate having some big things to record. I am not a gentleman (I state this confidentially and with a little remorse), so would strongly advise anglers, with this water, to go in for a diet of worms; not to scruple about running up a pint or two and strewing in a well-selected swim, and stick to the same swim like grim death from "early morn to dewy," and success will not only be deserved, but commanded. At Maidenhead two or three pretty fish have fallen victims to the wily Wilder, and at Cookham two decent fish have not been able to deliver themselves from temptation, and have found a watery grave in the punts of local anglers. From Bourne End and Marlow I do not glean any news of success amid the trout, but the professional element seem very confident of success amongst the "coarse-uns" during the coming week, in consequence of the colour of Father Thames, and of having been able to amass a "dose of lobs," and bait a swim or two only known to themselves and, well, say, a hundred others. At Hambledon, on the 8th, Mr. Domville, with Parrott, got seven trout, and on the 11th, Mr. Patey, also with the "bird," had two trout and a monster chub. At Marsh Pool, near Henley on the 10 h, a camping out piscator nailed a pretty fish, of 3 lb., for breakfast, and I only regret I was not present to help cook and eat it. An angling preservation association, under the presidency of W. H. Smith, Esq., M.P., is being started at Henley to form a connecting link between the Reading and Marlow associations; an inaugural meeting taking place on Wednesday, at noon, in the Town Hall. Thursday evening.—Weather showery, wind west, water superb for all-round work.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Ancholme.

The prevailing weather during the last few days has been wet and cold, consequently but few green drakes have been on the wing, and the fishes have risen less freely at the fly. I had an evening on the Stallingborough Beck on Thursday last, but owing to the cutting of weeds and the discoloured state of the water, fly-fishing was out of the question. I was, therefore, very reluctantly obliged to take to the worm. I caught six very nice fish, scaling from ¼ lb. to 1 lb. each; and on Saturday evening I caught a few more nearer home. Next week I hope to send an account of the commencement of coarse fishing. When warm weather again prevails the dotterel flies will be all the go. Speaking of these, I have some splendid coats to dispose of at a reasonable rate, provided your readers require them. I have obtained them direct from Germany.—THOMAS FORD (Caistor).

Ballynahinch.

Since last report waters have been in prime order, but this last three days very stormy. Still Mr. G. Sutherland, on the 10th, got four salmon averaging 8½ lb ; same date, Captain G. Sutherland, four averaging 7½ lb. On the 12th, Mr G. Sutherland, two peal, 14 lb.; same date, Captain G. Sutherland, 1, 14 lb. On the 13th, Mr. G. Sutherland, 1, 5 lb. Both salmon and trout are running well, wind still west-nor-west.—WALTER BLACKADDER.

Coquet (Weldon Bridge).

On the 8th and 9th the river was flooded, and the salmon returned for the first time this season. On the 10th the weather was unfavourable for fishing; cold winds from the north and showers of rain. Messrs. Dance, Gray, Armstrong and Dr. Boling made a start betwixt ten and eleven, and from two to six brace the best creel. On the 12th the wind still continued in the north and cold; sport anything but favourable, the only creel above six brace was Dr. Bowling, Newhampton, 7 lb On the 13th the weather colder than the month of February, with showers of sleet; sport very poor; from one to five brace was creeled. On the 14th, the wind in the west blowing strong, the flies very difficult to manage; Mr. Dance, six brace; Mr. Gray, two brace; Mr. Styles, two brace; Mr. G. Armstrong, three; E. Armstrong, two; Dr Bowling, two brace, all a good class of trout. Mr. Scott killed a salmon 8¾ lb.—A. GLASS.

Dove.

The sport experienced generally upon the whole river's length (as well as tributaries) this week has been above the usual ratio. We doubt if a single disciple of the rod has returned troutless during the present week. Enormous takes on several private lengths are reported. As many as 30, 40, and 60 brace are stated to have been killed in some instances. The greater part of these rumours, however, have but slender foundation. Live drake fishers for the most part. Takes on the Dovedale water are averaging 5 to 11 brace. On the lower parts of the river, there being a scarcity of drake, less is being effected. Above Dovedale to Milldale 6 to 9 brace are the average daily yield of each competently wielded rod.

Suir and its Tributaries, Clonmel.

We have at present most unnatural weather for the month of June, but, notwithstanding that drawback there has been some fishing. Dr Camphill, at Mathogaly, landed four splendid salmon yesterday, but through some accident one fish succeeded in falling into the river again and getting away. The hon. Hely Hutchinson got two salmon also in one day; Mr. Smith, of Cahir, two salmon and one peal of 2½ lb. The upper part of the river is crowded with fish. Mr. J. Leslie Morrall landed one splendid salmon at Newcastle, and met several others. The cot men are only meeting a few odd fish. The trout fishing in the evening is very good; at night large trout between 9 and 10 lb are caught. Messrs. Suther, Fitzsimon, M'Carthy, and Dr. M'Carthy had good fishing last night. Large rails are best flies for late fishing.—DORA.

Taw and Tributaries (N. Devon).

Water is first-rate, and could not in the past week be better; well up, and a good wind blowing, and the fisherman who could not catch fish should leave off, for the number of fish being caught convinces that the streams round this district are full of trout, and for some time good sport will be had. Should the wind go down and the water fall back it will take ten days to be down to the usual summer depth. The grass in the meadows is in good condition, and it is only right that sportsmen should do all in their power to preserve it rather than trample over the meadows more than necessary. I have heard of many heavy catches, Mr. Tarr and friends got 150 good fish in the Exe and Barle one day; Mr. Hangood four dozen, Mr. Dennis three dozen, Mr. Paine six dozen, Mr. King four dozen, Major Lovett two dozen, in the Yeo during the past week; Mr. Tamlyn and other gentlemen got good dishes from the Bray, and I heard of a good basket in the Mold. One gentleman told me he had twenty-five, weighing 11 lb. (good for these parts in Taw); others from two to three dozen. Mr. Connup got three salmon from 14 to 18 lb. in one day, and other gentlemen have also been successful, getting one or two salmon or peal. Wind, W.; rather cold, but warmer than it has been.—RUSTY GAME.

Thames (Goring).

Water in good order for all-round fishing. Fishing prosecutions: James Hicks, of 8, Hatton Garden, was summoned before the Henley bench on the 9th of June for taking two chub, and fined £3.—JOHN RUSH.

Trent (Alrewas).

Although a strong contingent of Birmingham anglers will wend their way to their respective streams on the opening day, I do not anticipate but meagre sport. The river is reported to-day (Thursday) as running bank full and the water much discoloured. The wind is as boisterous as at any time in March, the weather, taken altogether, is something awful for the time of the year. Another thing that will be sure to militate against large baskets, the roach in the Trent had not spawned fourteen days ago and consequently cannot be in anything like good condition. To leave off fishing for three months to commence again when the fish have only just spawned is one of the most perfect farces imaginable. Of course, I am writing of our Midland streams, and it seems only just "that in any bill that is brought before Parliament that a different close time should be made to suit such rivers as the Trent." Pike will be found lean and lank and not worth catching, and perch, dace, and grayling are about the only fish worth taking. While the river remains discoloured I should recommend for any of the fish I have mentioned worms for bait, with a few chopped up lobs for groundbait; as the water becomes clear the cad bait will be found the most killing, ground-baiting with gentles, which have become scarce on account of the extreme coldness of the weather.—JAMES GREGORY.

Trent (Newark)

Before this is in the hands of my readers, the glorious sixteenth of June will have dawned, and coarse-fish anglers can once more ply their avocation. We have had, up to this last week or so, a good breeding time for fish, and according to what I can see, a right good time it has been; bream, I believe, being the only fish that have not quite got over it. I would just remind the anglers that the majority of our fish would be all the better for another week or two's rest, dace, being the exception; the best bait for that fish will be cad bait. We have had very stormy weather, with a lot of rain this last week or two, and the water is rather thick and high; but one thing, it will sweep away the flannel weed. Worm fishing for a few eels and flounders will be the best sport to indulge in under the present circumstances. I believe the water is lower to day than it was yesterday, and not so much colour in it. A few dace with cad bait, and eels and flounders with worm will be about the extent of the fishing at present.—THE TRENT OTTER.

Tweed and Teviot.

During the past week salmon and trout angling have not been very productive of sport. Spring salmon-fishing may be said to be over for the season, the yield on the whole having been the best that has been experienced on these streams for some years back. Fishing in the Hendersyde water, on Thursday last week, Mr. James Kerss caught a nice salmon, and on the same part of the Tweed some very good baskets of trout have been obtained. We have not heard, strange to say, of a single salmon having been taken from the Teviot during the season. Floors Castle and Hendersyde waters have yielded the best sport of the season, with Sprouston and Makerstown next, while several fish have also been got on the Ednam House, Mertown, Rutherford, St. Boswells, Pavilion and Bemersyde waters. Cornhill and Birgham and other casts further down the stream have furnished some very good fishing. During the present week Mr. Archibald Steel and Mr. Thos. Murray have had very nice baskets of trout. as have other anglers also; but until a good flood occurs in the rivers trout-fishing even will not be very productive.—MAXWHEEL.

Wye and Derwent.

We had another porter-coloured water come down the Derwent yesterday morning (Wednesday), from the heavy rain which fell up in the woodlands, which has made it a first-class time for the bottom fishers; and some heavy baskets of fish have been killed all up and down the Derwent with worms, maggots, and ant eggs for baits. Sport during the week has been A 1 both on the Lathkill, Wye, and Derwent, chiefly with the artificial flies and the natural "green drakes" where it is allowed to be used, and baskets averaging fully from six to over eleven brace per angler have been made. The killing flies have been the dotteril, yellow duns and claret body bumbles; also the small Derbyshire green drakes. The wind has been very rough and boisterous at times, and very cold indeed for the middle of June. Weather still very unsettled, barometer very low indeed. Sport on the ponds has been very good during the past week, and baskets from six to eleven brace per angler have been made with both ground-bait fishing and fly-fishing, the killing flies being the claret bumble, golden spinner, and sand flies. The night-line party at Matlock Bath have taken some fair fish during the week on their lines with both lob worms and minnows for baits.—George James Eaton.

Yare (Buckenham).

Mr. Priest, of London, has been staying at Cantley. On the 2nd he caught 2 stone weight of roach and bream; on the 3rd, 2½ stone; on Wednesday, the 6th, another large catch; but I do not know the weight caught between Langley Dyke and the Engine house.—J. Hewett, Buckenham.

THE SOUTH OF IRELAND.

The races in Cork last week diverted the angler for the nonce from his legitimate line, and the river was forsaken for the turf. This week will fully compensate for any loss previously sustained. We have wind and rain sufficient for a mid-winter storm; in fact, the vagaries of the elements are so much out of the usual course that the agriculturist is beginning to take alarm at the prospect of the harvest, which has been retarded by the coldness and generally unseasonable character of the weather. Salmon, meanwhile, are taking advantage of flood and tide, and are forging their way to the upper waters. The peal are now running, but not in such large quantities as might be expected. The net men have been taking but few, and I have heard of none being taken with rod. However, when the weather moderates and the water becomes settled, the silver beauties will, we have no doubt, be to the fore. Mr. Haynes landed three salmon lately, and Mr. James Lambkin two on one day. Mr. Beamish, Captain Caulfield, Sir. Oriel Forster, Mr. Bowen, John Manning, and other gentlemen, have been among the successful anglers during the week.

CLUB REPORTS.

ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Since my last report I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of £1 1s. donation from the Piscatorial Society and 12s. from the donation box of the Beresford Angling Society.—R. Ghurney, sec.

June 15.

BERMONDSEY BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The fourth annual dinner of the Bermondsey Brothers Angling Club will be held at the Alscot Arms, Alscot Road, Bermondsey, on Tuesday, June 20.—Wm. Allen, sec.

CROWN PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

A complimentary visit was paid to the Crown Piscatorials, Crown Tavern, Clerkenwell Green, on Tuesday last, and proved a great success, Mr. Bonvoisin occupying the chair, faced by Mr. Rust, pianist, Mr. W. Cox, violinist, Messrs. W. Gorsuch and L. Taylor, and some excellent singing was rendered by the following gentlemen:—Mr. Wilcoxson, Mr. Rust, Mr. W. Long, Mr. Obbard, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Sturte, Mr. Donald Smith, Mr. Brookes, Mr. White, Mr. Burkett, Mr. L. Gorsuch, and Mr. Bonvoisin in good style rendered "The Frenchman and the rats." Mr. Ghurney spoke at length of the good doings of the Douglas Benevolent Society. When the roll was called the following clubs were represented:—Acorn, Anchor and Hope, Barbican, Bostonian, Buckland, City of London, Clerkenwell Piscatorials, Convivials, Eustonians, Hoxton Brothers, Little Independent, North Western, Original Clerkenwell Piscatorials, Reform, Trafalgar, Waltonians, and West Central, after which a vote of thanks was passed to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, which brought to a close a most enjoyable night.—W. H. Burwash, secretary.

June 14th, 1882.

DUKE OF CORNWALL ANGLING SOCIETY.

The annual supper of the above society took place on Monday, 12th inst., when about twenty-five sat down to an excellent repast, placed on the table in first-rate style by the host, Mr. McCluer, after which they were joined by a number of anglers and friends, and some capital harmony was enjoyed, between which the prizes were presented. A goodly number of prizes were promised for the coming season. Messrs. Hyde, Jennings, Thurgood, Roxbee, Constable, New, Hill, Barrs, Lealand, Heckford, and the worthy host, contributing to a most enjoyable evening.—J. Heckford, sec.

June 13.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The meeting of the society held on Thursday evening proved of very exceptional interest, as is frequently the case when the attendance is smaller than sometimes happens. C. Bates, Esq., having been voted to the chair and the minutes duly confirmed, Mr. H. Brett was called upon, and gave a very detailed and interesting description of his angling expedition on the occasion when the fine sample of perch he had presented to the society was taken. His address, entirely impromptu, was not only well delievered but of such a character that much practical information was given; the applause and thanks which followed very plainly conveying the hearty appreciation his remarks had induced. The pleasure produced by the discourse of Mr. Brett was, if possible, increased by Mr. Callaghan's introduction of his friend, J. F. Macnamara, Esq., who gave an account of his fishing in the neigbourhood of Constantinople, which was listened to with the greatest interest and afforded an amount of interest seldom falling to the lot of even such a society as this. His description of fishing for pike with a spoon bait, of which he was there the pioneer, in those waters; the difficulty he had in getting the spoon manufactured, and the incredulity of the natives were all ably told, and the society's pleasure was increased when the weights of the pike taken were mentioned. In one day Mr. Macnamara took some 45 pike, none of them less than 8 or 9 lb. each, and many more returned to the water. The largest would go some 25 to 30 lb., and these fish, being seldom angled for, attain there a very large size. A most cordial vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Macnamara, who, in response, very kindly promised to have some specimens set up and present them to the society. The question of renting waters having been mooted, the secretary suggested that in any case the society was hardly likely to rent any water hitherto considered public to the detriment of the poorer anglers, and his remarks were thoroughly endorsed. Mr. Bates and the secretary were deputed by the committee to attend the West Central Association meeting on Friday evening, and convey the views of the society on the many important questions, especially in reference to the International Fisheries Exhibition then likely to come under discussion. A most cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Bates concluded the proceedings of the evening, which did not terminate until a late hour. The society has a special musical evening on Thursday next, when the attendance of anglers belonging to other clubs is invited.

JUNIOR PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The annual dinner of the above society took place on Wednesday evening last, at the Duke of Cornwall, South Island Place, Clapham Road, Mr. F. Palmer in the chair, Mr. Geo. Woodman, vice. After full justice had been done to the dinner, the distribution of prizes won by the members last season was then proceeded with; among the most fortunate members may be mentioned Messrs. A. Hubbard, Palmer, and Woodman, several other members taking one prize each. The list of private prizes for the ensuing season was then given in to the secretary by several members present, which altogether amounted to about £20 in value received and money. Some good harmony was then most ably given by the Brothers Pearce, Messrs. Woodman, Augur, and Mills; the Brothers Pearce pleasing the company with their performances on the piano and violin.—Alf. H. Bisley, hon. sec.

KINGFISHER ANGLING SOCIETY.

This society is now located at the Oliver Arms, Westbourne Terrace North, Harrow Road. Mr. W. Browning weighed one trout 3 lb. 12 oz. last week — G. A., hon. sec.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

The next return visit of angling clubs will take place at the club house on Tuesday, June 20, when we shall be happy to have the pleasure of as many brother anglers and friends as can make it convenient to attend.—H. Moore, sec.

June 15.

ORIGINAL ALEXANDRA ANGLING SOCIETY.

I have not had anything to report since the trout-fishing season has commenced. Several of our members have been trying; but without success. Our annual dinner will take place on Sunday, July 2nd, at Mr. Lindrell's, the Pied Bull, St. Margaret's, Herts. I might tell you that Mr. Brockett's van will start from the Bald-faced Stag, Worship Square, at 12 o'clock on Saturday next, June 17th, and will continue running all the summer season. From what I can hear the bream and perch are coming on.—W. High, Fishery Bailiff.

THAMES RIGHTS DEFENCE ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the committee will be held at Simpson's Tavern, on Tuesday, 20th inst., at 4 o'clock.—For J. M. R. Francis, hon. sec., F. S.

June 13.

THE IZAAC WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The annual dinner of the Sunday portion of the members of this society will take place at the Old Rye House on Sunday the 25th inst., those who intend being present will please inform the secretary not later than Wednesday the 21st inst. There will be three special prizes fished for on Sunday next (the 18th) at Sawbridgeworth, and two ditto at Waltham on Wednesday next (the 21st). Mr. John Edwards will give an eight-day clock for the heaviest weight of roach and perch taken on the first four Sundays in the season.

June 15.

THE STOKE NEWINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above will open the season on June 18th, a competition for four prizes taking place in the river Stort, between Burnt Mill and Sawbridgeworth, to weigh in at the club house the same evening. The eastern district visit of angling clubs will also take place on Wednesday, June 21st, when we hope to have the pleasure of the company of as many anglers and friends as can make it convenient to attend on that evening at the Middleton Arms, Mansfield Street, Kingsland Road.—Thos. Gretton, secretary.

June 12th, 1882.

THE UNITED LONDON ANGLING ASSOCIATIONS FISHERY SOCIETY.

(Copy of circular which has been sent to all the clubs.)

Dear Sir,

I have much pleasure in informing you that the Council of the Society of Arts have lent us their large room for the evening of June 26th, when R. B. Marston, Esq., will read his promised paper on "Coarse Fish Propagation."

The great interest taken in this question by the London and provincial anglers will cause a very full attendance, and I would ask those who desire a seat to be early.

E. Birkeeck, Esq., M.P.,

Chairman of the Executive Committee of the International Fisheries Exhibition, has consented to preside, and he will take the chair at 8 prompt.

At the close of the discussion, which will follow the reading of the paper, a testimonial will be presented to

Mr. Bonvoisin,

Chairman of the West Central Association.

I feel sure every London angler will be anxious to participate in showing respect to one who has so long proved himself our true and earnest friend.—I am, &c., T. Hoole, hon. sec.

7, King's Road, Mortlake.

George James Eaton, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether the may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[Advt.]

Gregory's Spinning Baits. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxfod," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[Advt.]

TESTIMONIAL TO MR. GREVILLE FENNELL.

FIRST LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

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Advertisements inserted free by the Proprietors of the *Field*, *Land and Water*, and the Fishing Gazette.

Subscriptions will be most thankfully received by Mr. Thomas Spreckley, Treasurer, 13, Cannon Street, or by the Hon. Secretaries, Mr. W. H. Brougham, Swayfield Villa, Hounslow, and Mr. P. Geen, Lowther Lodge, Lonsdale Road, Barnes.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

HAIR *v.* GUT—SPROAT BENDS—SILK AND HAIR, ALL SILK, AND ALL HAIR LINES—WESTMORELAND FELL BECKS.

Sir,—You, Mr. Editor, speak out on the subject of gut *v.* hair casts, giving an opinion strongly in favour of the former. I differ with you entirely. I cannot recollect when I killed my first trout, probably I was not ten years old when that important event happened. Anyhow, I have for more than a quarter of a century been an ardent and earnest fly-fisher, always "dressing" my own flies, and generally making my own tackle. So my opinion ought to be worth something, and it is as follows. Always use single hair, as it is lighter, floats on the water, does not become soft when wet, and requires more skill in hooking and playing your fish than does even the finest gut. It casts much better in a wind, is not so apt to become entangled; when it is entangled the mess is easier straightened out, and it does not shine so much in the water as even does the best stained gut. The very finest drawn gut is not to be compared with hair for fly-fishing for trout, where the fish do not, as a rule, run much over a pound in weight. Of course hair is not sufficiently strong to be used with success on a place like Loch Leven or similar sheets of water. I believe, if I did not use hair, I should not in this river kill half the number of trout I do. There is a certain stream in the north of England on which all the natives used gut. A friend of mine went to reside in its neighbourhood, and being used to "hair" fishing continued it in the strange stream, with the result that he killed double the quantity of trout than any of the habitués of the river. They were equally good fishers, but used gut, hence the result. Try hair next time you go to Derbyshire, Mr. Editor, and your catch of trout will be increased.

Some one of your correspondents, in writing of hooks, mentioned "sprout" bends; surely he must have meant "sproat" bends.

You are having a controversy as to silk or silk and hair lines. I, for trout-fishing, very much prefer lines entirely made of hair—about from ten to twelve hairs in thickness, of course tapering down gradually to three—which I use at the top of my cast.

On fell-becks, in Westmoreland, you had an article a short time ago. I should like the writer to name the one where he caught trout of the size he mentions. I know our fell-becks well enough, and in the best of them the trout average not more than from eight or nine to the pound. You may fish a lifetime in them and never take a trout of half a pound. As to two or three of a pound each in one day's angling, it is preposterous. Borrow Beck, which joins the Lune at Low Borrow Bride, something less than two miles from Tebay, on the London and North-Western Railway, is one of our best waters of that description; but therein the trout run as I say in size. After the fresh last week a friend of mine took over eighty trout therefrom with worm, and they weighed 9 lb. To-day I was talking with an old fell-beck fisherman about this very subject, and he agrees with me. His best take was very many years ago—with worm, of course, during heavy rain—180 trout equal 16½ lb. These are the sort, and such are the size, of fell-beck trout. Even in our Westmoreland rivers, as a rule, the trout average but five to the pound the year throughout, taking, of course, the upper with the lower waters, and weighed in the scale and not by estimate, or fishermen's weights, as some folk say.

In answer to your correspondent last week as to the best place to stay in Westmoreland for fell-beck fishing, it is an uncertain kind of angling, as it must be followed either amid heavy rain when the water is rising—the best time of all—or the day following the fresh. On other occasions, as a rule, there is not sufficient water in them to afford successful angling; and those only who have seen these mountain brooks know how suddenly they rise and fall. Of course, a visitor might be in a good neighbourhood for a month at a time without having any fishing, merely because there was no rain, and the consequent fresh. Kendal would not be a bad centre, as, within ten miles more, are the higher waters of the Kent, Mint, and Sprint, which up in the hills become but fellbecks. Then there are Bannisdale and Borrow Becks; and in the absence of sufficient water in them the angler could turn to the lakes and mountain tarns. Shap, on the London and North-Western Railway, is another good station, from which Shap Beck and others are within easy reach, and Tebay, likewise on the London and North-Western Railway, would perhaps be as good a centre as any for such fishing as your correspondent seeks. But without flood sport would be almost nil.—I am, &c.,

Sprint.

HAIR AND GUT CASTS, &c.

Sir,—I have just read, with a certain degree of amusement, a letter from "Olim Trutta," and am induced to cast a fly for his special benefit, as he, like my friend "Trout," seems also to be on the rise. I will take his statements seriatim.

The first objection arises with expressions of detestation, and allegations of numerous demerits; but, unfortunately for the case of the plaintiff, not a single defect is named, not a single argument is brought forward in substantiation of "Olim Trutta's" opinion (?). The only point assailed when speaking of hair-casts is the statement made by "Trout," that open waters are required when employing collars of this material. From this solitary 'vantage ground I can at once dislodge "Olim Trutta," to that individual's complete discomfiture. I have myself taken a trout 16 inches long and nearly 1½ lb. in weight down a broken waterfall 6 feet in height with fine single hair, and then landed the fish in perfect safety. My father once, when fishing the Yore, in assailing a deep pool, with strong current running under the edge of a high bank completely covered with bushes, together 6 feet in height, and when fishing this water by the down-stream method of casting, has, to my knowledge, landed half-a-dozen trout ranging at about 8 oz. each, by means of a single-hair cast over both bank and bushes in quick succession; and this was done so that the water below each fish might not be disturbed. My diary—and I believe there is no such diary in the world—shows, beyond shadow of doubt, that far more fish can be killed by means of single hair than by the finest and most lustreless drawn gut. The hair I sometimes employ is absolutely finer than the finest drawn gut to be obtained; and the casts made of it are several times lighter than those of the other material; in fact, they are often so light that they will not sink through the surface of the water until they have been used for a very considerable time. My constant practice has shown me that at times drawn-gut may be used almost, if not quite, as effectively as hair; but with the water low and the sun bright I have constantly been obliged to change from gut to hair in order to get a fine dish of fish. My diary is simply a constant record of such facts. Let any angler watch the descent of gut, on the one hand, and hair stintings on the other, whilst noting the effect of each on the surface of the water, and one of the greatest causes of the superior deadliness of hair will at once be apparent; but another equally as potential in affecting the result is the way in which hair refuses to reflect light—the finest drawn gut, through apparently dull, glistening ar more brightly under the sun when submerged. For this reason alone it has been proved by Mr. Greville Fennell that hair is infinitely superior to gut in fishing for roach, and I have only lately had certain proof that this is the case in bottom fishing generally. If, then, hair be superior to gut in roach-fishing, where only one of its good qualities is brought distinctly into play, how can any rational angler deny that it is pre-eminent in every respect, except strength, above gut? Its qualities may be enumerated as follow:—Lightness, lack of lustre, capability of being cast with greater straightness and neatness than gut, much greater freedom from liability to ravelling, and the absence of the tendency to kink when soaked, and, by becoming cracked, part company with the angler, until that moment of separation unconscious of the hidden flaw. "Olim Trutta's" statements in relation to fly-casts and lines are so utterly at variance with the experience of all fly-fishers worthy of the name from our forefathers downwards—and so contrary to the proved facts of all northern anglers, to the extent at least of nine out of ten—that we may allow him to ventilate his opinions; as he cannot make fly-fishers believe what they know to be untrue. The same old fish is sadly aggravated at what he denominates, "Harping on buoyancy and lightness." Come, you old trout of the bygone days! I will point-blank deny in your very teeth that the braided or plaited dressed silk lines, with or without a wire, are nearly as buoyant or light as silk and hair tightly plaited or twisted and undressed. Put lines of each description, of the same length, thickness, and taper, into the scales and prove for yourself, and you will no longer speak of the lightness and buoyancy of the dressed silk line. Inspect the curves of the two varieties when the flies are being humoured and you will no longer make insinuations as to the dressed line not collapsing towards the fly-fisher after a long cast, when the rod is held at the angle which should be maintained, without the point being dropped towards the water. Please do not talk to me about not having tried both descriptions of line. Away with you! you are no trout of bygone times! only a logger-headed chub! For such leather-mouthed fellows, dressed silk may do; but not for the true Prince, the noble river trout; not for the getting of the heaviest creels, however it may be for lengthy casting—which leads one to the discussion of another matter. Speaking of length of casts we find the number of yards given by various authorities. If I remember rightly, Cotton, 8; Hawkins, 12; Ephemera, 15 from the point of a 12-foot rod; Francis practically 18, but extending up to 20 in extremely favourable and exceedingly rare cases, with the same length of rod, but measured from the reel. It appears, however, in the Fishing Gazette, that at a certain Tournament a cast is recorded 23 yards in length, as mentioned in one number of that paper. In the issue of the following week it is said that the rod employed was only 10½ feet long—that rod which has a length of lancewood, ho! ho! ho! in its top; and now it is practically stated that in the cast of 23 yards the measurement was taken from the point. Mr. Editor, are you prepared to state that you made such a cast, with 3 yards of gut-collar and with flyhooks attached seven times the length of a puny rod measured from the reel. Oh! ha! ha! ha! ho! ho! ho!—I am, &c.,

Herne the Hunter

THE RAILWAY PRIVILEGE TICKETS AND THOSE OF THE UNITED ASSOCIATION.

Sir,—Through the medium of your valuable paper I should like to ask the majority of the members of the London angling clubs if it is not their opinion that the different associations are going considerably too far when they give out and say: all those requiring a railway privilege ticket must also take a ticket to fish the waters of the United Associations, otherwise the former on no account will be issued.

Now this self-given authority is simply what I have expected would show itself sooner or later, and, if acknowledged and allowed, will be the first step to the whole of the London anglers being entirely at the mercy of a very small minority—to make what calls they think they will in the form of subscriptions, &c., and to place same to what purpose they choose; and all those who wish to be members of a club will have to conform to the above, otherwise the club will not be allowed to accept them as members.

My advice, therefore, to club anglers before accepting this tax, and it cannot be called by any other name, is to give it their very serious consideration, and, if not in favour of same, to oppose it in every possible manner.

From the many objections I have heard from all quarters in reference to the above, I was in hopes of some gentleman more able than myself taking the question up.—I am, &c.,

F. Hill.

103, Kentish Town Road, N.W.

SPECTACLES.

Sir,—As, happily, you have not yet experienced the necessity, and therefore the luxury, of a good pair of spectacles, and as I have for many years felt this necessity without as yet having been able to regard my spectacles as a luxury, although I have made many experiments, I most willingly embraced your suggestion that I, instead of you, should accept the challenge held out by Mr. Henry Laurance in his advertisement in your paper to pay him a visit, in the hope of his being able to afford me the much-needed comfort of a pair of spectacles really and exactly suited to my eyes. I am pleased to say that I now feel grateful for your suggestion, for Mr. Laurance has taken infinite pains, first to discover my exact needs, and then to furnish me with glasses fitted, as to the structure of the frame, exactly to my eyes and nose, and as to my sight, in such a way as to enable me to read the smallest print with as much ease as I could do forty years ago. This I feel to be a real luxury. My sight was naturally long and strong, for I could in my youthful days read the smallest writing ever penned, or descry the time of the day on a clock tower at as great a distance as any one with whom I ever came in contact. It is now, however, many years ago since I began to discover that I could not discern these very minute or very distant objects as clearly as I once could. I began by complaining to my churchwarden that the gas he gave us in church was not so good as it used to be, but I found that somehow no amount of stretching out the book, even to arm's length (I may say the length of a "churchwarden"), would enable me to make out the lines. The churchwarden assured me, and so did my younger friends, that the gas was precisely the same as it ever was. Then I began to find that by daylight it was necessary to hold my newspaper a long way off, in order to read it; and at last it dawned upon me that something must be wrong with my sight. I was advised (unwisely, as I now believe) to put off the evil day of taking to spectacles, which I was told would only injure my sight, and cause it to grow rapidly worse. My opinion now is that if I had taken proper advice a year or two before I bought my first *pince-nez*, somewhat haphazard, in Paris, and had worn properly constructed glasses, my sight would have been far better and stronger than it now is. My own experience has taught me that it is unwise not to take to spectacles when the natural sight shows signs of not being what it was; but I am convinced that it is even still more unwise to purchase and wear spectacles indiscriminately, and which are not in every respect exactly suited not only to the sight but to the nose, and especially do I dislike the wobbling and uncertain *pince-nez*, which tortures the nose, and although sometimes convenient, cannot fail in the long run to be injurious. Of course, I have never found difficulty in getting spectacles at any optician's, with which I could read easily; but I have now discovered for the first time that there is a vast difference between getting, almost by chance, glasses with which one can read easily, or see properly at a distance, and being fitted with glasses convex or concave, as the requirement may be, scientifically adapted to the exact sight, and which shall be neither just a little too strong nor a little too weak. I am glad to think that I have now found this happy medium. Mr. Laurance has made me one pair of spectacles which really make my old eyes feel young again; and, besides the comfort they give in reading, as they have done for several hours at a stretch by lamp light, they are so shaped that I can look *over* them instead of through them, and without the need of pulling them down to the tip of my nose when I wish to look away at some person or object beyond their proper reach. He has also made me a pair of walking spectacles, which renew my youth in seeing objects at a great distance.

I am not an angler, and I ought to apologise for occupying so much of your valuable space on a subject not directly connected with its special objects. Even anglers, however, are not exempt from growing old, and no doubt there are amongst your readers many who find they cannot follow their small flies when cast upon the waters nor see the glint of the watchful trout beneath with as keen a sight as once they could, and to such I would say, get yourselves fitted at once with glasses which will bring back to you this second sight; and judging from my own grateful experience, I shall be doing them a kindness by advising them to consult personally, or write to Mr. Henry Laurance, oculist and optician, 3, Endsleigh Gardens, W.C.—I am, &c., Sexagenarian.

PIKE FISHING IN NORFOLK, &c.

Sir,—I saw a letter in your paper this week, signed E. T. J. I beg most respectfully to advise that gentleman, if he does not want disappointment and to waste his time, not to go pike-fishing in July, as it is no use whatever so early in the season. From October to February is the best time for pike fishing in Norfolk or Suffolk.—I am, &c., A. E. Montague.

Ipswich. (Late member Alexandra Society of Anglers, London.)

MAY-FLIES.

Sir,—The member of the Herts Natural History Society who has shocked your correspondent by talking of the growth of the May fly, may not, perhaps, be so ignorant as is dogmatically assumed. The May fly is, without doubt, a perfect insect, and, as such, has left off growing—properly so-called; but it certainly increases daily in size and weight, especially the female, which, when full of eggs, will weigh a fourth more than she did when she first crept out of her case.—I am, &c.,

Another Member of the Herts Natural History Society.

A NIGHT'S LAKE-FISHING.

By Theodore A. Howard.

As it may possibly happen that, amongst the numerous readers of the Gazette, there are some to whom the experience of a summer's night passed upon the quiet bosom of a north-country lake is, in algebraical language, an unknown quantity, it may to such be not uninteresting if I give a little record of one amongst many nights spent, at different times and on different waters, in the fascinating toil so gladly undertaken by those who will undergo any labour in pursuit of their favourite sport, of search after "speckled spoil."

Suppose, then, an evening towards the end of leafy June. The trees and shrubs, which two hundred miles further south have put on their summer dress a full month back, have here but recently donned their fullest luxuriance of green, and the air is laden with the vague indescribable scent of foliage in its early maturity. The sun has long since left the surface of the small lake (environed on all sides but one by lofty mountains) over whose waters you are presently minded to wave piscatorial wand; although but a short half-hour since his dying rays were lingering fondly on the crests and pikes of the hills over against yon, and flooding with streams of golden light the more distant fells that can be seen across the low end of the lake, stretching far away into the distance, in shade after shade of those lovely blues and purples so dear to the artist's eye. But now the twilight, that wondrous shadow of night's coming veil, is descending rapidly, the shadows are lengthening and deepening, and evening is beginning to assume the transparent semi-darkness which for a few short hours will hold sway on all around, till Sol arises once more in his glory.

The solemn hush of summer twilight, always so much more solemn and full of mystery amidst mountains, and in connection with large sheets of deep water, is brooding over all with that curious pulseless stillness in the air which pre-eminently distinguishes evening from the waking hours of day. How much has been eloquently said and written about evening by poets and thinkers of all the centuries, right up their course to that time when, as we are told in a certain Book, one of the patriarchs "went out to meditate in the field at the eventide." Human nature was human nature then, as now; and nearly four thousand years ago man felt the influence of the "gloaming" to be conducive to, and in accordance with, those peaceful feelings which seem to be the sympathetic reflection of our own spirits to the stillness without and around. How quiet everything is, as you stand leaning over a gate just above the lake, and look up its length to where the clear space of sky-reflected water, mirroring Luna's tiny crescent, is just ruffled here and there by the breath of the night breeze—and note the imaged contour of the hills above outlined sharply and darkly in the still depths beneath, as though shaped out with a knife. For the moment you forget the object that you have in view and stand entranced, drinking in with delight all the peaceful loveliness of the scene; but presently a beetle drones by, close to your ear, and you catch sight of a "bustard" flitting over the sweet smelling young hay-grass at your feet. This rouses you to action, and after one long satiating gaze—to paint upon the retina of the mind a picture, the beauty of which will live so long as memory keeps green, and afford delight in far-distant days, and amid very different surroundings—you tread the path winding down by the water's edge, and reaching the little boat-house, prepare for the night's work. Not much in the way of preparation is necessary, beyond putting together your favourite rod, and stowing away in the small locker such impedimenta in the way of refreshment as your more or less fastidious taste may have prompted you to bring for consolation of the inner being during your night-worship at the shrine of your favourite goddess. This is not an unimportant matter to attend to, for it is apt to turn very cold before the dawn, and at such time you are glad to have at hand the cold mutton chop; or, what is, in my opinion, better by far, a goodly ham-rasher cut not from one of the dry and nauseous London-cured impostors of the name, but from a mighty flitch hanging in the peat-smoked kitchen of the hospitable farmstead over yonder, juicy and full-flavoured as the North-country curers alone seem to possess the secret of making them; this, with a couple of slices of *not* too thick bread, to my mind, far excels all the sandwiches and hard-boiled bullets of eggs in the world, and is even superior to the cold chop aforesaid. Fresh meat is apt to get dry and insipid rapidly, and becomes positively difficult to swallow; but a succulent rasher is delicious in the cold small hours before dawn—and, indeed, at any other time—washed down by a draught from the bottle of new milk, flavoured with a sufficient soupçon of whiskey to prevent its tasting mawkish, which your thoughtful care for that interesting individual yclept number one has provided amongst other little necessaries.

What a tendency there always is to linger by the way in describing anything relative to fishery—to play around and with it, as a cat does with a mouse—leading up only by degrees to the actual grist of an article, enhancing pleasure by delay; dwelling now upon this point and now on that; bringing in all sorts of apparently extraneous matter, termed, by the irreverent, "padding," before actually settling down to the more serious labour of saying what one has has to say about the matter in hand. But, I appeal to fisher-folk generally, is not the pleasure enjoyed by the devotee of the rod, compounded of many ingredients? And are not all things interesting to Piscator, from beautiful scenery, amongst which, for the time being, he finds himself, on the one hand—down to the more humble claims of the sandwich-box on the other?

But now to our boat again, a couple of minutes spent in the manner that tempted the above long digression, makes all clear for business, and you are presently gliding out towards mid-water before setting the bow of your craft up lake and pulling for the upper reach, some mile distant, where you purpose commencing operations. Arrived at the portion of water you fancy—at this point about half a mile in width—you draw gently in to within a hundred yards of the northern shore. The spot you have chosen is a largish bay, with a promontory running out towards the middle of the lake. In front of this promontory and round part of the bay, there is a shallowish foreshore, extending outwards some fifty feet before falling away to the unknown depths of the lake itself. This is always a likely place for trout; in the daytime the smaller ones, from quarter-pounders up to fish of thrice the size are generally to be found here, if anywhere; and at night, as you have proved by experience, some of the "older inhabitants" of this watery domain condescend to feed upon and about the margin where the shallows end and the deeps begin—recruiting their exhausted energies with the juicy and appetising bodies of many a luckless moth, whose evil genius has betrayed him into taking so long a flight over the water. Here then, with heart beating with expectation, you make ready for the fray.

(*To be continued.*)

A HISTORY OF FISHING TACKLE, WITH NOTES ON ITS AMATEUR MANUFACTURE.

(*Continued from page* 232.)

By J. Harrington Keene.

No. IV.—Floats.

FLOATS are indicated in the "Boke of St. Albans," as well as hooks; and though of course, it is possible, and indeed probable that they were made use of long prior to that date, little or no evidence exists that such was the case. In fact, an "Ancient History of Floats" would be as tedious as futile, even supposing it could be written. In the "Treatyse," however, they are figured, and seem to have consisted of an egg-shaped cork very like that in use at present in pike live-baiting.

Refinements have of course been developed as the tackle underwent modification and corresponding refinement; for of course it became evident that the sort of float suitable for the cable-like line and stout ashen pole of old could no longer be used on fine silk or gut and the fairy-like wand of the advancing angler. At the present day, therefore, the float suitable for each particular kind of fishing bears its distinctive character. I shall briefly enumerate those which suggest themselves after experiment as being the best; though, in good sooth, I am very much inclined to look upon one and all as, at the best, but necessary nuisances.

Roach-fishing floats are, in every case, best made of that material which indicates best the often almost imperceptible bite. In the selection of this it is important to bear in mind that the mouth of a roach is exquisitely sensitive of anything unusual in the bait; and hence, if a heavy float be used, the angler will fail to catch many fish, because, 'ere the float has indicated anything at all, the bait has been ejected, owing to the roach having found sufficient resistance to warn it of something abnormal. Moreover, it is advisable to use as few shots as can possibly be done with, for the suspicious character of the erroneously termed "water-sheep" renders him quite sharp enough to detect the unsusual appearance of a lot of lead near the line. The low specific gravity of cork seems therefore to militate against its employment, and I must record my opinion that this is not the best material; in consequence of this fact and the difficulty of reducing its dimensions to extreme slenderness. Quill is much preferable, because, although a well-made quill has possibly less specific gravity or weight in water, the natural toughness and slenderness does not make the effort to pull it under so great as in the case of the generality of cork floats. A porcupine quill makes perhaps as good a float as it is possible to get, though I have been quite satisfied with the performance of a float I have made out of a well dried and varnished slip of spruce deal finely sharpened at both ends. This is 6 inches long, and in no place is thicker than an ordinary penholder. It is tipped with red sealing-wax varnish (made of the best red sealing wax and spirits of wine), and, as some three-quarters of an inch is ordinarily above the water. the touch of a fish, however slight, is perfectly seen.

I greatly believe in the merits of a self-cocking float, because it obviates the necessity for using lead when fishing in clear and still water. I advocate such a float most distinctly for canal and pond angling—especially for carp and tench in the latter—and it is easily made by running a strip of lead up the centre of the lower end. Some time ago, Major Colbourn brought out a float of toughened glass, in the lower part of which a globule of quicksilver was sealed. If the glass had not been breakable this device would have been a capital one. Unfortunately, however, the toughening of the glass was not by any means sufficient to protect it against an incautious foot or even a fall on stone, and I fear the idea will hardly bear the fruit expected by its inventor.

Whilst on the subject of roach floats, there is a bite indicator which I have used with remarkably good results, and which is given by one of the old angling writers—Best, I think. It simply consists of a few hog-bristles whipped together longitudinally, and formed into a loop at one end, the other being in turn tied to the top of the rod. The arrangement now has the appearance of a short supplementary top. The line is passed through the ordinary ring of the rod, and finally through the loop at the end of the bristles. One shot to sink the bait, and no float, is used. The utility of this arrangement is obvious. You watch the top of the rod, and on the slightest bending of the bristles a strike is made. The sensitiveness of this "indicator" is extraordinary, and I invariably use it when I find the fish are biting shyly. Of course it is chiefly applicable to still water; I fancy it might be applied to legering for barbel if the number of bristles were increased.

The floats in use for other fishes, such as barbel, bream, and the rest of the ground-feeders need not be of such selected materials, though, of course, the arguments used above do, to a certain extent, apply to them as well as roach. Cork and large quills, such as those of the pelican, swan, albatross, and turkey, are the materials most in use for travelling floats, &c. The necessity for lead to sink the bait, owing to the generally rapid stream and considerable depth, obliges the employment of a float of some bulk and great buoyancy. Personally, however, in such fishing I prefer a quill before cork.

There are several devices for the dispensing with a ring and cap, and in the American floats, now largely to be seen in the shops of English tackle-makers, this is accomplished by means of a special ring at each end. The line is, of course, easily and fixedly fastened by this means, but the floats are large and unweildy, and by no means adapted for small fish. They make excellent pike floats, however. Another, and by far the simplest and most effective, device by which the float can be taken off or put on the line in an instant, is one shown me by Mr. R. B. Marston some time since. It consists of simply splitting the cork half way through, a plug of wood or cork is inserted in the centre, and the line, after reaching it by means of the split, is pulled round the plug out of the way of the split, and so remains fastened. The wonder is that this very simple device, applicable to cork floats of any size, was not thought of before.*

I have tried other materials besides these named, but have failed to discover any one more suitable. I once made a very startling and curious float out of a bladder of gutta percha filled with hydrogen gas; but I need not say that though it answered admirably as a weight carrier in a rough deep stream, it eventually "got busted" under foot. I also made some apparently very buoyant ones out of the white dry fungus growing on the birch, but this speedily sucked up water like a sponge. Reed floats are not bad, though I consider them much more ornamental than practically useful. They are apt to leak, and certainly to smash up.

In all cases let the maxim be, employ the lightest and most delicate bite-indicator possible. A large float has lost many a good fish, and spoiled many an otherwise good day's sport amongst roach, rudd, dace, chub, &c.

To be continued.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

THE West Central Association's new privilege ticket is generally admitted to be the best conceived and executed thing of its kind, and great credit is due to Mr. Harding, of 157, Piccadilly, who has produced both this and the new Fisheries Associations' ticket. As before these lines are in print several thousands of these cards will be in the anglers' hands, it is quite unnecessary to describe them.

Annual club dinners, distribution of prizes, and visits, continue the order of the day, and each week brings its little batch.

A complimentary visit was paid the Crown Piscatorial Angling Society, Clerkenwell Green, on Tuesday evening. The chair was occupied during the early part of the evening by Mr. Wilcockson, and afterwards by Mr. L. Bonvoisin, ably faced in the vice by Mr. Rust. Amongst the singers were Messrs. Wilcockson, Sturt, Birkett, Roberts, Brooks Obard, L. Gorsuch, D. Smith, Bonvoisin, Star, White, &c. Mr. Cox capitally accompanied on the piano, Messrs. Gorsuch and Taylor doing the same on the violin. Nineteen clubs were very numerously represented, viz.—the Acorn, Anchor and Hope, Barbican, Bostonian, Bolingbroke, Cumberland, Crown, Clerkenwell Piscatorials, Convivial, Eustonian, Hoxton Brothers, Little Independent, North-Western, Original Clerkenwell Piscatorial, Reform, Trafalgar, Waltonians, West Central, and City of London. After the hard-working secretary of this young society, Mr. Burwash, had called the roll, Mr. R. Ghurney spoke a few words about the Anglers' Benevolent, words which were listened to with great attention by the members present, and at their conclusion were loudly cheered, as they well deserved to be, for I am sure they sowed good seed by opening the eyes of many present to the great good this truly benevolent institution is doing. A hearty vote of thanks to the chairman and vice-chairman terminated a most successful and enjoyable evening.

On Tuesday evening also was paid a complimentary visit to the Convivial Angling Society, Bull and Bell, Ropemaker Street, Finsbury, at which Mr. T. Hoole presided. The attendance was very fair, twelve societies being fairly represented, viz.—Amicable Brothers, Amicable Waltonians, City of London, Convivial, Odds and Evens, St. John's, Sir Hugh Myddleton, Hammersmith United, Canonbury, Little Independent, Clerkenwell Piscatorial, and Stoke Newington. Among the singers, several of whom deserved and got an encore, were Messrs. Thorling, Adams, Clark, Kelsey, Barr, Hoole, Johnson, Crocket, and Thorling. Some rare fun was got up by Mr. Hoole and the worthy host, who filled two huge vessels of peculiar make and fashion with good liquor, and passed them round in the loving-cup fashion. A hearty vote of thanks to the chairman and vice-chairman brought a jolly evening to a close.

All true anglers will be pleased to hear that the dinner to Mr. Thomas Spreckley, the worthy president and treasurer of the Thames Angling Preservation Society was so great a success; none the less so because with our representative *par excellence*, Mr. P. Geen, originated the idea and devolved much of the labour—truly a labour of love—of carrying it to a successful issue.

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* This float was invented by Dr. Emil Weeger, President of the Brünn Piscatorial Society.—Ed.

On Tuesday, the 20th inst., at 4 o'clock, a meeting of the committee of the Thames Right Defence Association will be held at Simpson's Tavern. Would-be-water-grabbers beware!

At the monthly meeting of the West Central Association, on Friday, matters of the gravest importance to the London anglers will be brought forward for consideration. Special notices have been issued not merely to the clubs enrolled with the association, but to every known club in London Two new societies, viz., The De Beauvoir, Islington, and the Three Pigeons Friendly, Richmond, will be proposed for enrolment.

Revisits to angling societies. Mr. Crumplen, the courteous hon. secretary of the Gresham Angling Society, writes:—"Our committee have decided to have a musical evening on Thursday, the 22nd inst., when we shall be glad to have the company of yourself and friends of other societies."

The No. 2 district West Central Association's visit was paid to the Good Intent Angling Society on Wednesday evening. Mr. Murphy, the hardworking secretary, occupied the chair, Mr. Snook facing him in the vice. The singing was throughout good. The following societies were represented:—Amicable Brothers, City of London, Good Intent, St. John's, Trafalgar, Peckham Brothers, Stoke Newington, Burdett, Hoxton Brothers (Mr. Ghurney), and the North-Western (Mr. Bonvoisin). A hearty vote of thanks to the chair and vice terminated the meeting.

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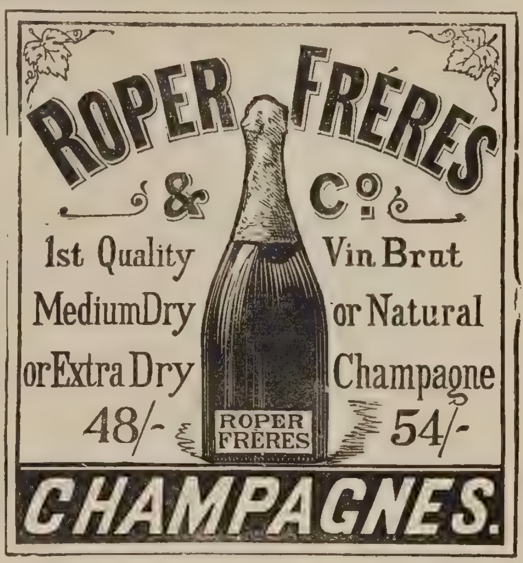

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 1882.

PROPAGATION OF OUR COARSE FISH.

THOSE of our readers who are interested in the increase of our sport-fish, are invited to attend the meeting at the Society of Arts, on Monday next, June 26. The chair will be taken at 8 o'clock by Mr. Edward Birkbeck, M.P., and Mr. R. B. Marston will read a paper on the above subject. Some discussion of the matter may follow, and then the meeting will terminate by the presentation of a testimonial to Mr. Leo Bonvoisin, chairman of the West Central Association of London Anglers. Delegates from provincial angling clubs are specially invited to attend, as Mr. Marston feels convinced that the very simple and inexpensive methods his papers will describe, need only to be known to be at once adopted by every club renting a water. We are informed by the secretary of the United Anglers' Fishery Association, who has called the meeting, that there will be a large atteudance, aud are, therefore, asked to state that those wanting seats should be in good time. It is a public meeting of anglers, and open to all. No tickets are required.

A PRACTICAL VISIT ON THE OPENING DAY.

THE sixteenth day of June opened, as far as the weather was concerned, in the most promising manner, and having arranged for a visit down the river from Staines, the prospect of an enjoyable day was apparent. It is now some time since I went down the river on "the opening day" of the general angling season, and I was very glad of the opportunity to do so. Our starting point was to be from the Pack Horse Hotel, where we found that Mr. Bright, the worthy proprietor, had made some extensive alterations and additions to his hostelry, in preparation for what he hopes and we did too, will be a successful season. We left the landing stage a little before eleven o'clock and went went up the river as far as the Swan Hotel, on the Surrey side, which, since last season has changed hands; and the house has been wonderfully improved by the new and enterprising proprietor, Mr. Currie Banfield, whose love of fishing may be gathered from the fact that we found him angling for barbel opposite to his hostelry and where he commenced operations at five o'clock in the morning, the place having been previously baited with some Nottingham worms. John Keene, senior was his attendant fisherman. It was now eleven o'clock. By this time Mr, Currie Banfield had in his well twelve barbel, the largest a nice clean fish of 6 lb., and with that number we left him, wishing him every prosperity both in his angling and in his new enterprise. There was another punt just moored above Staines Bridge, in charge of John Keene, jun., and as the anglers had not wetted their lines, a visit was deemed unnecessary. Just below the Staines Railway Bridge, William Canters was employed by a gentleman and a lady and a little boy trying for gudgeon, but those fish appeared conspicuous in their absence. On the banks there was a veteran angler fly-fishing, and, as was remarked by my companion, he was the very type of a fly-fisherman, but he was not doing much. We got to Penton Hock and on this side of the lock there was a punt containing two anglers, under the attendance of William Harris. They were trying for barbel, but, as they said, the place not having been baited they had not touched a fish, and they had not very long made a start. It was now half-past eleven, so after wishing them some good sport we rowed round the Hook, one of the most charming portions of the Lower Thames, and at the other end we found two anglers barbel fishing with Alfred Harris, but again, the place having not been baited, the fish were not forthcoming. It was one of these anglers that caught the large trout at the beginning of the season. The success of Mr. Banfield, who had previously baited his swim, and the non-success of the other boats who had not baited, strongly proves the necessity of anglers following Mr. Banfield's example. At Laleham a boat passed us going up the river, in which were two anglers practising trailing, a system which it is hoped will, ere long, be done away with. When we arrived at Chertsey Weir, it was literally alive with anglers. Haslett was under the Weir with a gentleman. Poulter was close by with two anglers. Mr. J. R. Dyer was trying for jack. There was two other punts and a number of bank fishers, but up to the time of our visit, scarcely anything had been done. We then rowed down to the landing stage of the "Chertsey Bridge Hotel" and on the lawn we were received by the popular proprietor of the hostelry, Mr. G. H. Thurston; who, I found, was also prepared for a good trade during the season, and there is no doubt he will be well supported. During the time the men were taking refreshment, we paid our respects to Mr. James Forbes, who has a charming residence near the bridge and where the process of fish-culture is being successfully carried on in the season. We left Chertsey soon after one o'clock and only met with one punt at Dockett, the anglers being attended by Herbert Curr and possessing only a few small fish, which Herbert said "they required for bait." In going through the lock at Shepperton we met with Mr. H. Little, the Thames Conservancy Inspector. On looking over the log-book in the lock-house, I found the water was eight inches higher than on the same day last year. On the other side of the lock, in the direction of the Lincoln Arms, there were two punts out, but the anglers were having little or no sport. We next visited the Lincoln Arms and inspected the new boat-house connected with the hostelry (which is nearly finished) and the enclosure which gives to Mr. Harris the only right of landing on the Surrey side of the river. Our next movement was to the "Ship Hotel" at Halliford, hoping to find, on our way there, some punts out fishing, but there was not a single boat to be seen. We soon found out the cause of this; that all the anglers, and fishermen too, had gone to Hampton Races, and we found it necessary to cut our visit short at this point, as it was no use proceeding to Kingston, where we intended to terminate the visit, through the very heart of the district where the races were going on. We called upon Mr. Stone, the proprietor of the hostelry referred to, who is an old supporter of Thames Preservation and he very kindly drove us up to Shepperton Station. It is worthy of remark here that since last season nearly all the Thames-side houses, from Egham downwards, have become subscribers to the Thames Angling Preservation Society; and this fact will afford some proof that the proprietors of such as are desirous of catering for the anglers, should certainly make a point to do so. I have never seen many fish taken on the first day; and I was not so much disappointed as my colleague, who expected to find plenty of boats out and plenty of fish. The take of Mr. Banfield, which must have been the champion take of the day, was quite exceptional and having prepared himself for it, he was deserving of the victory.

B.

THE SECOND "FISHING GAZETTE" TOURNAMENT AND THE LADIES.

IT is with much pleasure we assure some of our readers who have asked whether ladies will be admitted to view the tournament (at the Welsh Harp, on July 8, at 3 p.m.) that their presence will be welcomed; and, we believe, as a compliment to them, it is intended to charge them half price only for admission. We sincerely trust it is a bright day. Our readers will bring their "mothers and their sisters, their sweethearts and their aunts," in great force.

Mr. P. Geen, with his usual generosity, intimates that he will give a guinea winch with line; and it is pleasant to learn that Mrs. Geen offers a box (half-dozen) of ladies' French kid gloves (size to be named by winner). We understand there is some talk of a Ladies' Cup Prize. The deserving charity which it is hoped will benefit by this Tournament, deserves the support of all.

Mr. Jas. Gregory, of Birmingham, very kindly promises a selection of his various artificial baits and hopes to be present; we hope he will. Mr. Gregory gave us about 40s. worth of his baits last time. Mr. R. B. Marston will give one of Warner's capital seat-fishing baskets; then there is Mr. W. Bailey, jun.'s rod, and other things, over from last tournament. Mr. W. H. Wigley, of Cheltenham, also promises one of his large Gloucestershire pike-spinners as a prize.

Mr. Greville Fennell, in addition to the charming little oil-painting, has also sent a copy of a rare and valuable book, "The Field Book," a cyclopædia of sports and pastimes, as a prize.

MESSRS. LITTLE AND CO. AND THE "FISHING GAZETTE TOURNAMENT."

IN answer to our solicitation for prizes for the tournament in aid of the Anglers' Benevolent Society, we are glad to say that Messrs. Little and Co., of 15, Fetter Lane, have just called to say they will give a rod, winch, line, &c., &c., of the value of five pounds, as a first prize, and express their confidence in the great good which is being done in a quiet way by the Anglers' Benevolent Society.

Can not some of our other friends in the trade, who have not yet done so, help us by giving prizes?

TO COMPETITORS AT THE TOURNAMENT.

WE should be obliged if intending competitors, especially those who competed last time, would give us, at once, their views of what the best weights for the casting baits should be. There were complaints last time, that the bait thrown with was too light (it was just over one ounce), and we think it was too light for the Thames style of throwing.

As regards the fly-throwing casts on the last occasion, the measurements were taken by Messrs. Jardine and Wheeldon, and we can only accept them; but we certainly think no such casts will be made again, if they were actually 22 and 23 yards, with such short rods. We must throw over water this time.

GREGORY'S "GRESHAM" SPINNER.

Mr. James Gregory, of 57, Vyse Street, Birmingham, sent us, on Wednesday last, one of his new baits for jack, perch, trout, &c., which he has just brought out and which he calls the "Gresham" spinner. We tried it the same day, more to test its spinning qualities than with a view of catching fish. Even in perfectly dead water it spins splendidly and in half an hour it caught four perch, ran two others which got away, caught a jack of between six and seven pounds, which only got away through one of the hooks of the bottom triangle breaking; ran two other jack, and was then put away as having fairly earned a word or two of praise in the Gazette. Mr. Gregory has adopted the same kind of spinning fins as are used in the best Devon minnows and this fully accounts for the successful spinning of this bait, which is very nicely made and mounted.

FOSTER'S HONEY-DUN BUMBLE.

A SPLENDID GRAYLING FLY.

Messrs. D. and W. Foster, of Ashbourne, Derbyshire, have sent us some samples of their bumbles. The light bumble, the red bumble, the mulberry bumble, the furnace bumble, and the best of all the bumbles—the honey-dun bumble. This is without exception the very best grayling fly we have ever used, and will also kill trout well. We can most strongly recommend this fly to our grayling anglers and they will also find the mulberry, furnace, and red bumbles, first-rate killers. The honey-dun feathers are so rare, that Messrs. Foster have to keep two pens of honey-dun hens on their premises for the manufacture of the honey-dun fly.

GOOD TROUT AND GRAYLING FISHING.

Our fly-fishing friends should not overlook the advertisement of the Shobdon Fishing Club, which will be found in our columns this week. The fishing is on the famous Lugg and a tributary in Herefordshire, and extends to several miles of first-rate trout and grayling fishing. Having fished over the water some years ago, when it was not strictly preserved, we can speak most highly of it. Kingsland is the nearest railway station, three miles from the comfortable inn at Mortimer's Cross, on the water. The club is limited to forty members and the annual subscription is only £3 3s. It is a chance that does not often occur; the scenery is lovely and there is other good fishing in the neighbourhood. The water belongs to Lord Bateman.

THE DERBYSHIRE WYE AND THE TRENT BOARD OF CONSERVATORS.

Mr. Justice Field and Mr. Justice Grove, have decided that the Wye is a tributary of the River Trent, under the Freshwater Fisheries Act. They have thus overruled the decision of the Bakewell magistrates, who in a recent case decided against the Board, The Freshwater Fisheries Act requires altering in a good many directions.

MORE NETTING OF RESERVOIRS.

The permission which has been given to the committee of the Thames Angling Preservation Society to remove the fish from the reservoirs of some of the waterworks companies was substantially inaugurated on Monday last at the Chelsea Waterworks, the fish being so much larger and so much more numerous than those of the East London Waterworks, the netting of that reservoir having taken place some few weeks since. Under the direction of Mr. S. Lea, the Company's resident engineer, and at the request of the Board of Directors, the committee of the Thames Angling Preservation Society were not permitted to admit any visitors only the officials and those who took part in the work, being allowed to attend, and which was religiously carried out to the satisfaction of the board and engineer. All the arrangements made were satisfactory and complete, Mr. Thomas Spreckley, as usual, being director-general. The netting was performed by Mr. Lewis Gibson, of Putney, his assistants being Messrs. Alfred Nuthall, F. H. Lemann, H. E. Wood, C. P. Wheatstone, R. Knapp, Back, J. Kellow, A. Allison, and W. H. Brougham, together with the following riverkeepers:—John Milbourne, R. Relf, Alfred Thompson, and Palmer Scott. There were a couple of peter-boats in charge of two of Gibson's sons. The horses for conveying them up the river with the fish being provided by Messrs. T. and A. Stroud, of Sunbury. The netting commenced soon after nine o'clock, the entrance gates to the reservoirs being kept by the police, who had strict orders not to admit any one without tickets. Mr. S. Lea had everything satisfactory arranged, with platform communications to the water, and the water itself reduced to a depth of four feet, but the extent of water in size was far larger than anticipated and the nets provided were not large enough to do it effectively, and it had to be done in pieces. Mr. Hilliard, the resident superintendent, was most obliging and attentive, and rendered praiseworthy assistance. During the day Sir William Wyatt, the chairman of the directors, with other members of the board and visitors invited by them were present to witness the netting. After each haul came to the edge of the water the fish were placed in a mud boat, which was partly filled with water and then taken to the landing-stage; here they were conveyed in zinc pails to the large storage wells in the peter-boats, and as the peter-boats got filled they were sent up to the river to the places assigned for them. The first consignment, under the command of Mr. F. H. Lemann, was sent to Shepperton—one portion being placed in Halliday's Hole and the other in the famous chalk hole swim below the lock on the Surrey side. Halliford was not forgotten, where, in the presence of Mr. R. Stone, a nice cargo of fish was introduced. The reach at Walton had a famous quantity of the finny tribe, and the final deposit was made opposite Messrs. T. and A. Stroud's boat-building establishment in the presence of Captain and Mrs. Tucker and a number of spectators, who had the pleasure of seeing a large quantity of good fish put into the Thames—the sight of the perch especially causing great enthusiasm, a great number being considerably over 1 lb. each. And now as to the actual result of the day's operation. The fish as they were brought up in pails were counted and the total result was sixty-three pails full, the estimated weight of each pail containing 20 lb. weight of fish. There was not an unsizeable fish in the lot—on the contrary, as regards perch and dace, they were remarkably fine specimens, the perch going up to 2½ lb. each. There were some splendid examples of gudgeon and bleak. The roach and chub were also good, but the barbel were not more than 12 inches in length; there was only one jack, which weighed 2¼ lb. In the middle of the reservoir there is a channel of 7 feet in width, into which the fish got to escape the net; but the directors liberally gave orders to draw off all the water down to this channel, so that the large quantity of fish which they knew the reservoir possessed should be handed over to the Thames. There are three other reservoirs of ten acres each yet to be done, and out of each of these greater results are anticipated.

On the following morning, after the water had been reduced to the level of the channel, Mr. Thomas Spreckley and his assistants got out 2266 lb. weight of grand fish—jack up to 10 lb. and perch up to 2 lb. This will swell the total of the previous day to at least 3500 lb. weight of magnificent fish, all ready for the anglers. Some of the other reservoirs are reported to hold a greater body of fish.

[This is a most satisfactory result. Nearly two tons of fine live fish, worth probably in mere money value nearly £200.—Ed.]

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

The general angling season appears this year to have opened far more auspiciously than it generally does, and some fair takes of well-conditioned fish are reported from several waters—Thames, Medway, Welsh Harp Reservoir, &c. I made my first attempt at Chertsey, with Haslett, on the 18th, and had not the rain persistently poured down all day, I think we should have secured a good take of fish. Haslett's report just to hand reads as follows:—"Three days with Mr. Allan: five barbel, four perch (very good), and two jack, both put back. One day with Mr. Bonvoisin: One barbel, some good roach, up to 1 lb. each, a few dace, a jack under 2 lb. (returned), and a nice little trout about 2½ lb." He then goes on to say:—"Mr. Allan got a nice barbel on the 19th, fishing the same swim you fished the previous day. It weighed 9 lb. 12 oz., and was as fat as a prize pig. He intends having it preserved." Who says there are no good fish in the city waters after that?

A special meeting of representatives of London angling societies was held at the Portman Arms, Great Quebec Street, Baker Street, on Friday last. Notices had been issued to every society in London and suburbs, and representatives from 49 clubs, besides several gentlemen from the East Central Committee, were present. The principal business of the evening was to elect two London anglers to represent the London anglers on a sub-committee of the Great International Fisheries Exhibition, 1883. Messrs. Crumplen and Sachs, of the Gresham and Piscatorial Society respectively, being chosen unanimously, and two better or fitter gentlemen could not be found. It may be mentioned incidentally that the president of the West Central Association, Mr. P. Geen, has been requested by our Sheffield friends to represent them on the same committee. During the evening the secretary read a long and interesting report of the steps taken to obtain the admission of a representative on the executive committee. Two new societies were enrolled, viz., the De Beauvoir and the Three Pigeons Angling Societies, Richmond. The election of two societies by the executive committee being also confirmed, some routine business was then transacted, the meeting terminating with a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman and vice-chairman, Messrs. Bonvoisin and Beckett.

A No. 3 West Central Association district visit was paid the Excelsior Angling Society on Wednesday evening, June 14th, The chair was taken by Mr. Hopkins. Some capital songs were well rendered by Messrs. Jones, Cudman, Page, Hopkins, Hendle, Dawes, Saunders, Roberts, and Tarpington. Mr. Hoole, who, it is needless to say, was well received, made a few remarks on the work being done by the association, and the Anglers' Benevolent Society. The societies represented were the South London, Peckham Perseverance, South Belgravia, Peckham Brothers, the St. Alban's, and the

Hammersmith United. A vote of thanks to the chair brought the meeting to a close. A special meeting of the committee of the Anglers' Benevolent Society will be held at the New Foresters' Hall, Clerkenwell Road, on Friday evening, 23rd, at nine p.m., when business of importance will be brought forward for discussion. It seems almost incredible that the secretary of such a club as the North Western should be so ill-informed on current piscatorial matters as affecting the metropolitan anglers in particular—as Mr. F. Hill makes it apparent he is by his letter in last weeks' Fishing Gazette. I will not trouble the readers of the Gazette with a repetition of the arguments which have so frequently appeared in its columns, urging upon the London anglers the necessity of uniting to a man for the purpose of renting, preserving, and, if necessary, stocking, waters within a reasonable distance of the metropolis. We may take it as a fact that the necessity for doing this is almost universally admitted—a necessity which our good friend the Editor of this paper was among the first to point out, and has since frequently and earnestly, by writing and word of mouth, urged upon us the advisability of taking early steps to meet. I may, however, briefly state, for the enlightenment of Mr. F. Hill, that the subject was simultaneously considered by the three London associations—which, be it remembered, consist without exception of duly accredited representatives from every enrolled society in the metropolis. suburbs, and provinces—secretaries having been previously circularised, advised of the proposed scheme, and requested to ask their brother members to instruct their representative. As most of the readers of the Gazette are aware, the scheme was unanimously adopted at a special meeting, and an executive was forthwith elected composed of twelve chosen men from each association to carry it into execution. If Mr. Hill can inform us of a better manner of successfully raising the necessary funds than by requiring the holders of every privilege ticket to pay the small additional sum of 1s., annually, he will earn our thanks, and we shall be much indebted to him. Of course, Mr. H. is utterly inconsistent, and his statements are at variance with facts when he informs us, ("Oh, my prophetic soul!")—"That this self-given authority is just what he expected would show itself sooner or later, and, if acknowledged and allowed, will be the first step to the London anglers being entirely placed at the mercy of a very small minority to make what calls they will in the form of subscriptions, &c., and to place same to what purpose they choose, &c., and all who wish to be members of a club will have to conform to the above, otherwise the club will not be allowed to accept them as members."

The associations, as I have stated above, are purely representative bodies, and no step that was contrary to the wishes of the anglers at large could possibly be carried. The clubs elect their representatives, and are free to change them as often as they think fit. At the East and, I believe, at the Central, the business is entirely transacted at the monthly general meetings. The West Central have a working committee, whose powers are, however, very limited, inasmuch as, though they can cut out the work and make recommendations, they cannot vote money away or take any important steps without referring to the general body.

It would puzzle a Philadelphia lawyer to see how bodies so constituted could possibly carry out the system of tyranny painted in such awful colours by our friend Hill.

I could well write at greater length upon this subject, but I am clearly convinced, and no London angler has a better opportunity of judging, that the attempt we are now making to rescue a few waters ere it is too late is enthusiastically hailed by an overwhelming majority of the London anglers, who, be it said to their credit, are prepared, if needed, to make far greater sacrifices than that of 1s. per annum should it be required of them; and this feeling is, if anything, strongest among the poorest and humblest, who, be it noted, have implicit confidence in their representatives, and well know that they will not ask them to contribute a single farthing more than the successful carrying out of a great and useful work requires, whatever Mr. Hill seems to imply to the contrary notwithstanding.

In conclusion, one word to Mr. J. Hill. Next time he is desirous of writing to this or any other paper on a subject affecting the association or the Fisheries Society, I can cordially promise him that Mr. Hoole or myself will be delighted, if he will drop us a line, to give him access to letters, circulars, rules, &c., or give him such verbal explanations on any point as will prevent him falling, from utter want of such, into a series of unintentional misstatements such as those contained in the letter from which I have quoted.

The eighth annual dinner of the Trafalgar Angling Society was held at the Mitre Tavern, St. Martin's Lane, on Thursday, June 15, and a capital dinner it was. Mr. Humphries occupied the chair, the vice being ably filled by Mr. Richardson. Mr. Secretary J. Gaze was indefatigable in looking after the members and guests. Among the latter were Messrs. Bonvoisin, Gee, White, Smith, Oliphant, &c. Some capital songs and recitations from Messrs. Humphries, Richardson, White, Smith, Morris, Bonvoisin, Lord Golosteine, Dewar, &c., together with some appropriate toasts briefly responded to, made the rest of the evening pass pleasantly away, some capital prizes being offered for competition during the present season, the usual vote of thanks to the chair and vice bringing the meeting to a termination. Mr. R. B. Marston will read his promised paper on "Coarse Fish Propagation," at a public meeting at the Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 8 p.m.

Summer Dinner and Competition of the Richmond Piscatorial Society.—The above was held at Halliford-on-Thames last Wednesday evening. We hope to have a report next week.

CLUB REPORTS.

AMICABLE BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members went out in great force after a three months' rest, and some went to a great distance, but it was with the same result, just a fish or so. The following members weighed-in fish:—Mr. Medcalf, bream, roach, and dace from Pulborough; Mr. Patrick, roach from the Lea; Mr. Arnold, roach and dace from the Thames; Mr. Hunt, roach; Mr. Howlett, roach and dace; Mr. Worledge, perch from the Lea; Mr. Brearley, acting as steward, went down to make the final arrangements for the 29th annual dinner, which will take place at Mr. T. Coomes, the Five Horse Shoes, Hoddesdon, Herts, on Sunday, July 2nd, at one o'clock precisely.—T. Worledge.

ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several of our members were out on the 18th inst. with the following result:—Mr. A. Shakel, carp and roach from Woking; Mr. A. Glass, two roach scaling 2 lb. 8½ oz.; Mr. D. Davis, bream from Amberley; Mr. T. Bowling, bleak and gudgeon; Mr. C. Daniels, dace from the Thames; Mr. R. Smith, bream from Amberley.—D. Davis.

June 20.

BERMONDSEY BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

This society held their fourth annual supper at their club house, the Alscot Arms, Alscot Road. Forty sat down to dinner, but members and friends mustered about seventy afterwards. Mr. Herbert occupied the chair, Mr. Frost the vice. The numerous prizes won by the members during the season were distributed by the chairman, who congratulated the successful winners in suitable terms. The first prize for heaviest gross weight was won by Mr. Frost; second ditto, by Mr. William Allen; third by Mr. Conn. During the season Mr. Allen won five prizes, Mr. Mitchell four, Mr. Frost four, Mr. Herbert three, Mr. Beningfield three, Mr. Conn three, Mr. Smith one, Mr. Owles one, Mr. Ayton one, Mr. Gafney one. The rest of the evening was passed very pleasantly with toasts and harmony, Messrs. Mitchell, Beningfield, Allen and Miss Benson obliging with songs, also Messrs. Newhouse, Herbert, Frost, Mitchell, Conn, Herring and others. Mr. Beningfield presided at the piano.—W. Allen, sec.

June 21.

BOSTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several of our members ventured out on the first Sunday of the season, and were well rewarded by bringing a handsome show of fish to our trays, Mr. W. Bastain weighing 14 lb. of jack; Mr. Jennings, 15 lb. of nice roach, the largest weighing 1 lb. 3 oz.; Mr. Marshall, bream and perch, the largest bream going nearly 4 lb.; Mr. Cubitt, roach; Mr. Taylor, jack: Mr. Leslie, a nice show of perch from the Thames.—J. Jennings, hon. sec.

June 20th.

BRIGHTON ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

The members of the above have now settled down to their amusement for the season. On Monday Mr. Anscombe had a very good show of roach, one scaling 15¾ oz. At a meeting on Monday the Association decided to give a prize valued £5 for the largest weight of fish from June 16 to November 31, and a first and second prize for the largest weight taken in all competitions during the same dates, no fish to be weighed less than 4 oz. The first competition takes place on Sunday, the 25th, in the Ouse, which will be roving. All members wishing to compete for the £5 prize must at once enroll their names. I have just been informed that Mr. Noah Clarke has taken some good roach, and Mr. Artis one perch 1½ lb. Weather cold and wind E.S.E.—Groundbait.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our fifteenth annual distribution of prizes took place on Thursday, the 15th inst. Owing to the bad season many of our prizes for specimen fish were not taken, the fish weighed-in not coming up to the required standard. Mr. Mortimer was the most successful, winning no less than ten prizes; Messrs. Chambers, Castell, and Hales, three each; Mr. Perry, two; Messrs. Martin, Plumstead, sen., Hobbs, Payne, and Mark, one each; Mr. Castell taking the gross-weight prize, one guinea, and Mr. Mortimer the specimen prizes for roach and dace. The prizes were mostly in money. A few useful articles were given—a copper kettle, tea-service, tackle, &c. On Sunday, the 18th, nine of our members went to Amberley, eight weighing-in fish—Mr. J. Chambers, roach, dace, and bream; Mr. Perry, one roach, weighing 1 lb. 1¼ oz.; Messrs. Hobbs, Mortimer, Castell, Pratt, Mark, and Warden had roach and perch. Our ninth man came to grief, he losing a fine bream in the act of landing.—Cas.

CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The fourth annual supper of the above society took place on Monday, June 12th, at the Horse Shoe, Clerkenwell Close, presided over by Mr. J. Scott and Mr. Morgan. Great credit was due to the worthy host, Mr. Smith, who catered for the members. Over forty sat down to supper. After the cloth was cleared, the distribution of prizes took place, which were very numerous. Mr. Stebbings, the secretary, read over the annual balance sheet, which showed the society was still in a flourishing condition. Mr. Homer officiated on the piano. A general meeting will take place on Monday, July 3, to arrange the prizes for the coming season.—R. Stebbing, sec.

June 22.

DUKE OF YORK ANGLING SOCIETY.

The above society fished their first match on Sunday at Uxbridge, when the prizes were taken by the following members:—Mr. Hannabus, 1st, roach rod given by Mr. Barnett, our fishing-tackle maker, of Church Street, Lisson Grove; Mr. Allen, 2nd, a case of medallions and five shillings, given by Mr. Avon; Mr. Harris, 3rd, and aquariam, given by Mr. Stone; Mr. Avon, jun., 4th, 5s. given by Mr. Baxter; Mr. Pates, 2s. 6d., given by Mr. Butler; Messrs. Tucker and Lallam divided 2s. 6d., given by Mr. Kelly.—T. Avon, hon. sec.

June 21st.

GOLDEN BARBEL.

The members of this society held their annual dinner on the 13th at the headquarters, the York Minster, Foley Street, Portland Place, W. Members from all parts of London attended to partake of the good things provided. The gross weight of fish taken during the past season by the members amounted to 1845 lb. 15½ oz. Mr. Goudge the first gross weight prize with 304 lb. 8¼ oz.; Mr. Lee, second, with 136 lb. ¼ oz.; E. Harrisson, third, 134 lb. 4¼ oz.; E. Henries, fourth, with 102 lb. 1¼ oz. On the 18th, from Amberley, Messrs. Green, Whitehead, J. Jones, Rodgers, R. Fellows, and J. Roach, succeeded in getting among the bream, roach, and perch; while from Pulboro' Messrs. Hall and Chapman had a nice show of roach, jack, and bream. From the Wey Messrs. E. Harrisson, Lauford, Lumby, J. Day, and Hindersley, got bream, roach, perch, and dace—the largest fish turning the scale at 3 lb. 8½ oz. Several other members visited the Thames, but the sport was very indifferent, Mr. Perry being the only member that weighed-in fish from there, which consisted of roach, perch, dace, and chub. The gross weight all round amounted to 43 lb.—Pixie.

June 22.

GOOD INTENT SOCIETY.

The Edinburgh Exhibition awards were distributed to those entitled to receive them on Thursday, the 15th inst., by Mr. F. Clench, in the absence of Mr. R. B. Marston, who was unable to attend, being out of town, Mr. P. Geen supporting the chairman, who opened the business in an able speech which was well received. The first on the list being the Good Intent Society, the secretary receiving the gold medal on its behalf; Mr. Sachs, on behalf of the Piscatorials, gold medal; Mr. H. Brookwell, honorary member of the Good Intent, gold medal for private collection; Mr. E. Sanders, honorary member of the Good Intent, silver medal for private collection; Mr. Decosta, silver medal for private collection; Richmond Piscatorials, silver medal; Mr. John Cooper, silver medal for stuffed birds and fish; the Edmonton and Tottenham Society, diploma of honour; Mr. Phillips, the Reform Society, silver medal. The distribution over, each of the recipients return thanks. Mr. Sachs, in a very able speech, said it gave him great pleasure to be present that evening, and greater pleasure to know that the Good Intent Society received, in conjunction with the Piscatorials, the gold medal, it being the first time that so great an honour has been given to an East-end club. Mr. Sachs being repeatedly cheered. Mr. P. Geen, in responding to his health being drunk, made a capital speech, as he always does, and was loudly cheered. Mr. H. Tibbatts made an excellent vice-chairman, and a most entertaining and pleasant evening was spent, and, in conclusion, I may say the medals are greatly admired, and reflect the greatest credit on the committee, they being beautifully executed. A collection was made for the packer for the great care he took in taking and bringing home all safe the cases in his charge; amount, £2 5s. The members of this club fished for twelve valuable prizes on Sunday last, the 18th inst., at Ware roam of water, the first prize being portrait of the winner, valued £5 5s., won by Mr. J. Bell, followed by W. Agambar, G. Hughes, A. Sims, G. Huggett, J. Christie, G. Robinson, Guntrip, J. Robinson, Thos. Bates, R. Agambar, &c. There was a fair quantity of fish taken. They are going to fish a pegged-down match at Burnt Mill on Sunday, the 2nd July, for ten prizes; that will bring our year to a close.—R. Murphy.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The special musical evening of this society, held on Thursday, the 22nd inst., was very largely attended, and was also highly successful, S. C. Harding, Esq., in the chair. Previous to the musical selections, Mr. Jardine gave an account of a little episode that recently happened to him relative to a royal sturgeon which he had lately taken, on behalf of a friend, to Marlborough House, and his description created much merriment. It should be stated that the perch, referred to by Mr. Brett in his address last week, were the joint take of himself and Mr. Jardine, and presented by those gentlemen to the society for preservation in their museum, which they now adorn. The musical selections were greatly appreciated, and embraced solos by Messrs. J. E. Harding, Marshall, Jardine, Cartwright, Brown, Aveling, Hoole, Young, Brown, Thorling Miller, and other gentlemen. The whole of these gentlemen exerted themselves greatly and were accordingly applauded, their efforts meeting with hearty recognition from a crowded room. We regret space compels us to defer a full report of this important gathering, at which visitors from no less than fifteen angling societies were present. In addition to the vocal talent displayed, the society was favoured by two solos on the flute by Mr. H. B. Reynolds, whose brilliant playing is so well known to the members. The recitations embraced "The Frenchman and the Rats," by Mr. Bonvoisin; "Daniel *v.* Dishclout," by Mr. S. C. Harding, and a splendid ventriloqual sketch by Mr. J. Elwin, R.A.M., "Alderman Box." The marvellous power of mimicry possessed by this talented gentleman was thoroughly brought out, and the deafening applause which greeted him as he resumed his seat testified to the pleasure his performance had evoked. Mr. Winterbottom ably assisted at the piano, and his last new song, "She would not wed a fameless name," was cleverly rendered by Mr. Aveling. Some very happy remarks were made by Messrs. Bonvoisin, Hoole, Murphy, and Beckett, and the society was congratulated on the success of the evening. On Mr. Bonvoisin reading the roll, this being the evening of the district visit, it was found that fifteen societies were represented, these included the Amicable Brothers, Good Intent, Highbury, St. John's, Trafalgar, United Society of Anglers, West Central Angling Society, Hoxton Brothers, South London, Hammersmith, North-Western, Brunswick Piscatorial, Burdett, Peckham Brothers, De Beauvoir. Among the visitors were Messrs. Ghurney, Hoole, Beckett, Bonvoisin, Murphy, Metcalfe, &c. The evening closed with a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman and the gentleman who had so kindly assisted in the work of the meeting.

HAMMERSMITH UNITED.

On Saturday Mr. Hobden weighed in a capital lot of roach and dace from Eynsham. On the 18th our club assumed quite a lively appearance, and several trays were well filled, the principal take being twenty-seven handsome roach taken from the canal near Uxbridge by Mr. Chick. Among others weighing-in fish may be mentioned Messrs. Elms, barbel from Egham; Lewis, Reynolds, and Burbidge, roach, dace and bleak from the Thames.—Vortex.

HIGHBURY ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several members of the above society commenced the opening season on the 18th inst. with great spirit, having to contend for several prizes from open waters, the most prominent being two oak-framed proof engravings, given by Mr. S. Sampson for heaviest weight of fish, one to be the property of the winner and the other to be presented to the club. The result was a capital show of roach, dace, bream and perch, by Messrs. Anthony, Cartwright, Temple, and Thomas, the principal honours falling to the two first-named gentlemen.—Jas. Edwd. Wheatley, sec.

June 19.

IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members fished for three special prizes at Sawbridgeworth on Sunday last the 18th inst. Mr. H. Butt secured first honors, Mr. G. Bliss was second, Mr. W. H. Hawkes was third. The following members showed fish:—Mr. J. Barnes, Mr. W. H. Mecham, Mr. G. Haliday, Mr. G. Wood, Mr. T. Dennison, sen.; several others who competed did not weigh-in. The Sunday portion of the members will dine at the Rye House on Sunday next the 25th inst.

KING'S CROSS UNITED ANGLING SOCIETY.

The next district visit of the West Central Association (No. 1 list) goes to this society, and will take place on Wednesday next, 28th inst. Brother bobs will be heartily welcomed. Club house, Prince Albert, Wharfdale Road, King's Cross. A goodly number of members were out on Saturday and Sunday last, in search of the finny 'uns, but were not rewarded according to their merits, no capture of any importance being made.—Gabriel Treadwell, hon. sec.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

Most of our members were out on Sunday, and met with good sport for the first day of the season. There were four prizes for competition, Mr. J. Keene being fortunate in securing two of them, Mr. W. H. Evans one, and Mr. J. Evans one. Messrs. Pipe, Goodes, Scott, Mead, Gray, Humphreys, A. Evans, and F. Hurwood, also weighed-in some good fish. Our return visit on the Central Association took place on Tuesday, June 20, when a good muster of members from different clubs were present. The chair was well filled by Mr. Heckford, of the Duke of Cornwall Angling Society, and the vice-chair by Mr. E. Barr, of the Little Independents. The evening was thoroughly enjoyable, some capital songs and toasts being given, Messrs. Pearce, Titmus, Neale, Barr, Fitch, Jennings, Sutton, Howard, Albyne, Heckford, New, Skates, and G. Letch contributing to the same; and after a few words from Mr. Stebbings, the evening closed very satisfactorily.—H. Moore, sec.

LIVERPOOL ANGLING SOCIETY.

Sixteen of our members went to the river Vyrnwy at Llanymynech, on Monday last, the 19th, to compete for club prizes. Owing to the heavy rains of the previous fortnight the water was not in good order, but in spite of this some fair sport was obtained, the whole of the six prizes being won. The weather was delightful, and the wild flowers and vegetation in their prime, and everyone was well satisfied with their pleasant outing. The following were the winners:—Trout and grayling class, 1st, Mr. Boulding; 2nd, Mr. Leaman; 3rd, Mr. Chandler. Coarse fish class, 1st and 3rd, Mr. Till; 2nd, Mr. Bloomfield. After the weighing-in the members sat down to one of those excellent dinners served up in the style for which Mr. Baugh, of the Cross Keys, has made a reputation, and which the hungry anglers enjoyed with that appetite which seems to be their prerogative.—Rd. Woolfall, hon. sec.

P.S.—Can you oblige me by giving any easily distinguishable mark in which the younger chub differ from roach and dace.

LONDON AND SOUTH-WESTERN ANGLING CLUB.

The above club was opened on the 2nd inst. At the meeting on June 16, interest was infused by going into committee on the question of prizes for the ensuing year. H. B. Terrill, Esq., attended the meeting as a visitor, and he kindly occupied the chair on the occasion, and gave the club advice as to the best mode of procedure, which was listened to with great attention by the members. Prizes were announced as follows:—Three prizes from the club: one guinea prize, for the heaviest gross weight of fish taken during the season; half-guinea prize, for the best specimen roach; and half-guinea prize, for the best specimen perch. Mr. Terrill then offered a guinea prize for the heaviest gross weight of roach for the season. Several others were promised, which brought the meeting to a close, with a vote of thanks to the chairman.—J. Woodcock, sec.

[We wish the club every success, and are glad to see they have Sir Henry Peek, Bart., M.T., and Sir Henry Lawrence, Bart., as their vice-presidents.—Ed.]

NORTH-WESTERN ANGLING CLUB.

A few members of the above celebrated the first Sunday of the season by fishing for a series of prizes at their old waters (Welsh Harp), with great success, bringing away with them twenty-five jack, besides bream and perch; of the former, Mr. Weaver had six; Mr. Aldis, four; Messrs. Marshall and Grindley, three each; one shown by the latter gentleman being a very nice fish, weighing rather over 6 lb., and will be the cause of your humble servant being worse off by half a guinea at our next distribution of prizes. Mr. Grindley also had bream. Messrs. Packman, Roxbee, Plumpton, jun., Wynn, Harris, and North, having one or two each; Mr. Plumpton, sen., perch; and Mr. Smart, bream. I might mention, just to set some minds at rest, that the jack were all clean fish, and in splendid condition. The aggregate weight of fish shown being nearly 1 cwt. If the above is anything to go by, it only proves what that indefatigable and most obliging of keepers (Sawyer) told me about a month ago, and that was that he believed this season would be equal to some of those old-fashioned ones that we have experienced at these waters; and my advice to brother anglers, before going elsewhere, is, to give them a trial; and if unacquainted on account of not having fished same, have only to put the question to Sawyer, and I am sure he will take pleasure in putting them upon the right track.—H.

June 21.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The season opened well at this society on Sunday last, several members weighing-in. Mr. T. Longman, 10 lb. of roach, 3 lb. dace and chub; Mr. Crafford, 4¼ lb. roach and dace; Mr. Edwards, dace; Mr. Roberts, trout; Mr. G. Drew, bream; Dr. Lavender, bream; Mr. J. Drew, roach. On Sunday next, June 25, Mr. Drew's prize will be fished for, any water. No member to start before 5 o'clock a.m.—T. W. Lucy, sec.

June 21.

PECKHAM BROTHERS.

On the 18th, about fifteen of the members of the above society opened the season by visiting the river Wey to compete for three prizes given by Messrs. Stidolph, Sweet, and Page. Results:—Mr. Williams, 1st; Mr. Stidolph, 2nd; Mr. Becknell, 3rd. Messrs. Gendal, Duke, Brancher, Matthews, and Orjan also had fish, the gross weight of which was about 12 lb., and consisted of bream, roach, and perch. Considering the showery weather that prevailed it was considered that they came off very well. Some of the members put in their time collecting those jewels which nature has distributed so liberally in this part of the country, and I must say that on their return to the society's headquarters the sight of the bunches of wild flowers gave to some of the visitors as much pleasure as the sight of the bream and roach did to "Ye Ancient Knight of the Rod." Mr. Brodie has given a £5 5s. cup for competition, the condition of which can be obtained from Mr. Secretary Page any Tuesday or Sunday evening.—Pixie.

June 20, 1882.

QUEEN'S ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Walford had 7 lb. 4 oz. of fine roach on Sunday; Mr. Chick, 3 lb. 3 oz.; Mr. Koopman, 2 lb. 2 oz.—T. Walford, secretary.

SIR HUGH MYDDLETON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above society went out for a number of prizes on the 18th inst. to different stations on the Thames, but met with very poor success. The great complaint of the members was the nuisance of the bad punts. No doubt it would have been still worse if the weather had been fine. The majority of the people who like to be called gentlemen appear to take a delight in annoying the angler, as bad as the weather and the boats were. The members managed to take all the prizes as follows:—(1) John Ragus, 10s. 6d.; (2) E. Smith, 10s. 6d.; (3) W. Duncan, gold scarf pin; (4) J. Billings, silver cup; (5) W. Sanders, silver-plated cruet stand: (6) W. Fowler, ladies' bag; (7) John Allard, jun., Dresden watch stand. I shall not mention the weights of fish taken on this occasion as it would create a smile.—G. COBORN, sec.

June 19th.

SOUTH BELGRAVIA ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 18th inst, J. Smith, jun., began the season with a good show of bream and roach, weighing 33½ lb., landing one bream 4 lb. on a single hair. The following also weighed-in:—H. Lees, with 6 lb. 7 oz. roach and bream; H. Mandroy, some fine roach and dace, from the Thames; Mr. Butler, fine roach. —H. LEES.

June 19.

SOUTH LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Some of our members went on Sunday to Pulboro and Amberley, with following results:—Mitchell, bream and roach, 13 lb. 3 oz.; Boorman, bream and roach, 6 lb. 10 oz.; Head, bream and roach, 6 lb. 9 oz; Brewood, bream and roach, 2 lb. 3 oz.; Buck, roach, 2 lb.; Gearing, roach, 2 lb. 8 oz. For first day a good beginning.—G. H. FIELD.

June 22,

ST. JOHN'S WOOD PISCATORIAL.

The members of the above club were out on Sunday last to fish for three prizes at the Welsh Harp Cut, but met with very bad sport. Two prizes were taken by the brother Blakemore.—J. EDWARDS, hon. sec.

STOKE NEWINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 18th, we fished the pretty river Stort, with the usual result of late years. A variety of fish being taken, but all very small, with the exception of the gudgeon; some of them being very fine. Mr. C. F. Robinson proved the winner of the first prize, with a small trout; Mr. C. Martin, the second, with roach; Mr. A. Parrott, the third, with roach and gudgeon; and Mr. W. Webb, the fourth, with roach and gudgeon. I have not troubled to give the weight of fish obtained by each competitor, but I am sorry to say ounces instead of pounds decided the contest.—THOS. GRETTON, sec.

Jnne 19.

SURREY PISCATORIALS.

The members of this society had an open competition this day for four prizes, consisting of £3 3s., £2 2s., £1 1s., and a meerschaum pipe. Mr. Duck succeeded in getting the first with some very nice roach and perch; Mr. Beckett won the second, with roach from Rickmansworth; Mr. Linsted took third, and Mr. Watson won the meerschaum pipe.—PIXIE.

June 21.

THE RICHMOND PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The annual summer dinner of this popular society took place at the Ship Hotel, Halliford, the banquet provided by Mr. and Mrs. Stone being equal to the importance of the occasion. Mr. F. C. Clench occupied his position of chairman, and Mr. H. Dickinson that of vice-chairman, and amongst those present were Messrs. T. R. Sachs, John Munro, T. Houghton, H. Nattrass, Taman, W. H. Brougham, J. P. Wheeldon, Wilson, J. H. Gaunt, Powell, Crewe, W. Abbott, Giles, R. Rowe, H. E. Gaynor, Wort, Scrutton, Crowder, King, &c., &c., the guests altogether numbering about fifty. During the day several of the members competed for a number of prizes, and the following were the awards:—The first prize, given by Mr. Clench, of a valuable gold crystal pin, was won by Mr. Wilson. The handicap sweepstakes was decided as follows, it being for roach only:— First prize, 35s, won by Mr. Smith with 4 lb. 14 oz.; second prize of 21s. by Mr. East with 3 lb. 6 oz.; third prize of 17s. 6d. by Mr. Field with 3 lb. 4 oz.; fourth prize of 15s. by Mr. Terrill with 3 lb. 3 oz.; fifth prize of 10s, Mr. Wilson with 3 lb. 2½ oz.. The entrance fees were divided between Mr. Percival with 3 lb. 1½ oz., Mr. Giles with 2 lb. 9 oz., and Mr. R. Rowe with 2 lb. 1 oz. The Consolation Prize was won by Mr. W. Abbott with 16 oz. After the cloth had been removed at the dinner "Non Nobis Domini" was admirably sung by Messrs. Richer, Crew and Harvey, Mr. W. Abbott throughout the evening presiding at the pianoforte with his accustomed ability. The usual loyal toast having been given, the chairman gave that of "The Richmond Piscatorial Society," which he said would be most acceptable to them all, although they had to drink it fifty-two times in the year. The weekly meetings were always well attended, but he would be glad to see more. The society had made great strides, and was augmented both in number and funds. They had gained the silver medal at the Edinburgh Exhibition, and it was still capable of acquiring further honour and renown. In referring to the competitions that day he remarked, as a rule, selected days were never the best days for fishing. He called upon those present to respond most heartily to the toast, a request which was most enthusiastically obeyed. The next toast was that of "The Thames Angling Preservation Society," which was given from the vice chair in a few appropriate remarks. Mr. W. H. Brougham replied, and referred to the recent netting and the prospects of other nettings of reservoirs. The Chairman gave "Kindred Societies," to which Mr. T. R. Sachs responded, and in the course of an interesting speech offered a prize of a silver cup of the intrinsic value of five guineas, and was loudly applauded for his liberality. Mr. Taman, in a most able manner, proposed the toast of "the Chairman," which Mr. Clench acknowledged in graceful terms, and then gave "the Visitors," coupling with the toast the name of Mr. J. P. Wheeldon. On being replied to by Mr. Wheeldon it was succeeded by a few other toasts, which had to be done very briefly owing to the early hour the last train had to leave Shepperton Station. The arrangements were of a first-class character, and the evening was a very pleasant one.

TRAFALGAR ANGLING SOCIETY.

The member of the above society had their first day out on Sunday, but owing to the rough weather they did not succeed in taking many fish. The following members weighed-in:—Mr. Goldstine, three barbel, 5 lb.; Mr. Dewent, jack, 3 lb.; Messrs. Richardson, Lord, Morriss, Wilson, Humphries, J. Gaze, Goulding and White, roach and bream, from Amberley and the Wey. —J. GAZE, sec.

WALTONIANS.

The opening Sunday can scarcely be described as a great success. The prizes from the Thames were fished for; two only were taken with 1 lb. 9 oz. (Mr Giles) and 1 lb. 2 oz. (Mr. Horsford). Mr. Roland had a small bream and 5 lb. 13¼ oz. of roach from Amberley, one roach scaling 1 lb. 9¾ oz. Mr. Good, jun., also had 3 lb. 1¼ oz. of roach and bream for the same quarter, and small takes were weighed in by Messrs. Luxton, J. Moore, and J. Dodge. Mr. Phillips weighed in a bream 3 lb. 13½ oz. from the Thanes punt-fishing.—A. J. MARRIOTT.

June 21st.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

The members of this society were open to compete for three prizes on the 18th; eight or nine of them visited Rickmansworth, the result of which must have been bad, as in the evening only three gentlemen weighed-in fish—Mr. Bedford, 1st; Mr. Brown, 2nd; and Mr. R. Cain, 3rd. Where the other gentlemen were I must put to the account of the first outing of the season.—PIXIE.

WATFORD PISCATORS.

This society held their opening dinner at the Leathersellers' Arms. The society has been in existence about three months. The following notice is intended to be issued shortly:—"To the public and anglers of Watford and neighbourhood.—The Watford Piscators having rented the whole of the waters of the Colne and Colne ditch from the London and North-Western Railway Viaduct in Water Fields, better known as the Five Arches, to and including Messrs. M. A. and F. J. Sedgwick's property, notice is hereby given that the above-named club do not intend to prevent the public from fishing in the river Colne (from the footpaths), from Messrs. M. A. and F. J. Sedgwick's to the viaduct, so long as they keep to the said footpaths and strictly observe the following:—Undersized fish.—No fish under the following sizes can be retained:—Jack, 18 inches; trout, 12 inches; barbel, 12 inches; chub, 10 inches; bream, 9 inches; carp, 8 inches; tench, 8 inches; perch, 7 inches; roach, 7 inches; dace, 6 inches; rudd, 6 inches; gudgeon, 4 inches; all to measure extreme lengths. This is to give notice that all netting, night-lines, trimmers, snares, or any other mode of fishing or taking fish other than by fair rod and line angling, will be dealt with as the law directs. The close time (during which no fish can be taken), as laid down by the Freshwater Fisheries Act, 1878, 41 and 42 Vict., c. 39, sec. 11; and subsection 1 and 2; and observed on the river Thames, viz., from 15th March to 15th June, both days inclusive (trout from April 1st to September 31st, both days inclusive), will be strictly enforced. And notice is further given that any person or persons found trespassing on the opposite bank or land to the aforesaid footpaths, or on either bank or land adjoining the Colne ditch (better known as the gully or little river), will be prosecuted with the utmost rigour of the law. And any person fishing in the Colne or Colne ditch between the above-named points, except on the aforesaid footpaths, will be prosecuted as the law directs by the said club.—A reward of not less than £1 1s. will be paid to any person or persons giving such information as shall lead to the conviction of any person or persons for any offence of the above nature. All communications to be made to the Hon. Sec., at the Club House, the Leathersellers' Arms, Watford. N.B.—The club's authorised agents have directions to prohibit the fishery to any person or persons damaging the banks, using bad language, or otherwise misbehaving." There were present; Mr. C. E. Fry, the president, who acted as chairman; Mr. F. F. Horn who occupied the vice-chair until the arrival of Mr. W. T. Boydell, Mr. H. A. Vincent, the hon. secretary; Messrs. W. D. Bower, C. R. Lovejoy, Parker, Urlwin, Ross, E. Eden, Clegg, Sibley, Jeffery, H. James, A. Cutchee, Beech, Bigwood, P. Vincent, H. Haywood, A. Spicer, &c. Upon the conclusion of the dinner the following prizes offered were announced:—A prize offered by Mr. Fry for the largest trout taken in the season with a fly. A prize offered by Messrs. Horn and Beech A prize 10s. 6d., offered by Mr. Vincent, for the largest tench of the season. Mr. Boydell offered £1 1s. for the heaviest jack, snap tackle or spinning. Mr. C. R. Lovejoy, 10s. 6d., for the second largest jack. Mr. Eden, a prize for the second largest trout. Mr. Fry, a prize of £5 for a perch of 5 lb. weight, and £1 for every 1 lb. exceeding 5 lb. Messrs. Clegg, Griffiths, and Sibley, a prize of £2 for the heaviest chub over 2 lb. Some capital songs were sung during the evening, and the chairman gave a very taking recitation.

WEST CENTRAL ANGLING SOCIETY.

The annual supper of the above society took place on Friday last, and a most enjoyable evening was passed by everyone present, Messrs. Donald Smith, C. Ball, W. Wilcockson, W. White, G. Randall, R. Richards, J. Stanton, R. I. Beard, sen., and some visitors, contributing to the harmony of the evening. Between the songs the winners of last season's prizes was read over, and the following list of prizes announced for competition during the present season:— Mr. R. I. Beard, sen. gives £1 for the largest jack taken during the season; Mr. Payne, 10s. for the largest jack (October); Mr. Banks, pocket-book, value £1 1s., for the second largest jack (season); Mr. F. Beard, 10s. for third largest jack (season); Mr. Ball, ham, value 10s. for the fourth largest jack (season); Mr. Randall, 10s. for the gross weight of roach (season); Mr. Oliphant, 10s. for the second gross weight of roach (season); Mr. Summers, 10s. for gross weight of roach from Amberley (August); Mr. Richards, 10s. for the largest roach (season); Mr. White, 10s. for the gross weight of roach from the Thames (season); Mr. Smith, 10s. for the gross weight of chub (season); Mr. T. Wood, 10s. for the largest chub (season); Mr. Webster, 10s. for the largest perch (season); Mr. R. I. Beard, jun., 10s. for the gross weight of perch (season); Mr. Wright, 10s. for the second gross weight of perch (season); Mr. W. Wood, 10s. for the gross weight of dace (season); Mr. Mathie, 10s. for the second gross weight of dace (season); Mr. Stanton, 10s. for the gross weight of tench (season); Mr. Bradley, 10s. for the largest barbel (season); Mr. Wilcockson, 10s. for the gross weight of all fish bar jack (season). More prizes are promised and the club prizes to add. The members fished the quarterly match at Amberley on Sunday last, Mr. Manley taking the first prize with a splendid brace of roach and one bream, the roach weighing 1 lb. 9 oz. and 1 lb. 3½ oz. Mr. White took second prize with a roach 1 lb. 3¼ oz. Mr. Oliphant and Mr. Webster divided the third and fourth prizes, being a dead heat. June 19.—R. I. BEARD, jun., secretary.

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxfod," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

" A moral, too, your line may point
When tangl'd is the hair ;
Let patience with her oil anoint,
'Twill save you from despair.

" The same in life when ills assail,
Perplex'd with mischiefs rank,
Patience and skill will seldom fail
To unloose the knotted hank."

As anticipated in my last note, "patience and skill" has met with its due reward, the tangled knot of close time is buried for nine months amid the musty archives of Father Thames, and piscators can get to work without let of hindrance from the powers that be. The week's doings, at any rate on the water over which I cast my oblique vision and my straight line, reveals the fact that the Thames, not only in the protected but in the unprotected portions, is teeming with trout. This is a fact which has been gradually dawning upon me from occasional inspections and reports from the managers and proprietors of eelbucks, that the Thames is once more getting splendidly stocked with spotted beauties. At Boveney and Bray some five takeable trout have been had during the past week, and galore of roach, chub, and barbel. From Maidenhead I glean that Mr. R. Nicholson and Mr. H. Clancey, out on the opening day with young Wilder, got well amid the barbel, the vesper scale recording 32½ lb.; a trout was also had in the haul, but being a child not out of its long *close* was returned to its cradle. Captain Haynes and Mr. Rose, out with Harry Wilder, also on the opening day, had a take of barbel which weighed 45 lb. Mr. Mayman and Mr. Brooks, out with J. Andrews, took 50 lb. of barbel and one fine trout; and Mr. Haig, out with the same veteran and excellent fisherman on Monday, captured seven barbel going 20 lb., and one very decent trout. At Marlow, on Friday, the angling association inaugurated the opening day with a contest amid the members, and fair sport accrued to the various floats. The first prize was won by Messrs. Bedford and Dobell, fishing with T. White, by capturing three jack; the second honours being won by Mr. T. H. White for the heaviest barbel, 5½ lb.; the third prize, in George White's punt, going to Mr. A. K. Wright and Mr. G. H. Lovett, 15 lb. of fish. The best take by any of the competitors was by Messrs. A. and T. H. Wright, with Thorpe as fisherman, 32 lb., but as one of the gentlemen got the barbel prize, he was out of the third honours. Messrs. Kenealey and Davison, with Coster, got 9 lb. Dr. Bloxam and Mr. Jackson, with H. Lockwell, took four jack; Mr. C. Carter and Mr. Foottit caught two trout and one chub; and Mr. J. Rawson and Mr. Englefield captured a miscellaneous bag going 8½ lb., with Shaw as director. At Hurley, on Friday, Messrs. Birch and Brooksbank got some nice perch, the best fish scaling 2 lb. 2 oz.; and Dr. Brooks, with Townsend, took a trout and some chub from the weir. At Henley, Mr. Fred. Hoblyn, at the Millpool, on the 17th inst., twelve trout and five barbel. Mr. Spence, at Hambledon, eight trout on the 16th inst., five fish being returned; and Mr. Cook, at Hambledon, six trout, all being returned.

Thursday evening.—River in prime all-round order. Wind, S.E.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Ancholme.

The advent of coarse fishing in this neighbourhood was accompanied by most beautiful weather and a fine water, but though there was a large turning-out on Friday or Saturday there were but small puttings-in (the panniers). I was out on Saturday and took, with running worm and very fine tackle, without float, twenty-five very fine dace and roach, as well as one nice trout of 1 lb. which had run down to deep water. It was as pink as salmon, and of the finest flavour. The dace ran from ¼ to ½ lb. each, and were really quite passable when stewed in the oven. On another evening I had four very fine trout, weighing a total of 3 lb., all the result of recent stocking. Roach have not yet finished spawning, and the pike are too emaciated to catch for a couple of months, whilst the bream have scarcely begun to feed.—THOMAS FORD, Caistor.

Chichester.

The coarse fish season at Chichester and neighbourhood has opened fairly. The canal is in fine condition, the lower reaches especially showing the beneficial effect of the weed clearance. The weather, although changeable, has been fairly favourable, and takes in excess both in quantity and quality to some previous seasons. On Friday, the 16th, eight members of the Chichester Angling Society competed, Mr. E. Wood taking first prize with a fair sample of roach; Mr. Wickenden second; and Mr. G. C. Smith third. It is intended to hold a competition on each Thursday evening for prizes, entries to close on Wednesdays. Perch have been well on, but no bream worth recording have yet come to hand. At Selham fair sport has been had, but some few weeks must elapse ere fish get into condition, spawning being in some instances very late this season.—GEORGE F. WALTER.

Colne (Watford).

Several anglers have been hard at it this week, and some very good fish have been taken. Yesterday Mr. Grant, while fishing in the waters preserved by the Watford Piscators, took a perch 2½ lb., and late last evening a trout of 4 lb. was taken under one of the bridges, both fish, I believe, have been sent to Mr. Bowers, the skilful naturalist of this town, for preservation. Some splendid roach were taken near the bathing-place, one fish 1½ lb.—RED WORM.

Coquet (Northumberland).

On Monday last week the following extraordinary take of trout was caught with fly in the river Coquet between Byegate Hall Ford and Carshope:—Mr. James Davidson, Holystone, 16½ dozen; Mr. James Grey, Woodhall, 14½ dozen; Mr. Percival Davidson, Holystone, 6½ dozen—total 37½ dozen.

Coquet (Weldon Bridge).

On the 15th, I drove a party of my old friends to the Breamish, sixteen miles north—it is a beautiful little stream. We started at 6.30 a.m., arrived at Branton a little before 9, and, to our surprise, there was no inn within two miles of the river, but the party put on their waders, &c, at the river side, and a start was made above Branton, and fished up above Ingram. I met them at 3.30, and, considering all were strangers to the river, they had good sport. Dr. Bowling creeled 7 lb.; Mr. Dance, 1½ dozen; Mr. Gray, 5 brace; Mr. Styles, 4 brace. On the 16th, Messrs. Armstrong, Dance, Gray, Styles, and Dixon, and Dr. Bowling, from 3 to 10 brace. On the 17th, the sport, nothing in-coming. On the 19th, Mr. G. Armstrong, 2 dozen; Mr. Dance, 1½ dozen; Mr. Gray, 1 dozen; Mr. Styles, 2 brace; Mr. Dixon, 3 brace. On the 20th, Mr. Oliver, 2 dozen; Mr. Armstrong, 7 brace; Mr. Dixon, 3 brace.—A. GLASS.

Dove.

This has been a very busy week with us, for not only have we had the drake dying off the river, and an angler trying to make the most of the fly while it remained, but we have also had the first few days of the coarse-fishing season, and everybody knows how eager the long-pent-up rodster then is. Well, trout fishermen have again been doing well, almost as well as I was able to report in these columns last week. While the drake was fairly on (it may now be said to have departed), the baskets would reach some eight or nine brace of trout, the finest sport being enjoyed from Hartington downwards. The Turkey brown and the sand fly have now taken the place of the drake, and I am glad to state have so far proved no inefficient substitutes, though of course the trout have not been feeding so freely as before, owing to the fact that they are over-gorged with the drake. The minnow, Foster's excelsior, Gregory's universal killer, and the Derby killer, have been getting amongst the big fish. The followers of the coarser species have not been doing particularly well, the reason, I fancy, being that several sorts are not yet thoroughly over spawning. A few barbel have been caught with the cad bait near the Trent mouth; but these would have been all the better with another fortnight's freedom.—THE SPLODGER.

Exe (Tiverton).

The river is now in good order for fly-fishing, and very fair baskets of trout are being made. The flies killing best are the black gnat, red ant, iron blue and May dun. There are a fair number of salmon up, but they do not take the fly very freely, three only having been taken during the past week.—WM. MUDFORD.

Ilfracombe.

Sea-fishing last week I omitted to report, as during the early part of the week the wind blew strong from the nor'-west, with a heavy sea. On the Thursday one boat ventured out, and in a few hours succeeded in capturing over 40 lb. of bass—the first caught for the season. On Friday and Saturday the trawlers brought up some fine soles from the bay; some of the soles weighing from 2 to 3¼ lb. each. On Monday three splendid bass were caught; also several ling and whiting. Men have also been very successful with the lobster-pots, bringing in three or four lobsters at each haul and several fine crabs. One of our fishermen on Tuesday morning, while hauling his spiller, succeeded in capturing a large shark, which he brought into harbour and afterwards exhibited through the town. Wednesday and Thursday there was several fine catches of bream and whiting. Now, as I write my report, I observe a fisherman passing with a fine string of bream and conger eel. Of an evening there is fine sport to be had off the jetty with rod and hand-lines; expert hands often capturing fish weighing from 4 to 10 lbs.—E. COMER.

Ouse (Liverpool).

Water a very good colour, but owing to floating weeds not in good order for fishing at present. I do not think the fish will be tempted much with the angler's bait while the weeds are green and sweet; as they are having a perfect feast off them. We opened here on the 16th with a goodly number of anglers, and I believe all got fish; but there were no takes worth reporting. I thought the bream were coming on; for we got two almost at starting—one 2¼ lb. (Mr. Tee, Cambridge), and the other 1¾ lb. (Mr. J. Cole, London). Though we have tried very inducement since, and have caught some—I was going to say lots—of silver bream (but that would be hardly correct), no more of the black-backed ones have favoured us at present; though I hope to induce them shortly.—CHARLES SOUTH.

Taw and Tributaries (N. Devon).

Water still right, and likely to be so for eight or ten days, without rain; the weather is still getting warmer. I find last week in the Yeo one gent. got seven dozen, another four, another three, another two dozen. Last Monday two gentlemen got three dozen; Tuesday one got three dozen, another eight dozen; some fish in the basket like minnows, which is a disgrace to any fisherman. Yesterday one gent. got three dozen decent fish; one gent. fishing the lower Yeo got seventy fish in one day, all with the fly. I have heard of some fish being taken from all the small streams, and I saw a dish from the Mudiford Brook, twenty-six fish. Salmon are coming up, and peal; many are caught in the tidal river with the net. I am told £50 worth was sent away from Appeldore last week. Should a shower come, I shall have to record of many caught with the rod and line.—RUSTY GAME.

Thames (Goring).

Water in good order for all-round fishing. Prospects looks good for this week. Weather unsettled. Roach have been dead of this week, but this rain will make them come on again. Fishing with Mr. Hue, 231, Camden Road, Holloway: five days, best day five jack, and some good perch; largest jack 5 lb. —JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Halliford).

Owing to the bad state of the river the fishing has been very bad. Different gentlemen fishing with me their takes have been as follows:—Messrs. Innes and Withers, first day, one barbel, one chub, and an eel; second day, Mr. Armstrong, four dozen roach and dace, and three bream; third day, Messrs. Bennet and Plimpton, three dozen roach and dace, and one bream; fourth day, Mr. A.

Taylor, one dozen dace and three jack. After the rain we have had to-day, by the time this is in print the river will be in good order for all-round fishing. —George Rosewell.

The Thames (Twickenham).

Wind S. W. with light showers of rain at intervals. I have had fourteen punts out since the opening day, but of course we have not had any large takes yet, but each punt that goes out comes back with more success as each day passes over. The river is in splendid condition, and tide will suit for all-day fishing.—Alfred Perrin.

Thames (Windsor).

The opening of the present coarse fishing season shows a marked improvement on that of the past few seasons, especially in barbel, which I believe will come well to the fore this season, and the number of small trout taken with the worm (most of which have bean returned) is a good sign for the future; but I have had proof to-day of how useless it is to put trout in much under ½ lb. A jack was taken with a large roach on snap tackle, it weighed only 2½ lb., and when in the well of the punt vomited a trout, half digested, weighing about 7 oz. I have the trout now in spirits of wine, which can be seen here at any time. Perch and roach have not been feeding very well; it is much too early to expect them. Chub have been fairly on, and some very good specimens for the time of the year have come to bag. I hear that a London gentleman, who boasts of fishing a number of years for Thames trout, with fly in our weir stream tried to detain a small trout of some 10 oz., but the vigilance of our bailiff, James Gray secured the return of the innocents. If this is the first offence detected, how many has this worthy piscator taken out of our water undersize? I am greatly surprised, knowing who the gentleman is, but withholding his name, as the fish may have been badly hooked; but with the fly, the chances are it was not. The following is a list of the principal takes coming under my notice:—Mr. Hockley, of the Swan, 84, Old Kent Road, with Richard Gray, at Boveney, on the 16th inst., 16 barbel, 6 chub, 1 trout 1½ lb.; Mr. Lynes, a member of the Hammersmith club, fishing with Paice at Boveney, 16th inst., had 11 barbel, 2 chub and 3 trout (largest 1½ lb.); the latter, unfortunately, with worm fishing, as a rule, take it oyster fashion, consequently, gets badly hooked; though this gentleman take none under 2 lb., still these were useless if returned. On 18th inst. Paice in the evening had 2 barbel, 7 chub, and 1 trout 1¾ lb.; the chub were all under 2 lb. Howard, Esq., with James Gray, first day had 4 barbel, 4 chub, going 15 lb. Several jack have been had, though small—largest I know of being 6¼ lb. taken with others by Mr. Herbert, of Windsor. Lumsden, of Eton Wick, out of eight runs in one day, securing only one fish of 5 lb. In a run up to Maidenhead on the 20 inst. I passed two punts, young Plummer, of Monkey Island, with a gentleman had taken up to 12 o'clock mid-day, thirteen barbel; and Mr. Frost, with the same excellent fisherman on the first day, got a rare show of barbel, besides six trout, largest 3½ lb., the rest being returned. At Maidenhead Bridge, a gentleman informed me he had just taken a brace of trout with the worm, going about 6 lb. George Winn, fisherman at Maidenhead, on the first day, with two patrons, had forty-seven barbel; and Ned Andrews, with a patron, took a good trout of 8 lb. Calling on the new host of the Swan Hotel, Staines, Mr. Currie Banfield, who is an enthusiast at the gentle art, he informed me he had taken the first day sixteen barbel, largest 6 lb. Mr. Doulton, of Cherry Orchard, Staines, thirty barbel on first day, all good fish. Mr. Richardson, of Staines, a fine basket of roach, going 20 lb, and topped with a jack of about 3 lb. Messrs. Parsons and King, members of the Windsor Angling Club, have been getting chub, the heaviest fish being credited to Mr. Parsons, going 3¾ lb. Several other bags have been had consisting of chub, roach, &c., of minor importance. Water at time of writing in capital order, and, as rain is falling, will be good for barbel if worm is used and swims baited well with same. A good many heavy jack have been seen and seem very numerous—too much so to benifit our stock of trout.—B. R. Bamburge.

Trent (Alrewas).

Since the opening day the weather has been anything but favourable for anglers, and I cannot glean of much being done in the river. On the opening the weather was everything one could wish, but the water was so unsettled and cloudy that the fish could not see a bait. The few anglers who were out did the best by fishing the small streams and tributaries that face the river. Messrs. Seal and Lavatard brought away a fair sample of roach and dace; the former, by the way, are by no means in good order and could be well left alone for another month. Our crack angler, Mr. William Reynolds, made a good start with twenty good dace, a grayling, and a trout 2 lb. 2 oz.; all the fish were taken with gentles, cad bait and worm were of no use. I made a start yesterday. A dozen nice dace chronicles my day's sport.—James Gregory.

Trent (Newark).

The water is now in capital condition for general angling, and a whole host of anglers are out every day. Some very fair bags of fish have been had since the opening day—principally eels and flounders—worms being the bait. A few chub have been taken off the shallows with fly, and dace have also bit well at cad bait. One of our anglers had a very nice barbel within a shade of 6 lb. Eel and flounder fishing seems to be all the go at present, as these fish are now biting nicely; anglers having a good stock of lobs cannot fail in securing a bag of those luscious fish. Water in nice condition, and weather ditto.—The Trent Otter.

Trent (Nottingham)

The season opened auspiciously on this part of the Trent, the water at the time was high and discoloured, and there was quite a run on the slacks and other sheltered places. At Weston a few bream were killed with the cockspur worm but the fish were only of ordinary size. Still they were clean and bit freely. At Shardlow, Mr. A. West, of Radford, succeeded on Saturday in taking a very fine trout weighing upwards of 3 lb. The Sawley subscribers have got a few coarse fish, but not many. On Monday and Tuesday the river began slowly to recede, and in the lower reaches attempts were made to fish the barbel swims, but the fish, as yet, do not appear to have left the shallows; at all events none, to my knowledge, have been landed. The Holme Pierrepont reach has been let as a subscription fishery, and the subscribers may probably do well.—The Man at the Clubs.

Tweed and Teviot.

Little was done in the way of angling during the latter part of last week, although a few takes were got. On Friday evening, on the Carham water, Mr. J. O. Wilson, stationer, Kelso, killed 7 lb. of trout. On the Teviot, on the same evening, Mr. Robert Robertson killed fully 5 lb. of trout, all taken with fly. On the lower Ednam House water on Saturday afternoon, Mr. James Gibson, fisherman to Mr. Drummond, killed a clean salmon, which turned the beam at 10½ lb. A heavy rain in the west on Saturday night and part of Sunday brought the rivers down in flood to the extent of a couple of feet, thereby greatly improving the trout angling, and, as a consequence, many disciples of the rod and line were plying their vocation on Monday. On the Teviot on that day, Mr. Ferguson had 7 lb., and three anglers who were out all night killed a gross total of from 24 lb. to 26 lb. On the Tweed, Mr. J. Oliver killed 3 lb., and on the same day, Mr. J. M'Nab had 7 lb., while Mr. James Pringle, on the Teviot, had fully 4 lb. Another basket of 12 lb. was got between two anglers, and numerous other baskets of from 3 lb. up to 5 lb. have also been killed in the neighbourhood. At the cauld at the top of the Anna a large number of clean salmon have been seen making their way to the upper reaches, and this is regarded as a hopeful indication of a good back-end salmon angling season. On the Hendersyde water yesterday Mr. James Kerss, angling for trout with minnow, killed a splendid sea-trout of nearly 9 lb. weight, besides which he had also one dozen of good sized common trout. On the Bowmont yesterday, Mr. T. Pringle, fishmonger, Kelso, had nearly 6 lb. of trout. A very handsome specimen of the common trout was killed with fly on the Teviot, last Thursday evening, which turned the scale at 3½ lb., and on being landed a small trout of 4 inches in length was found in its gullet. On the same river a bull trout of between 5 lb. and 6 lb. has been got. Mr. Bell, Shotton, in the course of a few hours' angling on one of the rivers in his neighbourhood, killed 15 lb. of trout, and had then to stop owing to a thunderstorm coming on.

Upper Medway (Tonbridge).

The close season ended on Thursday, and by midnight a large number of devotees of the angle were by the water side, all anxious for the fray. The weighing-in club competed for three prizes, the gift of tradesmen and others, at the Powder Mill Loch. The sport at this point was not by any means furious, but some good fish were taken, and a large number of small pike which were caught were returned to the river. The first prize was secured by Mr. G. Payne, with chub and perch; the second by Mr. E. Holloway, with pike and chub; and the third by Mr. A. J. Snelling, with perch. Below the town, J. Wynne caught a pike of 9 lb. 7 oz., besides two of 2 lb. each, at the Turning Hole, and Mr. T. Pronger, at the same place, secured three weighing 13 lb. Messrs. Bartram have made very large baskets of roach from the Castle Swim, and have nobbled a very fine bream or two, as well as some good dace. The roach this year are unusually fine, some of them weighing over 1 lb. Mr. R. A. Dallas Beeching, on Saturday, off the Castle, had a nice basket of roach. J. Burton caught a pike of 8 lb., while Mr. Theobald had a chub of 2 lb. and some roach, and Mr. Leonard some excellent chub. On Thursday morning, Mr. W. Ede, fishing before breakfast, got well amongst the bream, and in an hour had a very pretty basket of the flat 'uns. The water is rather too clear, but a little rain will soon put that right. Roach and bream fishers should do well, and those who are fond of chubbing will find quite enough sport as soon as the grass is cut. The club have secured the Ballast Pit for members, and there is a whisper that the South-Eastern Railway will issue privilege tickets to members of the club resident in London. If this is done, we hope to have a good season and a great acquisition of members.—Ye Medway Water-Rat.

Welsh Harp.

Seldom, if ever, has a fishing season commenced under more favourable auspices than the present one at Mr. Warner's favourite resort, and should it continue as it has commenced will fairly eclipse all former seasons, the large number of 162 jack, from 3 lb. to 12 lb., in one week is almost unprecedented, and the takes of carp, bream, perch, &c, are also far in excess of former years. Mr. Hammond took two nice carp of 9 lb. each, and one of 8 lb., besides five bream of 3 lb. to 5 lb. Mr. Lovegrove shows nine fine jack, the largest being 9 lb. Mr. Parker (one of our oldest fisherman) has been well to the front with several fine takes of carp, jack, and bream; Mr. Plumpton, too, with his perch has taken honours. The Messrs. Roxbee have between them landed eighteen jack, and Messrs. Aldridge twenty-six jack, while Mr. Brown has added nine fine jack to the already long list. On Monday Mr. Smart had six jack and one carp of 8 lb., in addition to some fine bream. Messrs. Packman, Putnam, and Bishop were well to the front with some very fine jack and bream, Mr. Bishop especially landing three very fine jack. Sawyer, who has been at work early and late looking after his patrons, reports the fish well on the feed, and with a plentiful supply of water a brilliant season may be confidently anticipated. Resident.

Wye and Derwent.

We have had a very great deal of heavy thunder-rain fall to-day (Thursday), which has quite put a stop to fly-fishing for a few days, as both rivers are very muddy and rising. Sport during the past week with the artificial flies has been A 1, especially on the Wye, and large baskets of both trout and grayling have been killed; in fact, we have had a first-class May fly season this year, both on the Lathkill and Wye, and a great quantity of fish have been killed. We have not had a very great quantity of natural drakes on the Derwent up to the present time, especially on the lower lengths of the Derwent. The Yorkshire people are trying to introduce the May flies on to the Driffield water, as there has been a very many thousands of fine May flies gone there in baskets. I hope they will succeed, but I doubt it. They would have stood a much better chance if they had got the May flies or grubs in the stick or caddis, and to have turned these at the river in different places. The killing flies have been the small Derbyshire green drakes, yellow duns, dotteril, and little black gnat. Sport on the Derwent has also been very fair, especially the first feed in the morning from ten to twelve, and baskets from six to ten brace per angler have been made. Yellow dun and dotteril flies, proving the best killing flies. Trolling with the Derby trout killer, has been followed with good results on the Darley Dale Club waters. The bottom fishers have done fairly well, both amongst trout grayling, and coarse fish, and the most fish have been taken with cockspur worms and maggots; roach are well on the feed between Bromford and Ambergate. There are many anglers out.—G. J. Eaton.

A Boy's Angling Feat.—A boy of eleven years of age, Robert Shiell Laidlaw, started from Yetholm, Roxburghshire, on the 19th, at five o'clock in the morning, walked out to College water, killed 109 trout, weighing 12 lb., and returned at 9.30 p.m., having walked a distance of twenty miles.

George James Eaton, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether the may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[Advt.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Aqua Pura.—Your roach have died from the attack of one of those minute parasites which so frequently attack fish. The fish in the Edinburgh Exhibition were killed in this way; the roach in the Westminster Aquarium are suffering in like manner. The great thing in keeping a freshwater aquarium in good order is to have plenty of vegetable life to keep a proper balance of gases. In the Berlin Aquaria the water is never changed, it is simply aerated, supplied with vegetable life, and added to to fill up what has evaporated. The water may be too hard for your fish, or try the addition of a drop or two of salicylic acid.

Redspinner,—Mr. Byram Littlewood lives at Huddersfield, and that is quite sufficient addess to find him.

W. W. Oakley.—The waters of the Feltham Powder Mills, near Hounslow, are preserved by Messrs. Curtis and Harvey. We are under the impression that they frequently net them; they may contain a few pike, some perch, roach, and chub. But you will get better fishing at the Black Dog Inn, near Feltham; it owns the right of fishing on the same stream, and has been frequently referred to in this paper.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

THE RAILWAY PRIVILEGE TICKETS AND THE QUESTION OF RENTING FISHERIES.

Sir,—I am very sorry, though not at all surprised, at the note of discord struck by your correspondent, Mr. F. Hill. He asks if the United Associations are not going too far when they give out: "All those requiring a privilege ticket must also take a ticket to fish the waters of the United Associations." Now, as the question of renting waters has for a long time agitated the London clubs, and they have been consulted in the above matter, and have by their delegates given consent, I don't think we can say they have gone too far; and, alas, I don't think we can say they have gone too fast. Had this question been grappled three years ago we should not have had to lament the loss of three good fisheries near London—viz., Dobb's Weir and King's Weir on the Lea, and the water at Rickmansworth, now rented by the Harefield Club.

I have no fault to find with Mr. Hill in bringing this subject forward and advising his brother anglers to give it their serious consideration, for a serious matter it is; for if we cannot manage by the comparatively trifling proposed tax, or even a trifle more, to rent a few fisheries within a reasonable distance of town, the poorer class of anglers will have little chance of sport at all, except when they can raise the money for Pangbourne, Goring, &c. There is a certain charm, no doubt, in travelling a distance when we have the time and money; but if by the outlay of 1s. or 1s. 6d., say 2s. 6d. altogether, with the railway privilege, we can get fishing, say within a distance like Rickmansworth, at a 2s. 6d. journey, instead of being 5s. out of pocket, besides a lot of time wasted in travelling, who has cause to grumble? Well, there is one class who have cause to grumble, that is those who belong to those clubs that rent water which they keep exclusively to themselves and whose only idea is to get the privilege ticket for nothing, or, if not, as near that amount as they can. These men have no sympathy with the great body of anglers. I always wish to refrain from blaming those clubs that have rented waters that have always been private; but in my opinion those who rent waters that have been public or subscription waters ought not to use the railway privilege tickets at all, as in my opinion such conduct is in the highest degree mean and contemptible. However, as men differ, so I suppose bodies of men differ, and we cannot expect all clubs to have the right and proper spirit prevailing which so admirably distinguishes the Gresham Society.

Shall it be said that Sheffield outdoes London in common sense and liberality in this matter? We read in your issue of this week, that 202 miles of water are rented in different parts of Yorkshire by the Sheffield Association. Although we have the Thames to go to, how much more necessary it is for London anglers to rent and preserve waters.

I do hope that there will be an absence of that foolish bickering over this question, that goes so far to mar the fortunes of all matters of importance among all conditions of men, and of which anglers have unfortunately had to suffer a full share. I have no doubt Mr. Hill does hear a great deal of grumbling on this subject, but I would ask him if this grumbling does not principally come from men who may be styled professional grumblers—men who have a mind something akin to the individual who, when congratulated on coming into an income of £6 a week, grumbled because they hadn't thought of Sunday. Grumbling and opposition are unfortunately so ingrained in some men that I have often observed that—entirely without reason or sense—as soon as one set of men in a club support any particular proposition so surely can those who know with whom they are dealing say, as Messrs. So-and-So have supported that measure certain other members, easily named, are sure to oppose it.

There is one thing I should like to say while on this subject, that is, I don't see why members of clubs should pay to preserve the rented waters for the benefit of outsiders. I trust that no one will be allowed to fish our waters who do not pay their shilling the same as we shall have to do ourselves. I have not the slightest wish to exclude any man, but if a man is too poor to pay a shilling for a year's fishing he is too poor to go fishing at all. I would be the first man to withdraw from this scheme if I thought any attempt would ever be made to keep these waters entirely a close borough for members of the three associations only. Admit all who are willing to pay the modest premium; and, as soon as a few pieces of water, reasonably suited to the convenience of my brother anglers. have been obtained if a guinea or two is wanted to stock and preserve them, mine shall not be wanting, even should I never go near the said waters to fish.—I am, &c.,

A. J. Marriott.

THE RAILWAY PRIVILEGE TICKETS AND THOSE OF THE UNITED ASSOCIATION.

Sir,—The letter signed F. Hill in your last issue has caused me much surprise. It plainly points to one of two things—either Mr. Hill is deplorably ignorant of the subject on which he is writing, or he wishes to cause dissent among the London anglers on a question which has been decided by each of the three associations to be for the benefit of the whole body.

Let me draw Mr. Hill's attention to the full rules of the United London Angling Associations' Fishery Society, as published in the Fishing Gazette of June 3. He will there find the specific objects for which the society was formed, and to which the "extra shilling" was intended to be devoted. He will, moreover, find that the committee consists of thirty-six members, twelve from each of the three associations, and three trustees, one from each association. Pray, what more representative body than this could be desired? Is this Mr. Hill's "very small minority"? And where does he find that this "very small minority" has the power to make what calls they think they will, in form of subscriptions, &c., and to place the same to what purpose they choose? No such thing has been contemplated, and I am perfectly convinced that the three associations (collectively or individually) would not give such power to any body.

I quite agree with Mr. Hill's advice to club anglers to give this matter their serious attention. That is exactly what is required. Let them give the matter every possible attention, and they will find that instead of being unjustly taxed as suggested, they are simply paying 1s. annually for the purpose of renting, preserving and stocking waters to which they will at all times have free access. Is that a very great sacrifice to make for what must be an enormous benefit to anglers, both now and in the future? I think not. It occurs to me that Mr. Hill should rather have written asking the objects of the society, instead of attacking it without sufficiently understanding its ends. And I very much fear that some gentlemen who have rendered so much assistance in this and other good works in the angler's interests will feel the disparaging remarks of your correspondent.—I am, &c.,

Justice.

THE "FISHING GAZETTE" TOURNAMENT.

Sir,—I can hardly send out a special notice to our members in reference to the tournament, but shall be very pleased to render any aid possible, the more so as the Anglers' Benevolent Society benefits by it. Our friend Ghurney, who is so deeply read in all that appertains to the Lea, with the additional qualification of being secretary to the fund in question, sent me twenty tickets, which were at once disposed of; but I have now received twenty more—making forty in all. Will those members of the Gresham who have not taken tickets forti-fy me by taking some, and kindly put me in the position of little Oliver asking for more.

I hope, sir, the tournament will not only prove financially successful, but be the means of bringing anglers together for mutual aid and friendship. My impression is that on this occasion we might have a very pleasant re-union, and that all anglers might safely bring their wives and children to witness an interesting exhibition of skill, and at the same time contribute their mite toward the relief of those who are united to them as kindred spirits, in the love of a common sport.—I am, &c.,

T. Crumplen.

PRIZES AT THE "FISHING GAZETTE" TOURNAMENT.

Sir,—I should be glad to know what the prizes consist of at the Anglers' Contest, Welsh Harp, and the conditions under which they are to be cast for, as I have not seen it published or announced at any of the clubs.—I am, &c.,

F. E. Comyns.

[Almost every week recently we have given particulars of fresh prizes. More are mentioned this week. They range in value from £5 to 5s. The conditions will be much the same as at our last tournament, but they will be published in the Gazette next week probably.—Ed.]

SILK AND HAIR LINES, &c.

Sir,—I have no inclination to carry on a discussion on this question, which must always, to some extent, be one of taste and fancy, possibly of prejudice; but my last week's statements have been so misunderstood that I feel sure that, if I say nothing now, my silence will also be misinterpreted.

In the first place, it is gratifying to feel that I have amused "Herne the Hunter;" actually brought him to life again apparently; and now that he leaves his "happy hunting grounds," to attack an ordinary mortal like myself, he must needs put me to great disadvantage. But he need not be so rude and personal (not to say diabolical), I think. Still, we must remember where he has been all these years. Yes, I am at a grievous disadvantage when a mysterious sportsman, centuries old, rises from the infernal regions to refute my opinions, backed up, too, by a diary—the first diary in the world, moreover—teeming with a constant record of facts in refutation of my notions. But let me remind him that I simply expressed an opinion based on my own experience; and I don't see that in advancing my views (for what they are worth) they must of necessity be wrong because they don't square with those of "Herne the Hunter." Nor do I see that one solitary instance of "a trout 16 inches long and nearly 1½ lb. in weight" is much to the point. It proves precious little, except that the fish should have weighed more than it did if it had been in prime condition. Back this up with a wonderful record of six 8 oz. fish, and "Olim Trutta's" complete discomforture is accomplished! Not a bit of it. I never for one moment expressed a doubt about these marvellous feats of skill, and, as I clearly stated last week, that I had no experience of hair *casts*, it appears that the redoubtable "Hunter" is setting me up for the express purpose of knocking me down again. Well, I daresay he has a slack time down there, and wants to keep his hand in. He's very welcome to any fun he can get out of me.

However, it is very plain that in this whole question we are at cross purposes. As "Herne" has put me out of the pale "of all fly-fishers worthy of the name," I must proceed with caution and diffidence. Still, I may point out that in my last letter I carefully avoided referring to my own exploits, but I mentioned "anglers second to none." I beg leave to repeat that there are anglers "worthy of the name" who have not the pleasure of "Herne the Hunter's" extensive and comprehensive acquaintance, and who are not fortunate enough to be enrolled in the blest company of "Northern anglers," and whose feats on southern streams would astonish some of "Herne's" acquaintances, not to say the great man himself. In judging a question of suitable tackle, there are many things to be taken into account, and what is best for one water and one style of fishing, is not necessarily the best for all. Yet "Herne the Hunter," in his ghostly omniscience of another world, would have us believe that the tackle he advocates must be the best, and that no angler who differs from him is "worthy of the name." He refers me to a wonderful diary, and picks out one instance of a trout, barely 1½ lb., as convincing and conclusive! Can anything be more absurd? There are seven different southern waters to which I have access. Some are club waters well preserved others are fished to death every day through the season. On none of these is a trout considered killable under ¾ lb. The waters are very weedy, and the average of trout killed is certainly over 1 lb., sometimes nearer 2 lb. The only successful mode is with a single dry fly, cast with the utmost nicety and precaution on very fine gut. When all is done to perfection on the angler's part, the big trout rise slowly, deliberately, and, after due circumspection, suck down the lure or reject it. This is the kind of fishing I chiefly delight in, and my last week's fishing was of this character —in a stream where the rules of the water only allow fish over 1¼ lb. to be killed. All my fish were taken on the smallest hooks, Nos. 0 and 00. What's the use of hair in a case like this? "But this kind of fishing is unique," perhaps "Herne" will say.

Perhaps it is; and therefore, as I haven't got a diary like our ghostly friend, I'll quote something else. Last year I fished for trout fifteen weeks, in all kinds of waters, in England, Wales and Scotland and the four biggest fish I killed with trout flies and gut weighed a few ounces over 19 lb. Three of these fish were taken on drawn gut, in places more than a hundred miles apart, and on waters quite unlike each other. But this was a fluke, I suppose "Herne" will tell you. At all events, it goes for nothing, as I am an angler not "worthy of the name." Perhaps a quotation from a letter I received a week ago may be more suitable by way of illustration. A friend, who is certainly considered "second to none" among his Hampshire acquaintance, writes, on June 10th, to say that in two successive days he killed with artificial fly, 11 trout, weighing 26½ lb., and was smashed five times by monsters.

If "Herne" feels inclined to "deny point blank" these statements, I must refer him to the pages of the *Field* (if they take it in where he comes from), where all these captures have been recorded as they occurred. The people who do these things don't use silk and hair reel lines, and don't think much of hair collars; they are not "Northern anglers," haven't the pleasure of "Herne the Hunter's" acquaintance, and are therefore great duffers, as a matter of course. But the tackle which is good enough for their captures (though they cannot be named in the same day with the record of six 8 oz. trout to one rod) was considered sufficiently good for all practical purposes by a person who signed himself "Olim Trutta," and who did not say all the things "Herne the Hunter" accuses him of saying; who advocated tackle which, taking one stream with another throughout the United Kingdom, would be found generally useful for fine fishing, among fish proverbially hard to catch and fit to test any man's skill and experience. Until "Herne the Hunter" proves (not merely by stating a solitary capture taken from an unparalleled diary) that his tackle will do the same, "Olim Trutta" respectfully begs to intimate that the question is one on which they are not likely to agree, and that further discussion is useless. He has said all he means to say on the question, and, in deference to the mighty hunter's opinion, he signs himself,

The Logger-headed Chub.

[We can endorse our "Logger-headed Chub's" statements entirely—we have the fullest reliance on his records of takes, which are not exceptional at all. We have a rod on a trout water not a hundred miles from London, and we put back all fish under 1½ lb.; our limit was 2 lb. last year, but that was a little too heavy. We would like to see "Herne the Hunter" tackle our big fish with his hair casts, which are thicker by one half or more than the drawn gut we use. However, we have no wish to alter any angler's views regarding his favourite tackle, and, from a selfish point of view, might wish that all anglers used hair lines—there would be more fish in the water then.—Ed.]

HAIR *v.* GUT.—FELL BECKS.

Sir,—I should like, with your permission, to add a word on the subject "hair *v.* gut." Several opinions have been elicited of a conflicting nature; you, Mr. Editor, giving yours decidedly in favour of drawn gut; whilst others as confidently pin their faith to single hair casts. Some few years since I was fishing with a cousin on the Teme, near Ludlow, during an early morning in May. We took stream and stream about and compared notes after an hour or so. I found that not only was my cousin ahead of me in respect of numbers, but also in the size of fish. I was using a gut collar; whilst he had on a single hair cast, an old friend that had done good service in the lake country, and to this he attributed the difference presented between contents of the two creels, as the river was somewhat low and fine. He lent me a spare hair cast, and I quickly found an alteration in my take. I was unfortunate enough to get fast in a bough overhanging a deep stream and lost this collar—much to my cousin's disgust, who to this day remembers and reminds me of the fact—but not until I had proved it sufficiently to make me resolve never to be without a hair line for fine water, where the fish were not likely to run very heavy; and this I have since adhered to with the greatest advantage. In the smaller streams of the north where, save during rain and fresh time the water runs fine and clear, the hair cast is invaluable, as your correspondent "Sprint" notes in connection with the river of that name. And this brings me to the remarks he makes as to the fell-becks, and the size of fish found therein. I fear that, unintentionally, in writing the little article referred to, I have conveyed the idea that a day's fell-beck fishing will usually result in the production of fish of the weight mentioned. This is by no means the case. Writing in the second portion, the article in question was based upon the experience of many fell-beck excursions, rather than a cut-and-dried narration of one particular day's fishing. I quite agree with "Sprint" when he says that two or three of a pound each would be preposterous. It would be so, but I think he has a little misread me. The *one* fish I mentioned was undoubtedly a *rara avis*; but there he was, a lank, peat-browned mystery. In some of the streams that have escaped being limed or otherwise treated, and where there are pools of sufficient depth to ensure plenty of water during drought, a solitary trout of considerable size is occasionally to be found. The one mentioned was the only one I ever came across, but I have heard local anglers speak to the same effect. The general run of fell-beck trout is of the size "Sprint" mentions, although in some of the becks, having direct communication with a lake, you often find them larger. The numbers your correspondent quotes will astonish some perhaps. I remember a party of three, two of them were cousins of mine, going out one rainy day to a little fell beck much thought of by the fishermen of the district. Two of them brought back each 160 and 159 and the third some 60 odd. That happened not very many years ago, but now I think it would be difficult to take so many, owing to the practice of liming, and also the increased number of rodsters everywhere to be found.—I am, &c.

Theodore Howard.

[We ought, perhaps, to have said that we refer to the very finest drawn gut (such as Mr Bulmer always supplies us with). Some tackle makers will show you "drawn" gut which is three times too thick for our use.—Ed.]

THE FELL BECKS.

Sir,—Having spent a good part of my life in the Lake district, I am quite able to reply to a brother angler who asks for information respecting the whereabouts of certain mountain becks.

I have fished the little beck which runs from Stickle Tarn down into Langdale, and if you fish up stream to the tarn you will get good fish, providing "Fisherman" follows the instructions given a week or two ago by Mr. Howard. Take up your quarters at the Dungeon Ghyll Hotel, which is close to the beck at the foot of the Langdale Pikes.

Then, again, you could fish from Windermere up the trout-beck valley, and after crossing to the left bank strike the road to Kirkstone Pass, where you can put up and fish next day down to Brother's Water, following the stream which rises just behind the Kirkstone Inn; and let me strongly recommend this little beck. I saw a splendid basket of trout caught, although I failed to make a good basket myself, as the beck was so low; but on another occasion I was more successful, and finished with a splendid lot from the boat on Brother's Water, At Grasmere there are several capital becks all running from the fells, but the pike take all trout from the lake. I'll conclude with a list of a few flies which I have found at this season to be first-rate when dressed as hackles and on very small hooks:—Stretcher, dotteril. drop, partridge, also grouse, black gnat, and last, but not least, the bracken clock dressed without wings.

I am of opinion that hair has many advantages, and still I now say that gut is so fine that where large fish are to be met with it is much preferable; a fish of a pound weight affording room for some skill to be brought into play in landing it on hair.

Apologising for taking so much space, I am, &c., Geo. P.

69, Meadow Street, Moss Side, Manchester.

RIVERSIDE INNKEEPERS.

Sir,—What does "The Boy Jones," alias "Marlow Buzz," mean by his sweeping charge against the riverside innkeepers. He tells his readers in the *Field* of last week that these men wink at the poaching delinquencies that are committed on the Thames in the vicinity of Temple and Hurley. If we, sir—for I am a licensed victualler not far from the banks of the Thames—are the unworthy people he would have you believe, let him tell us more (keeping within the pale of libel) that we of white wool may be able to spot the black sheep, and let those gentlemen, either anglers or oarsmen, who detest such craft, give their landing stage a wide berth. He may be assured of my assistance and that of others who wish to stand well with our visitors. While your correspondent buzzed about the landlady at Bourne End every week in print no great harm was done, although a good deal of partiality was displayed, and the same may be said of his continuous praises of "the snug little crib" at Hurley; for, doubtless, as a fisherman, he is glad to coax a kindred spirit occasionally on the same settle for pipe and pot. But not content with splashing us poor Bonifaces with his ink, he turns with inverted poll-axe fury on the navvies at work on the the locks hereabout. These fellows, he says, poach the river unmercifully. All I can say is that if they can get anything out of it now, it must be precious hard work, and more than the anglers can do, as the Henley birds have left little to reward their labours.

Sir, the poaching in this neighbourhood has been a parrot-cry for years, and we haven't far to look for the cause. Another attempt is to be made to establish a society strong enough to suppress all this, and, if possible, revive the attractions of the neighbourhood. But there exist strong reasons why certain men do not desire such a movement, and without their tacit or active co-operation the attempt will meet with the fate of the past.

Sometime ago there was much talk of the publication of "the Browne correspondence," which, according to the men on the bridge, was to enlighten the angling world in a manner equal to that of a modern electric luminary; then suddenly came an extinguisher in the shape of an apology, and left all in darkness again. Perhaps these documents are yet destined to come to the surface and diffuse a halo of truth for once over the affairs of Father Thames.—I am, &c, An Old Bung.

A SUGGESTION.

Sir,—It has often struck me a great want has been felt by working men anglers, that is, to know the condition of the water and fishing prospects later than it is possible to give them in either your excellent Fishing Gazette, *Field*, or other papers, which have to be printed early on Friday. This, of course, necessitates telegrams from distant stations to be sent off on Thursday. Now it frequently happens that by Saturday an entire change has set in, and the opinion there expressed is of no earthly use through sudden floods or otherwise.

Now I would suggest telegrams be sent, say, early Saturday morning, a quantity printed and sent to each tackle dealer, a small charge being made that would cover the expense of telegrams, printing, &c. I feel sure no angler would begrudge to pay, say, a penny for such information that in many instances would save him the expense of a long journey. I think Mr. Warner's idea during the skating season in sending up a telegram as to condition of the ice at the Welsh Harp was much appreciated by skaters who saw the telegram exposed at the *Sporting Life* and other places. Now this very week I am in doubt if it is advisable to try the upper Thames, and there is every probability of snow getting into the water from the upper country. This uncertainty will, in my instance, cause a loss to the G. W. R. Company, the people I generally put up at, and perhaps your obedient servant a day's sport.

A. J. Porter.

A COMPLAINT.

Sir,—Will you kindly allow a small space in your valuable paper, being a subscriber for a long time. I am sorry to have to complain of the way I have been treated by Mr. Wm. Bailey, senior, fishing-tacker maker, of Nottingham. On the 25th of February I sent for a silk line to Mr. Bailey and enclosed 2s. 6d. in stamps, and a stamped direct envelope for return. After waiting patiently till March 15th, I sent a postcard inquiring into the matter, but I got no reply. I waited till the 1st of this month (June), when I wrote a letter to him asking for an explanation, but have been treated with the same contempt. I may say that I have dealt with Mr. Bailey over twenty years, and have had no cause for complaint before. William Bayliss.

G. W. Terrace, Pontymoil, near Pontypool, Mon.

[We regret to be obliged to insert these complaints; but we have had many of them, and we must protect our readers.—Ed.]

In re THE FENCE MONTHS.

Sir,—A number of reports have been spread about, stating the condition of the bream and barbel taken since the opening of the season from the Thames (Weybridge, Shepperton, etc., to be in splendid condition.

I beg to inform you that the barbel are quite milky, and a bream weighed-in our club on the 18th had not even spawned, for a cupful of hard roe was taken from it. I think this fact clearly shows the mistake in opening the river as early as Mid-June, it would be far better to allow fishing a month longer, in the spring, keeping all the month of June fenced. The sooner the Mundella Act is altered the better. I wonder how much longer we shall have to wait for this?—I am, &c., F. Malcolm.

40, Ludgate Hill, June 22.

[The matter is in hand, but you cannot get a law passed and then alter it so easily as some people think.—Ed.]

BLACK SPOTS ON ROACH.

Sir,—Can you inform me as to the cause of black spots on the belly and back of some roach that were taken from the Thames last Saturday (June 18), which showed worse when kept over Sunday, as they were only just perceptible when caught.—I am, &c., W. Standley Woodhead.

Secretary Social Brothers Angling Society.

207, Cambridge Road, E.

[These black spots on roach are caused, we believe, by the fish having fed in water contaminated by sewage, and if the truth were known they have probably grown fat near the outlet of one of the up-river sewers. Roach marked in this way are very frequently caught in the sewage contaminated water of the Yare, just below Norwich.—Ed.]

LARGE KENNET TROUT TAKEN WITH FLY.

Sir,—Near Hungerford, in Berkshire, on Wednesday, 15th inst., Mr. E. S Gerrish took a trout with a May fly, weight 7 lb. 3 oz., length 26½ inches.—I am, &c., W. F. B.

Bedford Row, W.C.

STOCKING RESERVOIRS WITH FISH.

Sir,—Some gentlemen being desirous of stocking the reservoirs in the neighbourhood, with trout in some and coarse fish in others, will fishermen of experience in the matter kindly give some advice as to what fish would be likely to flourish; also any hints for procuring and stocking, coarse fish particularly?

The reservoirs are not fed by streams large enough for trout to spawn in.—I am, &c., J. J. Morgan.

Tredegar, June 13.

FISHING AT WHITSTABLE.

Sir,—Will any of your readers kindly inform me what kinds of fish are found in the dykes around Whitstable? and any information respecting the fishing would be acceptable.—I am, &c., Vortex.

Builders' Arms, Hammersmith, W., June 14.

[Small jack, small perch, roach, tench, and eels abound in the dykes between Margate and Whitstable, but they are so worried by the poachers that they get little time to grow. Here and there in the deeper places you may get good fish. Some years ago we had good sport near the Reculvers, but that is a good walk from Herne Bay Station. The high tides frequently kill the fish in these dykes.—Ed.]

FISHING AT HULL.

Sir,—Can you, or any of the numerous readers of the Fishing Gazette, kindly give me any information as to the coarse-fish fishing to be had in the neighbourhood of Hull?—I am, &c., Otja.

York Villa, 17, Terrace Road, South Hackney, N.E., June 14.

FISHING AT CORK.—IS THE EEL A FISH?

Sir,—May I ask through the columns of your widely spread paper, if any of its readers can oblige me with any particulars concerning fishing in the neighbourhood of Cork, trout and coarse fish; also as to suitable places for obtaining apartments, probably in commencement of August,—I am, &c.,

119, Old Ford Road, Victoria Park. Thomas George Dixon.

P.S.—Will you, Mr. Editor, kindly settle a question that has been matter of discussion for some time among my friends—Is the eel a fish? Your paper has been named as the only authority that will be taken in settlement of the said question.

[You will get capital salmon and trout fishing near Cork. We gave particulars of the fishing last year. The eel is one of our best fish.—Ed.]

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WILLIAM BIRT, General Manager.
London, June, 1882.

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EXCURSIONISTS ANGLERS AND BEAN FEAST PARTIES can have the best accommodation. There is a bowling green, skittle saloon, quoit ground and billiard room. Special accommodation for anglers, bean feasts and private dinner parties, on moderate terms. The river Arun is noted for good fishing. Good stabling accommodation. Particulars obtained of T. Pearce, Essex Tavern, 41, High Street, Aldgate, E.C., or at the hotel.

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No cross-grained, knotty, unseasoned timber is used, and all rods are hand-made.

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12 feet stand-up rings. The lightest rod in use.

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12 feet, 4s. 8d.; 14½ to 15 feet, 6s. 6d. arriage paid for 6d. extra.

Long best trout gut, 1s. 10d. per 100; hooks to gut, 4½d., 5d., 5½d. per doz. Stamps 1½d. extra to 5s.

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Fishing Rod Maker and Gut Merchant.

N.B. 1 yard gut cast 1s. 3d. per dozen; 2 yards gut cast, 2s. 5d. per dozen; 3 yards gut cast, 3s. 4d. per dozen; gut, 11 inch, 9d. per 100

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Every kind of Fishing Rods and Tackle of the best quality, and flies specially dressed for all parts of the world. Speciality in glued-up cane rods. Separate department for Polo.

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THE *NORWICH ARGUS,*

BEST EASTERN COUNTIES PAPER.

Now appearing, series of Articles on

The Rivers and Broads of Norfolk.

Published by

P. SOMAN,

ST. GILES STREET, NORWICH.

The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, JULY 1, 1882.

THE PROPAGATION OF COARSE FISH.

"LAST Monday evening at the Society of Arts Room, Adelphi, a paper was read by Mr. R. B. Marston on "The Propagation of our Coarse Fish." Mr. Edward Birkbeck, M.P., who occupied the chair, briefly introduced the lecturer, who proceeded to remark that the question of the cultivation of coarse fish was one of great and universal importance, and he regretted to find how far behind other nations we were in this subject. This had been exemplified at the Berlin Exhibition, but he hoped that the international exhibition, to be held in May next year at South Kensington, would give a great impetus to fish-culture. He strongly advocated the employment of the Swedish hatching boxes and also the French breeding hurdles so extensively used abroad by which millions of perch and other so-called coarse fish could be produced with the greatest facility, the method being simple and cheap. The lecturer said he had suggested to Irish farmers the adoption of fish-farming, which he believed could not fail to result in benefit to that country. He had felt much disappointment at receiving no response from that quarter, though letters from upwards of fifty English farmers had reached him inquiring as to the mode of procedure, thus illustrating the active interest taken in this country in the subject of pisciculture. In conclusion, he earnestly hoped that some practical steps would speedily be taken in the right direction, and that the result would be that the present deficiency of coarse fish would be supplied and an abundance of healthy food thus obtained for the million.—In the discussion which subsequently took place the opinion was generally expressed that no further delay should take place and the United London Angling Associations Fishery Society adopted the suggestions made in Mr. Marston's lecture. A resolution to that effect, and also one thanking the lecturer for his able paper, were unanimously carried.—Mr. Birkbeck, at the close of the paper, thanked Mr. Marston for its interesting character. Addressing himself to the subject of the preservation of fish, he said that net fishing of every description should be done away with most completely and entirely. America and Canada set a good example to England in the matter of fish breeding, the Canadian Government especially having last year voted no less than £4060 towards that purpose. However, he hoped that the approaching International Fisheries Exhibition would be the means of impressing upon the English Government the importance of giving more attention to our fisheries, both inland and sea. He also hoped that the Home Secretary might be persuaded to appoint an Inspector of Inland Fisheries.—The meeting concluded with a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman, and a presentation of a valuable testimonial to Mr. Bonvoisin, chairman of the West Central Association."—*Morning Post.*

Mr. Marston's paper will be reprinted with some illustrations, and judging from the universal and warm approval his suggestions received, there seems little doubt that coarse fish-culture will soon become general in this country. Amongst those present at the meeting were Mr. Geo. Shepherd Page, President of the American Fish Cultural Association, Dr. Brunton, and Messrs. W. H. Brougham, E. Marston, P. Geen, T. Hoole, Clench, Field, Alfred, Sachs, Crumplen, Bates, Faulkener, Wheatstone, Hatfield, Murphy, Beckett, Morgan, Yarde, Wilson, in fact nearly every well-known London angler was present. Mr. George S. Page, who was introduced by Mr. Marston delighted the meeting with a most amusing and interesting account of the black bass which he wished to introduce into this country. The presentation of the testimonial was made in a most effective and feeling manner by Mr. Geen; and Mr. Bonvoisin, who was visibly affected at the hearty reception he got, after receiving his illuminated address, his splendid gold watch, and his purse of forty sovereigns, made a suitable and graceful reply.

THE RICHMOND PISCATORIALS AND THE "FISHING GAZETTE" TOURNAMENT.

SPECIAL COMPETITION.

A SOLID silver cup, value £10 10s., given by the Richmond Piscatorial Society to the non-professional who makes the greatest number of points in casting, either Thames or Nottingham style. Three casts allowed each competitor. No entrance fee, and entries to be made on or before July 7th, to the editor of the FISHING GAZETTE.

[This speaks for itself, and shows how highly this first-class club appreciates these Tournaments.—ED.]

FLY-CASTING AT THE TOURNAMENT.

IT is to be hoped there will be a good many more competitors in this part of the tournament than there were last time. We must have it over water and have some bushes put up to send the flies under, if possible. With regard to the distance cast on the last occasion, which was about twenty-three yards, we see that, in the last American Fly-Casting Tournament, which took place in presence of a large company at Niagara Falls a fortnight ago, the longest cast (made by Mr. Rueben Wood) was twenty-seven yards, and of the six competitors who took prizes in the first and second contests, none are credited with less than twenty-three yards. The rods used being single-handed ones. The "American Angler" says:—"Just as we go to press we are in receipt of the following brief report from our special correspondent:—The fly-casting took place at Port Day, and the commenced at 11 a.m., with a high wind blowing from the south; the casting was across wind. Owing to the above condition the casting was not as satisfactory as it would have been under favourable circumstances. At the conclusion of the first contest a shower closed the field until 4 p.m. By this time the wind had lulled, notwithstanding the threatening of rain the attendance on the ground was fair.

"FIRST CONTEST.

"The first prize (a Conroy and Bissett German-silver mounted split bamboo rod, value £8 and cash £4) was won by T. Arrowsmith; cast 76 feet.

"The second prize (a Loomis and Plumb gold bronze automatic reel, value £10) was won by George H. Heir; cast 69 feet 8 inches.

"The third prize (cash £4 and two gun cleaners) was won by J. J. Mildram.

"SECOND CONTEST.

"The first prize (a Nichol's split bamboo salmon rod, value £8 8s.) was won by Rueben Wood, by a cast of seventy-nine feet.

"The second prize (a Nicol's split bamboo fly rod, value £4) was won by Mr. Leonard, by a cast of seventy-five feet.

"The third prize (a Nicol's split bamboo minnow or trolling rod, value £3 3s.) was won by Mr. G. H. Heir, by a cast of seventy-five feet.

"The result of the third contest did not reach us in time for this issue."

MORE PRIZES FOR THE "FISHING GAZETTE" TOURNAMENT.

(In aid of the Funds of the Angling Benevolent Society.)

THE Richmond Piscatorial Society will make the munificent donation of a Ten Guinea Silver Cup towards the Prize List at the Tournament. The Richmond Anglers won some of the best prizes at the last Tournament, and we sincerely hope they will show up equally well on Saturday next.

Mr. J. Bullock, of Firs Cottage, West Burton Road, Derby, has sent us six of his very capital "Derby-killers," for pike, trout, and perch, as prizes for the Tournament. This 'Derby-killer' as made by Mr. Bullock, is one of the best lures for trout we know. Only last week again, we notice that it was killing trout on the well-fished waters of the Derwent in Darley Dale.

Messrs. Watson and Sons, Fishing Tackle makers, 313, High Holborn, write as follows:—"Noticing in this week's GAZETTE your appeal for prizes for the approaching Tournament in aid of the Angler's Benevolent Society, we have much pleasure in sending herewith one of our angler's knives, price 25s., to be offered for competition in any way you may deem most desirable. Wishing all success to the Tournament, and that it may yield substantial help to the funds of the Society, we are, &c., W. Watson and Sons." The angler who gets this prize will be fortunate.

Mrs. E. Marston has promised one guinea, and Mrs. R. B. Marston a guinea, to be given as prizes at the discretion of the Committee. "Grasshopper," one of the Gresham members, also offers a prize in the shape of a 10s. tackle case; and Mr. Wigley of Cheltenham, has sent two of his Gloucestershire Spinners. By the way some splendid sport with these spinners last year in Slapton Lea amongst the jack, and also among the trout in Loch Leven. One angler getting heavy fish, 2lb. and 3½lb. with it. It is a capital bait and practically indestructible.

Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston and Co., will give a framed fish picture and some angling books.

A FINE COLNE TROUT.—"A.R.I.E.L." has just called to show us a splendid Colne trout caught by him last evening at Rickmansworth. It weighed when landed 6 lb. 7 oz. It was taken on his fly-fishing spinning tackle, on very fine gut and the smallest hooks, and killed in less than ten minues; the rod being a very light pliant fly rod. His six largest fish this season, all killed in the same style, have weighed 20 lb.

ANGLING CLUBS AND THE GREAT INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION, LONDON, 1883.

SECRETARIES of provincial fishing clubs and associations are requested to send the names and addresses of their societies to the secretary of the Great International Fisheries Exhibition, London, 1883, 24, Haymarket, in order that prospectuses and papers connected with the forthcoming exhibition, may be forwarded at once for the information of their societies.

SWANS *v.* ANGLERS.

IT is high time that anglers took up the defence of the Thames against the increasing army of swans. During the last week or two these birds, which swarm on the river, have eaten nearly the whole of this season's roach spawn, so that the crop of roach must be enormously reduced. There are none too many favourable places for roach spawning, and these terrible swans know them all. At Bourne End, for instance, dozens of them were to be seen gorging themselves on the spawn from morning to night every day as long as they could find any. Cannot something be done to reduce the number, or entirely get rid of these beautiful wretches? What do the officers of the T.A.P.S. and the other "fish preservation" societies say?

"FISHING GAZETTE" TOURNAMENT.

AS stated last week, the Tournament will come off at Mr. Warner's, Welsh Harp, Hendon, on the Midland Railway, at three o'clock next Saturday, July 8. The price of admission is sixpence; ladies half price. Tickets can be taken for the Welsh Harp or Hendon Stations from St. Pancras and from the Metropolitan underground railway stations—King's Cross, Snow Hill, Aldgate, &c. We advise anglers to make sure of the train times, and also to note that more trains stop at Hendon than at the Welsh Harp Station, and Hendon is only a few minutes' longer walk. As there is a long programme to get through, competitors are requested to pay the entrance-fees and give in their names and addresses before the times mentioned below.

* * * * * * *

N.B.—Competitors can use their own rods, reels and lines, but will have to use weights, &c., provided by the management, in order that all may use a similar weight.

The Handicap for Fly Rods.

The handicap for fly rods will be five feet per foot of rod—*i.e.*, if one competitor uses a ten-foot rod and another an eleven-foot rod, the eleven-foot rod will have to give five feet to the ten-foot, and so on in proportion.

The Handicap for Bait Rods.

In the bait casting competition the handicap will be seven feet per foot of rod—*i.e.*, an eleven-foot rod will have to allow seven feet in the distance thrown to a ten-foot rod.

* * * * * * *

All the competitions except the fly-casting, float-casting, and cheese bait casting, will take place over the grass, and the competitors will stand on a large tarpaulin, to keep the lines from obstructions.

ORDER OF THE COMPETITIONS.

I.

Amateur Competition in Casting in the Thames Style.

(Entrance fee, 2s. 6d. Competitors must give in their names and addresses, and pay the fee, before two o'clock, at the tent in the ground.)

Three prizes will be offered.

II.

Ambteur Competition in Casting from Reel in Nottingham Style.

(Entrance fee, 2s. 6d. Competitors must give in their names and addresses, and pay the fee, before two o'clock, at the tent in the ground.)

Three prizes.

III.

Professional Competition in Casting in the Thames Style.

(No entrance fee. Competitors must give in their names and addresses by half-past two, at the tent in the ground.)

One prize.

IV.

Professional Competition in Casting from Reel in Nottingham Style.

(No entrance fee. Competitors must give in their names and addresses by half-past two, at the tent in the ground.)

One prize.

V.

Competition in Throwing the Bait with Forked Stick.

(Entrance fee, 1s. Competitors must give in their names and addresses, and pay the entrance fee, at the tent in the ground, before half-past two.)

Three prizes.

VI.

Mr. Wm. Bailey, junr.'s, Prize for the Longest Cast, and with Quill Float in Nottingham Style.

(Entrance fee, 2s. Competitors must give in their names and addresses, and pay the entrance fee, at the tent in the ground, by half-past two.)

Prize.—A Nottingham rod, reel and line.

VII.

Mr. Malcom's Prize for the Longest Cast with Triangle baited with Paste or Cheese.

(Entrance fee, 1s.)

Prize.—A "Freake" fishing bag, newest pattern.

VIII.

Amateur Fly-casting Competition with Single-handed Fly-rod.

(Entrance fee, 2s. 6d. Competitors must give in their names and addresses, and pay the entrance fee, at the tent in the ground, by half-past two.)

Three prizes.

IX.

Amateur Fly-casting Competition with Double-handed Fly-rod.

(Entrance fee, 2s. 6d. Competitors must give in their names and addresses, and pay the entrance fee, at the tent in the ground, by half-past two.)

Three prizes.

* * * * * * *

Other competitions may be arranged if there is time, but we fear there will hardly be sufficient time to get through the above properly.

* * * * * * *

The Prizes.

We have already some two dozen prizes, ranging in value from ten guineas down to a few shillings, and hope to announce more next week, when a complete list of the competitions and prizes will be given.

* * * * * * *

The Judges.

The Committee of the Anglers' Benevolent Society have selected Messrs. Geen and Bates to act as judges, and Mr. Crumplen as timekeeper.

* * * * * * *

The Dinner.

We have great pleasure in stating that the chair will be taken by Thomas Spreckley, Esq., President of the Thames Angling Preservation Society. Mr. Spreckley, with his usual generosity, has promised five guineas towards the expenses. Mr. Geo. S. Page, President of the American Fishcultural Association, and a large number of well-known anglers will be present.. It is with much regret we hear from Mr. Clench that an important business engagement will keep him away this time.

Tickets for the dinner, price 3s. 6d. each, must be obtained of Mr. Warner before three o'clock, and any anglers who may wish to dine with us will greatly oblige by getting their tickets as early as possible, in order that Mr. Warner may know how many to provide for. In order to prevent mistakes, all extras (wine, grog, cigars, &c.) must be paid for at once by the gentlemen ordering them.

* * * * * * *

In conclusion, we will only hope for a fine day, and remind our readers that the Tournament is to be held in aid of a most deserving society—the Anglers' Benevolent Society—the object of which is to give help to cases of real distress amongst its members and their families. The small payment of one shilling per year confers membership in this society on any club angler, and we confidently hope that a principal result of our second Fishing Gazette tournament will be a large accession of new members. If the affair is a success, it will be due to the very great assistance we have received on all sides.

THE TOURNAMENT.—AN ACROSTIC.

F ather Izaac himself never thought,
I n the days that were then yet to be,
S uch a contest would ever be fought,
H and to hand, by the sons of the sea!
I f the wide world with bloodshed be rife,
N o bloodshed results from our meet;
G ood alone can arise from our strife,

G lad tidings but follow our feet!
A ffliction appeals to the heart,
Z anies only refuse then their aid;
E ach angler will take a good part
T ill to rest with his fathers he's laid.
T hen help, here is work to be done,
E nd quibbles—be with us to-day;

T ackle trouble till victory's won,
O r the shades of distress pass away!
U nite, then, and so become strong,
R ight royal the road that we tread;
N one alone can ever stand long
A nd none of us live without bread!
M ay our lives like a river then flow,
E ach day bringing pleasure anew;
N o trouble may one of us know
T o the time of the last long adieu!

Grasshopper.

EXTRA-FINE DRAWN GUT LINE.

SO many of our readers have asked where they can get the gut-lines we have recently referred to as being, in our humble opinion, infinitely better in every way than hair, that we give Mr. Bullmer's address for their benefit. He lives at 62, Wandsworth Road, and his price for these extra-fine casting lines is only eight-pence each. He dyes them all kinds of water colours, but we prefer, as being most generally useful, the faint smoky blue tinge. All fly-fishers who use hair or extra-fine drawn lines should strike from the winch; in fact it is the best plan in all cases. If any of our readers would like a little description of this plan, we shall be happy to give it.

EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION.

The Prize Essay Awards.

AT a meeting of the executive committee of the International Fisheries Exhibition on Wednesday, Mr. Maxtone Graham, of Cultoquhey, in the chair, the awards of the jurors on the essays were finally considered, and the envelopes containing the competitors' mottoes opened with the following results:—

1. On the Various Methods of Fish Culture practised in the different Countries of the World. No Essays.

2. On the Various Methods of Oyster Culture—£15 presented by the Lord Provost, Magistrate, and Town Council of Edinburgh—"Thorough" (Mr. W. Anderson Smith, of Ledaig, Argyllshire).

3. On Harbour Accommodation for Fishing Boats on the East and North Coasts of Scotland, pointing out the localities where harbours are most required, and distinguishing between natural coves or bays which may be converted into good harbours by artificial assistance, and places where the harbours must be entirely artificial—£25 by the Merchant Company of Edinburgh. "Quotation from the Herring Fisheries Report, 1878"—(Mr. Archibald Young, commissioner of Scotch Salmon Fisheries, Edinburgh).

4. On Oyster Culture in Scotland, including Orkney and Shetland, specifying the localities and the species or varieties of oysters most suitable, and discussing the effects of the laws at present in force, £10—by George Hunter Thoms, Esq., Sheriff of Caithness, Orkney, and Zetland—"Pro Patria, &c." (W. Anderson Smith, Ledaig). Balance of prize withheld.

5. On the Legislation at present applicable to the Salmon Fisheries in Scotland, and the best means of improving it—£10, by James Duncan, Esq., of Benmore. "Fas est ab hoste doeerie" (J. L. Leitch, B.L., 34, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh).

6. On the best means of increasing the Supply of Mussels for Bait, indicating the most suitable localities for Mussel-beds, and substitutes for Mussels as bait, £20—by William Gardner, Esq., Glasgow, £10; and the International Fisheries Exhibition, £10. "Purpureo murice tinctus" (J. C. Wilcocks, 4, Caer Badden Terrace, North Road, Plymouth).

7. On the Natural History of the Herring, with special reference to its migrations, £10, by George Waterston, Esq., Kirtle Lodge, Trinity; and £10 added by the committee. "Aquilla" (George Sim, 29, King Street, Aberdeen), £10; and "Nature's Laws Lie Hid in Night" (William Watt, 27, N. Albert Street, Aberdeen), £10.

8. On the various means of Curing and Preserving Fish at Home and Abroad, £15—by Dr. A. H. Malm, Gothenburg, £10; and the International Fisheries Exhibition, £5.—"Fins and Scales" (R. J. Munro, 63, South Bridge, Edinburgh); and "Nil Desperandum" (W. Anderson Smith, Ledaig)—prize divided equally (£7 10s. each).

9. For the best description of the means used for Curing and Preserving the various kinds of Fish caught on the Coasts of Scotland, the Hebrides, and the Orkney and Shetland Islands. £15—by the Highland Society of London, £10; and the International Fisheries Exhibition, £5.—"Persevere" (John Ross, jun., Muchalls, near Stonehaven).

10. On the Pollution of Rivers, indicating specially the kinds of pollution injurious to fish life, £20—by the Walton Angling Club, Edinburgh, £10; and the International Fisheries Exhibition, £10. Withheld for want of merit.

11. On the Salmon Disease—£10, by James Maxtone Graham, Esq., of Cultoquhey—"Tweedside" (Andrew Brotherston, Sheddon Park Road, Kelso), £10.

12. On the Migration of the Salmonidæ, as affected by Meteorological and other Influences—£10, by the Edinburgh Angling Club. No essays.

13. Should there be a mesh fixed by law for herring nets, and if so, of what size; or should fishermen be at liberty to use any size of mesh they please?—£10, by the British Fisheries Society, London—"Experientia docet" (C. W. Morris, Harbour View, Lowestoft).

14. On the best method of Preserving Fish Alive for Markets—£15, by the International Fisheries Exhibition. Withheld for want of merit.

15. On the artificial propagation of sea fishes suitable for food—£10 by the International Fisheries Exhibition—"Thorough" (W. O. Chambers, architect, Lowestoft).

16. On the breeding and rearing of freshwater fish—£10 by the Earl of Dalhousie—"Thorough" (W. O. Chambers, architect, Lowestoft).

17. On the species of foreign fish most suitable for introduction into British rivers and waters—£15 by the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland—"Thorough" (W. O. Chambers, architect, Lowestoft).

18. On the utilisation of fish offal—£10 by the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland—"Pomme de terre" (W. Anderson Smith, Ledaig).

19. On the fish supply of great cities, with special reference to the best methods of catching and packing, and of distribution, and other means calculated to facilitate the delivery of the fish in good condition for market—£20—by the Edinburgh Fish Trade Association, £10; and the International Fisheries Exhibition, £10—"Anomia" (W. Anderson Smith), and "Ventis Secundus," "Festus Grip" (care of Mr. Sinclair, 20, Rosehall Terrace, Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh)—divided equally, £10 each.

20. On the herring brand—£10 by the British Fisheries Society, London—"Pur et Simple" (W. Simpson Miln, bank accountant, 39, Victoria Street, Fraserburg).

21. On the food of fishes, both in fresh and salt water, accompanied by illustrations and preparations—£15 by Mr. John Murray, F.R.S.E. No essays.

22. On the natural history and habits of the fresh water trout, with special reference to the institution of an annual close-time in Scotland, and the expediency of adopting a rod license—£10 by the Waverley Angling Club, Edinburgh. No essays.

23. On the migrations and spawning of sea fish suitable for food—£10 by the International Fisheries Exhibition—"Lincoln" (J. Epton, 59, Duke Street, Great Grimsby).

24. On angling associations, with code of rules for their management—£10 by Professor Douglas Maclagan, divided equally between "Pro Bono Publico" (Mr. Alex. Low, 8, Alva Street, Edinburgh), and "March Brown" (H. Bradfield, Gaywood Road, King's Lynn, Norfolk).

25. On the relations existing between the annual migrations of sea birds and the migration of fishes—£10 by Mr. J. A. Harvie Brown, F.R.S.E. No essays.

26. On the best modes of preserving ice—£10 by Sir James Ramsay Gibson Maitland, Bart., of Barnton.—"Altera Merces" (Mr. M'Lean, of Pennycross, Pennyghael, by Oban); and special prize added by committee of £5 to "Persevere" (J. Ross, Muchalls).

27. On seine-trawling and beam-trawling in estuaries and sea lochs in Scotland, pointing out their advantages and disadvantages—£10 by the British Fisheries Society, London—"Nec rege nec populo, sed utroque," &c. (J. C. Wilcocks, Plymouth).

28. On the history and statistics of the herring and pilchard fisheries in England—£10 by the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of Edinburgh—"C'est la sauce qui fait de le poisson" (J. C. Wilcocks, Plymouth).

29. On the history and statistics of the herring fishing in Norway and Sweden—£10 by the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of Edinburgh—"Cast thy bread on the waters" (William Watt, 27, Albert Street, Aberdeen).

30. Fish in its relation to dietetics—£20 by the British Fisheries Society, London. Withdrawn for want of merit.

31. The causes of the deterioration of trout fishing in many of the lochs of Scotland, and the best means to be adopted for their improvement—£10 by David Carnegie, of Stronvar—"As a man soweth, so shall he reap" (J. Stirling, law clerk, Paterson Place, Haddington).

It was found necessary to delay to a future meeting the consideration of the mode in which the publication of the prize essays should take place, together with other necessary arrangements connected therewith.

DEFENCE OF ANGLING RIGHTS.—IMPORTANT CASE.

Sir Clement Wolseley's Claims to a "Several Fishery" in Ireland.

(From a Dublin Correspondent.)

IN the Queen's Bench Division here on Monday, before Judge Barry, in a cause "The Queen (M'Donnell and others) v. the Magistrates of Tullow, county Carlow," Mr. Hannigan applied for a conditional order for a *certiorari* to have the order of conviction of the magistrates of Tullow brought up and quashed. From the affidavit of the defendants at petty sessions it appeared that summonses were issued against them on the 17th of May last, at complaint of Sir Clement Wolseley, who claimed that he was the owner of a "several fishery," and that the defendants entered upon his lands for the purpose of fishing in the river Slaney. When the case came on for hearing before the magistrates, the defendants' solicitor called on the complainant to prove his title as owner of a "several fishery," but he failed to give any such proof.

Judge Barry: But is not the owner of the lands *prima facie* presumed to be the owner of the fishery up to the the middle of the river?

Mr. Hannigan: No doubt; but here the complainant is only the owner of the lands at one side of the river, and there is no evidence that he was the owner of a "several fishery" in the portion of the river in which the defendants were alleged to have fished. Moreover, evidence was produced showing that the public had never before been prevented from fishing in this river, but rather that they had been permitted to do so. He read the definition of a "several fishery" in the 13th and 14th Vic., c. 88, sec. 1, and said Sir Clement Wolseley had not complied with its terms. He also contended that the question of title having been bona fide raised, the magistrates jurisdiction was ousted.

Judge Barry granted a conditional order, on the ground that satisfactory legal evidence had not been produced that Sir Clement Wolseley was the owner of a "several fishery."

NARROW ESCAPE OF THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH WHILE ANGLING.

THE following telegram has been received from Mr. Walker, the British Consul at Corunna, dated June 27th:—"On June 20th, the Reserve Squadron anchored in Carril Bay, under the command of his Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. On the next day the Duke, accompanied by the Duke of Connaught, proceeded by express train to Santiago. After inspecting the cathedral, the university, and the hospital, accompanied by the Alcalde and the Town Council, their Royal Highnesses were invited to lunch by the latter, and returned to Carril the following day. While the Duke of Edinburgh was fishing near the Bayona Budas, Carril, he hooked a large fish, and, in the excitement, lost his footing, and was dragged into the weir, sixteen feet deep. His Royal Highness was carried under four times, but fortunately got out, after being immersed nearly half an hour, and immediately went on board the flag ship. The squadron left for Gibraltar."

The *Court Circular* issued last Wednesday evening contains the subjoined:—"The Queen received yesterday with much thankfulness the assurance that the Duke of Edinburgh was not the worse for his narrow escape from drowning near the Bayona Bridge, Santiago. While fishing, his Royal Highness's foot slipped, and he was carried into the weir, where he was nearly drowned, being carried under four times in sixteen feet of water. The Duke was altogether half an hour in the water before he was brought to shore. The Queen had also received a telegram from his Royal Highness, stating that he had suffered no ill effects from the accident." All anglers will unite in most heartily congratulating his Royal Highness on his plucky escape—we were going to say lucky, but a man who can keep his life in him for half an hour in the boiling rush of a weir pool owes his life to pluck not luck.

The Duke is evidently a true angler to the backbone. As soon as he got ashore he went through the civilities as soon as possible, evidently, and was doubtless glad to feel himself by the river side. Every angler knows at this time of year the water in the weirs is usually lower than at any other time, and the woodwork and stonework, thus exposed, form a most slippery foothold. In the excitement of playing the big fish referred to—probably a salmon or heavy pike—the Duke doubtless slipped on some slippery weed-covered stone, and the next instant was fighting for his life in sixteen feet of raging water, which carried him about like a straw.

HENLEY (AND DISTRICT) ANGLING SOCIETY.

A VERY influential meeting took place on Wednesday, the 20th inst., in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall, Henley, to establish a society for the protection of the Henley waters, Mr. Brakspeare, presiding.

The Chairman stated that from a variety of causes the fishery of Henley had deteriorated to a most deplorable condition, and he could not but consider it a stigma and a reproach to the inhabitants that this state of things was permitted to exist and no effort made to redeem the character of the Thames in their district, which once was held in as high an estimation as any in the kingdom. They purposed getting all the money they could—(hear, hear)—without it they could do nothing, and their present intention was to limit the miminum of the subscription to half-a-guinea—not lower. They had already seventy-four names of subscribers, including the principal landowners and gentry in the neighbourhood, and two donors. The chairman concluded a telling speech by reading a resolution embodying the intentions of the preliminary committee.

The Mayor of Henley, a venerable medical gentleman, proposed the resolution, and recounted his piscatory achievements, which involved some startling figures, showing the utter neglect by the town of the fishery. He stated that in his recollection bags of 25 lb. to 30 lb. of white fish were common to a single rod; that he had taken 60 dozen of gudgeon before breakfast, and that although the district had its share of picturesque attractions in its hills and hanging woods, and the unrivalled beauty of the reaches of the Thames, visitors, when they saw their splendid stream, desired a little fishing, but were always surprised and disappointed at the catch of the few ounces which resulted.

Colonel Bradshaw seconded the resolution, and it was carried nem. con.

During the meeting the Mayor likewise stated that he had stood on Henley Bridge and seen trout, of which the stream was then well supplied, of 18 lb. and 19 lb.

Mr. Greville Fennell told our reporter that he could recall the time when the Henley waters were one of the best pike preserves in the whole of the Thames, and 60 lb. of jack was considered an ordinary capture for one rod, and 100 lb. excited but little remark.

Mr. Clarke, J.P., of the Maidenhead Angling Society, gave some valuable suggestions for the guidance of the committee.

Mr. Arthur Butler, the hon. sec. of the Reading District Angling Association, likewise contributed facts which may prove of service in the working of the new society. He spoke strongly of introducing trout of too large or too small a size, and gave reasons for his convictions.

Mr. Cooke, the hon, sec., read out the names ef the patrons and the proposed provisional committee; the resolution embodying the latter was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

It may be considered that therefore the new association is floated, but whether it will be wrecked upon the many shoals which are hidden in the shallow waters of the above Thames localities, time must show. If the men at the helm are of experience and do more than give their names for publication, we may have hopes at last that the grand reach may yet be wrestled from the hands of the open and secret poacher, and restored to its fair and legitimate owners.

CLUB REPORTS.

ACTON AND EALING ANGLING SOCIETY.

We have opened the season's fishing with very poor shows of fish; in the late competition only one of the four prizes being taken by Mr. Evans, a new member, the others standing over until the second week in July, when they can be fished for in any part of the Thames. A hearty vote of thanks from this society has been forwarded by our hon. secretary to the Chelsea Waterworks Company for the handsome present of fish recently netted from their reservoirs and presented to the Thames Angling Preservation Society, who seem to consider no trouble or expense too great when there is such an opportunity offered them of stocking the Thames with such splendid fish as they have lately put into that water. Let us hope such work will bring to that body increased subscriptions from the various angling societies, to enable them to continue to do still more for us in future.—BLACK BAG.

June 29.

ANCHOR AND HOPE.

Nineteen members competed for three prizes at Weybridge, on Sunday, the 25th inst. Mr. J. Somers, sen, first; Mr. W. Streeton, second; Mr. A. Glass, third. A peg down match will take place at Amberley, on Sunday, July 9, for three valuable prizes.—D. DAVIS.

June 28.

AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Say, roach and bream from Pulborough; Mr. Howlett, dace; Mr. Carrington, perch from the Lea. The next retern visit on the general list of the United London Anglers will take place on Monday, July 10th, when we hope to see a good attendance of anglers and friends. Don't forget the annual dinner at Hoddeson, July 2nd.—J. WORLEDGE.

ANGLERS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Since my last report I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of £1 1s. from Mr. C. Bates, Esq. (Gresham); £1 1s. from J. H. Edwards, Esq. (United Essex); 10s. 6d., J. Crump, Esq. (Piscatorial), annual subscriptions; and 12s. 6d. from donation box of Trafalgar Angling Society.—R. GHURNEY, sec.

June 28.

ANGLER'S PRIDE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The trays of the above club were well filled with bream on Sunday, the following members weighing in:—Mr. Gafney, 8½ lb.; Mr. Haines, 7 lb.; Mr. Soar, 5½ lb. one fish 2 lb. 10½ oz.; Mr. Nash, 5 lb., one fish 4 lb. 5 oz.; Mr. Dodson, 5½ lb., one fish 3 lb.; Mr. H. Scutt, 1½ lb.; Mr. Wharman of the Dalston Brothers weighed in 7 lb. 6½ oz.—F. MARSHALL, sec.

BATTERSEA FRIENDLY.

The members of this club were out in full force on Sunday last. The long rest they have had increased their ardour for the fray. The following members weighed-in their fish: Mr A. Ansty, total weight 14 lb. 4 oz., roach, jack, bream, and tench; Mr. T. Pott, 11 lb. 4 oz., jack and bream; Mr. Thomas, 6 lb. 7 oz., roach and bream; Mr. H. W. Payne, 6 lb. 4½ oz., perch and roach, also a nice chub weighing 3 lb. 2½ oz.; Mr. E. F. Sampson also had 6 bream from Amberley. The first match will take place on Sunday next (July 2), at Staines, for Mr. Sampson's prizes, value two guineas.—H. W. PAYNE, President.

BERMONDSEY BROTHERS.

The Bermondsey Brothers had some fish on Sunday last, Messrs. Ayton, Gafney, and Beningfield having the best shows. Mr. Ayton had amongst his one roach 1 lb. 5½ oz.; Mr. Gafney, one bream 1 lb. 7 oz.—WM. ALLEN, sec.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed-in on the 25th:—Mr. T. Payne, 4 lb. 10 oz. roach and bream, one roach 1 lb. 1¼ oz., from Amberley; Mr. Mortimer, 3 lb. 9 oz. bream, from Pulborough; Mr. Chambers, roach and bream; and Messrs. Hobbs, Warden, and Mark, roach from Amberley; Mr. Castell, roach from the Wey; and Mr. Silk, dace and perch from the Thames. We fish a pegged-down match on Sunday next at Amberley for five prizes.

CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

On Sunday last the members had a very good show of fish in the clubroom The following gentlemen weighed-in fish: Mr. Jelliman, roach, chub, and. gudgeon; Mr. F. Jones, chub, roach, and gudgeon; Mr. Dochree, roach, perch, and gudgeon; Casey Widmer, roach, rudd, and tench; Mr. Couling, senr., roach and bleak. On Monday Mr. Tomkins weighed-in some nice roach, several fish weighing 1 lb. each. A general meeting will take place on Monday next to arrange the prizes for the season and other business of the society. —R. STEBBING.

COBDEN ANGLING SOCIETY.

The first match of the above society will take place on Sunday next, July 2, at Uxbridge. There will be seven prizes, viz., two new rods, nickel silver winch, landing net, jack line, and two reels fitted up with lines.—C. REEVES, sec.

June 28.

GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our nineteenth annual supper took place on Tuesday, June 13. Nearly seventy members and friends sat down to an excellent supper provided by the worthy host. After the removal of the cloth, Mr. Phillips was voted to the chair, and Mr. J. Page the vice. The following toasts were proposed:—"The Great Northern Brothers," "The Angling Associations," "The Visitors," "The Press," "The Prize Givers," "The Secretary," "The Host," and the "Chairman and Vice-Chairman." The following gentlemen gave some excellent songs and recitations:—Messrs. John Bedford Leno, Marcus Wilkinson, Mr. Lacy, Mr. Broach, C. Watling, W. Phillips, J. Page, and Barr. The secretary gave a brief report of the doings of the society during the season, and the balance-sheet shows a handsome balance. A large number of prizes were promised during the evening, amounting to about £40, the company breaking up at 2.30. We had a fair show of fish on the first Sunday (June 18) from Amberley, Mr. J. Fitch having 2 lb. 10 oz., 1 roach, 1 lb.; Mr. Cowper, 7 lb. 4 oz., 2 roach, weighing respectively 1 lb. 9½ oz. and 1 lb. 1½ oz.; Mr. Hewitt, 1 lb. 1 oz.; Mr. J. K. Fitch, 7 lb. 5 oz., 1 roach, 1 lb. From the Welsh Harp

Mr. Watley, jack, 3 lb. 4 oz.; Mr. Stammer, jack, 5 lb. 13 oz.; Mr. Mayes, jack, 3 lb. 14 oz. Messrs. Kirk, Dingley, Parkin, Theobald, Young, Wright, R. Watling, Warne, and Hutchings, had small shows of roach and dace. Sunday, June 25: From Amberley Mr. J. Fitch had 10 lb. 11 oz., 3 roach, weighing respectively 1 lb. 5½ oz., 1 lb. 1 oz., and 1 lb.; Mr. Parkin, 5 lb. 5 oz., 2 roach, 1 lb. 5½ oz. and 1 lb. 1 oz.; Mr. Hewitt, 4 lb. 7 oz., 1 fine roach, 1 lb. 12 oz.; Mr. Scott, 12 oz.; Mr. Butler, 1 lb. 12 oz.; Mr. Burness, 1 lb. 4 oz.: Mr. Page, 4 lb. 3 oz.; Mr. Young, 2 lb. 12 oz., 1 roach, 1 lb. 1 oz.; Mr. Hayes jack from Welsh Harp, 1 lb. 13 oz.; Mr. Ames, jack, 2 lb. 11 oz. The two roach taken by Messrs. Cowper and Hewitt will be preserved by Mr. Gibson, of Richmond Grove, Barnsbury.—J. FITCH, jun., sec.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The Gresham anglers met as usual on Thursday, the 29th inst., Dr. Lloyd occupying the chair. After the confirmation of the minutes, Dr. Lloyd read a letter from Lord George Hamilton, M.P., president of the society, expressing his gratification that Mr. Crumpien had been selected by the London anglers as one of their representatives on the sub-committee of the Great International Fisheries Exhibition, 1883, relative to the collections of specimens of fresh-water fish, preserved or otherwise—an honour which he thought very deserved. Reports from several places as to state of the river were read. Mr. King, of Windsor, weighed in a chub of 3 lb. 8 oz., and Mr. Brett, who so frequently weighs in specimen fish, was again to the front with some very fine samples. Mr. Brett's take included 4 pike, weighing 27 lb.; 25 roach, 16½ lb.; 28 perch, 29 lb.; and some 10½ lb. of eels. The two largest perch went some 5¼ lb. (3 lb. and 2¼ lb.), and these Mr. Brett has generously undertaken to have preserved, and presents them to the society, for which he was very heartily thanked. The society will be well represented at the tournament, to be held at the Welsh Harp on Saturday, July 8, and the secretary will be happy to forward ticket on receipt of half a dozen stamps to any member who may desire it. The meeting terminated with a hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Lloyd.

HAMMERSMITH UNITED.

On Thursday, 22nd, Mr. P. Geen was successful among the perch and roach at Eynsham. Mr. Hobden on the 24th gave the new association water a trial with satisfactory results, returning with chub, roach, and bream. On Sunday Messrs. Pitts and Penney were well rewarded for a journey to Henley, they having two fine trays of roach. Messrs. Reynolds and Lewis again played sad havoc among the bleak and gudgeon at Shepperton. On paying a visit to Kew Bridge on Sunday morning, I was sorry to find snatching going on in full force, some of the parties having flights of a dozen hooks. I trust our good friend B. will make an example of the first one who is caught.—VORTEX.

HEARTS OF OAK ANGLING SOCIETY.

The above club have removed their quarters from the Jacob's Well, New Inn Yard, to the Dolphin, Church Street, Shoreditch. Have had some nice shows of fish, Messrs. A. Fish and R. Ford being to the fore with bream and roach.—C. J. MILLIE, sec.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

The majority of our members that were out yesterday met with fair sport, being able to well fill some of our trays with all kinds of fish, consisting of perch, roach, dace, gudgeon, tench, jack, and rudd, bagged by Messrs. Pipe, Harwood, Atkins, A. Evans, H. Moore, Scott, Goodes, Keene, Petrie, and E. Barr.—H. MOORE, secretary.

NORTH-WESTERN ANGLING CLUB.

Good shows by our members from the Welsh Harp continue. On the 19th inst., Mr. Smart, one carp, 6 lb. 15 oz., and one bream, 3 lb. 5 oz.; on the 23rd, bream, 17 lb., and one tench, 2 lb. 5 oz. Mr. Marshall, on the 24th, in about four hours, seven jack, 16 lb. 10 oz.; on the 25th, two jack, 5 lb. 13 oz. Same day—Mr. Steed, one perch, 1 lb. 9 oz., and one bream, 3 lb. Mr. North, three jack, 10 lb.; also Messrs. Plumpton, sen., Weaver, W. Roxbee, and Smith, had jack.—H.

June 27.

OXFORD THAMES ANGLING PROTECTION ASSOCIATION.

President, Alderman Galpin; vice-president, F. Ryman Hall, Esq.; hon. treasurer, James Embling, Esq., 23, High Street; hon. secretary, Mr. W. T. Mayo, 13, Corn Market Street. The object of this society is to protect the public rights of angling in the Oxford district; and, as the extent of its action will depend upon public support, the promoters make an urgent appeal to all anglers to contribute an annual subscription, and favour with any information that will assist. Subscribers of 5s. per annum have the privilege of attending and voting at all general meetings.

PECKHAM BROTHERS.

On July 2nd the members will compete for two prizes given by Mr. Bucknell and Mr. Williams. That portion of the river Wey between Cox's mill and the railway bridge is the place appointed for the competition. On Tuesday, July 4th, a return visit will be paid to this society, on which occasion all members will be very happy to see any brother anglers that can make it convenient to attend.—PIXIE.

PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The annual publication of the list of prizes to be competed for by the members has just been issued and strikingly evidences the increased success and prosperity of one of the oldest angling clubs in London. The value of private prizes amount to £117 12s., and includes first of all, and which is an important addition, a first prize of £3 9s. 6d. for the largest salmon not under 12 lb., and a second prize of £2 1s. for the second largest salmon not under 10 lb. The institution of these prizes is due to the praiseworthy exertions of Mr. Thomas Huggett. Then follows two silver cups of the value of ten guineas each, one for specimen fish and the other for the greatest weight. These are followed by the various competitions, representing in each case two and three prizes of the following amounts:—The Shentonian Competition, six guineas; the Pike Competition, six guineas; the Perch Competition, six guineas; the the Barbel Competition, six guineas; the Chub Competition, six guineas; the Bream Competition, four guineas; the Roach Competition for the Thames, five guineas. A second Roach Competition from any public water, six guineas. No member to take more than two private prizes. There is a prize of two guineas given by Mr. W. A. Crump for the largest gudgeon by measurement shown on a Monday evening. The club prizes amount to £14. The little book, which is nicely got up, also contains the list of officers and members, the contents of the museum, the subjects of the pictures, a catalogue of the library and miscellaneous property. The half-yearly general meeting of the members takes place on Monday evening next in the club room, Ashley's Hotel, Covent Garden, to receive the financial statement, appoint a place and time for the summer dinner, and to elect a chairman and vice-chairman to preside over the same.

ROYAL GEORGE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Some members of this society have opened the season well, having taken several roach of nearly 2 lb. each, the largest of which are being set up by Mr. Cooper. Weights for 18th inst.:—Mr. Palmer, roach, 9 lb. 4 oz.; Mr. Chart, roach, 6 lb.; Mr. Holden, roach, 3 lb.; Mr. Jordan, roach, 2¾ lb.; Mr. Guynan, roach, 2 lb.; Mr. Wrather, chub, 2 lb.; and Mr. Hollands, bream. 25th inst.—Mr. Holden, bream, 10½ lb.; W. Chart, roach and bream, 7 lb. 10 oz.; Mr. Palmer, roach, 4 lb. 9 oz.; Mr. Hughes, roach and bream, 3½ lb.; Mr. Parsons, roach, 1½ lb.; Mr. Barraclough, a show of perch and one chub, 3 lb. 8 oz.; Mr. Palmer, roach, 4 lb. 6 oz.—F. MILLARD, sec.

STANLEY ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

Since my last report many of our members have been out for the opening of the season, meeting with very varied sport, not any of the catches being of exceptional weight. Mr. Wrightson at the Harp on the opening day was unsuccessful; Mr. Sciell had 14 lb. 13 oz. of good roach from Norfolk; Mr. Wheatstone, from the Thames on the 17th, pike, 8 lb. 7½ oz.; twelve perch, 6 lb. 9½ oz.; four chub. 6 lb. 15 oz.; and two trout, 5 lb. 11 oz. Mr. Walker, from Thames on 19th, 12 lb. 6 oz., including twelve perch weighing 7 lb. 8 oz. Mr. N. Rix, from the Harp, a nice bream 3 lb. 5 oz.; Mr. Wheatstone, on the 24th, a nice show of fish, including a chub of 3 lb. 7 oz.; Mr. Baldry, on the 27th, showed in dace from Thames.

June 28st.

STOKE NEWINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The district visit of Angling Clubs took place on the 21st inst., when a good muster of members and friends assembled, and passed a pleasant evening. Mr. R. Ghurney made an eloquent appeal on behalf of the Anglers Benevolent Society, and also explained the objects of the United Fisheries Association. Upon the roll being called, thirteen clubs were represented, and special thanks are due to the Burdett Angling Society for their strong muster on this occasion.—THOS. GRETTON, sec.

SOUTH BELGRAVIA ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 25th J. Smith, junr., showed some fine bream and roach. Mr. Usher some roach, also H. Eccarius roach, bream, dace, and gudgeon.—H. LEES.

TRAFALGAR ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several members of the above society who fished Amberley on Sunday were lucky enough to get among the bream, who were on feed, the consequence was there were some good trays of fish on the table at night. The following members weighed-in first:—Messrs. Humphries, Morris, R. Gaze, J. Gaze, Goldstine, Lord, Abington. Several members who fished the Mole and Wey fared badly. Wednesday next being quarterly night, all members are requested to attend. Competition for Mr. Lake's prize will commence on Sun- the largest roach taken in the month of July to win.—J. GAZE, sec.

WALTONIANS.

On the 21st, a jack by Mr. Brady, 7 lb. 10 oz.; on the 25th, Mr. Malcom, roach, 4 lb. 4½ oz., one fish 1 lb. 11¼, one bream, 3 lbs. 11¾ oz.; Mr. J. Moore, roach and dace, 5 lb. ¾ oz.; Mr. Togwell, roach, 4 lb. 14¼ oz.; Mr. Starr, roach, 3 lb. 13¾ oz.; Mr. Roland. roach and bream, 2 lb. 11½ oz.; Mr. J. Dodge, roach, 3 lb. 6 oz.; Mr. Brand, bream, one fish 2 lb. 11 oz.; and Mr. Packman, jack, 2 lb. 1½ oz.—A. J. MARRIOTT.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

Happy moments again once more among the members of this society. The first outing was not of very great success, although a good muster of the members were down with the usual amount of eagerness after so long an absence from the water, and many were boasting of their ability. The weather and weeds were quite disappointing and only a midping show was got; but to-day, the 29th, the competition for Mr. Sutcliffe's £2 2s., Mr. Morris's £1 1s. and Mr. Iron's 10s. 6d., I am pleased to say that a very good show was made. Mr. J. Collins came first with 14 lb. 10 oz. of bream, perch and roach; Mr. La Fuillade second, 11 lb. 12 oz. bream and perch; Mr. Russell third, 7 lb. 11½ oz. of bream; Mr. Delehaye, jun., bream and chub; F. Grigg, jack and roach; J. S. Weatherhead, bream and perch; J. Boalch, roach and dace; gross weight, 43 lb. 3½ oz. The Ouse, Wey, Brent and the Thames were the waters that supplied these gentlemen with sport. Messrs. Delehaye, sen., and Newport were elected members of this society this evening. There are several prizes to compete for during July, one of which is a side of bacon given by Mr. F. Grigg.—PIXIE.

June 29.

A NEW ANGLING SOCIETY.

A new angling club is just formed in Clerkenwell, to be called the Patriotic Angling Society, held at the Patriotic Society, Clerkenwell Green. Meeting nights, Sunday and Wednesday. Secretary, Mr. Fuller. The above society will be enrolled on the central association at their next meeting. Mr. Stebbings has supplied them with all the information required, also rules to be laid down. Mr. Bradlaugh has kindly consented to be president of the society, and has promised a splendid prize to be fished for. Several other prizes were promised. A vote of thanks to Mr. Stebbings concluded the business of the evening.—R. STEBBINGS.

PRESIDENT ARTHUR is renowned among anglers as the best salmon fisher in the country—the man who has caught the biggest salmon ever captured with the fly in the United States.

AN IMMENSE EEL (*Anguilla vulgaris*).—An immense specimen of the sharp nosed eel, the weight of which when caught was 30¼ lb., and measuring 6 feet 1 inch in length, may now be seen at Mrr W. Horslett, High Street, which we believe to be the largest ever found. Yarrell mentions one which weighed 27 lb. caught at Cambridge, and Lord Falmouth once had one dug out of a drain weighing nearly 20 lb., while others of 10, 12, and 15 lb. have been captured, but that now to be seen at Mr. Howlett's is certainly a marvel in its way. On hearing about this enormous eel we telegraphed to Mr. Howlett asking him if he would sell it, and he replied as follows:—"I am in no hurry to sell the big eel, you can see it when you come near here." If it dies we trust Mr. Howlett will have plaster casts made, and let us have one for the Buckland Museum. This is a most extraordinary size for our common river eel to attain.—R. G. F.

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

If any gentle reader be sceptical of the "rich and fair, and green and wild, of Mid-Thames just now, let him come down and undeceive himself. The river and its surroundings just now is simply—can I find a word—well, "scrumptious" is as significant as I can get at. The Thames now, as far as fishing is concerned, is in magnificent trim, and any fish may be had with a very little coaxing. At Marshpool, Henley, a Cambridge gentleman in his off hours has trained three dozen trout into listing, and at Hambledon some pretty hauls have been had. From Marlow I glean that R. Jackson, Esq., has had a nice trout of 4 lb., and White, a fish similar dimensions. The reports from Bourne End, Cookham, Bray, and Surly, all speak of good hauls of roach and chub—indeed the river is now in prime trim and piscators cannot do better than take advantage of the opportunity before the "madding" crowd scare the fish into ungetable holes and corners.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Ancholme.

During the latter part of last week two or three angling contests took place. One by a society from Hull, but owing to unfavourable water and weather the catches were comparatively light. A lady visitor had a bream of 2 lb. No pike of note have yet been taken. My sons had a day Saturday last and caught about a score. The Rev. A. M. Platt and some juveniles from Caistor also had a run over to Brandy Wharf, but the day was unfavourable and the takes small. Bream run up to 5 or 6 lb., and they are on certain occasions to be had in large numbers. One the trout streams the sport has been good the freshes operating in favour of the angler. The green drake is over, and gauzy like midges are all the go in the evenings.—THOMAS FORD.

Ballynahinch.

Since last report waters have been getting low and fish not rising well these last four or five days. A great many thunder clouds passing over. On the 15th Mr. G. Sutherland caught one salmon $10\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; same date Captain G. Sutherland one, 6 lb.; one the 16th Mr. G. Sutherland two, 6 and $9\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; on the 17th Mr. G. Sutherland one, 13 lb.; same date Captain G. Sutherland one, 7 lb.; on the 19th Captain G. Sutherland two, 6 and 7 lb., and one white trout; on the 20th Mr. G. Sunderland two salmon, 4 and 6 lb.; one the 22nd Mr. G. Sutherland one, 7 lb., and two trout same date Mr. Woodford, three trout; on the 24th Mr. Eades one salmon, 5 lb.; on the 26th Mr. G. Sutherland two salmon, 6 and 7 lb; on the 27th Mr. G. Sutherland one salmon, $5\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; same date Messrs. Eades and Haulgrave six trout.—WALTER BLACKADDER.

Coquet (Weldon Bridge).

On the 22nd, Dixon, Armstrong, Styles, and Dance had good sport, from five to ten brace. On the 23rd Mr. Truwick killed a good basket, 5 lb.; Mr. Wood killed a salmon $3\frac{1}{2}$ lb. On the 24th Mr. Dance killed $6\frac{3}{4}$ lb., Mr. G. W. Armstrong 4 lb., Mr. Styles $2\frac{1}{2}$ lb., Mr. E Armstrong 2 lb. On the 26th the river was very small and bright, and requires early start in the morning, with worm and minnow in the shade and fly in the evening.—A. GLASS.

Dove.

We have again had a large number of anglers out this week, the weather and water having been right in every way. Trout, however, have hardly been rising so well as last week. The fact is, the May fly, or green drake, season is now over, and the specks have retired to the deep to get rid of some of the effects of gluttonous feeding upon the fly in question. They will be all right again in a few days, when they will return to their customary summer haunts. What trout have been killed this last few days have fallen victims to the coachman and March brown. The minnow and worm have also been responsible for some large fish. At the time of writing (Thursday noon) the Dove is in really beautiful order, and the coarse fishers might do well on Saturday. The cadbait and maggot are fetching the roach, dace, bream, and barbel best.—THE SPLODGER.

Dovey.

Since the late rains excellent sport has been afforded to the angler. some salmon of about 14 lb. weight have been taken with the fly, and many smaller ones have been basketed. I am thinking of spending a few weeks at the Dove Valley Hotel, Cemmes Road, where I learn by an advertisement in your paper of 24th June, excellent accommodation can be had. I have tried the river Dysnni Tawyn, Merioneth. There was very fair sport.—DIOGENES.

The water is in good order and some fine catches have been made during the past week. Several salmon, running from 9 to $18\frac{1}{2}$ lb., have fallen to the lot of both visitors and residents, whilst a goodly number of sewin and larger quantities of trout, all in fine condition, have rewarded the zeal of fishermen. One gentleman had two salmon on Monday last from the upper waters.—PETER PEDAGOGUE.

Exe (Exeter).

Our opening day, the long-looked-for 16th, was a great success as far as regards the number of rods. Seen in close proximity to the city and mill leats, they were as thick as they could actually get together, and sport was anything but indifferent. Roach and dace plentiful, and a few trout came to bank; but alas! on the following Monday, when everybody thought of having additional sport, the annual time had arrived for cleansing out the mill leats, and the usual slaughtering of the "daisies with the dorsal fins," which was a sad drawback to all bona fide anglers; but the weather for a few days previous having been so cold the majority of "daisies" had sought deeper waters, consequently not half the usual quantities were secured, although some scores were taken, and but very few over one pound in weight. (Trout) salmon are very plentiful; price at boat side 1s. 2d. per pound. Salmon Pool and Cowley bridge waters are yielding well for the rodsters. Lampreys are in abundance, the largest I have seen as yet weighing nearly three pounds. Bass, mullet (grey), mackeral, lobsters, and crabs plentiful; also launce and sand eels. Fishing on Saturday last with a friend, through thick and pelting rain, after having travelled some considerable distance, and having assisted in saving a tow-path horse from drowning, and being threatened by an onlooker to be drowned ourselves, but who in return was all but so himself, put me in mind of poor old "Tickler's" words: "Grateful, very grateful, did we feel to find a humble hostelry, where we duly regaled ourselves, a fare most welcome to all disciples of the gentle craft; but we did not see a Moorman with his hat fastened to his head by whisks of hay, feeding with great gusto in this canal-side inn. Neither did we hear his sayings or toast, but here it is: 'Here's your onner's elth and appyniss,' he said, as he drank the beer that was presented to him. 'Ees zir,' he continued, ''tis a turribul place es the moor for to make he ait. My gor, I nawd a man who went with a gennelman a fishing where you've a been. Beel Braddon, vor that was es nam, had tookt with en a gert piece of raw bacon. Presently the gennelman begun to confess hunger, and then Ben pulled out es bacon. 'Wot's that you've a got?' said the gennelman. 'Bacon, zir,' said Beel. 'Give us a bit, do ee,' said the gennelman. 'I weel, zir,' says Beel, and the gennelman ait a gert lump of the raw bacon, with a crist of bread, ana zed he'd nivver ait anything so sweet avaur." Now is the time for the Exe and Dartmoor fishing, &c., &c.—FRANK GOSDEN.

Exe (Tiverton).

The river is in excellent condition for fly fishing, the recent rains having considerably improved it, and very fair sport is being obtained. The flies that have been killing best are the yellow May dun, red spinner black gnat, and red ant, no salmon having been taken during the past week.—WM. MUDFORD.

Findhorn.

For a week back the air has been so charged with electricity, and thunder storms so prevalent in the district, that anglers were not so successful as on previous weeks. Salmon are still reported to be plentiful in all the pools and grilse are beginning to pass up. At present the river is in flood, and this will be in favour of the passage of grilse. Some anglers were fortunate in selecting suitable bait, and made fair baskets of trout at the mouth of the river lately. When the water subsides excellent results are anticipated.—J. B.

Ilfracombe.

Any gentleman wanting good sport among the bass now is their time to come to Ilfracombe. Friday and Saturday whiting and bream were more plentiful than any other fish. On Monday about forty pollack and a few mackerel were caught. Tuesday morning at 2 o'clock a few boats started from Ilfracombe for Baggy, which is about eight miles down Channel, returning between 8 and 9 o'clock with twenty-five bass 83 lb. S. Leg, eight bass, 30 lb., and six mackerel; P. Redmore, four bass, three mackerel, one gurnet; G. Comer, two cod, 15 lb. each, one ling, 12 lb., pollack 12 lb.; T. Lovering, Wednesday morning, twenty-nine bass weighing 104 lb; S. Leg, bass 51 lb, pollack 4 lb.; W. Ashford, bass 40 lb.; W. Barbeary, C. A. Teape, Esq., five bass with ground lines, all the others were caught with spinners. Several other boats were out, but I have not been able to get at the quantity of fish they caught. Thursday morning: Each boat has again had excellent sport, some whiting and pollack were among the fish brought in to-day. The trawlers have brought up some fine soles from the bay, and several lobsters have been brought in this week from the pots. There is good fishing from the Capstone Rocks and jetty with rod and hand lines, early morning and late evening tides. Weather very fine, and prospects good for the present,—E. COMER.

Nairn.

There has not been anything like the usual catch on this river since the season opened up to this time, but matters may improve with a change of weather. Last week both weather and water were unsuitable, and the only yield was trout, small baskets of which were caught by local gentlemen. Salmon are unusually scarce this year, but it is believed that with the commencement of the grilse fishing prospects may become brighter.—J. B.

Ouse (Littleport).

Water very clear and in good order for fishing, if the floating weeds would only have the kindness to get out of the way. It looks well for bream-fishing shortly. There are a few being taken for about three or four miles up the river. I have been holiday-making, so of course have done nothing till this morning. When I went out to try I took six bream between three and five a.m., not large, but the right sort; carp, bream, the lot went $10\frac{1}{2}$ lb. If this weather continues I hope to have something good to report in my next.—C. SOUTH.

Rother and Canal (Chichester).

The water at Chichester has been faultless the past week, yet from atmospheric causes fish have not been well on. At Selham on a recent visit the water was much too clouded to be satisfactory. After a steady warm rain the weather is looking much brighter; prospects, like weather, brighter. Some good perch have been taken with worm in the home districts, Mr. Summers informing me he had good sport at an early hour on Tuesday, one fish weighing within an ounce of 3 lb., which unfortunately was consigned to the fry pan in place of a specimen for the clubroom. Some fair takes are registered from the Rother, all fish being in fair condition.—GEORGE F. SALTER.

Swale and Yore.

Fly-fishing on these rivers of late has been much retarded by the constant freshes, but the worm-fishing and daping on the becks with the blow-fly have secured many a fine basket of beautiful fish. On the former stream there is but little seen of the green drake, one the latter it is fairly plentiful. Small dotterel flies kill well now.—THOMAS FORD.

Taw and Tributaries (N. Devon).

Water in the small streams running down low and very clear, and very little day fishing must be expected whilst so low and sun so powerful. Night fishing must be resorted to if any fish are wanted. The Taw, which has so many small streams running into it from different directions, keeps the river up, and is in good order. Many salmon and peal have been hooked, but I have only heard of three to one rod and three to another. The trout catches have not been so many, but the Bratton stream, which runs into the Yeo, gave three dishes on different evenings last week. I made my first attempt last Saturday, leaving after seven to go three miles. When I arrived I found my flies left at home, but I hunted up a collar with two flies (rusty blue and coachman), and soon got 15 fish, and then being dark I lost my fly, and was obliged to return home.—Rusty Game.

Thames (Goring).

Water here now a nasty brown colour; nothing will bite well. Prospect better; a few fine days will soon get the water in good order again. Nothing to report much this week; water has been so bad there has been only one boat out this week, the best day, three dozen roach.—John Rush.

Thames (Walton).

June 23rd, Mr. Ryball, with G. Rogerson, six bream (largest 4 lb.), one perch, 1 lb., and one dozen dace: from bank, three bream, 4½ lb., 3½ lb., and 2 lb.; three bream, 7 lb. (largest 3 lb.). Mr. Bryning, from bank, one bream, 4 lb. Mr. Annett, from bank, six bream (largest 3½ lb.). Mr. Abbott, with G. Hone, seven perch (largest 1 lb.), in one hour. 24th, Mr. Bryning, from bank, one bream, 4 lb. 25th, Mr. Reede, with G. Hone, one jack, 2 lb., one bream, 1½ lb., one perch, 1 lb., and three dozen roach and dace. 26th, Mr. Protheroe, with G. Rogerson, two dozen roach and dace; and 27th, six dozen roach and dace, and one perch, 1 lb. 27th, Mr. Cobabi, with G. Hone, two dozen fine roach and dace. 28th, Mr. Abbott, with G. Hone, three dozen roach. 29th, Mr. Cobabi, with G. Hone, two dozen roach. Weather: warm, with light winds and showers. Water: falling, and in first-rate condition for fishing of all descriptions.—Henry E. Wood.

Trent (Newark).

Within a few hours of sending off my last report the water came down very high and thick, so nothing much was done for a day or two; but the water soon cleared down, and it is now in capital condition for all kinds of fishing that can now be practised. Eels and flounders have been biting at worms very fairly, chub have also been taken on the shallows with fly; dace have bitten fairly well at cadbait and gentles, and I also noticed a fair bag of bream that was taken by one of our local anglers. If the present fine weather continues all classes of fish should get into fairish condition in a week or two, and good sport may be anticipated. In the meantime anglers will find worms and cadbaits to be the best baits at present.—The Trent Otter.

Trent (Nottingham)

The river here is still tinged with colour, and the fish have scarcely fed so well as might have been anticipated. On Saturday, the water then being very high, a barbel of 3 lb. was taken with the worm in the Rolleston length, which, this season, is in the hands of Mr. J. Crowder, of the Crown Inn, Rolleston. Eels have been running in great quantities, and at Sawley on Tuesday the subscribers were most successful. Sport has been quiet at Shardlow, but in the Swarkestone reach a rare lot of dace and chub fell to the skill of two Nottingham anglers on Tuesday. The fish were killed with the cadbait, maggots being employed for ground bait. On Wednesday considerable activity prevailed, and some moderate lots of eels, roach and dace were brought up from the lower waters. The angling associations are now in full swing, and upwards of 2700 members are availing themselves of the cheap travelling cards issued by the Midland and Great Northern Railway Companies.—The Man at the Club.

Tweed and Teviot.

Since our last issue some excellent takes of trout have again been got, the rivers having occasionally been flooded by freshets of about a couple of feet. On Thursday last Mr. John Thompson, of the firm of Redpath and Co., Kelso, had 12 lb. with worm in the Teviot, and on the following day, a similar basket was got, while Mr. J. Olive had 16½ lb.; Thomas Lindsay one of 10½ lb. and many others from 8 lb. down to 4 lb. have been of frequent occurrence. To-day the rivers have fallen to their normal size. As the weather is bright and warm again, anglers will have to do all they know to wile the "speckled beauties" from their sheltered nooks. On the Yair water on Tweed, Mr. W. Shortreed, gamekeeper on that estate, killed a salmon of 9 lb, and this is the only species of the salmon tribe that has been got for a fortnight past.—Max-Wheel.

Upper Medway (Tonbridge).

The water is just the thing for angling of all kinds, particularly after the rain of to-day (Thursday). Since last week a large number pike have been taken and the small ones are a regular nuisance. Chub have been captured in good numbers; dibbling with a fly or May bug proving the most killing way. The roach and bream have been biting in the most erratic manner, and do not yet appear to be thoroughly on the feed. One day they are fairly on and seem to bite at almost anything, and the next not at any price. I should think that with the rain things will be well on in a day or two.—Ye Medway Water Rat.

Wye and Derwent.

Both rivers are now in first-class condition for fly-fishing, especially the higher lengths of both streams; but I am very sorry to say sport with the artificial fly in the middle of the day has been very poor. The best times have been early in the morning and the last thing at night. Dibbing with the natural flies in the middle of the day, while the bright hot sun is out, has been followed with good success, and some handsome baskets of trout have been killed chiefly with the downlooker and small bluebottle flies. The bottom fishers on last Saturday killed some very large baskets of both trout and grayling, chiefly with maggot and cockspur worms. On the Derwent, we have had a very many Sheffield anglers on the Derwent during the week, but their takes, as a rule, have been but middling. I am very sorry to say that Twodales brook, near Darley Dale, has been poisoned, and every fish in the stream killed. There is a reward of £20 offered. I am pleased to say that we have at last got one of the Trent Board keepers come to visit us both on the Wye and Derwent. Thunder clouds are now hanging about, and its very hot indeed. Fishing prospects are looking gloomy.—George James Eaton.

Trout Poisoning on the Tweed.—On Monday in the Thornilee district, trout were lying on both sides of the river. This was the state of matters from the railway viaduct downwards past the Rough Haugh; how far up the river is not known. The fatality was confined to small trout and parr measuring from three to six inches; larger trout were unaffected, as they were rising freely to the fly. An enormous quantity of trout must have been washed down, the river being in full volume.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

THE "FISHING GAZETTE" TOURNAMENT.

Sir,—As I understand, all the prizes at the Tournament are to be given for the longest casts. Now, no doubt under certain conditions a long cast is essential to success, but I have always understood that precision was what the angler strove to attain. I am sure many novices like myself would be delighted at seeing a master of the rod cast his bait a dozen times into a hoop moored thirty or forty yards from the shore of Mr. Warner's lake, or his fly under a bush which could be easily fixed into a pole driven into the bed of the lake. I should very much like to see the augmented cast and several other wonders which we read about but very seldom see. If I could afford it I would give a prize for some such trial of skill, but as I cannot I can only make a suggestion which you invited some short time ago.—I am, &c., A. W. C.

[Deductions were made by the judges for wide throwing last time, and this time special arrangements will be made for measuring wide throws, &c. We must also have the fly throwing over water, and get some bushes put up as A. W. C. suggests. We, too, should like to see that "augmented cast" which are friend Mr. Chatterton writes about.—Ed.]

PROFESSIONALS AT THE TOURNAMENT.

Sir,—I have had several inquiries as to whether I shall be at the Tournament on the 8th. That being so, will you kindly send me word per return whether the arrangements for professionals this year are the same as last in respect to expenses. If so, I shall have much pleasure in taking part in above. This being a busy time, the above question is rather important. Trusting the tournament will be a great success, I remain, &c., W. Bailey, jun.

1, Sabina Street, Nottingham, June 27.

P.S.—You will no doubt remember I took the first prize last year in my class.

[The matter of incurring expense in regard to this second Tournament, we have been obliged to decline, inasmuch as the frightful weather on the last occasion caused us to be pretty heavily out of pocket by the affair. We willingly risked this, as the Tournament then was a novelty in this country, and no one could say how it would succeed. The officers of the Anglers' Benevolent Society were so convinced that in fine weather the thing would pay that they asked us to get up another. We have done so, but the Committee of the Anglers' Benevolent Society take all risk as regards expenses, and consequently have the question of inviting professionals, and appointing judges, &c., entirely in their own hands. They do not see their way to pay any expenses beyond those for printing bills, &c., and absolutely unavoidable expenses. We should much like to see the professionals, and have advised some money prizes being offered to attract them. All money prizes not won or competed for will be handed over to the funds of the society, which we all want to benefit.—Ed].

THE TOURNAMENT.

Sir,—In reply to your invitation in last Saturday's Gazette, I beg to offer an opinion on the Tournament; and also, while on the subject, to make, with your permission, a few other suggestions.

The bait used at the last Tournament was unanimously selected by the competitors, to the rejection of a heavier one, as being a fair representation of an average spinning bait; it might have seemed rather small to those accustomed to a large pike bait, while to the trout spinner it appeared equally large, but as time did not admit of two competitions, one light and one heavy, the bait chosen (weighing 1½ oz. lead and bait together) was of a fair medium size; and I, for one, would advocate the use of one of the same weight on the 8th inst. The object in these contests being, I presume, to elicit a display of skill in casting a bait, not a feat of strength in "putting the weight."

The time allowed each competitor at the last Tournament was not sufficient, especially for the Thames men, who require more time to recover and arrange their lines than the Trent spinners. If five minutes could not be spared to all, that time should at least be given to the former, but the best plan would be to give each man three throws.

The method of measuring last time was very good and 50 yards an excellent distance for the flag; but I would suggest, as an improvement, that two lines be drawn from the throwing point, as marked on the enclosed sketch, which at the 50 yards' point might be about 10 yards from the flag, then all baits falling outside that line should not score.

Lastly, I think that the interest in the match to the spectators would be much enhanced if the judge or his assistant at the flag were to call out the distance of each cast directly it was measured. Also, if convenient, the prizes should be displayed during the contest.—I am, &c., V.

P.S.—I should add that the above has the full concurrence of another winner at the last Tournament.

SOME QUERIES.

Sir—I should be much obliged if you would let me know if Mr. Marston's interesting letters on trout fishing on the Dove have been concluded; if so, in which number; and, if not, when they will be, as I am sure they are as interesting to every other trout-fisher as to myself?

Could you give me the publishers of the following:—"Cutcliffe's Trout Fishing in Rapid Streams," "Captain Williamson's Anglers' Vade Mecum," and "Taylor's Art of Angling. Also would you consider the Charles Cotton, of Hartington, or the Izaak Walton, of Thorpe (or Ashbourne), the better place to stop at for July, August, or September's trout and grayling fishing.—I am, &c., A Well-wishing Subscriber.

[It is certainly time Mr. Marston finished his articles; he intends to complete them as soon as he can find time. Cutcliffe's book is supplied by the managers of this paper, 12, Fetter Lane, post free for 3s. 6d. "Taylor's Art of Angling" is quite out of print, and so is Captain Williamson's book.—Ed.]

THE NORTH NORFOLK RAILWAY AND THE LONDON PRIVILEGE TICKETS.

Sir,—As most London anglers are just now asking where they shall go to get some good sport, perhaps the information in the following letter, which I have just received from Mr. J. S. Buck, S.L., might be of use to them:—

"Being fairly tired of the length of the fence months and not liking to wet a line till after their expiration, it struck me I would visit Norfolk and have a look at the beautiful Broads. I accordingly repaired to Yarmouth and made myself quickly at home at the 'Garibaldi' Tavern, St. Nicolas Road, where I found several friends connected with the angling fraternity. This house is a great boon to anglers. The host, being an angler himself, is always ready to oblige those who use his house, with information as where to go to get good takes of fish. I accordingly, by his advice, repaired to Heigham Sounds, near Potter Heigham—a station on the North Norfolk Railway, the terminus of of which railway is within one minute's walk from the 'Garibaldi.' The fares by this railway are extremely reasonable to anglers. The company will, on the production of the London privilege ticket, grant ticket at half price to all stations on their line. I should strongly advise all anglers visiting Yarmouth to try Heigham Sounds, they seem to be teeming with fish. The natives think nothing of getting a couple of pailfuls of bream, roach, and other fish in a single day, and from my inquiries the most favourable reports are given me from the other broads in Norfolk.—I am, &c., PIXIE.

A WARNING TO OUR RIVER REPORTERS.

SIR,—I am much annoyod to see in your Saturday's issue a statement of my take of fish on the 16th inst., which was made without my authority, and is altogether incorrect.

I am not aware if this unauthorised giving of names is usual in your paper, but at any rate I must request that before publishing mine again you will take the trouble to satisfy yourself of the accuracy of the information, as I have no wish to be a laughing stock for the neighbourhood.—I am, &c.,

ALFRED L. H. RICHARDSON.

[Mr. Bambridge reported that Mr. Richardson had taken 20 lb. of roach and a jack of 3 lb. What there is to laugh in this, we cannot see? Sorry we cannot possibly undertake to verify all reports sent us, but will always publish complaints of inaccuracy.—ED.]

TO DISTINGUISH YOUNG CHUB FROM ROACH AND DACE.

SIR,—I notice that your correspondent, Mr. Richard Woolfall, hon. sec. Liverpool Angling Society, would like to know of some easily distinguishable mark by which he can tell the difference between roach, dace, and young chub. "The bodies of both dace and chub are more cylindrical or elongated than those of the roach. The prevailing colour of the roach is silver. The dorsal or back fin commences or originates as nearly as possible over the ventral fins. The ventral (or belly) fins of the dace are always greenish, with a slight tinge of red; whilst the anal fin has no red about it whatever. In the chub, both these fins are of a brilliant pink color. As the chub grows larger, the chocolate brown—almost black—of its tail fin becomes more marked, and the whole fish rapidly assumes a bronzed or golden appearance, in place of the prevailing silvery tint which the dace retains in its original brilliancy to the last."

The above is an extract from Mr. H. C. Pennell's "Bottom or Float Fishing."—I am, &c., JOHN J. HARRIS.

52, Andover Road, Hornsey Road, N.

[The difference in the shape of the anal fin in chub, roach, and dace (in the nne case it is convex, in the other concave), is an easy way of distinguishing the fish.—ED.]

SINGLE HAIR v. DRAWN GUT.

SIR,—Having devoted a good deal of time to the observation of the respective merits of these two materials for fly casts, I have come to the conclusion that on streams where the fish do not run much over a pound in weight hair is undoubtedly the superior. I was not at all surprised myself to notice that in your editoral note to "Trout's" letter, in your issue of June 3, you declared in favour of drawn gut, for I supposed that your reason for doing so was owing to the size of the fish that you meet with on the southern rivers, and my supposition was confirmed by your note in to-day's issue. I prefer hair, not so much on account of its fineness (for I am well aware that drawn gut may be obtained much finer), but because it is more elastic, falls straighter and more lightly on the water, floats better, and, what is most important of all in my opinion, does not fray and ravel like gut does when employed for grayling fishing. As you, and most of your readers are aware, this is a branch of angling to which I have devoted considerable attention, and I have found that nothing tries gut so severely as the "wobbling," twisting play of grayling; now hair neither twists nor ravels, so that for this purpose I do not consider that there is any comparison between the two. The great difficulty lies in not being able always to procure really good, round, sound hair, for that which is flat or opaque is worse than useless, and, for an obvious reason, the same remark applies to that obtained from the tail of a mare. The last really good hair that I was fortunate enough to meet with was obtained through the kindness of Mr. J. G. Eaton, who referred me to a veteran Yorkshire angler; this gentleman most generously gave me half of what he had, and better hair I never used. Ample proof of the quality may be found in the fact that with a cast made from it, I one day on the Yore killed a sea trout weighing 2¼ lb. I am sorry to say, however, that my stock is now almost exhausted, and I shall have to look around for a fresh supply. If an angler uses a hair cast, his flies should also be dressed on hair, and it is as well also to confine yourself either to hair or gut, for if you at any time change from the latter to the former you are liable to forget the difference in strength, and perhaps strike sharply at a good fish, when a breakage, followed up by a string of anglers' anathemas, will be the almost certain result. Not wishing to encroach further on your valuable space.—I am, &c., FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

[We willingly admit hair will last longer than drawn gut, but while the latter is so cheap, this is no great advantage in our eyes. We have frequently fished north country streams where most of the local anglers used hair, and whereas we have gone out time after time in hot bright weather with the water low and clear as crystal and killed fair baskets (from ten to fifteen brace, perhaps, and all over eight inches) the "locals" have simply laughed at the idea of fishing at all. But they opened their eyes when they saw our fine drawn gut! They were wise in using hair when all the gut they had was almost salmon gut. We maintain, and challenge proof to the contrary, that the more invisible the line, the more deadly the lure. Take a fly dressed on hair and one dressed on proper drawn gut, place them in a glass of clear water and hold them up to the light. This test will prove which is the finer and least visible. Now attach weights to each hook and see which line will bear the most weight. The gut will be found to bear from five to ten times the strain. Hair is more elastic than gut, but we do not attach much importance to this quality in the line, the rod provides all that is required; and if our good friend Mr. Walbran will only strike from the winch which should have a silent check, he will rarely lose a fish and still more rarely break a line.—ED.]

THE HENLEY WATERS.

SIR,—I think "An Old Bung," in his natural eagerness to remove the stigma of being "an abetter of poachers" and establish the innocence of himself and brethren, has neglected altogether to allude to what may be considered the gravamen of the charge embodied in the paragraph in question, and which so materially concerns the patrons of the Henley waters and the residents of the town. It is, now that the lamentable state of the river is acknowledged, seriously asked whether the "unmerciful netting" could possibly go on in this far-from unfrequented neighbourhood without some of the fishermen being aware of it? Where, it is asked, was the incomparable Ted Vaughan? Where were the pair of Parrots? Where the shrewd Harry Allam? Where the active George Garram, and the ubiquitous Ted Wooley; not to forget the astute "Boy Jones," who avows himself a professional fisherman and "no gentleman"? Now the greater part of my fellow townspeople admit that if any one of these men knew what was going on, and neither gave information to the authorities or interfered themselves, the suspicion is—well, I will say almost—justified that they were compensated for the gradual loss of their industry in some way; or personally benefited for the negative condonement, if not the actual abetting of the practices of the poachers. Let us take the best view of it, and ask, as do my brother anglers here, whether it is not perfectly incomprehensible that anyone having every and all opportunities of knowing what must be the night-doings on the river, and which was gradually, while destroying the fishery, wearing away the sources of living of these men; that they, the most intimately concerned, should not have raised a voice or hand to stay these suicidal and unlawful ravages, and we—I speak in the plural—claim a right to have our opinion upon the subject. Now that the Henley waters have become a bye-word, a scandal, and a reproach, and it does not "yield ounces where it used to yield pounds" as confidently told us by our venerable and much-respected mayor at the recent meeting at the Town Hall, and that this low state of depreciation could be clearly traced to the neglect of its natural protectors, who, having now "no work to do" after slaying their golden goose, throw up their caps and hail any movement which has a prospect of restocking our district with fish. But what—this is asked by men ready, if they saw their way, to put their hands deep into their pockets—What guarantee have those who are paying their guineas that as soon as it is worth the while the nets will not be as active as ever, or that some check will be put upon the Hambledon party and others who encourage these practices?

Born and bred on the Thames, I have watched the decadence of the fisheries with sincere sorrow. My suggestion, long since, that the gentlemen anglers should form themselves into a vigilance committee, as has been done with success on many other rivers, was met by a characteristic opposition, which took this plausible shape: "If you do this you will throw suspicion without proof upon the local fishermen; and you all know to what an organised personal annoyance, without positive provable substantial offence, that may grow." I am but now a middle-aged man, and I can recall the time when our prolific waters were the glory of Henley, and it was a pardonable boast—when we used to go down to the bridge and see the punts of the visitors come in with their freights of fish to be weighed at the Lion, the Angel, Bear, Carpenters' Arms, or that scene of many a concocted aquatic foray, the Little White Hart. Let us hope, however, that the self-immolation these time-serving, misguided men, either by their positive or negative conduct, have brought upon themselves, will be a lasting warning to them and posterity, that there exists little wisdom and less profit in killing the golden goose; and that, moreover, they will, in future, find that in properly cherishing their best resources, they are consulting the interest of others, to whom they look for patronage and support. The fishery hereabout, as is generally admitted, cannot be in a worse state, and an old adage gives us encouragement to hope that when such is the case, improvement may be expected. Upon no section of the community of Henley does this consummation more entirely rest than upon its fishermen, who at an hour's notice—so say some of them—could lay their hands on every net in the district. *Ver sap.* This I add advisedly; for let it once be known that the fishermen of the Thames are the baneful enemies of its resources, and we may call, not only upon the magistrates, but upon the legislature, to look after what a morning paper hesitates not to designate aquatic burglaries.—THE HENLEY BULL'S EYE.

RIVER POLLUTION.—THE YORKSHIRE WHARFE.

THE following is a letter received by me in reply to a few questions put to a famous veteran fly-fisher on the Yorkshire Wharfe.

"For the sake of perspicuity, I will divide the time into past, present, and future.

"In the past, the river Wharfe under my experience swarmed with salmon, pike, trout, grayling, and coarse fish of every description.

"In the present, the river is nearly denuded of all.

"In the future, the river must be blank.

"Then, as to the causes:—In the past, there was a regular and ample supply of water and no pollutions.

"In the present, Leeds and Bradford intercept some of the main tributaries, and the towns in the valley of the Wharfe send down all their filth undiluted for want of water; the consequence is that after a short period of dry weather the water has a clouded appearance and a palpably offensive scum rises on the surface, while what fish there are become sick and refuse all baits.

"Besides these causes, the improved drainage of the land provides for the rainfall at once passing superficially over the soil, instead of sinking into the ground and supplying the springs, many of which now no longer exist.

"In the future, a salmon will be a curiosity in many parts of the Humber, the thousands of tons of fine ashes, dirt, and filth poured into it from the river Aire, the drainage of the whole of the West Riding, even now killing them at times by hundreds. I have no faith in any measure being passed to prevent the pollution of rivers, it will be looked upon as a landowners' question, and most probably will be opposed by those who, for political purposes, will listen to no act of justice as long as they can get the support of the towns. Some persons may differ with me in their opinions (but after having fished in the Wharfe between sixty and seventy years, which few can say), I simply state my own observations. While walking the Wharfe some three years ago I took some of its water from the main river between Ilkley and Leeds, and used it simply as ink, with which I indited a letter to the Home Office; the colouring matter was from the washings of a dyeing mill, which, upon showing to Mr. J. P. Simmons, he declared the whole might be retained and rendered profitable."

CREEL.

THE BLACK BASS IN THE SCOTCH LOCHS.

[We are indebted to Mr. G. S. Page for the following interesting account of a most important experiment. We hope to see the black bass well naturalised over here before long.—ED.]

ANGLERS and fish-culturists may be interested to be informed of the successful transportation of the coming American game fish (the large-mouthed black bass, *Micropterus Salmoides, Lac.*, Henshall) and the small-mouthed black bass, *Micropterus Dolomieu* (Lacepede), from New York to Liverpool.

During the visit of His Grace the Duke of Sutherland to America last year, he for the first time became aware of the unequalled game characteristics of the fish, and its well-known edible qualities. He requested his friend, S. L. M. Barlow, Esq., of New York, to send him some alive at the earliest opportunity. This request Mr. Barlow communicated to our mutual friend Eugene G. Blackford, Esq., of Fulton Market, the well-known ichthyologist and treasurer of the American Fish Cultural Association, and the famous Icthyophagus Club.

No one experienced in the transportation for long distances of living fish offered, until the date of my annual trip, and I gladly consented to assume the responsibility. My experience of 1867 in transporting alive a pair of brook trout (*Salvelinus fontenalis*) weighing, respectively, the male 12 lb., and the female 8¼ lb., from the Rangeley Lakes in Maine to my pond at Stanley, N.J., and later (1869) black bass (*M. Dolomieu*), thirty-one in number, from the private pond of Walter Brown, Esq., of Newburgh, N.Y., to Lake Maranacook, Winthrop, Kennebec County, Maine—the earliest introduction into that State—enabled me to feel some confidence in my ability to perform this far greater task.

Mr. Blackford supplied six bass, weighing from 1½ lb. to 1 lb., being all left from the large number, fully fifty, exhibited at his annual trout show. I addressed a letter to my friend, Professor Spencer F. Baird, U.S. Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries, requesting a donation from the U.S. fish ponds, Druid Hill Park, Baltimore, April 11th. At noon, 15th, three cans, containing twelve small black bass and five large one were delivered on board s.s. *Spain*.

Mr. Blackford's were in two cans. The five cans were alike made of strong tin, encased in wood, having handles, and contained ten gallons of water. The tops were provided with perforated covers. They are of the form now generally used by fish culturists.

Through the courtesy of F. W. J. Hurst, Esq., the efficient agent of the "National Line," instructions were given to grant every needed facility on shipboard.

The cans were placed side by side along the partition adjacent to the main saloon, and securely fastened. Arrangements were made for attendance of day and night men, whose duties were to aerate the water every hour. This was effected by the simplest and best way known at present, viz,, by dipping out of the cans and pouring back again from a height of 2 feet. A long-handled quart dipper was used. I prescribed a sufficient number of dips to completely change the water in the cans hourly. This necessitated the handling by the quart measure of 50 gallons hourly, 1200 daily, and 12,000 gallons, 300 barrels during the trip, representing over 4 tons per day and 40 tons in ten days.

The actual time occupied in this service by the assistants was twelve hours daily. In addition to this, I frequently aerated the water, when upon examination I found one or more of the large bass near the top, indicating exhaustion of oxygen. Six times daily I took the temperature. It was forty-seven in each can when leaving New York. So carefully was the temperature regulated, either by aeration or the addition of ice, that it only varied three degrees from 47°—*i.e.*, from 44° to 50°—never remaining at the higher point for more than an hour. This may be considered a remarkable achievement, in view of the fact that the temperature of the atmosphere was frequently over 60°.

At Queenstown, I telegraphed to the Duke of Sutherland the safe arrival of the fish, one only having died, also addressing him a letter requesting him to send by his messenger to Liverpool twenty-two platina tags, inscribed with the weight of each bass and date of depositing in his waters.

I also suggested that a portion be placed in the ponds on his estate at Trentham, between Liverpool and London, and that the balance be exhibited at the Edinburgh Fishery Exhibition, which opened the 12th inst.

Mr. Blackford also put in my care a box containing four fine Hudson River shad (*Alosa sapidissimus*); two red snappers (*Lutjanus Blackfordii*); and one striped bass (*Roccus lineatus*).

Two of the former were for the Prince of Wales, and the balance for the Edinburgh Exhibition. I expressed the shad from Liverpool to the Prince of Wales, care of the Duke of Sutherland, London, and the balance to Edinburgh.

As they were well packed in ice by Mr. Blackford in New York, and were constantly covered in the centre of the great ice-room of the *Spain*, they were in fine condition.

So far as I am informed this is the third lot of black bass to cross the Atlantic. The preceding ones were taken in 1878 and 1879 by Mr. Silk, fish-culturist for the Marquis of Exeter, and placed in a lake at Stamford. They were all very small, however, and he lost a large number in transportation. The last lot, singularly enough, were taken over in the *Spain*.

To the best of my knowledge this is the first time that *fresh water* fish as large as these have been transported alive over this vast distance—over three thousand miles.

And now a few words as to the value of the black bass for stocking inland lakes, ponds, and rivers. The past ten years have demonstrated that this fish will thrive in a greater variety of surroundings than any other, indeed, there is no limit to its production and increase in suitable waters. It seems utterly impossible to deplete water stocked with them after five years' time.

It will multiply in waters where the salmon and trout cannot live. The old fish sedulously guard the nest where the spawn is deposited, and when hatched, the young are cared for as jealously as a hen protects her chickens. They are guided to the shoals where, among the rushes, the growing young are secure from predatory fish. They have multiplied to an enormous extent all through the middle and eastern United States. Hundreds of black bass fishing clubs exist between Maine, Minnesota, and Florida. Tons of fish are now sold in the markets at prices enabling the working man to purchase. Tens of thousands of dollars are annually expended in their capture by the angler and market fisherman. Rods and tackle are made for the special sport.

A volume of four hundred and sixty pages, written by Dr. J. A. Henshall, of Cincinnati, Ohio, has been published within a year, solely devoted to the black bass.

Moreover, this game fish is unsurpassed as a food fish, being quite free from bones, its flesh firm, white, and flaky, and when cooked, tender, and of delightful flavour.

As a game fish, pound for pound, it excels even the lordly salmon. It will fight to the last, leaping defiantly time and again from the water when hooked, shaking itself in mid-air savagely, opening and shuttingits mouth in the endeavour to be freed from the hook. It fights to the last. It takes the artificial fly, and a large variety of bait.

I said it was the "coming game fish of America." It has come, and to-day takes the first rank, leading even the royal salmon or the dainty trout.

It is still more needed in the United Kingdom, where but two really game fish now exist. It will rapidly increase and speedily gain the same universal favour bestowed on it in America.

I predict that it will soon be acclimatised on the Continent, and e'er another generation arrives, be as abundant in Europe as in America.

In conclusion, I take great pleasure in expressing my deep sense of obligation to the officers and servants of the grand s.s. *Spain*, for their unfailing efforts to aid me in this important mission. I would also acknowledge the efficient aid and wise counsel of my friends Messrs. Henry Draper, C. Frederic Wetmore, F. Pelham Marshall, S. W. Johnson and John Carter, jun., of New York City; Dr. R. A. C. Dillon, of Rio de Janeiro; Rev. J. P. Smith and C. Grange, of Baltimore; Rev. P. D. De Lom, of London, Ontario; W. J. Penley and Romeo Sebastian, of London, England; John M. Mugford, of Brooklyn, and E. Hicks, Granville, Ohio; W. H. Jayne, Newport, England; Harry Minshall, Stockport, England; and others.

GEO. SHEPARD PAGE.

On board s.s. *Spain*, St. George's Channel,
April 24, 1882.

P.S.—A second bass died before reaching Liverpool. The balance in charge of Donald McKay, the Duke of Sutherland's fish culturist, were safely transported to Golspie, Sutherland, and deposited in a Loch. *En route*, the fish were entered at the Edinburgh Fishery Exhibition, where they received much attention.

As the guest of His Grace the Duke of Sutherland, I spent a delightful week at Dunrobin Castle.

The two black bass which died, a male and female, have been elegantly mounted by Rowland Ward and Son, and will be on exhibition at the offices of the London International Fishery Exhibition of 1883, 24, Haymarket, where they can be inspected by any persons interested until the 1st September, 1882.

One has been excepted by Dr. Gunther for final deposit in the British Museum, the other will be sent to the National Museum, Washington, U.S.A.

Should any gentleman desire further information respecting the black bass, I shall be most happy to furnish the same.

GEO. SHEPARD PAGE.
President of the American Fish-Cultural Association; Representative in Europe of the United States Fish Commission; Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.; and National Museum, Washington, D.C.
American Exchange in Europe, 449, Strand, London.
May 26, 1882.

[Mr. Page gave a most interesting description of the Black Bass at the Coarse Fish Propagation Meeting last Monday night. He is going to be present at our Tournament, and at the dinner afterwards, we are glad to say.—ED.]

A LARGE THAMES TROUT AT THE ROYAL AQUARIUM.—Mr. C. Hatfield has presented to the Royal Aquarium a 7 lb. Thames trout, caught by himself in the Thames at Dachet. It is now to be seen in the front tank, and all who are interested in Thames trouting will probably go to see this Royal captive, who seems to be getting on as comfortably as King Cetywayo, and doubtless grumbles as much to himself.

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxfod," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether the may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

A NIGHT'S LAKE-FISHING.

By THEODORE A. HOWARD.

(*Continued from page* 286.)

AS the twilight still lingers, you are minded to try a cast of smallish flies with a white moth as leader, supporting a black gnat, and with the rear brought up by the lightest of duns. You can hear fish rising although it is a difficult matter to see where they are. The first half-dozen casts are fruitless, but you are rewarded after that by noticing a slight check given to the line as you are preparing for another throw, and on striking are encouraged by a turmoil near the surface, some thirty feet distant, which is suggestive of a fish that was certainly not spawned this season. Down he goes and out to sea, also, so to speak, as he makes towards the deep water, pulling like a Trojan.

He is now evidently getting disheartened and more inclined to submit himself to the inevitable, however that may be understood by his troutship's mind, and therefore comes quietly along, too much worn out and disgusted with things in general to do more than make a feeble protest before the net rises from beneath and his lake life has come to an end. It is not too dark to see that he is a smaller fish than you had anticipated from his fighting powers, and will not probably weigh more than three quarters of a pound, although, were he a trifle broader across his somewhat thin shoulders, he might achieve the pound. Anyhow it is first blood, and you may be supposed to feel something like the tiger who has enjoyed his first taste of that fluid. So, look out, ye trout! there is danger afloat above your innocent heads, and deadly perils are flitting around simulating the innocent fly and luscious moth!

A few feet farther up the bay and you are at work again, but for the next ten minutes all your artifice is vain; so a touch of the scull secured to the stern sends you into fresh water, and you quickly have the satisfaction of rising a fish to your first throw, and the misery of feeling him ineffectually; another cast to the right, however, is rewarded by the solid consolation that you are fast in a good fish. This fellow, unlike No. 1, prefers to seek his chances of escape in the shallow, and makes towards a spot you recollect seeing, when last on the water, to be liberally provided with weeds. On no account can you allow him to have his own way here, and therefore put such strong persuasion upon him that he feels compelled to yield the point to you, and retreats, although somewhat sulkily, in the way you would have him to go, which is just opposite to the one of his own choosing. You don't parley much with this gentleman, and he is therefore soon reposing by the side of his comrade; a better fish by far as to condition, although perhaps an ounce or two less in weight.

Whilst this is going on it has been getting as dark as it will probably be to-night, and as you fancy the bigger fish will soon be on the move, you are minded to substitute a solitary "bustard" for the cast of flies, and to try a little farther up the bay, where the shallows do not run so far out. As this, the real business of the night, is now to commence as you hope, the boat is quietly and cautiously propelled along until you reach the required position, and the bustard takes his first flight. No response! Again the white-bodied deception flits through the air and alights—somewhere. Immediately, the fact that the fly has touched the water, is communicated to your nerves by a sensation as though you were fast to a stump or round a stone; only for the least portion of time does that impression remain however, for the next instant a mighty swosh responds to your strike, and he is off across the lake, reeling off thirty yards of line in almost as short a time as it has taken to write this. You begin to wish you had provided yourself with a longer line, as there is no telling how far he may run on, and it is with a nervous sort of feeling that you become sensible of the fact that the drum of your reel is being rapidly uncovered. Fortunately, he pulls up before getting to the end of his, or rather your, tether, and on a little pressure being applied makes a rush backwards again, and somewhat towards you; by this movement you are enabled to reel in, and get a surer grasp of your fish; the sense of power that the shorter line gives to your wrist has the effect of making him anxious for another spurt up lake. This you graciously permit; indeed, you can't do otherwise. But this time he does not go so far, neither does your reel produce such shrill music; so when he has about got to the end of his start, and you feel him begin to lag, then commences the steady home-coming pressure that is generally the prelude to the end. Not in this case, however, is it such; for, after describing a complete circle round your boat, and being thence persuaded to take a radial line towards the centre, and to come so far as to be within reach of that long-handled net, whether through nervousness (and who is without nervousness at such a moment?), or owing to the darkness, you strike instead of cradling him, and down he goes straight for the bottom, apparently as fresh as when he first started. Woe be to you, then, if there be weed below and he manages to reach it. Fortunately, hereabouts the water is of great depth and he does not find cover, so in a little time you have the satisfaction to feel him obeying the command from above and returning again to the surface.

This is the last effort, and in three minutes more you put strain upon your biceps to lift him over the bow. Something like a trout, you think, after giving him the coup-de-grace—which, poor wretch, he hardly needs, being fairly drowned—and sure to be nearer five than four pounds. After this excitement you take refreshment from that innocent-looking milk bottle, and begin to feel as though you had passed through something; for, let me say, there are many less eerie experiences than being alone on a lake at night fast to a large something that is dashing about beneath the surface of the black water, which something, imagination suggests, in connection with the darkness, might be anything else than fish, flesh, fowl, or good red herring.

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Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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N.B.—All Remittances must be sent, and all Cheques and Money Orders must be made payable to Messrs. SAMPSON LOW, MARSTON AND CO., the Proprietors.

The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, JULY 8, 1882.

VALUE OF THE TOURNAMENT PRIZES.

THERE ought to be plenty of competitors if prizes are any inducement, as those promised already amount to about £50. Mr. James Ogden of Winchcombe Street, Cheltenham, has very kindly sent six dozen of his best trout flies, which we spoke so highly of in the spring. Mr. Ogden makes a splendid fly.

ANOTHER PRIZE FOR THE TOURNAMENT FROM THE RICHMOND PISCATORIALS.

AT a meeting of the above society last Wednesday it was decided :—

"That a second prize of £3 3s. be offered by the members of the Richmond Piscatorial Society, open only to competitors who pay an entrance fee of 2s. 6d. each. Such entrance fees to be given to the Anglers' Benevolent Society."

In the name of the Anglers' Benevolent Society, we heartily thank the Richmond Piscatorials for their liberality, and for aiding the Tournament in this substantial way; it is often a thankless task to endeavour to introduce anything new into this country, but the help we have received on all sides with regard to these tournaments has been most encouraging.

STRIKE FROM THE WINCH.

MANY of our readers having written to ask for a description of this style of striking, we will briefly describe its advantages. The winch used must be one with a gentle check action—we much prefer the silent check action, being unable to see anything but disadvantage in a winch which makes a noise like an alarum every time you turn it. We will suppose the angler is fishing with extremely fine casting line in a trout stream, on the banks of which there are many bushes; in the course of a day's fishing, he will have to calculate on getting fast pretty frequently, both in attempting to get at fish under bushes, and in recovering the line from behind for a fresh cast. If the line is grasped, as it usually is, between the butt and the hand, the sharp strain which takes place when the line is fast and the angler attempts to make a fresh throw, will probably smash something—either the rod or the gut line; but if the angler does not hold the line in his hand, but simply holds the rod, it does not matter how fast he may be in a bush, the line simply gives a little by running a foot or so off the reel, and can then be unfastened from the snag, or weed, or tree in which it is caught. The advantages in striking fish from the winch are very great. The instant you see the rise you strike, and the slight check on the winch is amply sufficient to send the hook home. If you strike a little too hard no harm is done; the line cannot break, and the tender lip of a grayling is not struck off, as so often happens when striking too hard on a tight line. If the fish is a big one and makes a rush instantly, the line is not held fast, but gives to his struggle. You can, of course, check him at any moment after he is hooked by simply grasping the line.

ALFRED AND SON'S TROUT CASTS.

MESSRS. Alfred and Son, of 20, Moorgate Street, send us samples of their three yard fly-casting lines, which they sell at sixpence each. They are capital lines, fine enough for nine anglers out of ten, and we can recommend them to those who want a little more strength than an extra fine drawn gut affords.

BARBEL IN THE THAMES.

I HAVE had no proof yet that these fish are in a condition not to be taken, but on the contrary I have had occular evidence they are clean, and big fish are in abundance. When I went down the river on the opening-day, and saw the fish in Mr. Banfield's punt, the barbel looked clean and in good condition. I should not for a moment suppose that Staines was in advance of any other portion of the river as regards the condition of the barbel—there they were, and responding in a satisfactory manner to the rods of Mr. Banfield and Mr. Dalton, both of whom made creditable takes amongst them. Most of the barbel taken lower down have been fish of a good size, and there has been no complaint of their being out of order. It has been proved to a demonstration that barbel-fishing is no good unless the swim has been previously well baited. Now it is my opinion that we are likely to have a good barbel season. There is no fish in the river, except the gudgeon, that varies so much as the barbel. I have known in my lengthened experience, the barbel have been, comparatively speaking, off for the entire season, and statements have been made they had altogether left the river. I am sorry to say some anglers get wofully dispirited if the fish do not bite when they want them, and they grumble like anything if they cannot get hold of the fish. They make assertions which they cannot prove, that the river has been poached, and so and-so has seen the netters at work. I sometimes think that the anglers are not half grateful enough for what is done for them. The river may be thoroughly protected and preserved—ponds and reservoirs may be netted, and fish by the tons put into the Thames—but alas, how many who derive the benefit contribute towards the cost? I wish I could speak otherwise, but there are plenty with similar experiences who can thoroughly endorse what I say. I like reciprocity, and a successful angler should recognise the efforts that have been made, and being made to give him sport. When I take up the angling papers on a Saturday, and read the good takes of successful anglers, I seldom find their names amongst those who subscribe to the protection of the fishery. As I have said before, in fishing for barbel the swim should be previously well baited; and just on the same principle if the anglers want the maintenance of good fishing let them drop something into the treasury of the various Preservation Societies. It may be that many of them would contribute when they are personally invited to do so, but they are not so easily approached at the time of their success. I should like to stimulate a feeling amongst them that would cause them to think it was their duty without invitation to help in supplying the means for preserving the fishery of old Father Thames. There is no one more pleased than myself to record a good take of barbel or any other fish—whether the successful capor is a subscriber to Thames preservation or not, I unhesitatingly give him all the credit he deserves; at the same time I should be more pleased in finding his name in the "Blue Book." I have run a little away from my notes of barbel in the Thames, but if it will be the means, as I hope it will, of unloosing a few pockets, I do not think the Fishing Gazette will regret the space, and I am certain it will afford me pleasure. I have heard of anglers making arrangements for great campaigns amongst the barbel—one of four days running—and large orders have been sent to Nottingham for worms. I could wish in these cases that all the anglers would put back into the river the greater portion of their fish, having satisfied themselves as to what they have done; and now some of the clubs are allowing fish to be weighed and certified on the spot, it will do away with that great slaughter which is promoted and encouraged in "gross weight competitions." Amongst the the barbel, especially, I would encourage the return of fish, as they are not generally liked as an article of food—indeed one of the clubs used to send them to the hospitals, but they were afterwards declined, on the ground that the patients would not eat them. The certificate of one of the proprietors of a river-side hostelry, as to weight, should satisfy an angling club; and the return of a great bulk of barbel opposite the hostelry ought to please an angler and give delight to the host.

B.

[As our readers are aware, we sometimes take the liberty of differing with our good friend B. when, in the fulness of his generous heart, he now and then comes forward with proposals which would have more chance of acceptance in Utopia than in this rough work-day world. But we do most sincerly endorse all he says in the above article, and especially his appeal to barbel-anglers to retain only such fish as they want for preserving, and to return the rest to the river. Barbel are like sheep—if one leads the way, almost the whole of the swim may be induced to follow, and some anglers retain scores of fish, just to show to their friends, and then throw them away, for, as B says, even paupers will not eat Barbel!—Ed.]

A NIGHT IN AN EEL-WEIR SHANTY.

"IT is a splendid night," said my friend K——, gleefully rubbing his hands, as we sat on opposite sides of the fire, one evening, listening to the rain dashing against the windows and the wind howling in the chimney; while the smoke coming down with every blast bid fair to render our pipes superfluous. "Yes," I said, "it is a splendid night." Now I made this remark in no jocular spirit, but from a principle of mine which has long guided me, namely, never to disagree with a specialist on his specialty. One is sure to be wrong if one does, and to make an unpleasant companion into the bargain. So I looked wise, thoughtfully rubbed my hands also, and sagely repeated, "Yes, it is a splendid night." Wherein the splendour consisted was not, I confess, particularly clear to me; but I took it for granted that my friend would accept my declaration as arising from conviction, and not dream of inquisitively demanding whence came my knowledge of eel-fishing and the weather suitable therefor. Certes, how much nonsense the world would be spared, if all would be content to agree when they really know of no sufficient reason to differ; and if the picture of the amiable man who never contradicts any one is somewhat weak, wanting in tone, is it not preferable to that of the captious noodle who criticises what he is absolutely ignorant of, and who faults everything and everyone that comes his way? [But *a nos moutons*. Eel-fishing is my text, and eel-fishing, by all means, let us have.

The satisfactory, if limited, dialogue narrated, took place in a small hotel in the West of Ireland, about five o'clock on a November afternoon. K——, who owns a salmon fishery and an eel-weir, had invited me to spend a night in his fishing shanty and see how eels were caught. As I had not before seen that industry prosecuted, I had gladly accepted the invitation, and we were just finishing our pipes, preparatory to making a start for the weir in question. This weir, by the way, was three long miles from the town, and as the road, for the most part, was rough and hilly, we decided to walk; so, wrapping ourselves in various great coats with many and curious devices to keep out the rain, we got under weigh. Samuel Glen, yclept Sammy, had started an hour before, with tea, bread and butter, and other good things, for our entertainment during the night; and having ourselves something like a pound of tobacco, we were not so badly provided for.

On the tramp out I learnt that eels are, like the salmon, migratory, but adopt precisely different tactics; inasmuch as they spend the early summer in the lakes and head waters, coming down towards the sea to spawn just as the salmon leaves the sea and ascends the rivers for that purpose. It is, therefore, on their downward run that eels are caught, and by the following contrivance, which I had an opportunity of inspecting for the first time on this occasion.

At a bend of the river where the main body of water is by the swirl driven against the opposite side, and on that side, is erected a solid stone wall, with apertures, or eyes, four feet or so wide,—one, two, or more, if the size of the river will permit—and through which as much as possible of the stream is diverted. To each of the eyes is attached a long net, something of the shape of a stocking, which floats down stream to the distance of five or six yards, terminating in a narrow tail, where the eels, once they enter, are held. At intervals during the night this tail is fished up with a grapple, the end unloosed, and the produce emptied into a large tank, which stands between each pair of eyes. If I add that the law provides that eel-fishing shall only be carried on between sunset and sunrise, and that the wilder, darker, and wetter the night, the more successful will be the fishing, I shall have given all the information I possess on the subject; and which, perhaps, I should apologize for introducing at all save for the benefit of those whose experience of the fish is confined to that gained in the Criterion, or other similar establishment.

On arriving at the shanty—a wooden box eight feet square—we divested ourselves of our waterproofs, and after poking the fire which was burning in a cosy little American stove, and trimming the lamp, we found the place much more comfortable than its exterior promised; for, indeed, the outside was suggestive of anything but comfort. The men were two—Sammy, already mentioned, and John McAnd. The latter was a local peasant, who had never seen an eel-weir until this one had been erected, and in whose training K—— had found much trouble; he had, moreover, no small dread of the uncanny creatures, and frequently expressed his horror of the barbarians in London who could eat such beasts. It was now about seven o'clock, and as the moon would go down about eight we had an hour to spend without the possibility of any considerable sport; we consequently endeavoured to make the best of it, sang a few songs, smoked a great many pipes, and chatted by the fire, inquiring anxiously each time the men came in from proving the nets, "What luck?" To this query we always got the same monosyllabic reply, "Noan;" but at length, about half past eight o'clock, Sammy appeared at the door, with a look of complacent satisfaction. "Well, Sammy, what luck?" "Ten eels, sir," replied that worthy, as he shook the rain off his clothes, and sat down to steam by the fire. Good man, they are coming at last. An impatient pause of ten minutes, then K—— could stand it no longer, and he sings out, "Prove the nets, Sammy, Come on McAnd," and out they go. "Here! Hi! Hoy!" "What is it all about," I inquire, as K—— peered out at the door of the shanty. "The run is on," he cried, delighted; and jumping up we turned up our great-coat collars, and dashed out to the nets. Here the men were hauling the outside one, and a right good haul it required, with its couple of dozen of good eels in the tail. The scene was strange enough; we were standing on the top, or deck—let me be technical—of the tank very nearly in mid-stream, the wind was blowing a hurricane, and the rain momentarily increasing while the flood had risen to within a foot of the top of the tank, and was boiling and surging fast with extreme violence and noise. I expected every instant that the tank, with the whole party of us, would be carried away, but neither K—— nor the men seemed to mind, as the run had actually come, and they were too busy to have any time for meditation on the possible dangers of their occupation. In the general excitement, I was fain to have lent a hand also; but finding the deck of the tank such very insecure footing, and having received several shoves from the men in their hurry, painfully near heaving me over, I decided that it would be bad taste to be importunate for work, and consequently did not insist. I therefore withdrew to a secure place on the wall, where I had a view of the tank, and let K—— and his men fire away. From this place of comparative safety I think I could have lent some slight assistance at the shouting, but my previous efforts having received such scant attention, I contented myself with looking on. Just now an incident—or, more properly, an accident—occurred which might have terminated seriously, but which, happily, ended without any harm. McAnd, who was working and shouting like a a demon, having apparently forgotten all dread of the uncanny creatures (when a good run is on it requires the men to look alive to keep the nets clear), was observed to thrust out the the grapple fiercely to seize the tail of the outside net. He was at this time standing about a foot from the trap door in the tank, which was open for the reception of the eels, and immediately on throwing out the grapple, he made a great pull, without waiting to feel if he had hooked the net. As it happened he had *not* hooked the net, and in his drag with nothing to resist him, went staggering backwards. K —— at this moment looked up, and not understanding the business, called out, "Where are you going to, you fool? You'll be into the tank? The words were not spoken till poor John amply verified them by flopping in headlong. From where I stood the lantern just shone on him as he disappeared into the water, literally living with eels; and if ever human face expressed mortal agony, that face belonged to John McAnd. Fortunately the man had kept a firm hold of the grapple, and clung to it with the frenzy of despair; this handle dropped right across the hole through which he had fallen, and formed an effectual support for him till we got him pulled out.

The run soon after slackened, and McAnd having procured a change of clothes from his house hard by, we retired into the shanty once more, and had some tea, after which we again lit our pipes (I really never consumed so much tobacco in twenty-four hours before), and I must admit I did not stir out again till we started for home at 5 o'clock in the morning. The rain had not yet ceased, but we did not mind that much, as we were anxious to get to bed at any cost, so we stepped out sharply, and made a good journey until within a mile of the town. Here the road passed through a deep glen, which was very like a lake by the time we arrived at it, and there was at least three feet of water to wade, and that for some distance too. Through it we went, however, and got home at last; tired and wet, no doubt; but still, for eel-fishing at any rate, we had a splendid night.

R. Cromie.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SECOND "FISHING GAZETTE" TOURNAMENT.

(In aid of the Anglers' Benevolent Society.)

THE Tournament will come off at Mr. Warner's, Welsh Harp Fishery, Hendon, on the Midland Railway, at four o'clock to-day. The price of admission is sixpence; ladies half price. All money thus obtained goes to the funds of the Anglers' Benevolent Society. Tickets can be taken for the Welsh Harp or Hendon Stations from St. Pancras and from the Metropolitan underground railway stations—King's Cross, Snow Hill, Aldgate, &c. We advise anglers to make sure of the train times, and also to note that more trains stop at Hendon than at the Welsh Harp Station, and Hendon is only a few minutes' longer walk. As there is a long programme to get through, competitors are requested to pay the entrance-fees and give in their names and addresses before the times mentioned below.

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N.B.—Competitors can use their own rods, reels and lines, but will have to use weights, &c., provided by the management, in order that all may use a similar weight; the baits to be cast will be artificial dace of about 1¼ oz.

The Handicap for Fly Rods.

The handicap for fly rods will be five feet per foot of rod—*i.e.*, if one competitor uses a ten-foot rod and another an eleven-foot rod, the eleven-foot rod will have to give five feet to the ten-foot, and so on in proportion.

The Handicap for Bait Rods.

In the bait casting competition the handicap will be seven feet per foot of rod—*i.e.*, an eleven-foot rod will have to allow seven feet in the distance thrown to a ten-foot rod.

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All the competitions except the fly-casting, float-casting, and cheese bait casting, will take place over the grass, and the competitors will stand on a large tarpaulin, to keep the lines from obstructions.

Value of the Prizes.

The value of the prizes offered amounts to over £50.

ORDER OF THE COMPETITIONS AND PRIZES FOR THE SAME.

Special Competition.

First Prize: A solid silver cup, value £10 10s., given by the Richmond Piscatorial Society to the non-professional who makes the greatest number of points in casting, either Thames or Nottingham style. Three casts allowed each competitor. No entrance fee. Possibly this competition will be postponed until after Nos. 2 and 3 have been finished.

Second Prize: £3 3s., open only to competitors who pay an entrance fee of 2s. 6d., each; such entrance fee to be given to the Anglers' Benevolent Society.

Note.—It will be seen from the conditions which the Richmond Club have attached to their prizes, that although a competitor who has paid no entrance fee can take the first prize, he cannot take the second; so it would be advisable for ALL competitors to pay the entrance fee.—Ed.

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SECOND COMPETITION.

Amateur Competition in Casting in the Thames Style.

Entrance fee, 2s. 6d. Competitors must give in their names and addresses, and pay the fee, before two o'clock, at the tent in the ground.)

First Prize: A best double-brazed jack rod, value £2 2s., given by Mr. G. Yarde; and five shillingsworth of spinning baits given by Mr. Gregory, of Birmingham.

Second Prize: Best winch and line, value £1 5s., given by Mr. P. Geen; and half-dozen of ladies' kid gloves, given by Mrs. P. Geen.

Third Prize: Fishing-tackle case, value 10s. 6d., given by Mr. Crumplen; and five shillingsworth of spinning baits given by Mr. Gregory.

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THIRD COMPETITION.

Amateur Competition in Casting from Reel in Nottingham Style.

(Entrance fee, 2s. 6d. Competitors must give in their names and addresses, and pay the fee, before two o'clock, at the tent in the ground.)

First Prize: A best centre-spring ebonite Nottingham winch and line value £1 5s., given by Messrs. F. T. Williams and Co.; and ten shillingsworth of spinning baits given by Mr. Gregory.

Second Prize: The "Angler's Knife," value £1 5s., given by Messrs. W. Watson and Son.

Third Prize: Three books, value 10s., given by Mr. Marriott; and five shillingsworth of spinning baits given by Mr. Gregory.

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FOURTH COMPETITION.

Amateur Competition (open to Thames and Nottingham style) in casting towards a fixed mark placed thirty-five yards from the competitors. The angler casting the bait nearest to the mark to take first prize; the next best cast made by another angler the second; and the third best cast by another angler to get the third prize.

First Prize: Framed oil painting, by Mr. Greville Fennell, value £3 3s; and a Black-Forest spirit-bottle, given by Mr. T. R. Sachs.

Second Prize: A Thames spinning-rod, given by Mr. Bambridge, of Windsor; £1 worth of Welsh Harp fishing tickets given by Mr. Warner; and two Derby Killers given by Mr. W. J. Bullock.

Third Prize: Ten shillingsworth of Welsh Harp fishing tickets given by Mr. Warner; and five shillingsworth of spinning baits given by Mr, Gregory.

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FIFTH COMPETITION.

Professional Competition in Casting in the Thames Style.

(No entrance fee. Competitors must give in their names and addresses by half-past two, at the tent in the ground)

One prize: £2 2s. in cash, given by the Gresham Angling Society.

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SIXTH COMPETITION.

Professional Competition in Casting from Reel in Nottingham Style.

(No entrance fee. Competitors must give in their names and addresses by half-past two, at the tent in the ground.)

One prize: £2 2s. in cash, given by Mrs. E. and Mrs. R. B. Marston.

(If the money prizes are not competed for they will be given to the Anglers' Benevolent Society as from the above donors.)

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SEVENTH COMPETITION.

Competition in Throwing the Bait with Forked Stick in the Welsh Harp style. (Entrance fee, 1s. Competitors must give in their names and addresses, and pay the entrance fee, at the tent in the ground, before half-past two.)

First Prize: Thirty shillingsworth of Welsh Harp fishing tickets, given by Mr. Warner; five shillingsworth of spinning baits given by Mr. Gregory; and "Manley's Notes on Fish and Fishing," given by Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston and Co.

Second Prize: Twenty shillingsworth of Welsh Harp fishing tickets, given by Mr. Warner; and "The Field Book," value 10s., given by Mr. Greville Fennell.

Third Prize: Fifteen shillingsworth of Welsh Harp fishing tickets, given by Mr. Warner, of the Welsh Harp; and one of Mr. Warner's (of Birmingham) registered seat fishing baskets, given by Mr. R. B. Marston.

Fourth Prize: Five shillingsworth of Welsh Harp fishing tickets, given by Mr. Warner; and "Angling Literature," given by Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston and Co.

EIGHTH COMPETITION.

Mr. Wm. Bailey, junr.'s, Prize for the Longest Cast, with Quill Float in Nottingham Style.

(Entrance fee, 2s. Competitors must give in their names and addresses, and pay the entrance fee, at the tent in the ground, by half-past two.)
First Prize: A Nottingham rod, reel and line.
Second Prize: Rod, value 15s., given by Messrs. Carter and Sons, St. John Street Road.

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NINTH COMPETITION.

Mr. Malcom's Prize for the Longest Cast with Triangle Hook baited with Paste or Cheese.

(Entrance fee, 1s.)
First Prize: A "Freake" fishing bag, newest pattern.
Second Prize: A plated cup, given by Mr. Parker, of the Good Intent Angling Society.

N.B.—The fly casting will take place over water.

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TENTH COMPETITION.

Amateur Fly-casting Competition with Single-handed Fly-rod.

(Entrance fee, 2s. 6d. Competitors must give in their names and addresses, and pay the entrance fee, at the tent in the ground, by half-past two.)
First Prize: (For longest cast.) Best fly-rod, winch, line, and fly-book, value £5 5s., given by Messrs. G. Little and Co.; and three copies of "A Dictionary of Flies," given by Mr. Sang.
Second Prize: Best solid cane fly-rod, value £1 1s., given by Messrs. J. Gillett and Co.; 3 dozen trout flies, given by Mr. James Ogden, of Cheltenham; and two copies of Mr. Sang's "Dictionary of Flies," given by him.
Third Prize: Two "Gloucestershire Spinners," given by Mr. Wigley, of Cheltenham; three dozen trout flies, given by Mr. James Ogden, of Cheltenham; one "Derby Killer," given by Mr. J. Bullock, of Derby; and one of Mr. Sang's "Dictionaries of Flies," given by him.

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ELEVENTH COMPETITION.

Amateur Competition, with Single-handed Fly-rod, in Throwing Fly with Greatest Accuracy and Lightness under Bushes.

First Prize: A copy of "The British Sportsman," given by Mr. Wm. Day; seven shillingsworth of spinning baits, given by Mr. Gregory; and two of Mr. Bullock's "Derby Killers," given by him.
Second Prize: Three of Mr. Bullock's "Derby Killers," given by him.

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TWELTH COMPETITION.

Amateur Fly-casting Competition with Double-handed Fly-rod.

(Entrance fee, 2s. 6d. Competitors must give in their names and addresses, and pay the entrance fee, at the tent in the ground, by half-past two.)
First Prize: A best fly-rod and winch, with Hardy's winch fitting, given by Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., of Redditch.
Second Prize: An oleograph entitled "An Evening's Fishing," after Targett, in best gilt frame, value twenty shillings, given by Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston and Co.

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Other Competitions.

As doubtless some of the above prizes will not be won, if there is time other competitions will be arranged, but will probably only be open to those who have not already won prizes. All prizes not won will be handed over to the Anglers' Benevolent Society for use another time.

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The Judges.

The Committee of the Anglers' Benevolent Society have selected Messrs. Geen and Bates to act as judges, Mr. Crumplen as time-keeper, and Mr. Field as gate-money collector.

The Dinner.

We have great pleasure in stating that the chair will be taken by Thomas Spreckley, Esq., President of the Thames Angling Preservation Society. Mr. Spreckley, with his usual generosity, has promised five guineas towards the expenses. Mr. Geo. S. Page, President of the American Fishcultural Association, and a large number of well-known anglers will be present..

Tickets for the dinner, price 3s. 6d. each, must be obtained of Mr. Warner or Mr. R. B. Marston before three o'clock, and any anglers who may wish to dine with us will greatly oblige by getting their tickets as early as possible, in order that Mr. Warner may know how many to provide for. In order to prevent mistakes, all extras (wine, spirits, cigars, &c.) must be paid for at once by the gentlemen ordering them. The dinner is open to all anglers who would like to attend, and Mr. Warner has promised to give us cold chicken, duck, ham, lamb, and other joints, with hot vegetables. As it is uncertain when the Tournament will be over, a good cold dinner will be better than a, possibly, spoiled hot one.

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In conclusion, we again remind our readers that the Tournament is to be held in aid of a most deserving society—the Anglers' Benevolent Society—the object of which is to give help to cases of real distress amongst its members and their families. The small payment of one shilling per year confers membership in this society on any club angler, and we confidently hope that a principal result of our second Fishing Gazette Tournament will be a large accession of new members. If the affair is a success, it will be due to the very great assistance we have received on all sides.

THAMES-SIDE RECOLLECTIONS.

By Chub-Chavender.

Is there one of my angler readers who, during the recess of the close season, or by the ruddy crackling fire on a howling winter's night when outside the elements are in fierce and angry war, or, perchance, when on the bed of lingering sickness has not turned in memory to the scenes of his childhood's days of happiness, his favourite sports, his fresh keen appreciation of the pleasures of existence? The question is almost superfluous; all have recalled these scenes with exquisite delight, yet perhaps with a vague longing that can never be satisfied. Perhaps—personally I do not doubt it—the recollection of the early angling days of one who has been initiated into the mysteries of our craft in extreme youth are, however, the most pleasant of all. Well do I remember my first rod and tackle—aye, and my first fish, in the shape of a very small barbel, which my father, unknown to me, had taken from the well and placed on my hook, showing afterwards how to play and land it. I have caught fish differently since, good angler-reader; this occurred when I was of the mature age of four.

Chertsey Bridge and its neighbourhood was the scene of the first ten years of my piscatorial apprenticeship, which terminated at that place some fifteen or sixteen years since. As it was then I can recollect with the greatest ease and minuteness; as it is now perhaps your eloquent correspondent, "A Thames Fisherman," can tell us better than I, for during the last few years my visits have been but few to this the scene of my early experience. Perhaps it may not be uninteresting if I give the readers of the "F. G." some idea of the angling worth of this particular part of the Thames as it was fifteen years ago. Let us commence from the weir, going down stream.

The weir used to be an old wooden structure, with the ordinary massive wooden piles, and the "aprons," as they are termed, were composed of irregular and often huge masses of granite, backing up a gradient of perhaps 1 in 8. At the higher part of the declivity a sufficient number of piles were driven to form a breakwater, and in former time the water trickled between them, so that we—my schoolfellows and myself—often unearthed these blocks and caught small eels, stone loach and millers' thumbs. The stones were also clothed in summer and winter time with the *conferva*, which is mud in such situations—it is properly, I believe, termed *conferva rivalis*. I caught many roach and dace with it simply wound round the bend of the hook, and employed in the semi-rough water (at the side) of the weir.

The old "apron" occupied its position for about thirty yards on eiter side of the weir, and was a source of constant amusement to me, albeit not a little instruction did it add. In my very earliest days, once, and once only, did I venture along the broad (about 15 inches) crossbeam of the weir piles themselves; and then I felt so giddy with the noise and quick-rushing water that I, with providential forethought, sat down and hid my eyes for some seconds. The giddiness certainly passed off eventually, but no one except those who have experienced the sensation can even dream of the horrible nightmare which accompanied this exclusion of vision. A fierce desire to tumble off into the raging "billows of the main" possessed me, and I with the greatest difficulty repressed it. At last, the vertigo passed off with the same rapidity with which it assailed me, and I was free to look up. My old real fearlessness revived, and I almost laughed at my fears of a weir on which I had seen my father standing for many hours plying the rod for Thames trout. "What," thought I, "when I could swim with the best of my schoolfellows (I swam from Chertsey Bridge to Shepperton Ait, above the lock, one evening, against a schoolfellow just before) what, am I to be daunted?" No; a thousand times, and so I crossed with but one or two shivers and repentings into the "Borough," as we then called it, and by which term it is still known, I believe.

This freak has nothing to do with angling, I am aware, but as I am but the chronicler of my angling recollections, you must forgive me, dear reader. Well, as I said, Chertsey weir was a decade and a half ago as I have described. an ancient—eighty years old at least—structure, at the foot of whose "fall," and for some thirty or more yards to the opposite bank there existed as good a piece of barbel, bream, and trout water as ever delighted the soul of the enthusiastic fisherman. The trout which have been taken from there during the last twenty years would astonish all but the collectors of such items of angling interest. At the period of which I am now principally speaking (fifteen years ago), I believe that on any season thereabouts, as many as fifty large sized fish could be counted as feeding between the weir and the hill, which is about half a mile below Chertsey Bridge on the left hand side—I don't mean feeding all at once, of course.

But to return to the weir. I have stated the worth of the actual "weir stream," which turns chiefly from its course down stream, as it meets the bank by where Mr. Forbes's summer house stood or stands; let us, therefore, speak of a right hand view, which includes a so-called backwater entering the Thames, by the late Mr. La Corte's flour mill. At the time of which I am speaking, an island of some considerable dimensions stood about twenty yards below the weir, to the right hand of the weir from the lock gates. This island was sustained by a willow-pollard, the extended roots of which, as they were laid bare by the stream, afforded covert for many a trout, and in the late season for many a perch and chub. Breaking the stream as it did, the latter naturally diverged to both left and right, and formed a complete lagoon at the right—always bearing in mind we are speaking of the position of the weir as up stream—in conjunction with the mill tail before referred to. This lagoon contained many jack in late season, and the customary number of perch; and I know I am right in asserting that Mr. Keene (now H.M. fisherman), achieved a remarkable capture from this neighbourhood as close to the time as possible as that of which I speak. J. Keene, Haslett, J. Poulter, W. (old as he was termed) Galloway, his son Tom, and T. Taylor, were the professional fishermen, I recollect, at this time. I believe that both Haslett and Poulter had been initiated in their work by Keene. The former of the three is now a remarkably successful man, and well deserves the success he has achieved, being both civil and clever.

Again, pardon my wanderings, reader, and I will resume the stream from the weir, begging your careful attention to my indications of locality. Now, a little below the weir stands the lock-house; and opposite, on the other side of the way—the osiers grow thick and umbrageous, hiding a stream running at about three miles an hour—lies as good a chub harbour as ever gladdened the foolish heart of an enthusiastic slide-cork Nottingham fisher. And so does this continue till one reaches down stream to the back stream, which—going down stream, remember—turns to the right into what is called the dock. This dock was occupied at the time to which I refer by a Mr. Dover; and subsequently the hotel was erected by a Mr. Gale, whose subsequent collapse was of an extraordinary character in consequence of a lawsuit won by Mr. Forbes.

Now with the exception of a certain reach I wot of in Old Windsor Fleet, I believe this two hundred yards of chub water to have been *the* best throughout the whole length of the Thames. I have seen four and five pounders come in with the boats of Keene; he I know to have been the only fisherman understanding the "fine and far off tackle" at that time.

Now opposite to that chub water, which was really formed by the inert forceful current of the weir, lies a still—or comparatively still—piece of water, termed the "Stank." It was of muddy bottom and holds occasional weeds, but not of a dangerous character; and in early season the larger pike would lie in its quiet solitude, only to be aroused when the obtrusive bait was thrown almost across its saturnine face. Oh! the glorious sport that I, as a boy—endowed with a bamboo-cane rod which I fitted myself—enjoyed; and my father, did he not take nineteen and other glorious "pounders" which were recorded in the *Field* and other papers? Perch also (almost always present where the water and general habitat is "piky,") were to be taken; and my boyish reminiscense is of a splendid bag of forty taken with a worm, when I was within a day of my ninth birthday, at the extreme end of the bank abutting on the so-called "Stank," in water not four feet deep, but clogged with boulders of ancient weir materials, concrete blocks, *et hoc*, &c.

(*To be continued*).

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

THE monthly meeting of the United London Anglers' Central Committee was held on Monday evening last at the "Bald Faced Stag," Worship-square, Finsbury, Mr. T. Morgan presiding. There was a very full attendance of delegates, several London Lea bailiffs and representatives of the West Central Association of London and of Provincial Angling Societies, including Messrs. Bonvoisin, Beckett, Osman, Welch, and Field.

After reading and confirming the minutes of the previous meeting, the secretary, Mr. R. Ghurney, gave a lengthy and most careful report of certain inquiries respecting the public rights of fishery in a favourite stretch of Walton's "sedgy Lea." The report was so strongly in favour of public as against proprietary rights, that it was decided to test the question by a friendly suit; Mr. Murphy cheerfully accepting the duty of angling in the said water for an appointed day, refusing to pay for so doing when called upon, and, as a matter of course, being summoned. In evidence, title-deeds, leases, &c., will have to be produced, and whichever way the question is decided, it will be a great satisfaction to have so important a question satisfactorily settled.

A case which will be shortly gone into of a person taking unseasonable fish with a legal cast net, was also referred to by the secretary, who made some very practical remarks anent certain necessary alterations in the present River Lea bye-laws to which he stated the Conservancy had cordially acceded.

Messrs. Field and Kidd made some remarks about the endeavours now being made to obtain concessions on the South Eastern Railway, which it is hoped will be favourably reported upon shortly. Concerning the "London Angling Association Fishery Society," Mr. Ghurney remarked that the good work undertaken by that Society had so far progressed, that though it was only just formed, and as yet had not received a single penny, four miles of good water had been rented on the river Wey, extending from Purford Lock to Weybridge. Also the right for every member to angle free of charge in that portion of the main River Lea navigation, and the ½ mile of back water at Ponder's End, known as the "Pike and Anchor Fishery," while endeavours were now being made to obtain proprietary rights in a portion of the Colne at Rickmansworth, the river Mole, and also in some very good water on the Cambridge line, to which the railway concessions now extend. He really hoped these substantial advantages, which were only forerunners of what the Society purposed carrying out—when taken in conjunction with the important experiment of coarse fish culture now undertaken by this Society, would be sufficient to satisfy even the professional grumbler who had been called upon to pay the sum of 1s. per annum extra, that the many might be benefited.

A few earnest remarks were made about the Anglers' Benevolent Tournament, and the necessity for supporting both. Some routine business was transacted, and the roll called, a vote of thanks to the chairman bringing the meeting to a close.

On Sunday last I took a walk all round Mr. Warner's big lake at Hendon, and saw several good fish which had been taken; one a jack of 10 lbs, some spinning, others live baiting. Spinning at the Welsh Harp, however, is of the most primitive description, as far as tackle and manipulation are concerned. Very thick prepared line, the same short thick heavy rod used for live baiting, biggish baits, ditto flights, leads heavy enough for spinning a deep river with a fairish flow, and rarely more than one swivel on the trace. Such is the outrig of a large majority of those who go in for spinning the Harp. At the risk of being told I don't know anything about it, I would venture to suggest that the use of a longer, lighter, and less stiff rod, a very much finer unprepared line, and for fishing those flats which the jack at this time of the year so much prefer to the deeper water smaller baits and flights, salmon gut or fine gimp traces with at least a couple of swivels and very small leads—if they did not insure in every case certain success, would be going a long way towards deserving it. While talking of spinning, I might mention that Mr. J. H. Stead, of the North Western Anglers, exhibited at that Society a bream of about 2½ lbs. taken at the Welsh Harp. Well down in the fish's mouth was a fair sized spinning flight, from which depended a leaded trace and a small portion of line—all bearing evidence of having been some time in the water. The fish was, for the time of year, in very fair condition.

Some fair takes of fish are, I hear from a trustworthy source, being had in the neighbourhood of Maldon, in Essex, and some good baskets of roach from the Medway, in the neighbourhood of Maidstone.

A complimentary visit will be paid the Canonbury Angling Society at their new head quarters the Monmouth Arms, Haberdasher-street, East-road, Hoxton, on Thursday evening, July 13th, when a goodly muster of piscators is expected.

When you want to touch up a favourite rod, do it before the shades of evening begin to fall, or you may make the same mistake as Mr. R. Marshall did the other day—next morning find you have anointed your favourite sticks with "molis-corum" in lieu of varnish.

THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

THE half-yearly general meeting of the members took place in the clubroom, Ashley's Hotel, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, on Monday evening last. Mr. F. H. Lemann was voted into the chair, and amongst those present were Messrs. H. J. Inderwick, J. Pattisson, T. Gillatt, W. H. Brougham, T. R. Sachs, T. Spreckley, H. Gray, J. Lander, T. Crumplen, D. Goodgers, C. P. Wheatstone, W. B. Adlington, T. Huggett, F. Lecluse, J. C. Murray, John Feron, G. H. Thurston, H. J. Alfred, T. N. Harrison, G. H. Thrupp, Dr. Brunton, T. Goulston Back, Walter Back, Harry Back, H. J. Wilkes, C. Cook, E. Vaux Huggett, &c., &c. After the reading of minutes by Mr. Lander (hon. sec.), the auditors, Messrs. T. Gillatt and James Pattisson, presented the financial statement, from which it appears the receipts of the last year with the previous balance amounted to £115 9s. 4d., and the expenses, which had been unusually heavy, including a new bookcase, were £99 1s., leaving an available balance in the hands of the treasurer of £16 8s. 4d. In addition to this balance, the society possesses a good reserve fund in the Savings Bank. The auditors congratulated the members on the satisfactory state of the funds, as well as on the general prosperity of the society. During the indisposition of Mr. F. G. Pearce, the treasurer, and who is as yet unable to resume his duties, Mr. T. R. Sachs acts as deputy treasurer in the most able and courteous manner. The next business was to appoint a date and place for the summer dinner. The time fixed upon was Wednesday, the 19th of July. In reference to the place, Mr. C. P. Wheatstone remarked that as Mr. G. H. Thurston was an old member of the society and also of the Stanley Anglers, as well as being a supporter of Thames preservation, proposed that the dinner take place at the Chertsey Bridge Hotel, and he was sure from his experience of the house Mr. and Mrs. Thurston would give them every satisfaction. Although another hostelry was proposed, the feeling towards Mr. Thurston was so unanimous that the other house was withdrawn, and it was unanimously resolved, amidst general acclamation, that the Chertsey Bridge Hotel be selected. Mr. Thurston, who was present, expressed his best thanks for the kind expressions which had been used, and promised to give them the best of dinners and the best of wines. He also liberally undertook to provide conveyances from and to the station for the guests on the occasion. It was then agreed that Mr. Norman F. Harrison, who was in the vice-chair last year, should occupy the position of chairman, and Mr. F. H. Lemann the vice-chair. After some highly-complimentary observations on the value of Mr. James Forbes' services in connection with the Thames, and the cost and trouble he has been at in fish propagation, it was most unanimously resolved that that gentleman be invited as the society's guest at the dinner. Mr. Spreckley and others bore testimony to the fruitful results of Mr. Forbes' operations in fish culture, as great numbers of trout of about one pound each that were not Thames trout were being caught, and they were quite satisfied they were those that had been hatched in the fish-house at Chertsey Bridge. The sum of £50 was voted towards the guarantee fund of the Grand International Fisheries Exhibition of 1882. The business portion of the meeting ended in the usual vote of thanks.

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

"Glide gently, thus for ever glide,
O Thames! that anglers all may see."

The surroundings of Father Thames just now are grand in the extreme, as regards colour, foliage, &c., but the "gliding" business is on a scale a little too fast for successful angling Rain has fallen very heavily all up the Thames Valley within the last three or four days, so what with this and the commotion made by the passage of hundreds of boats, great and small, bound for the human race at Henley, it is a poor look-out. At Medmenham, Mr. Troupe, with a fly, has had two or three takeable fish, and Mr. Harrison one of about 2½ lb. At Maidenhead, Messrs. Allen and Gardener, fishing together, caught between them a nice trout of 4 lb., and lost a "nummer"—whatever that may mean. I have some fifteen reports of roach takes, but as the biggest is only 8 lb. in the day, the details of the other fourteen would hardly interest anyone besides the captors.

Thursday evening.—As I write the rain is coming down in blankets (sheets being out of it), and I fear by the time this is in print the Thames will have become much coloured and unfishable, except for roach.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Ancholme.

A week of continuously fine weather has proved as great a boon to the coarse fisherman as to the farmer. Whilst the latter has been hauling-in stacks of prime clover and hay, the fisherman has also been hauling-in prime baskets full of fish. The best catch during the past week has been one at Brandy Wharf, in a match. Mr. Wray, of Hull, took the first prize, with 24 lb. 13 oz. A trout, doubtless one of my runaways, was also taken, weighing 1½ lb. Dr. Bowstead had a good miscellaneous catch one day, consisting of two small pike, several eels and coarse fish, with two beautiful trout, together about 2 lb, to top the basket. I had a similar catch on Saturday last, consisting of eels, coarse fish, and trout; and my little boys had a nice basket of eels on Tuesday. In the evening of Tuesday, a party of five of us rode over to the Ancholme, but, unfortunately, it began to rain just as we arrived. I, however, got one small pike, whilst my friend stuck to bottom-fishing, and secured a nice lot of eels and coarse fish. A splendid trout was caught in the Mill Pit, at Horncastle, by Mr. Bryant, last week. It weighed 4 lb. The pupils at the Grammar School had a day at Croxby Lake, and caught some nice perch and eels; but, as usual, the carp were too wide awake for them.—THOS. FORD.

Ballynahinch.

These last two days angling has improved well, as we had a fair spate on Monday, which was greatly needed, as will be seen by the undermentioned report. Messrs. Eades and Haulgrave for the week have only succeeded in killing three dozen trout, largest take was yesterday, being fourteen. Mr. G. Sutherland has had very poor sport, his bag for the four days before the spate only amounting to twenty-seven trout, but on the 3rd he caught one salmon, 7 lb., ten white trout, and 7 lb. yellow trout; on the 4th two salmon, 8 and 6 lb., and seven trout. Captain G. Sutherland's take was also poor, twenty-six trout being his total until yesterday, when he succeeded in killing three salmon, 6, 5½, and 5 lb. weight, also fourteen trout. There is a good show of both salmon and trout on the lakes, but would not rise until we had this spate. WALTER BLACKADDER.

Chichester.

The water at Chichester is in capital condition, the effect of the weed clearance in the lower reaches being most satisfactory. Prospects are better than for some seasons past, although fish are no, well on, owing, doubtless, to the variable temperature. There is sufficient incentive to tempt many rodsters to the waterside. Some fair takes have been brought to bank, as usual some good fish breaking away. Mr. Young has had some fair baskets of bream, and some fine eels have been accounted for. We hear of nothing noteworthy from the Rother, which is in good trim. Fish are rapidly improving in condition, the small fry showing in myriads. With warmer weather good results may be anticipated.—GEORGE F. SALTER.

Coquet (Weldon Bridge).

Since the last report there has been little sport for the angler. The weather is very unsettled, thundering almost every day, and showery. Worm for this month is very difficult, and the creels are very small, from two to six brace is the average.—A. GLASS.

Dove.

We have had changeable weather all the week, sunny by turns and rainy ditto The river has been in a coloured condition and in rattling order for bottom fishers with the worm and maggot. Excellent dishes of roach and dace have been filled, and I also hear of a few barbel having been captured with the cad bait. Trout are now rising better than when I last wrote. They seem to be recovering from their gorge upon the drake, and some nice baskets have been caught with the pale evening dun and the honey dun bumble. Foster's universal has also accounted for some big fish, both in the brooks and the main river. There have been hundreds of rodsters out on all our public lengths during the week, and I verily believe that the number of piscators every day appears to increase. The weather at the time of writing (Thursday morning) seems to be clearing up, and I think we shall have some great doings on Saturday, as the water is in grand order.—THE SPLODGER.

Exe (Tiverton).

Owing to the heavy rains we have had and are having, the river is coming down thick, and should it rise to any extent, it will, in all probability, bring up some fresh fish. Four salmon have been filled since my last report, in the Tiverton water; one in the upper, by the Rev. J. Jellicoe, and three in the lower, by W. Wratislaw, Esq. Some very fair baskets of trout have been taken. Flies killing best being—red spinner, Yellow May dun, red, and black palmer.—WM. MUDFORD.

Ilfracombe.

Sea-fishing still continues very good when the weather is fine enough for the boats to venture down. Friday and Saturday very good sport. W. Ashford brought in 85 lb. bass, other boats less. Saturday, best boat 77 lb. bass 12 lb. pollock. Monday, wind blowing strong; a few boats dropped anchor off the harbour, and had fair catches of whiting pout, Tamlin cod, and pollock. On Tuesday, two boats tried Baggy again for bass, but they were obliged to return after getting half a dozen, the sea being too rough for them to fish out in these tides. On Wednesday and Thursday they tried it, but they found the wind and sea too much for them. The tides suit well now for rock-fishing. Some fine prawns have been taken from the ponds, also several lobsters and crabs from holes in the rocks between Larkstone and Rillage. On Thursday some crabs weighing from 4 to 5 lb. each were brought in from the pots. Weather at present squally.—E. COMER.

Lea (Ware, Herts).

There is excellent roach-fishing obtainable at present, and I believe no better general fishing can be obtained nearer to or more conveniently reached from London it being readily got at from Liverpool Street and other stations of the Great Eastern line, Ware being about twenty miles out. The river is plentifully stocked with roach, dace, chub, trout and jack, also eels. There are some fine trout and jack lays hereabouts. One fine fellow (jack) was hooked a few days ago while trout fishing, and after over an hour's play was lost, he was estimated at quite 26 lb. I may mention that the water is rather bright, but the roach are taking paste now very freely, and several good takes were made by London anglers last Sunday.—JAMES H. FEARN, Lion and Wheatsheaf, Ware, Herts.

Medway (Tonbridge).

Water in capital condition for all round angling, and sport very good. There have been some good bags made, particularly above the town, where on Monday Mr. Birley captured a splendid bag of chub. The bream are beginning to bite nicely at a worm and carp are coming on. On Tuesday, Mr. G. West, at the Powder Mill Point, grassed one weighing 3 lb, and on the following morning an angler lost a considerably larger one by reason of his hook breaking. At the Ballast Pit a few nice pike have been taken. Roach, too, are very plentiful.—YE MEDWAY WATER-RAT.

Ouse (Littleport).

Water brighter than I have seen it for a long time past; floating weeds still troublesome. The weed cutting engine went up again yesterday, so I expect we shall have them thicker than ever again now; so the prospect looks anything but promising for some time to come. Roach will not look at a bait, and bream fishing is very uncertain. Last Friday Messrs W. Purchas and R. Hills, Cambridge, had a good morning's bream fishing spoilt by the weeds. They had them on and had caught some when they came down so thick it was quite impossible to get a line in, and they had to give up. Yesterday morning Mr. Headley, Cambridge, and myself got nine good bream, five largest going 15 lb. I tried again this morning, but only got two of about 1½ lb. each.—C. SOUTH.

Rother (Sellham).

The fishing in this locality has been very good during the past week; Mr. Saunders, of Lodsworth, caught a fine jack, 8½ lb., also some salmon trout; Messrs. Tinney and Godden landed three pike and two brace of perch, spinning with minnow. The roach are well on the feed, and some good takes have been made. London anglers would do well to note that there is capital all-round angling in the Rother, near Sellham station. There is also good angling near Petworth.—J. PIKE.

Thames (Goring).

Water in good condition for all round fishing. Prospects good for this week There has been three days' sport, the best day's catch being: eight jack, largest 3 lb.; some good perch, and 6 chub, largest 2 lb.—JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Halliford)

The river is now in good order for all-round fishing. Different gentlemen fishing with me since my last report, a fortnight back; their takes have been as follows.—First day -Mr. Holt, one barbel, 3½ lb.; two chub, one jack, and some roach and dace. Second day—Mr. Smith, one trout, 2 lb.; one eel, 3 lb.; one bream, 1½ lb.; and two chub. Third day—Mr. Nickenson, one trout, 1¾ lb; two chub; and one perch. Fourth day—Mr. Ralph and friend, seven dozen roach and dace, most of which we returned to the river again. Fifth day—Mr. Nickenson, one trout, 2 lb. 9 oz. Sixth day—Mr. Hutchinson, one bream, 3 lb.; and one chub, 1 lb. Seventh day—Mr. Nickenson, three nice bream, largest weighing 3 lb. 14 oz.; three chub and one perch; altogether weighing 15 lb. Eighth day—Mr. Rogers, four perch; three chub; one jack; and some roach and dace. Ninth day—Mr. Nickenson, four nice perch; two chub; two good roach; and some dace.—GEORGE ROSEWELL.

Thames (Windsor).

Since my last very little has been done in this neighbourhood, though there is a good show of fish, especially barbel, which have been jumping about in all directions, but at present are not feeding much; next month ought to see them well on if properly baited previously. The few that have been had were good fish as regards condition and one of our local anglers, fishing with James Gray, got a good specimen of 8¼ lb. out of the Windsor Weir stream; it is now in the hands of Mr. Cooper. Mr. Hockley, with Richard Cray, has had some nice barbel and chub, but my memo having got mislaid, am not sure of the weights. Paice, of Etonwick, has had twenty barbel, largest 5 lb., three chub and a perch going 3 lb. within an ounce. Bank anglers have been getting some good roach, many bags being graced with fish considerably over 1 lb.; these, of course, were had by the use of extremely fine tackle and judicious groundbaiting. A few chub have been had long corking up to 3¾ lb, and now is the time to get some good ones by whipping from a boat with skin of black slug, gentles, skin of beef, piece of kid glove, or either of the following flies—coachman. alder, red or black palmer, Windsor bee, &c., dressed largish. Some good jack have been seen in the neighbourhood, but up to the present few have been taken; and I am glad to see it, as it is much too early for them, next month being quite soon enough.—B. R. Bainbridge.

P.S.—Godden, of Cookham, tells me he is getting quantities of roach daily, and last week got a nice jack of 9 lb. out with Mr. Jones.

Trent (Alrewas).

Little worth reporting has been done the past week in the way of sport. Heavy rain has fallen at intervals every day, which has kept the river in a state of flood and mud. I had a day on the river with a few friends last Friday, but we only succeeded in taking a few roach and dace with gentles, cadbait again proving of no use. The water is reported to-day in little better order, but still discoloured and scarcely fishable.—I have just returned from a couple of days fishing on the Teme, near Tenbury, with Messrs. John Allday, Sam Busnett, and the "Novice." That river, like the Trent, was thick, and to make matters worse the rain descended at intervals nearly the whole time we were fishing. Had the elements and the water been a little more favourable I have little doubt I should have been enabled to report of some good sport. The dace in that river run remarkably fine, and I nobbled a nice lot with gentles my friends taking some fine roach, perch, and small eels, while the "Novice" took first honours by basketing a nice brace of trout as well as other fish. Saturday next will find me at the Welsh Harp, endeavouring to do a little good for my less fortunate disciples of the gentle art. May fine weather and a good attendance reward our efforts.—J. Gregory.

Trent (Newark).

The water is now in fairish condition for angling; and some pretty good sport has been had; weather rather unsettled, and some pretty good bags of eels and flounders are still being made down the lower reaches of the river; roach and dace have been taken with caddis and gentles; but the roach are as yet very lumpy, and would do with another week or two's rest. A few chub have been taken off the shallows with fly; and a nice barbel or two have been had by various anglers. I noticed a lot of barbel pitching last Sunday, but another week or two will be plenty soon enough to begin to bait for this fish. Cad baits and gentles will be found the best baits under the present circumstances; but the angler must not forget his worm bag: prospects pretty fair, sport certain.—The Trent Otter.

Trent (Nottingham).

The river here came on a few inches on Tuesday, but on Wednesday the water ran off again and a large number of anglers were out. In the upper waters a few eels, some roach and bream were taken with the worm, and a chub of 4¼ lb. was landed in the Shardlow fishery. Last Saturday I took a very nice lot of chub with the cad bait, using maggots for ground-bait, and on Tuesday I was fortunate enough to take, amongst other fish, a trout of 2 lb. Several of these fish have also been caught of late at Shardlow. Reports are not numerous from the lower districts, but large quantities of roach and dace have been taken from the punts off what is known as Sneinton meadow. Attempts have been made with the artificial fly on the shallows, and one of our adepts Mr. W. Dann, is credited with an excellent creel of dace and roach. —The Man at the Clubs.

Tweed and Teviot.

The mild and warm weather we have experienced during the past week has made the takes in these rivers very small, both streams being now down to their summer level. We have had a few freshets, but these have only discoloured the rivers, without raising them to any extent, and we now sadly want a flood. Salmon fishing is now practically over for the season, until the back end or autumn season opens. On Wednesday some few baskets of from 4 lb. to 7 lb. were got, but beyond this nothing has been done in this district. In the neighbourhood of Coldstream, where netting goes on, several salmon have been got, and the net fishing at Berwick also shows some improvement.—Maxwheel, Kelso.

Welsh Harp.

To the casual observer who, unacquainted with the character of these waters, may have chanced to be present at the "Harp" on any evening during the past week the bar of the old roadside hostelry must have presented a strange scene. In rapid succession have fishermen, with baskets almost bursting with contents, entered the bar and to admiring crowds displayed the result of their day's labour while closely scrutinising each individual fish as it is produced from its grassy bed, and commenting thereon with pardonable pride. "Sawyer," the veteran keeper of the reservoir—who knows every blade of grass and tree around his favourite waters, and knows, moreover, where to direct his patrons so as to ensure them sport when "fish are on the feed," with the almost unprecedented number of 321 jack of from 3 lb. to 18 lb., shows a bold return from June 16th to July 5th. These, with very few exceptions, have been taken spinning. Bream and carp, in almost countless number, have been taken this week, and Messrs. Hall and Twigden's show of bream was truly a grand one, the fish being laid out in the large hall, where hundreds of persons inspected them. Appended is a list of those taken during the past week by yearly subscribers:—Mr. Smart, 89 lb. of bream and carp; Mr. Twigden, 96 lb. of bream and carp; Mr. Thomas, 40 lb. of bream; Mr. Hall, 23 bream weighing 75 lb.; Mr. Lovegrove, 6 jack, 28 lb. (largest 10½ lb.); Mr. Nye, 10 bream, 32 lb.; Mr. Plumpton, sen., 4 jack and 1 carp; Mr. Plumpton, jun., 3 jack; Mr. Brown, 4 jack and 5 bream; Mr. Geo. Sotham, 5 perch, 6 bream, and 2 jack; Mr. Slade, 3 jack, 12 lb.; Mr. Marshall, 10 jack (3 lb. to 7 lb); Mr. Packman, jun., 5 jack; Mr. Wharton, 2 jack; Mr. Liddington, 1 carp, 9 lb.; Mr. Nevill, 1 carp, 7 lb., and some nice bream; Mr. Turner, 1 carp, 8 lb., and some fine perch; Mr. Blenkiron, 9 jack, from 3 lb., to 8 lb.; Mr. Fredericks, several nice perch; Mr. Stead, several perch and bream; Mr. Stannard, 6 jack; Mr. Pearce, large basket of jack, perch, and bream; Messrs. Roxbee, 6 large jack; Mr. Cox, 1 carp and 5 bream; Mr. North, 8 jack; Mr. Crew, 2 bream and 4 eels; Mr. Clark, 6 Jack; and Mr. Staines, 26 lb. bream.—Resident.

Poisoning Fish.—At the Worcester Sessions before Mr. H. Hawkes and Mr. J. W. Willis-Bund, George Clarke (42), labourer, and Henry Hill (23), boilermaker, were each sentenced to six months' hard labour, for putting a quantity of lime into water at Welland and Hales Owen, for the purpose of poisoning fish.

CLUB REPORTS.

AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The show of fish was very small, on account of the dinner, which took place at Mr. T. Coomes, Five Horseshoes, Hoddesdon. Thirty-eight of the members and friends sat down to a very excellent dinner, and also there was a private dinner provided for the ladies and their families, who sat down to the number of twenty-one. Mr. Powers, of the Amicable, and Mr. Henwood, of the North-Eastern, took the chair and vice-chair, Mr. W. Brearley acting as steward. Everything passed off very well, and the weather everything that could be desired. Mr. C. A. Metcalf, the trustee, took the chair for the members, assisted by Mr. Powers and Mr. Henwood, who did duty the second time, also supported by Mr. Moore. The general visit of the United London Anglers will take place at the clubhouse on July 10, when we hope to have a good visit.—J. Worledge.

July 2.

ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our trays were well filled on Sunday, the 2nd inst. The following members weighing-in:—Mr. A. Shakel, bream, 1 lb. 7 oz.; Mr. Coles, bream, 1 lb. 3¼ oz.; Mr. R. Smith, bream, 10 lb. 13¼ oz.; Mr. D. Davis, roach, 1 lb. 8¼ oz.; Mr. H. Scott, bream, 1 lb. 2½ oz.; Mr. T. Bowling, bream and roach, 4 lb. 8¾ oz.; Mr. Powell, bream, 1 lb. 10¼ oz.; Mr. C. Daniels, bream, 2 lb. 2¼ oz.—D. Davis.

July 5.

ANGLERS' PRIDE.

The members of the above club fished for a series of prizes at Pulborough on Sunday. Everything being in our favour, a very excellent show of fish was the result. The first prize was taken by Mr. Dawe with 16 lb. of bream, the second by Mr. Gafney with 12 lb. 10½ oz., the third by Mr. Beeley, jun., with 6 lb. 13 oz.; Mr. Haines, 6 lb. 2½ oz.; Mr. Mallett, 5 lb. 8½ oz.; Mr. Watkins, 5 lb. 8 oz.; T. Fiddes, 2 lb. 10 oz.; Mr. Hayes, 1 lb. 15 oz.; Mr. Soar, 1 lb. 9 oz.; Mr. Dodson, 1 lb. 9 oz.; Mr. Phipps, 1 lb. 1 oz.; and Mr. Nash, 11 oz.—F. Marshall.

July 4, 1882.

BATTERSEA FRIENDLY.

The first match of the season took place on Sunday last at Staines for three valuable and useful prizes, presented by Sampson Beautiful weather and the river in splendid condition, but small takes were, unfortunately, the order of the day, many of the competitors only just escaping a blank. The winners were as follows:—Mr. Ansty, 1st, 1 lb. 14 oz., roach; Mr. Thomas and Mr. Martin had a dead heat for second and third with 1 lb. 2 oz. each.—H. W. Payne, President.

BOSTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our show of fish was not quite up to the mark. The best takes have been had by Mr. W. Bastain, with some nice perch from the Welsh Harp, the three largest weighing 3½ lb., and one bream, over 3 lb.; Mr. Jennings, four roach, weighing over 3 lb.; Mr. Marshall, roach; Mr. Goodge, perch.—J. Jennings, hon. sec.

July 5.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following is the result of our peg-down competition at Amberley on the 2nd July:—Mr. Plumstead, first prize, with roach and bream, one of the latter weighing 1 lb. 8½ oz.; Mr. Mortimer, second, with roach, one of them weighing 1 lb. 1¾ oz.; Mr. Nitz, third, with roach, one of them 1 lb.; Mr. Payne, fourth, with bream; Mr. Pratt, fifth, with bream; and Mr. Mark, sixth, with dace. —Cas.

CROWN PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The members of this flourishing society will fish a pegged-down match in the forty guinea water, Rye House, on Sunday, July 16th, for a series of valuable prizes, and on Monday following, the 17th, at their club house, the "Crown" Tavern, Clerkenwell Green, will be paid their first return visit on the central list of angling clubs, when they hope to have the company of all those who can make it convenient to attend.—W. H. Burwash, jun., sec.

July 5th.

DUKE OF CORNWALL ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our members were out in force on Sunday and had pretty good luck. We had a fine show of roach from Boxmoor, headed by Mr. Kettle, sen., in fine condition. Our other specimens looked well for our young society.—J. Heckford, secretary.

GALASHIELS ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

The third and last competition for the season of the Gala Angling Association was held on Saturday. Twenty-four competitors entered, and of these twelve baskets were shown, reaching a total weight of 83 lb. 5½ oz. The hours were from two a.m. to two p.m. The early morning, however, was extremely unsuitable, and until the sun broke out little was done. In the most of cases bait was used, and taking into account the state of the rivers—the Tweed and its tributaries—and the period of the season, the takes may be held as above the ordinary. The following is a list of the successful competitors:—1, Robert Robertson, scratch, 9 lb. 7 oz. (Gala); 2, Henry M'Gill, 1 lb. added, 8 lb. 2 oz. (Tweed); 3, Robert Grant, 1 lb. added, 8 lb. 2 oz. (Tweed); 4, W. Buchan, scratch, 8 lb. 1½ oz; 5, Alexander Clapperton, scratch, 8 lb. ½ oz; 6, Alexander Stodart, 1½ lb. added, 7 lb. 14 oz.; 7, John Cass, 1 lb. added, 7 lb. 13 oz.; 8, William Romanes, scratch, 7 lb. 7 oz. Heaviest half-dozen, Robert Grant, 4 lb.

GOOD INTENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this club to the number of fifty-four fished a pegged-down match at Burnt Mill last Sunday for eleven valuable prizes, that being the wind-up for the year. They were won in the following order: Mr. Philpott, 1st; Chas. Bates, 2nd; W. Wheeler, 3rd; J. Bell, 4th; Guntrip, 5th; Maybury, 6th; Rodgers, 7th; Tavener, 8th; Ormes, 9th; Raynor, 10th; Barrington, 11th. The fish small in quantity and quality.—R. Murphy.

GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS.

Our show of fish on Sunday last was not very large. Mr. Parkin, one bream, from Amberley, 2 lb. 6 oz.; Mr. Burness, one bream, from the same place, 3 lb. 4½ oz.; Mr. Page, bream and roach, 4 lb. 8 oz; Mr. Watling, 1 lb. 6 oz.; Mr. Young, one roach, 1 lb. 5½ oz.; Mr. Hewitt, 1 lb. 11 oz.; Mr. Hutchings, 2 lb. 2 oz.; Mr. Dingley, 1 lb. 3 oz.; Mr. Theobald, 2 lb. 8 oz. roach, from the Medway; Mr. Major, 3 lb. roach, from the Grand Junction Canal.—J. Fitch, jun., sec.

July 6.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The usual meeting of this society took place on Thursday, the 6th inst., A. W. Parker, Esq., in the chair. After the reading of river reports, correspondence, &c., Mr. Crumplen stated that he had received an official letter from the authorities of the Great International Fisheries Exhibition, endorsing the nomination of the angling societies of London, by which he became one of their two representatives on the committee relative to the collections of fresh-water fish, preserved or otherwise. Mr. Crumplen said he intended to take a broad view of his duties, but should always consider the wishes of the great mass of anglers, by whose unanimous vote he had been placed in this honourable position. The fish taken by members during the week included one pike 5½ lb., by Mr. Cotton, and a number of perch from the society's water at Waltham. The secretary stated that he had recently visited this stream, and was glad to report that it appeared well stocked, and, given ordinary condition, he fully anticipated members having good sport there. Mr. E. Bennett, a respected member who weighed in some sample roach early in the society's year, has again been fortunate in the Norfolk Broads, taking some 40 lb. of roach, rudd and bream, while fishing with George White, of Yarmouth, at Heigham Sounds, on Tuesday last. Mr. G. S. Page will give the society an account of coarse fish culture as carried out by the United States Government, with special reference to black bass, on Wednesday, the 19th inst., when several well-known pisciculturists will attend. The meeting will probably be held in a larger room than the society now possesses, and of which special notices will doubtless be issued. Captain Alfred presented the society with the superb specimen of bleak taken from Sunbury Reservoir, the finest possessed by any angling society. The evening concluded with a very enjoyable selection of music, Messrs. Jardine, Neville, Young, Callaghan, and others taking part.

HAMMERSMITH UNITED.

Since my last report Messrs. Geen and Hoole have shown some nice chub from Eynsham; Messrs. Pitts and Peachey had 18 lb. roach from much-despised Henley; whilst Messrs. Green, Hitchcock, Lewis, Chick, and Burbidge had a few fish, principally taken with the fly in tidal waters. Mr. Mackness had bream, &c., from Shepperton—heaviest fish, 2 lb. 4½ oz. Mr. Walters had a tray of dace and trout from private waters.—VORTEX.

HIGHBURY ANGLING SOCIETY.

The trays of the above society were exceedingly well filled on the 2nd inst. with capital roach and bream, particularly the latter, contributed by Messrs. Anthony, McDermott, Howell, Thomas, and others. Mr. Thomas had six bream from the Welsh Harp scaling nearly 17 lb., the heaviest single one being between 3 and 4 lb.—JAS. EDWARD WHEATLEY, sec.

3rd July.

IZAAC WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members will dine at the Pied Bull, St. Margaret's, on Wednesday next, the 12th inst. Members who intend being present must give notice to the secretary not later than Sunday, the 9th inst. There was a fair show of fish on Sunday last, the 2nd inst. Mr. B. Crook had some nice roach, Mr. W. Mecham had bream, Mr. G. Wood had roach and bream, Mr. T. Dennison, sen., perch, Mr. E. W. Turner had roach and bream. Two special prizes will be fished for on Wednesday next, members to choose their own fishing water; two ditto on Sunday, the 16th, same conditions.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

A few of our members were out on Sunday, and managed to get some fish, but our show was rather small, Mr. E. Barr heading the list with three jack; Mr. Raine, one jack and two chub; Messrs. H. Moore, Petrie, and Welch also weighed-in.—H. MOORE, sec.

July 6.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

We had full trays of fish again on Sunday last, Mr. T. Longman weighing in 12 lb. roach and 3 lb. dace; Mr. Crafford, 6¼ lb. roach and dace; Mr. J. Drew, sen., perch and dace; Mr. Roberts, perch; Mr. J. Drew, roach and dace; and Dr. Lavender, roach, perch, chub, and bream. The prize on Sunday, June 25th, was won by Mr. Crafford.—THOS. WM. LUCY, sec.

ROYAL GEORGE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Only a few out last week, and weights as follows:—Mr. Holden, roach and bream, 5 lb.; Mr. Trotter, roach, 4½ lb.; Mr. Palmer, roach, 3 lb. 7 oz.; Mr. Chart, roach, 2½ lb.; Mr. Guynan, roach, 2¼ lb.; and Mr. Mahoney, roach, 2 lb. Our hostess has kindly given a handsome prize to be fished for at Bourne End on the 23rd inst., and it is hoped all the members will turn up on that occasion.—F. MILLARD, sec.

July 5.

SOUTH LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 1st Mr. Brown weighed in from Reading: 12 lb. roach, some dace, and chub. On Sunday Mr. Head weighed in 11 lb. bream, and Mr. Mitchell 12 lb. bream from the Mole. Messrs. Brewood and Kirwan went to Amberley, but got very little. Self and Mr. Patenson were out with Mr. Godden at Cookham, but sport very poor—about 3-lb. roach and a few perch. The members are to fish a match at Amberley on Sunday; I wish them fine weather.—G. H. FIELD.

July 6th.

UNITED BROTHERS.

Several of our members were out on Sunday, the 2nd, and the following were successful in taking fish:—G. Belton, roach; F. Belton, roach; H. Tyler, roach: W. Tyler, roach; and E. Currans, bream, from the Medway and Wey. I am pleased to say that not one fish under sized was brought into the club-house, notwithstanding our sizes, viz.:—Trout, 14 inches; pike, 20; barbel, 13; carp, 10; perch, 8; chub, 10; roach, 8; tench, 8; bream, 9; dace, 6; rudd, 6; gudgeon, 4 inches—over all. Some older clubs that I know would do well to copy the example of an amateur club.—W. BELTON.

July 6th.

WALTONIANS

July 2nd, Mr. Phillips had 13 lb. 4½ oz. roach, one fish 1 lb. 10¾ oz; Mr. Malcom had roach and bream, 10 lb. 8¼ oz.; Mr. Morris, roach and dace, 8 lb. 1 oz.; Mr. Good, jun., bream, &c., 3 lb 6 oz.; Messrs. Packman, T. Watkins, Crabb, Togwell, and Marriott also weighed in fish. Mr. Crabb had the misfortune to leave his mackintosh in the train on the return journey from Amberly; if any one has dropped across it, a line to the club-house, "Jews Harp," Red Hill Street, Regents' Park, would oblige.—A. J. MARRIOTT.

July 4th.

WESTBOURNE PARK PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

You will see by the enclosed list of prizes we have no gross weight this year; our members are therefore giving their attention to specimen fish, so that the large catches of small fish are conspicuous only by their absence, except on a match day, when gross weights are allowed. Our opening match, on the 18th, anywhere was fairly good—Mr. Yarham, 1st, with 9½ lb. roach and dace from Harefield; Mr. Oatley, 2nd, 8 lb. of barbel, Thames; Mr. Buttery, 3rd, 7 lb. bream, &c., Ouse. On the 30th Mr. Walker took a nice brace of tench from private water near Hatfield weighing 4 lb. 8½ oz. and 3 lb. 8 oz., which are left with Mr. Lancaster, and will in due time help to adorn our club room. Mr. Bowen has been among the bream at the Welsh Harp, and has just weighed-in a 5 lb. carp. On the 2nd Mr. Young had three nice trout, weighing 9 lb., the heaviest 3 lb. 8 oz., from the Kennet.—H. ADEANE.

P.S.—Members of the club please notice Rule 17 will be adhered to. Specimen fish must be seen by a member who can determine the species of fish.

July 4.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

P. F. DAVIS.—To obtain the caddis or cad-bait you must get a mud-scraper and pull some mud up on to the bank of the stream, and then pick out the caddis bait; the muddy bottom of a mill dam is usually a good place for finding the bait. A principal reason why angling is not permitted in the New River is that anglers used to pull the banks about so much getting this bait, which is a sure killer for dace and roach.—ED.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

THE RAILWAY PRIVILEGE TICKETS AND THOSE OF THE UNITED ASSOCIATIONS.

SIR,—Replying to the remarks of L. B. and "Justice," in reference to my letter of the 17th ult., in the first place, I must certainly congratulate these two upon the manner in which they try to shelve the main point at issue, viz., the compulsory extra subscription by those requiring a railway privilege ticket. Now, so far as the amount is concerned, it is so trivial that it is not worth the time, &c., used in discussing; but what I wish to impress upon the minds of the London club anglers is the precedent that it will establish of acknowledging compulsory payments, and that I, and the many on whose behalf I write, most strongly object to a precedent of this kind being established, and are determined to oppose such in every possible manner in our power, until altered and made optional. Speaking for myself, had I been a delegate upon that committee, I should have considered it my duty, before acceding to a tax being made upon the gentleman that sent me, to have laid the matter before them, no matter what power was placed with me, or the opinions of my fellow committee men upon the point, hence my mentioning "self-given authority."

I must acknowledge the cause for which the extra subscription is required is good and very necessary, although at the same time I am afraid that the poorer class of anglers from whom this subscription is required will derive very little benefit from it; however, I sincerely hope at the next meeting of the committee of this particular association they will see their way to withdraw this compulsory call and make it open and optional.

Now, as to the individual remarks of these respective gentlemen, I think I had better take them singly; and I will commence with the infallible L. B., and his prophetic soul, and I am sure he will not be offended when I say it is almost time it had departed, as it has been mourned over in the columns of the FISHING GAZETTE often enough. Now, I must certainly remark on the ridiculousness of this gentleman in mixing J. F. Hill, of 103, Kentish Town Road, up with F. Hill, the secretary of the North-Western Angling Club, and remind him that the former claims the right of enjoying his own opinion, and as far as L. B. remarks, in reference to my ignorance of the doings, &c., of the United Associations, I beg to assure him he never made a greater mistake in his life. But I had fully made up my mind to support same, until the privilege ticket forms were issued, when, I must confess, I was completely thunderstruck at the manner in which the subscriptions were to be raised, and had I not been fully versed in same (excepted the part objected too), I should not have taken upon myself to bring the matter forward. L. B. asks me what other way the money could be raised to carry the object in hand out? To this I have pleasure in replying and say, do as I state above, make it open and optional, and I feel positive the amount subscribed would not be lessened; and I know for certain there would be considerably more railway privilege tickets taken up, simply because it is the compulsory part of the business that is objected to. If altered and left in the hands of those interested in the cause, more especially the better-off class of anglers, I should then be in hopes of the individual subscriptions not stopping at the small sum of 1s., but often extending to 2s., or even 5s. and upwards, more especially after hearing that most valuable paper read by the editor (Mr. Marston) of this paper at the Society of Arts on Monday evening; and I only hope that that gentleman has decided to publish the same, so that it can be read by each and every individual at all interested in fish or fishing. In reference to "Justice," I think he will find I touch upon most of the points mentioned by him in my reply to L. B., and if he will accept same I shall be obliged. There is just one thing, "Justice" refers me to, the rules of the United Association, published in the FISHING GAZETTE of the 3rd ult. I have pleasure in informing "Justice" that I was perfectly aware of those rules, and there is nothing mentioned in same to the effect that every club angler requiring a railway privilege ticket must also take one of this particular association, otherwise the former will not be issued. I cannot help thinking that "Justice" must have been ignorant of this, and would advise him, before taking upon himself to give advice, to first make sure that the advice he is about to give is correct. If it is Rule 4 that he refers me to, and that is the only one that touches upon my question, part reads thus:—"The tickets of membership of the society to be issued by each of the associations with the privilege card, and that one shilling per annum, &c., be charged for same." Now, I defy "Justice" to say there is anything in that that would lead one who had nothing to do with the forming of the rule to understand that a railway privilege ticket would not be issued unless one of the United Association tickets was also taken.

In conclusion, I doubt very much if the different associations are justified in withholding the railway privilege tickets from those willing to pay the necessary expense attached to same; it is a grant by the different railway companies to club anglers through the associations, and they are simply the representatives of the clubs, and if a deputation of those gentlemen that object to this compulsory call were to wait upon the respective railway companies and explain matters, I query very much the result.

Apologising for taking up so much of your valuable space.—I am, &c ,

June 28, 1882. F. Hill.

[We sincerely hope that whatever complaints anglers may have they will not trouble the railway companies with them ; because we can pretty safely prophesy that if the companies, who have nothing to do with the disputes of anglers, are worried in this way, we shall wake up some fine morning and find they have completely withdrawn the splendid privileges they have given us ; and that will affect the poor angler most.—Ed.]

THE WHARFE SEWER-FED FISH.

Sir,—"Creel" tells us, on the authority of a veteran angler on the Yorkshire Wharfe, that (in the present) the above stream is nearly denuded of trout grayling, coarse fish, etc. Now, I know the river rather well from about Ilkley, for most of twenty miles up stream, through Bolton, Baden, Burnsall, Kilnsey, etc., and can speak to the fact that in many parts of the above length trout are plentiful; also grayling, up to about Grassington. The trout, near Ilkley, I never saw better as to condition in my life, and having fished it for over twenty-five years, and killed thousands within two miles of the above place, I ought to know. We have some pollution from lead mines, but nothing very bad as yet. As to town sewerage at the mouths of certain becks below Ilkley Bridge in 1876, I one day caught, with the worm, fifteen trout, weight 11 lb., and eight grayling, weight 6 lb. On another occasion, the year before, I caught twenty grayling, weight 18½ lb , but now all the good stuff is carried lower down and purified, so, of course, the fish do not congregate at the above mouths as of old. No doubt land drainage causes the water to run down fast, also large reservoirs for Leeds and Bradford, but the reservoirs reserved for compensation seldom let the river run dead low, except from Saturday to Monday.—I am, &c., Watchet.

[What will "Creel" say to this ? Not only are there plenty of fish, but here is a veteran angler lamenting the good old time when the sewers were allowed to empty into the river, and he could go and catch as many as he liked. How anyone can write and tell all the world that they catch fish which are attracted by the foul contents of a sewer we cannot understand. Come, "Watchet," let us hear how you can justify your taste (to say nothing of your other senses) for catching sewer-fed fish. Do you eat 'em ? If you give 'em away you ought to be ducked—unless you label them "sewer-fed."—Ed.]

THE YORKSHIRE WHARFE.

Sir,—In your last issue of the Fishing Gazette I noticed with deep regret the ridiculous and false description of the famous trout-stream "Yorkshire Wharfe," by a veteran correspondent of "Creel's." He may be a veteran, but not a veteran fisher of the river Wharfe, or surely he would never give vent to such unfounded and misguiding remarks. The river in the past certainly had more fish in it than it has now. Where is the river to be found where the fish have not decreased in number of late years ? He sets forth "the river is nearly denuded of all fish." I give an emphatic denial to the invention of such a statement, for it is nothing more or less. I will endeavour to prove to you, Mr. Editor, and your numerous readers, that there is, and will continue to be, plenty of fish in the Wharfe, that the water never was in such a state that it could be written with and used as ink. The part of river taken by "Creel's correspondent" is between Ilkley and Leeds, so I shall confine myself to that particular part of the river.

There exists at Otley and district, between Ilkley and Leeds, thirty gentlemen who are members of the Otley Angling Club, it being limited to thirty, and I am informed that fifteen of them are chosen by the owner of the broad acres through which the river Wharfe flows. They are strict preservers, employing river-keepers and watchers, pile-driving, &c., &c., for the safety of the fish. In the year 1880 they reared and put in the Wharfe between Ilkley and Leeds 15,000 trout, 1881, 20,000, 1882 25,000. There is plenty of chub, dace, and fine grayling. One Otley gentleman caught fifty trout last April in a few hours, in a distance of two fields' length, all with fly, some of them going ¾lb. and 1lb. I myself, caught in the same month sixteen trout and thirteen dace in eight hours in the length of forty yards, which length is fished by some angler every day. I have seen as many as fifteen fishing from the bank on one side of the river, so if that numbers can be caught in a place which (to use an angler's phrase), "is fished to death." It does not look like being almost denuded of all fish.

There is a regular and ample supply of water now as in the past, and I may inform "Veteran" and "Creel" (for seemingly they do not know) that the Leeds Corporation spent £180,000 in purchasing land and making a reservoir for no other purpose than storing water to supply wharves in case of drought. That reservoir has tons of fish in it, and the ratepayers of Leeds are denied the right of angling on their own ground and in their own waters simply because one pompous individual has possession of the sporting right, and keeps it for no purpose but to prevent any one from angling; and an angler may as well try to get to the North Pole by underground railway as gain permission to fish. So you see, Mr. Editor, we Yorkshire anglers are troubled, as well as Thames anglers, with riparian owners and river grubbers.

There never is any filth comes down the river Wharfe that poisons fish or makes them sickly, nor has it a cloudy appearance and a palpably offensive scum on the surface of the water. Any one who knows Wharfe knows that it is too quick a river for any scum to gather on its surface. When the water is low it is as clear as gin, and not like ink, as represented, and so requires all the art and skill man can devise to capture fish.

I think "Creel's" veteran angler of Wharfe must have been walking on the banks of the river Aire, and imagined himself a veteran angler of Wharfe, for I defy him to substantiate what he term "his general observations," which I convert into impulsive imagination.—I am, &c., F. P. H.

[We fully expected the Wharfe would be defended by some one better acquainted with it than "Creel's" friend.—Ed.]

FISHING NEAR KESWICK.

Sir,—Intending to visit Keswick some time during the summer, I should be very much obliged if you could inform me through the medium of your valuable paper, whether the fishing in Lake Derwentwater is free to anglers, or, if not, whether tickets can be obtained for fishing, and also their price.—I am, &c.,

Parkside, Higher Broughton, Manchester, H. L. L.
July 1.

[The following particulars are from the "Anglers' Diary":—"Keswick-on-the-Greta. Preserved by a club. Season ticket, 5s. There is also good trout-fishing in the Derwent and in Thirlmere. There is good trolling for trout in Derwentwater. Bassenthwaite Lake contains large trout and pike, also large perch. Derwentwater and all streams within five miles are preserved by the society. At the foot of Lake Bassenthwaite is the Pheasant Inn, which gives leave to fish. Overwater, three miles from Bassenthwaite, swarms with pike. Leave must be obtained." Keswick must be an angling paradise.—Ed.]

FISHING NEAR CORK—STATE OF IRELAND.

Sir,—In answer to your correspondent, Mr. T. G. Dixon, who makes enquiries about the fishing in the neighbourhood of Cork, I will answer his last question first. He will have no difficulty in procuring suitable apartments in the suburbs, either in Sunday's Well or the Western Road. If a stranger to the locality it would be better to spend a night at the Imperial or the Victoria, or if a more moderate tariff be desired, the Italian Hotel will offer every accomodation until private apartments could be procured, in obtaining which Mr. Dixon will have no difficulty. Referring to the fishing, it ought to be most excellent, from the innumerable rivers that intersect the country ; but unfortunately there is no preservation of trout and no restriction to size, and consequently anyone who has been accustomed to make good baskets with weighty fish on English rivers would be disappointed, for, as a rule, on most of the rivers the trout run about herring size or rather less, and it requires a deal of perseverance to get a couple of dozen at this season of the year, and the angler must be no bungler in the art.

The fact is, a place that should be a perfect paradise for anglers, from the want of preservation and the establishment of angling clubs, is every year getting worse, poisoning, netting and poaching being rife on most of the streams when the waters are low.

Still, at the same time, there are places where, by watching the weather and opportunity, an angler may have capital sport and enjoy himself to the utmost. I would advise your correspondent to try the Bandon river as affording him both salmon and trout fishing ; there are three open days in the week on three different parts of the river for salmon, at Innishannon, below Bandon town, where there is also good white trout fishing in the evening. He can also get permission from Mr. Connor, of Manch, a place near Dunmanway on the same river, where in high water the salmon take freely, and a good basket of trout can be had if there be a breeze. There is also a lake about a mile from Manch station, called Ballinacarriga, where one can have fine sport from a boat on a windy day ; in truth, from the source down to Innishannon, the Bandon river is about the best in the neighbourhood of Cork, as it is not overthrashed or sulky, like the Lee. In the warm evenings both white and brown trout running up to 2 and 3 lb. are taken by skilled anglers, who fish from canoes on the reaches of the Lee below the waterworks ; but it is loss of time to be whipping the upper waters, excepting on an exceptional day, which occurs about once or twice in the season. The tributaries are far better either with fly or worm, which latter, being peculiar to the limestone formation, any urchin who has any idea of fishing will procure for a few pence from the road sweepings. They are called "white worms" here.

The North Bride at Glenville, thirteen miles from Cork, is also a celebrated trout stream in high water, as also the Awbeg, from Butterant down to Castletownroche, where the fish are from ½ lb. to 2 lb., and on a favourable day will repay for going such a distance.

I have forgotten to mention the Lee is preserved for salmon the entire distance from Macroom, with the exception of a reach above Inniscarra Bridge on Sundays only.

Any further information I will gladly give should your correspondent come to Cork, or by applying to Mr. Haynes, Patrick Street, Cork, or any of the tackle houses here he will get all that he wants to know.

Trusting these few lines will be of service,—I am, &c., Cicestrian.

P.S.—With the exception of pike, coarse fishing is thought of little importance. I ought to advise Mr. Dixon to be careful what part he goes to, as the country is very disturbed. A few days since I was attacked on the bank of a river in the neighbourhood by a couple of roughs and most wantonly insulted, so much so that I had to knock one down twice and protect myself with the rod, which was smashed in the struggle. If you like, I will write an account ; but as I do not court notoriety, I have kept it quiet, as my wife and friends would be frightened out of their lives if I went out again. Of course it might never occur again to anyone, but such is the state of affairs here, that no one can be certain of being unmolested, for a respectable person in some districts appears a fair mark for these village tyrants. Trusting you are well and hearty, —I am, &c., C.

[Quite well, thanks, and we all are obliged for the information, though your postscript lends a romance to fishing in your country which ought to draw our veterans over in crowds.—Ed.]

LARGE BREAM.

Sir,—Yesterday, at Tempsford, fishing with Mr. F. W. Titmas, of Clophill, I succeeded in landing a bream weighing 7 lb., extreme length 2 feet, depth 8¾ inches ; and very shortly after my companion landed another, the fac-simile of the other. They were both—as also were the others we caught—in good condition. They are evidently coming on feed now. I have this morning sent mine to Cooper.—Yours, &c., Thos. Poole.

FISHING CLUB FOR JUNIORS.

Sir,—Can you or any of your readers kindly inform me if there is a fishing club for juniors ? My age is 17, and I wish to join some club where meetings are not held on Sundays, nor prizes fished for on Sundays. Should like to meet with a club about Highbury, Islington, Hoxton or Finsbury.—I am, &c.,

City Road, E.C. A. E. Smith.

[We regret we do not know any such club.—Ed.]

A MACINTOSH LOST.

Sir,—Last Sunday a macintosh belonging to a member of the Waltonians was left in the train. Any one bringing it to the Waltonians' club, Jew's Harp, Redhill Street, Regent's Park, will be rewarded.—I am, &c.,

Waltonian.

Errata.—Line four of the acrostic on the tournament should terminate with Lea, not Sea, as printed.

NOTES FROM YARMOUTH.

I CAN cordially endorse Pixie's statement in your last number. I have been staying in Yarmouth the last three weeks, and have been to Heigham Sounds.

If London anglers only knew the sport there is to be obtained here they would make a point of coming. These waters have only been accessible to the public for the last two years, as there was no railway communication.

Mr. Jack Rourke, of Yarmouth, will show strangers likely spots, as he is an old resident and an angler to boot. Mr. Laws, of the Waterman's Arms, Potter Heigham, will provide for anglers at a very reasonable figure.

You will see from the inclosed report from the *Yarmouth Independent* that I had a good day last week, the Editor passing me in the evening in his sailing boat.

I am pleased to say I was present at the first meeting of the Yarmouth Piscatorial Society on Monday evening. At Mr. Larks, St. George's Vaults, King Street, Yarmouth, the society made a good start both in members and shows of fish, the landlord weighing-in about two stone; others showed some fine rudd and roach. I hope the society will be useful, as there is a deal of illegal fishing carried on here.

J. H. White,
Hon. Sec. Brentford Piscatorial Society.

Horning.—After a fortnight's unfavourable weather, angling prospects have once more revived, and those patronising Mr. Thompson's hostelry at the Ferry have had abundant cause for congratulation. On Monday there were some good takes, ranging from 1 to 1½ stones per boat, among them being some fine bream and roach, also a grand specimen of the golden tench, which scaled 4 lb. 2 oz. During the week the water has been in very fair condition, and there is evidently no lack of fish.—*Yarmouth Independent.*

Potter Heigham.—The fishing at this pleasant little station on the Yarmouth and North Norfolk line continues very good, as more than one skilful votary of the rod and line can testify. The favourite spots are at the mouth of the Thirne, or higher up the stream beyond the bridge, and extending eastwards as far as the entrance to Kendal Dyke. In the Dyke, as also on the far-famed Heigham Sounds, some excellent takes have been made, notably some splendid rudd, which are just now in excellent condition, affording fine sport to the angler. On Wednesday a gentleman, who fills the position of secretary to one of the metropolitan angling clubs, started from the Waterman's Arms, a comfortable little wayside inn at the foot of Potter Heigham bridge, and before his return did some fine execution among the roach and rudd on the Sounds. Piloted by Mr. Jack Rourke, who is rapidly founding a reputation as a guide to these waters, our piscatorial friend was soon moored at a favourite spot, and so good was the sport that, after throwing over the smaller fry, he had put six stones' weight to the credit of his day's pleasure The finest of the specimens have been forwarded to London for exhibition in the club room, thus affording ocular demonstration of the attractions these waters offer to the London angler. The gentleman to whom we refer contemplates bringing the fishing at Potter Heigham prominently before the angling community on his return to town, and the report of his success should tempt others to visit the scene of his exploits.—*Yarmouth Independent.*

ONE-EYED PERCH.

When I wrote the account of the River Aire, in Yorkshire, I remarked that it was said that the perch in Malham Tarn, from whence that river derives its source, had but one eye, but at the time I could not quote my authority, although I was certain I had derived the fact from some acceptedly reliable writer. Some friends in Yorkshire very kindly wrote to anglers living on the spot, and to Col. Morrison, who had courteously given me an unrestricted permission, to fish the Tarn; and the replies altogether repudiate the idea. However, going through Blain's last edition of the "Encyclopædia of Sports," under the article, Perch, page 1069, I lit upon the following:—"A variety of this fish is found in Llyn Raithlyn in Merionethshire, in which the back is curiously distorted, but in other respects it resembles the common perch, which are likewise numerous in the same lake; consequently the variety is fixed, and is not accidental, or the members of it would breed with the others. Mr. Pennant was informed that the same kind was to be met with in the Thames, near Marlow, and *Fauna Suecica* of Linnæus; we are told also it is found in the small lakes near Fahlan." According to Sir Humphry Davy, the river perch branches out into several other species; for he regrets, in the interesting pages of Salmonia, that we have not naturalised the four kinds of them which are natives to the Danube. A still more singular perch anomaly is brought forward by Daniel, having been taken by him in the Docks at Blackwall; these had each a solid mass of fat placed on the ribs, but not adherent to them. The most remarkable circumstance, however, was, that the stomach, according to Mr. D.'s opinion, was wholly impervious, and had not been distended with food for some time. It is our opinion, however, that the fish made their way into the stomach of sombody, and we are equally convinced that a close examination would have discovered a way into the stomachs of the perch also. Another singular kind of perch to which we are indebted to Mr. Daniel, is found in Malham Water, not far from Settle, in Yorkshire; these grow to five pounds and upwards in weight, yet are all blind of one or both eyes, and therefore might have been advantageously seized on by the punster, who observed of his friend's monocular dog, that he needs must prove an excellent guard because he would have an eye out on all occasions. The *Perca scandens*, or climbing variety of perch, is now no longer a myth. I am not disposed to relinquish my one-eyed perch so easily, for the following reasons:—The water which supplies the Barnes reservoirs of the West Middlesex Water Works comes down through underground pipes from Hampton. Many fish from the latter get sucked in to the ducts, and if they are small are carried unresistingly onward, and suffer but little. But the jack, while the roach and smaller fish exhibit little opposition to the flow, makes a determined stand against the force of the stream, and has to succumb only by sheer exhaustion from time to time, and can never recover its lost ground. From Hampton to Barnes it is, say, eight or ten miles, but it is impossible to know how long these jack had been struggling against adverse circumstances, made greater as the natural fall of the land increases the force of the current. But this fact is known to the resident watchers and equally to me; that many of the jack were so thoroughly exhausted when they were thrown forth from the main into the broad daylight that they could be easily secured, and then were found to be partially blind, manifested by the sickly creamy colour of the eye. If this was the case under such a comparatively short deprivation from the light, no wonder that the fish found in the Mammoth cave in Edmondson county a little to the west and south of the centre of Kentucky, should be perfectly deprived of vision. See the "Mammoth Cave and its Inhabitants: Fishes, Insects and Crustaceans." By A. S. Packard, jun. and F. W. Putnam, editors of the *American Naturalist*. Published by the Peabody Academy of Science, Salem, Mass." Add to this, the Blind Fish "Stygiocola dentatus," from the caves of Cuba, give additional evidence of the vitiating effect upon the retina from the absence of light. Indeed we have but to go up to Milbank or Clerkenwell or Reading prisons and see the dazed released prisoners as they come forth into the full blaze of the glorious sunbeams, to witness the direful mischief solitary and gloomy confinement has worked upon the orbits of these incarcerated wretches; their eyes are the hue of gooseberries, and all "speculation" has departed from them.

Well now, Malham Tarn, as I have said, is the basin or source of the Aire, like the heads of most of the Welsh rivers that spring from lakes or Llyns, with this difference,—the Aire runs for full a mile and a half underground from the tarn before it springs to light. This subterranean channel or dislocation of the limestone is called by geologists a "fault," and herein, according to the nature of the limestone itself, there are dips, bays and lagoons, amidst which the fish, when washed in and not capable of stemming the main current, find a sanctuary in such places; but they are nevertheless prisoners confined in absolute darkness, to which they are destined to submit until exceptionally dry weather reduced the volume of the current, and their emancipation becomes itself. Taking the analogous cases I have cited, there is nothing unreasonable to infer that like consequence would follow, and that the loss of sight, either partial or complete, would result in the subterranean channel of the Malham Lake.

Creel.

NOVEL BAIT FOR PIKE.

I received a letter the other day from a valued friend in Dorset, who, knowing I had some influence with the noble owner of a remarkably fine piece of water of a very exclusive character, asked me to get him a single day's fishing. To me such an expression of a desire for an enjoyment within my means to gratify, was no little compliment, and the London post the next day carried a permission from the proprietors to my friend. Here is his reply, after the day's visit to the lake:—

"Dear —, I got yours by the noon post. Delighted! Started to Joe Bratt's for baits. Joe had gone to bury a rich aunt. Tried to throw the casting net with the assistance of Mrs. Bratt; we both wore buttons, and got caught up together in an extraordinary manner. Tried long, handled landing net round Dr. S.'s marble basin, but missed all the gold and silver fish. Went to clay pit, near Gibbett Hill, and got pestered with efts, which took the worm most greedily; nasty things to take off hook, whether crushed under foot or smashed with a stone. Happy thought, I will try efts! I did, and you will receive a third of the proceeds, 7 pike of 11 lb., 9 lb., 8¾ lb., 6 lb., 5 lb., and 2 of 4 lb. I was shaking hands with myself and going to get Cousin Tom to pat me on the back, when I thought I would make sure of my discovery, and turned to Blain's 'Encyclopædia of Rural Sports,' where, at pages 1021-2, my pride was cooled by finding nearly a page of close type upon this subject.' After a long dissertation on efts, it concludes by saying: 'As angling baits—it is not difficult to get the newts firm, the bottom of some stagnant pools by a sudden trawl of a fine rake, which gathering the mud, weeds, &c., brings those Lacerta with them; or they may be taken by a landing net. When used as living baits they should be hooked by the fleshy dorsal ridge, and in this way being occasionally allowed to come to the surface to respire, they will live a considerable time as a float bait; or they may be used as roving baits; they might also be trolled with as dead bait with a small gorge hook in which way they are frequently taken by jack in ponds.'

"I had a great aversion to these creatures at one period, but now that I know they will lure pike, my prejudice has dissolved. I recollect I had a similar antipathy to black beetles, but when I found that they were an irresistible temptation for chub, all my disgust both as to smell and handling them has departed."

Creel.

George James Eaton, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether the may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices : Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[Advt.]

NOTICES OF BOOKS, &c.

FISHING AT CONNEMARA. A paper read before the Gresham Angling Society by Mr James Callaghan:

THIS is a very pleasant account of a fishing excursion in the West of Ireland. Mr. Callaghan gives all those useful hints and details which will enable an angler to follow easily in his footsteps, and which the majority of angling writers so carefully avoid giving. Our author tried his hand at Salmon-fishing for the first time, and caught many good fish. This paper will prove by no means the least interesting of those which will appear in the first volume of the "Transactions" of the Gresham Angling Society, which we hope to see shortly.

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Applications for tickets will be treated according to priority, but a preference will be to applicants for "season tickets." Boats for angling and stands on the river will be allotted by the head keeper, and no angler will be permitted to use a boat or fish a stand that has not been so allotted. Superior accommodation can be had on application to Mr. T. Mullarkey, at Glendalough Hotel, Recess, Galway. Anglers are requested to take out their licences in the Ballynahinch district, as by doing so they increase the fund for the preservation of the district.

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Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, JULY 22, 1882.

BLACK BASS IN ENGLAND.

The Gresham Angling Society, named after the worthy Norfolk knight who, saved in infancy by grasshoppers, lived to erect the Royal Exchange in London, had a pleasant meeting on Wednesday evening. Their own quarters in Bishopsgate were not conveniently large, and a move was therefore made to the Masons' Hall Tavern, Basinghall Street, where a large number of gentlemen put in an appearance to hear a paper read by Mr. G. S. Page, President of the American Fish-cultural Association, entitled "Fish Culture as Carried on under the Auspices of the United States Government, with Special Reference to the Introduction of Black Bass into English Waters." Unfortunately Mr. Page was taken seriously ill in Paris and could not attend, and the promised chairman of the night (Mr. R. B. Marston, Editor of the Fishing Gazette) had to read himself up at the eleventh hour, and act as a substitute. Mr. Charles Bates was called on to preside, and among others present we noticed Mr. T. Crumplen, the indefatigable secretary; Mr. W. Oldham Chambers, Lowestoft; Mr. P. Soman, Norwich; Dr. Theodore Cash, son-in-law to Mr. Bright, M.P.; Mr. C. Hatfield, St.Martin's Lane; Mr. R. Ghurney, secretary to the Anglers' Benevolent Society; Captain Alfred, Moorgate Street, Mr. C. C. Capel, Foots Cray; Mr. S. C. Harding, the Grove, Ealing; Messrs. C. Murphy, Winkworth, T. Jowett, R. C. Clark, Watson, Cartwright, Archer, Ayres, and representatives of the chief angling societies of London.

In the centre of the room was one of Kessell's self-acting fountains, a handsome ornament for table, drawing-room or conservatory, combining also an aquarium and flower-stand, playing for hours without attention. In this were placed four bass taken by Mr. Marston on Monday from the waters in Burghley Park, by permission of the Marquis of Exeter, and which later on were sent to the Westminster Aquarium by Mr. Marston.

The Chairman (who had only just returned from a fishing excursion in Norfolk, whither he was returning next day) having briefly introduced the lecturer,

Mr. Marston commenced by regretting the unavoidable absence of Mr. Page, and said that he felt sure that Mr. Page had never recovered the serious illness induced by his unceasing attention to the black bass which he had this spring brought over for the Duke of Sutherland. He hoped before Mr. Page left England he would address them on the subject. Mr. Marston then stated that until within an hour or two of the meeting he had hoped to get Mr. Page's paper to read to them, but Mr. Page was too ill to prepare it. He had for some years past taken great interest in the black bass, and with their permission he would give them such information about it as his knowledge and the very short notice he had had allowed. (Hear, hear.) He then gave the history of black bass acclimatisation in this country, including Mr. Begg's importation in 1878, Mr. Silk's in 1878 and 1879, and Mr. Page's in 1882 and announced that for some time past he had been in communication with the Marquis of Exeter and one or two other gentlemen with a view to sending Mr. Silk over again for another lot of black bass. He was sure they would be glad to hear that the funds necessary had already been subscribed, and that Mr. Silk would sail in September—(hear, hear)—and hoped to bring back at least 2000 mature black bass. (Cheers.) Mr. Marston then drew the attention of the company to the four fish in the aquarium. These fish he had caught in Whitewater, a lake in the Marquis of Exeter's grounds, and he said that they made a very plucky resistance. With the exception of the two which Mr. Silk caught last year, these were the first black bass ever caught by an angler in this country; but he looked forward confidently to the day when they would be plentiful in our rivers. The only objection he had ever heard urged against the fish by English anglers was that it would exterminate other fish. He did not for a moment believe that, and read letters from American authorities proving that black bass had existed since the country was discovered side by side with the various coarse fish and minnows, &c., and no diminution of the latter had ever taken place. If the black blass could get plenty of its natural food—freshwater shrimps, crayfish, caddis, &c., it would not trouble the other fish at all. Of course no one intended to put the fish into trout and grayling streams. The lecturer then described the spawning, hatching, growth and distribution and habits of the black bass, and also its sporting and food qualities, giving the American angling writers—Professor Ellzey, Dr. Henshall, and Messrs. C. Hallock, "Frank Forester" and Mr. Seth Green—as his authorities, and quoting the late Mr. Frank Buckland's opinion in favour of the introduction of this fine fish. He referred with regret to the absence of his friend Mr. W. Senior, "Red Spinner," who was also an enthusiast for the introduction of black bass into this country. In conclusion, Mr. Marston invited discussion, and offered to do his best to answer any questions relating to the fish which might occur to the gentlemen present.

Mr. Crumplen advised caution in introducing bass, which he feared might depopulate our waters.

Mr. Marston quoted American authorities, and said they would not prey on our coarse fish while they could get freshwater shrimps, crustacea, worms, &c.

Mr. Crumplen said he only threw out this in order to raise discussion, and get information. For his part he should like to see Mr. Bass tackle Mr. Jack. (Laughter.) He then moved "That this meeting considers it advisable that the black bass should be introduced into this country, and that the Gresham use its best endeavours for that purpose."

Mr. Clark, in an amusing speech, seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman called upon Mr. Chambers to make a few remarks, and complimented that gentleman on the success of his exertions as hon. sec. of the pioneer exhibition at Norwich last year, which led the way to the great international gathering now in preparation for next May in London.

Mr. Chambers, on rising, was received with cheers. He described in an interesting way his experience with the bass given him by the late Frank Buckland, and said the Norfolk and Suffolk Fish Acclimatisation Society were ready to contribute £10 10s. towards the object of the resolution, Mr. Lewis Buxton would also give £10 10s., and he had no doubt Colonel Barne, M.P. (who had seen much sport with the bass in Canada), would materially aid the fund. Mr. Chambers gave a cordial invitation to the Gresham Club to visit the Norfolk and Suffolk waters and fish for bass—when they arrived. His society were willing to send out by Mr. Silk a quantity of live soles and turbot—unknown fish in America—in exchange for black blass. His expenses would be necessarily heavy, about £150, and he would bring back 2000 fish, very different this to the 10s. each they now cost here. In his (Mr. Chambers) opinion the scheme should be encouraged in every way. He then, by request of the chairman, detailed the success he had had in cod-hatching at Lowestoft, usually deemed an impossibility. By the aid of filtered sea-water kindly supplied by the G.E.R. Company, he had since last January hatched off several thousand cod, as an experiment, which was perfectly successful. His practice of fecundating the eggs of live and dead fish—of course after they had left the hook only a short time—was also exceedingly interesting. Some of the spermatozoa which he had sent a long distance was very lively at its journey's end. He believed those experiments would lead to industries of a novel and successful kind in this country. (Cheers.)

Mr. Jowett, an American gentleman, next told his experience with bass at Trenton, U.S. It was an excellent article of food, its flavour being preferable to salmon, selling readily at 20 cents per lb. Why it was called black bass, when its flesh was so purely white, he could not tell. Mr. Jowett answered several questions put by the members.

Mr. Chambers proposed, and Dr. Cash seconded, a cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Marston for coming forward at the eleventh hour and giving them such valuable information, the chairman adding that Mr. Marston was ever ready to help anglers. Carried by acclamation. Dr. Cash believed bass would be as successful in English streams as in Burton bottles. (Laughter.)

Mr. Marston heartily thanked the members, and hoped they would soon have sport with the bass. He moved a vote of condolence with Mr. Page in his sickness, which was seconded by Mr. Ghurney and carried. Mr. Marston then described the interest taken by the American Government in fish culture, and trusted the coming exhibition would lead to the establishment of regular nurseries for stocking our home streams. He concluded by reading a lengthy paper on the subject by Mr. Seth Green from the *American Field*.

A general piscatorial discussion now ensued, and Mr. Marston displayed a number of beautiful large chromos of American fish—from the snapper to the shad—each of which he briefly described and Mr. Jowett supplemented.

Captain Alfred then offered some interesting remarks on the sport afforded by the Thames. He also described the result of another day's netting at Sunbury, an account of which will be found elsewhere.

Mr. Hatfield deplored the fact of the Thames not being sufficiently protected. What, he asked, was the use of stocking the river when it was netted to such an extent. The steam-launch, too, was very destructive of barbel fishing; they ought to be better protected, especially during spawning time. His association—the West Central—would be glad to aid in propagating the black bass, which would find the pike a ticklish customer to deal with.

"Kingfisher" advised that in any Act they might get, a minimum penalty of £10 should be inflicted on these launches. The magistrate should have no discretion in the matter. A fine of 40s. was a farce.

Mr. Crumplen urged that the speed of launches should be regulated at certain seasons; it was one of the most serious questions the law or angler had to deal with.

Mr. Winkworth feared the action of the Thames Conservancy in granting licenses to net the river here and there. They sought for very arbitrary powers, against which he hoped the members would protest.

Captain Alfred showed how harshly the riparian owners behaved towards anglers on the Thames, and believed the Conservancy Board would behave reasonably if properly approached.

Mr. Ghurney thought so too.

Several other members having denounced what they called the "infamous" bye-laws sought for by the Conservancy,

Mr. Harding moved and Mr. P. Soman seconded a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman, who briefly acknowledged. Their thanks, he thought, were eminently due to Mr. Marston for his very able paper—got up, too, at the last moment; to Mr. Chambers for the interest he took in fish propagation generally; and also to the Press for its great assistance on all occasions. The proprietor of the *Norwich Argus* had come a long journey that evening in order to be present at their meeting, and (glasses having now made their appearance) he begged to propose that gentleman's health.

Mr. Soman expressed his thanks and the pleasure he felt at being amongst so many friends, some of whom he had met at the Norwich Exhibition. The discussion initiated by Mr. Marston had afforded him much instruction, and he believed considerable good would result from it by the introduction of a fine sporting fish into our rivers and broads. He should be pleased to welcome any of the members down into Norfolk, where they would find the waters in splendid condition and well preserved, with comfortable quarters and easy of access by rail.

The piscatorials shortly afterwards floated homewards, well satisfied with their successful meeting.

George James Eaton, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether the may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[Advt.]

NETTING OF RESERVOIRS.

4400 lb. weight of perch, barbel, bream, roach, dace, gudgeon, and bleak, all sizeable fish—18 jack up to 8 lb.—and a Thames trout of 8¾ lb. This was the result of netting a second reservoir of the Chelsea Water Works, below Sunbury Lock, on Monday last, by the Thames Angling Preservation Society. The work commenced soon after nine o'clock, under the direction of Mr. Thomas Spreckley, president of the society. There were present as assistants, in addition to an organised staff of keepers, and men engaged for the occasion—Mr. John Knechtli, Mr. Samuel White, Mr. W. A. Crump, Mr. F. H. Lemann, Captain Alfred, Mr. Alfred Nuthall, Mr. C. P. Wheatstone, Mr. W. H. Brougham, Mr. John Graham, Mr. T. Hiscock, Mr. W. Senior, Mr. Back, Mr. W. A. Abbots, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Russell Knapp, &c., all of whom worked admirably under the orders of the general. The nets were supplied by Mr. Lewis Gibson, of Putney, and also two large peter boats for the removal of the fish; the steam-launch belonging to the Thames Conservators was liberally granted for the towing of the boats attended by Mr. Henry Little, the Conservancy superintendent of the Lower Thames, who rendered effective and useful help. Mr. Simpson, the engineer, Mr. L. Lea, the resident engineer, and Mr. Hilliard the resident manager, afforded every facility for securing the fish, the water being drawn down to a very limited space. It was expected the work would be completed in a few hours, but it occupied until six o'clock, and there was not a single bad haul. The fish were taken in zinc pails into the punts, partly filled with water which were placed on the adjoining reservoir, under the charge of Captain Alfred, and then towed down to the nearest point bordering the Thames. The first distribution was made at the back of Tagg's Island, at Hampton Court—the second in Sunbury Race, and the third at Walton Reach, under the charge of Mr. W. H. Brougham, who was ably assisted by Mr. S. White, Mr. John Graham, Mr. Thomas Hiscock, and Mr. Henry Little, the extraordinary sight of fish being witnessed by numerous bystanders, some of whom were invited to place some of the nets full into the river. The two final distributions were made above Shepperton Lock, and at Chertsey, under the charge of Mr. Alfred Nuthall, whose assistance on these occasions is always very great and untiring. The head river keeper for this portion of the Thames, Alfred Thompson, was appointed to check the pails as they were removed from the net, each pail having been estimated to contain 22 lb. weight of fish, and his report at the close was 195 pails full, exclusive of the jack and trout previously referred to, altogether representing a total of 4500 lb. weight of fish. It is not intended to net the other reservoirs until the end of September, and some idea, may be formed of the quantity of perch in the next reservoir to be netted by one of the officials in a day's angling last week, getting ten dozen of fine perch up to 1 lb. each, and each of these reservoirs occupies an area of ten acres The sight of the last haul of the nets, on Monday last, baffles description—in addition to a net laden with fish, hundreds upon hundreds were literally dancing about in the mud, and nearly a punt load were caught by the hands in their dirty condition. Very few fish throughout the day came to grief, and they were principally bleak which were not counted. The arrangements were thoroughly perfect, and the splendid gift of fish by the directors a most valuable addition to the river. It is the duty now of the anglers and angling clubs specially to contribute to the heavy expenses attending these netting expeditions. B.

THE ARUN AND TRIBUTARY (WESTERN ROTHER) SUSSEX

Rises in St. Leonard Forest, about one mile from the Hammer and Hawkin's ponds and takes a lively course past the town of Horsham, holding trout, roach, &c., the whole of the way. Station, London Brighton and South Coast Railway, Inns, Anchor, Kings Head. It takes in the channel brook, which has a fishy reputation. After passing Slinford it turns southward to the east of Loxwood and between the church villages of Wisborough Green and Billinghurst. Thence the river flows by Pallingham to Stopham, close to which it is joined by the Rother from the west.

The Rother which contains its fair share of trout, has its rise between Emshold and Hawkley, turns southward and nearly touching Liss, on the direct Portsmouth Railway, gains volume on the right from a large pond to the east of Petersfield (Direct Portsmouth Railway). Inns. A mile further is Sheet Mill, which is worked by a brook from Steep Mill. There is a good-sized pond on Petersfield Heath. Then after about a ten mile run, it enters Sussex and after passing several church villages, it skirts Cowdry Park and its fine ruins, the grand old house having been destroyed by an accidental fire in 1793, the Rother flowing along its entire west front. About this the effluent water of a lake from Down

Park enters. Next we come to Rogate (Station, London and South Western Railway) and afterwards to Elstead (same rail). Here are a triplicate of lakes, close to the lakes which contribute their supplies to the Rother. Our next place is Chilhurst, where a brook enters from the basins of Cook's Pond, Harling's Cambs, and several other pieces of water, nearly close together on Newick Common. Below this is Liphook, suggestive of pike fishing (Direct Portsmouth Railway). Inn, Anchor. The Hammer Ponds and others, are half an hour's walk from this. In another hour's ramble we fetch Midhurst (London and South-Western Railway) (Inn, Eagle), where we follow a brook up to a likely lake on the Common, but not before we have visited a piece of water near New House Farm, nor should that on Ambersham Common be passed nor Cook's Mill Pool, near Fernhurst, Luggershall Mill and Collinghurst Park Ponds, or River Park, with its store of trout. Some of the finest scenery on the South Downs, surrounds us on every side, but accommodation is very scant at the primitive village inns. But the plentitude of trout in almost every brook will make up for this and railway stations are within reach. Indeed the smallest rills and running waters, even by the public road sides are alive with fish of not insignificant proportions. We now reach Petworth (London Brighton and South Coast Railway), and the magnificent demesne of Lord Leconfield. Hotels, Swan, Half Moon. In the vicinity is Bartan Park Lake, in which are pike, perch, carp, and of course, tench. Indeed, the latter fish are met with in great abundance and fine size in almost all the ponds, whether open or private, throughout Sussex. There is another attractive piece of water at Egdean before the Rother mixes its flow with the Arun at Pullborough.

Within a mile of Pullborough Station (London, Brighton, and South Coast) (Inns, Swan, Five Bells, Red Lion, White Hart), is West Chiltington, and on the common are two ponds which we can recommend, as they are too full of tench, which may be seen by their keeping an element which would be otherwise perfectly clear, more of the character of diluted mud. Bignor Mill, with its pool and a lake yet nearer on the same contributary, will be found on the right. We now approach Amberley, London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway. Inns, Black Horse, Fighting Cock. Our next stage is Barpham and its pretty inn the Black Rabbit, from the garden of which, reaching to the stream, Arundel stately castle looms upon us, and from its richly wooded heights dominates the valley.

Arundel, London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway. Inns, Norfolk Arms, Crown, Bridge). On the bridge there formerly, (and may still) resided one Slaughter, an excellent fisherman, who went out with anglers bass fishing, of which many come up with the tide as far as Barpham.

Mr. Constable, the brewer of Arundell, has for years been attempting to stock the brooks of the lower Arun with trout; but yet, as with the Thames, such laudable endeavours have only been attended with partial success. Leaving Arundell the river proceeds toward Angemring, where four lakes pay tribute to the main river, on the right, at New Place. Ford is the next station, and at length we reach the sea at the small town and port—but a most remarkable healthy place is Little Hampton, off the old jetty of which grey mullet and bass are frequently taken by rod and line.

With the aid of a short canal near Hardham, the Arun is navigable from its mouth to Palingham Quay, a distance of twenty-two miles, and here commences the Arun and Wey navigation, which running parallel with the river as far as Loxwood, leaves the county in that vicinity, and joins the river Wey between Godalming and Guildford in Surrey. We allude to this canal as if it still existed, but from the little traffic and consequent tolls, the locks have suffered great neglect, and leakage has been the consequence; in fact it has been permitted to go to ruin, and now even small boats of little draught cannot traverse it. There are, however, some portions of the old river, which this canal was intended to improve which would well repay a visit from the angler.

It should be noted that the term "brook" is generally used in Sussex to signify a marsh as well as a streamlet, a circumstance which has led many writers of guide books astray. Sussex is still famous as in Fuller's time, for six good things: the Amberley trout, a Chichester lobster, a Selsey cockle, a Pullborough eel, and a Rye herring." The Amberley trout, however, turn out to be salmon peel.

Gregory's Spinning Baits. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[Advt.]

CHUB-FISHING IN SUMMER-TIME.

By J. P. Wheeldon.

DO you know "Pangbourne Pollards"? No! Bless me, why where can you have been brought up man, not to know the best bit of chub-water on the Thames. However, it's your loss not mine; so, that being fairly good-natured towards my fellow men, I'll try, in my own fashion, to make up for the deficiency. Know then—although, mind you, the rose by any other name would smell as sweet—that Pangbourne Pollards is simply, may be, a local name for a succession of irregular crinkly cranky, warped, snarling looking and generally cross-grained set of decayed withy stumps, which line perhaps, in company with sundry noble old willows, for half a mile or more, a succession of meadows—of which "Bulsby's Piece," directly facing the church and the Swan's Ait, a little island overgrown with withies, and always gay with meadow sweet, loosestrife, and creamy blossomed arrowhead, is the first you come to, just after shooting through the arches of that old wooden horse bridge. Now you know it? Ah, I thought so, so that all the rest becomes quite plain sailing.

The banks, you'll remember are literally honey-combed with rat's holes, many of which are masked with a quantity of weeds, wild trailing-plants and flowers, hanging down from the edge, where the short daisied turf ends and the wilder growth begins. Very old are these pollards, so old that the roots have worked down through the clayey soil and form a perfectly impenetrable network of security below, Then weeds, and a curious mossy growth of brownish silky-looking fibre, have grown upon the roots, and at dead low water you may see this stuff swaying backwards and forwards in the sharp run of the stream, and forming quite a little fringe before the front, side, and back doors, of many a subaqueous haunt of shoals of great pink-lipped chub, which here love to lie, revelling in the cool shade.

Oh, ah, the shade, I've told you nothing about that. Well, you can, if you like, feeling in an especially lazy mood, let your boat drift down under one of the willows, and letting her swing with the sharp stream, you may lie down in the bottom, with your head on a cushion, and there moon moonily. The blue sky above looks terribly far away, as seen through the waving boughs. The ripple at the bows, sounds dreamily sleepy and seductive; a drowsy feeling which is even heightened by the roft rasping whisper of the reeds and water-flags, as their rough stems creak gently, when moved by the sighing wind There is not a sound else, save, may be the sharp twitter of the swallows, dashing swiftly up and down stream, the scream of a swift high overhead, the croak of a moorhen in the reeds, or the dulled, far off crack of the scarlet-capped bargeman's whip, as he lazily lounges down the towing-path, side by side with his old flea-bitten grey mare, now singing a snatch of rude melody, now idly kicking pebbles into the sharp stream, and watching the rings which are no sooner formed than gone, as the river hurries along, singing it's own sweet dirge as it goes.

Flop! Ah, what was that? Well it was a big chub, I fancy, and ten to one that is the exact place where he lies; see there, just where that old rotting stump rears its moss-grown head out from the swift, clear water, and the eddy curls fretfully chafing round the obstruction. Let us fancy that it is an August morning at an hour long before the busy world is stirring, when mists lie yet heavily on the meadows, when the shapes of fat sleepy cattle loom gigantic through the wreathing clouds, and when that curse of the river, the steam-launch, is yet at her moorings. Believe me, this is the time, and the only one, if you are intent upon killing some of these big chub; so that we'll just follow old Bill down to the boat and drop quietly down stream.

At early morning, or in a place, if such a one can be found nowadays, where the fish are not harried to death by the infernal wash of launches and boats the live-long day through, there is no need for delicate tackle. For rod, give me a light handy grilse rod with plenty of swing and play in it, a fairly heavy line, with which one can throw straight and clean, and a cast of medium salmon gut. An artificial cockchafer in June and July, or at all times a big corpulent humblebee, are invariably good lures. So also is a large roughly dressed black palmer, the body wrapped with silver tinsel; but, for a certainty, commend me to a big showy fly with black hackle and emerald peacock's harl mixed, for body, wrapped with silver tinsel. The wings to be made large, and of dark turkey with an underwing of emerald peacock's herl, and an atom of jungle fowl. Then "tip" this gentleman's tail with half-a-dozen live gentles—these beat the kid glove and washleather theory into fits—and try it, thrown clean under the boughs, the farther in the better, and tell me at the end of the day what you think of it.

Keep the boat as far away from the boughs and the hollow banks as is possible. Always try well those bits which are sharp and very streamy. If there is any cover at all, it is just there that the big fish would be certain to be. Throw the fly bang in bodily, it is wonderful how easily this difficult matter comes to hand after a little practice, and if the line falls upon the water with a sounding plash, so much the better; for doubtless these great corpulent chub are lying under those cool greeneries in a half sleepy condition, waiting and hungering after what the fates may choose to send them; the lucky fellow who gets it perhaps thinking at the "flop" of the insect overhead what a remarkably fat and oozy-looking chafer has fallen to his special share. Then he "goes for it" at once and bolts it without the smallest ceremony. Now for one final word of advice. Bang the hook well into him, and that being done, instantly drag him out, neck and crop from the hidden danger of those old roots and masses of tangled rubbish. If he once gets under or round a root, the game is up at once and you might just as well break the tackle and have done with it. It is as well to remember that at the instant the fish takes the fly, he must, of necessity, be in clear and open water. A vigorous backward sweep of the rod—vigorous of course, aided by such strong tackle, but even then properly tempered by wrist and arm—will often so astonish him, even if a very big fish, that he gives instantly, only thinking apparently of real fight, until it is too late, and he is vainly floundering about in deep water.

Another very excellent plan is to cast with a lump of fat tough greaves, or a large bunch of gentles, on a triangle. Let it sink a little, if it is not taken directly it touches the surface, and then, pulling a yard or two of line, turn the winch, let the current take the bait just where it sets itself. A lob worm also, or rather the tail of a lob, bright and well scoured, will often kill in a clear, low water, when other and larger baits have been rejected. With this bait don't strike so hard when you feel a touch, because it is just on the cards that a trout may be lying in the place affected by chub, and where the latter's tough, leathery mouth holds good, the former's tender jaw may be torn, and mangled no purpose.

Dibbling for chub is pecliarly exciting, and glorious fun where the fish run large, and the ground to be operated upon difficult. Having found out the particular holes where the fish lie—this in itself is half the battle—it is a good plan to prospect the place the day before, and then and there decide upon a plan of the campaign. No good was ever done yet, save by the very rarest good luck, by haphazard fishing. It might have succeeded, and doubtless did, in those rare old days, when Dame Juliana Berners, the Prioress of St. Albans, practised her "Fyshhynge with ye angle," but it will hardly do in ours. Every fish that swims is remarkably wideawake, nowadays, and chub in particular; so that let me advise an absolute excess of caution, when approaching any known haunt of the loggerheaded gentlemen.

Supposing that the water is fairly well protected by trees and old stumps, I would advise the use of a moderately long and stiff rod, with small standing rings. Use a Nottingham winch, with forty to fifty yards of fine, yet strong, waterproofed running line, and a gut link attached, of, say, a couple of feet in length. Before attaching this length of gut, which should be armed with a stout perch hook, run on to the winch-line a small perforated bullet, the smaller the better, or a large swan shot. The little bow formed in fastening the running line will be amply sufficient to prevent the bullet from slipping down, and on to, the gut length. The apparatus is now complete, and the next thing to be considered is the question of bait.

One of the best of all is a nasty one, to wit, blackbeetles. If the intending operator be unhappily an indweller in London, he may probably have no difficulty in obtaining these repulsive-looking tit-bits for the genus chub from the shades of his own kitchen. I say shades, because it is necessary to start on a black-beetle hunt—a very exciting process, by-the-bye—when the place has been for some little time silent and deserted, even by those ministering angels whose mission it is to bake and brew, dust and stew, and sneak all the cold scraps and unconsidered trifles in the way of baked meats or pies for the policeman. It is a nasty hunt, doubtless, but it has this advantage, that it can be prosecuted without the aid of either a southerly wind or a cloudy sky, and with no other adjuncts save a tallow candle and nimble fingers. "Scent" as a rule is good, particularly so; and I would strongly advise the free use of soap and water after the operation, otherwise, if supper follows, one may be unpleasantly reminded of the chase.

A little perforated zinc can, with a small sliding door, is as good a vehicle for carrying "the beadles" in, as anything. Having crept up to the water side as stealthily as may be, and gained shelter and safety from the keen eyes of your anticipated prey extract a beetle from the box, and very kindly, and in charitable fashion "nick" the point of the hook in through the skin of the back. Then wind up the running line, until the bullet touches the eye of the top ring; gently, very gently, poke the rod between the trunks of trees, or openings in the foliage, and after getting it fairly through and over the hole, keep it still for a few moments so that in the event of the suspicious fish below, always awake to even a suspicion of danger, having caught sight of the moving rod, its perfectly still position may once more lull them into a feeling of security.

Holding my left hand well up, and steadying the rod, the dexter finger of the right may now be placed upon the outer edge of the winch, and putting only so much pressure on as will be sufficient to prevent any overlapping, let the baited hook drop quietly down until the belly of the beetle touches the water. The weight of the little bullet will be sufficient to effect this, and the instant it touches, that instant check the winch. The insect, very little hurt by the baiting process, begins to kick about vigorously, making little rings on the surface, and opening his wing cases. It is wonderful to see the great chub come up and sail slowly round and round the tempting morsel. First one makes a sidelong dash at it, yet stops short, eyeing it gravely and suspiciously. Then another comes up to it boldly but stopping in the very nick of time, sinks slowly down again into the safer depths of the hole. If they show the white feather in this fashion, keep still as a mouse and out of sight, but quietly reel up a few inches of line, lifting the beetle at the same time, and then just as quietly drop him down again, a little distance away from the orignal spot. So sure as they mean business at all, they'll have it then, and if they don't, try somewhere else.

It is difficult to advise upon the conduct of operations, supposing a fish takes the bait boldly, and turns down again. Strike him of course, at once, yet rather let it be a steady sweep backwards, in lieu of a sharp strike, and then get him out of the hole as quickly as possible. Upon the result of the first moment's battle will very probably depend the other chances which the angler may have, of getting other fish from the same hole. If everything is effected swiftly, and with little noise and splashing, well and good. If, however, the hooked fish once gets to the top, and begins floundering about, or flies up and down with fear-hastened speed, my advice would be to leave the place at once for an hour or so and try another.

A small frog, used in precisely the same manner, is a splendid bait for a big chub, and so also is a humble bee, one of those big orange banded fellows which one sees hovering over the clover blossoms, or buried deep in the sweet unstained cup of blossoms of the white convolvelus. Towards nightfall, and whereever there are high hillocks of bent and grass, a quick eye will not fail to notice the presence of those great white "ghost moths," which would seem to specially love wheeling backwards and forwards round such places, or dancing with strangely curious and erratic flight up and down, up and down, over the tops of the tallest branches of grass. These fellows, put cautiously on the hook, and dibbled over the surface of the hole are certain to command attention; and, if you will hook a five-pounder, just as the last rays of daylight are giving place to the advance of the gloomy night, it will be a little circumstance not easily forgotten. May you do it, and may I be there to land him.

AN UNWELCOMED VISITOR.

By Charles Mackie.

We are upon the brow of the hill overlooking the populous suburban hamlet of Heigham, which forms the western boundary of Norwich; a hamlet that, of itself, would make a goodly sized town, with its long and painfully regular thoroughfares of red tiled, stucco-fronted, unsubstantial houses, which of late have sprung up like mushrooms—houses with partitions so thin that one powerfully-striking old-fashioned clock situated in the centre residence, would be capable of recording the hours for the benefit of the entire row—its street corner-taverns, and shops, and its three churches. Beyond lies the more solidly built city, the prominent objects of the far-stretching expanse of brick and mortar being the spire of the Cathedral—elevating its gilded chanticleer three hundred and thirteen feet above surrounding buildings—and the mighty keep of the Castle, whose gray embattled walls frown upon the comparatively insignificant commercial structures standing at the base of the huge mound upon which it is located; while the towers that elsewhere meet the eye in all directions indicate that Norwich is a veritable city of churches, and that its inhabitants are—or rather, ought to be —an exceedingly pious community. In the distance the eastern extremities are seen; to the left front the sandy hills leading up to Mousehold Heath; to the right stretch the wooded heights of Thorpe; and, by the bye, were we upon the Castle hill, we would get a glimpse of the broad and peaceful river which flows at the foot of these hills from the city away into the solitary marsh land, the stream upon which hundreds of anglers of the eastern metropolis find sport, and which has justly been described in these columns as the El Dorado of the fisherman. Such is the scene from which we now turn. A dip in the broad turnpike road in a few seconds hides the city from view, and we are in the country pure and simple, trudging along in the warm rays of a springtide sun, with creel at back, rod at shoulder, and the indispensable pipe sending forth clouds of incense of the fragrant weed into the morning air, bent upon an excursion in which we intend trying our luck with the roach of that prettiest of local rivers—the Wensum. Five minutes later we see the sparkling stream taking its serpentine course through the verdant meadows on our right, its banks here and there studded with willows, which, in the hot summer months, throw a delightful shade over the water, and provide a grateful shelter for numerous boating parties, who are the curse of the river from a fisherman's point of view; for their conduct, as a rule, is by no means agreeable, and the continual passing and re-passing of craft does away with all chances of sport. Leaving the highway, we take a narrow lane that brings us to Hellesdon Common, a breezy piece of upland, watered at its base by the Blackwater stream—a swift running, impetuous stream it is—and we cross it by the temporary bridge of the railway now encroaching upon this rural district. The strip of ground between the Blackwater and the Wensum, is narrow and not suited to pedestrian exercise. Very intricate is our pathway, if pathway we may call it, considering the absence of any beaten track; for wide ditches, filled with black mud, intersect the meadows, and are crossed only by narrow, smooth planks, which form a treacherous footing for the slippery soles of our boots, and are the means of conjuring up vague fears of immersion in the unsavoury depths below. Knee deep in the thick rank grass we carefully pick our way, startling an occasional partridge, which flies off with a whirr and a buzz that startles the unexpected trespasser on his domain. The country is beautiful, gently undulating ground on one side, cultivated land on the other, and thick plantations ahead. At this particular spot, through a break in the trees, we are enabled to get a slight view of Cossey Hall, the seat of Lord Stafford. The fine park stretching around contains some splendid forest trees—the finest in the county, it is said—and within the hall itself are stored and treasured valuable works of art, the handiwork of some of the greatest masters. We are just becoming better accustomed to the boggy nature of our path, when we strike harder and more solid ground—the herbage is finer the spongy morass is left behind—and now the bank of the river is gained, and a comfortable foothold afforded. But a glance at the stream shows that we must not commence operations here; the water is barely three feet deep, and the thick masses of weeds would speedily place our tackle in jeopardy. Therefore we continue our walk a few hundred yards till we came to a sudden bend of the river. Here the rush of water from the promontory formed by the bank has scooped out a large deep hole, and the *débris* on the surface shows that the eddies are constantly kept in motion from the pressure of the water above, and it is here we contemplate making a try. Drawing our rod from its case, we soon affix the slight single horsehair line, and place the joints in their ferrules, and then on to the hook goes the patent spring plummet, which in turn finds its way to the bottom of the river, marking the depth of water as seven feet. The quill being duly adjusted we bait the hook with a dainty morsel of white paste. To the end of the hole it floats undisturbed; we try another swim; it terminates uneventfully; a third time we send the float on its voyage. An almost imperceptible agitation of quill is the result, and then, quick as lightning, it goes below the surface; with a slight movement of the wrist, we hook our fish, play him for a minute, and then bring him gently towards the side, the landing net slides quietly under him, and a second later a fine roach of nearly a pound lies gasping on the grass for dear life. "We shall have sport to-day," we remark, as we charge our pipe with a fresh plug of Cavendish, and rebait the hook with the luring paste. The wind is blowing lightly from the south-west, and a faint ripple disturbs the water as we kneel well out of sight, and once more dip the horsehair. Once, twice, three times, we fish the swim and not a nibble rewards our pains. Has the float shifted? We plumb the depth; no, everything is perfectly right; splash! a roach has leaped from the water, almost opposite; another splash, and the rush of a larger fish is observed the next second, further off; and the disagreeable fact is forced upon us, that an unwelcomed visitor, in the shape of a pike, is playing havoc with the fish in our swim. How we inwardly rage, and lament the absence of our pike tackle, and how dejected our feelings we won't say; let it suffice to remark that sport is at an end for the day, in this spot, at least. Sadly we leave our favourite place, well knowing untoward events will happen, even in the life of an angler, and, crossing a ditch, we endeavour to gain a higher reach of the river. A large bed of tall dead reeds appears to be our only obstacle. We enter these and make easy head way through the dry and yielding wilderness, but only for a short distance, for up to our knees we sink in a half concealed bog. Now with difficulty we try to force our way, and the next step we are deeper in the mud, and then, and not till then, we decide to turn back and fish the lower reaches. A single glance, however, on arriving there suffices to show that this will be impossible, for the weeds are growing luxuriantly at all points and as we have a very great respect for our line we decline entrusting it to their embrace. As a last resource, we make up our mind to suspend hostilities for an hour, and accordingly pass the next sixty minutes in a day-dream while seated on a gate—rather an unpoetical place and decidedly an ungraceful attitude in which to indulge in aerial architecture. But the time slips quickly away, and again we make for the river. First we offer the killing white paste, and this is persistently refused. Then we go in for vermilion, in the hope that the bright colour will attract the fish; and this proving worthless, a small red worm, lively as a kitten, and concealing the deadly steel, forms the next course of the varied dainties offered the finny ones. Not a nibble no we get, notwithstanding the use of all the approved methods of roach fishermen, absolute silence, perfect concealment, and a sharp and steady lookout for bites, and thus the time wearily drags. We hope against hope; and then, as the shadows lengthen, and the sun sinks behind the distant woodland, and the winding course of the river is marked by the overhanging cloud of mist, we unjoint our rod, wind our line, and making everything portable—except the fish, and our single one is portable enough—we make tracks for home. The evening is cold now, but our blood is kept in circulation by the difficult walking over the bog. The railway bridge gained, we cross the Blackwater, which is surging violently among the piles below, and running away at a big pace towards the lock above Hellesdon Mills. From the metal road we branch off to the common, and from thence to the lane leading to the turnpike. Coming upon good hard soil, we do the remaining halfmile in fine style; mounting the hill we see the long row gas lamps marking the straight broad street leading to the city; and an hour later, over a blazing fire with pipe and grog, we wonder what would have been the weight of our catch had it not been for the intrusion of an "unwelcomed visitor."

THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Summer Dinners, in connection with the London angling clubs, possess more than an ordinary meaning. The dinner itself is but one item in the programme on these expeditions. It is mainly the enjoyment of a day in the country—perfectly isolated from town life, and where those who attend can enjoy aquatic excursions, fishing matches, and even field sports. This society selected, for the summer dinner this year, the charmingly situated hostelry of the Chertsey Bridge Hotel, kept by one of its members, Mr. G. H. Thurston; who must have felt, with the unanimous choice, that he possessed great respect amongst his brother piscators. One thing was strikingly evident that he intended to do his best for them, and in order to make all things comfortable he had conveyances at the railway station to bring the guests to his hostelry. There was another very great attraction in Chertsey—the residence of Mr. James Forbes, directly opposite to the hotel; whose name as a pisciculturalist will never be forgotten, and whose liberality in cultivating trout at his fish farm entirely for the Thames, at his own cost, demands the deepest gratitude. With his usual kindness and courtesy on this occasion he allowed the members to inspect his fish-house and apparatus, together with a splendid stock of salmonidæ of his own raising, which was highly appreciated. The Chertsey Bridge Hotel on Wednesday last betokened more than an ordinary day. The preparations made by Mr. and Mrs. Thurston had more the appearance of a royal visit. It was a visit of importance, and it was rendered important because the Piscatorial Society is the oldest angling club in London; and amongst those present were some of the oldest Thames anglers living, whose achievements in fish catching in their day made them distinguished piscators, and whose exploits are substantially evidenced by the records in the weighing-in book of the club. The names of members who have gone to their final resting place still live in the remembrance of their old colleagues as anglers whose true sport and piscatorial fame will always be attached to the history of the society, and of these may be gloriously mentioned Messrs. T. Murray, J. Johnson, J. Shenton, H. L. Rolfe, and others.

The dinner on this occasion, supplied by Mr. and Mrs. Thurston, was of a satisfactory character. Mr. Norman F. Harrison occupied the chair, and Mr. F. H. Lemann, the vice-chair. There were, amongst others, present, Mr. F. G. Pearce, the father of the society, his first appearance after his lengthened indisposition; Dr. Startin, Dr. Coates, Messrs. T. R. Sachs, H. B. Eyre, T. Gillatt, C. P. Wheatstone, J. P. Wheeldon, R. E. Green, B. Perelli-Rocco, W. H. Brougham, H. J. Inderwick, E. Pratt, James Lander, H. Gray, Thomas Huggett, W. A. Crump, D. Goodger, Woodford, M. H. Blarney, E. Foreman, Hill, &c. After the banquet was over, the chairman observed there would be but few toasts and very limited speeches, as it was the custom of summer dinners to get out of doors as early as possible. He would therefore have to put the high pressure on those who would be called upon to speak. After proposing the loyal toast, Mr. Harrison, in a humourous speech, proposed "Success to the Piscatorial Society," which was replied to by Mr. F. G. Pearce, who received quite an ovation. Mr. Thomas Huggett gave "The Thames Angling Preservation Society," which was acknowledged by Mr. W. H. Brougham, whose remarks in reference to the netting of the reservoirs were warmly applauded. Mr. T. R. Sachs proposed "The Press," to which Mr. J. P. Wheeldon responded. "The Chairman," "The Vice-Chairman," and "The Officers of the Society," were the remaining toasts. The company broke up about eight o'clock, and enjoyed the remainder of the pleasant evening on the lawn, the weather being all that could be desired.

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SPECIAL NOTICE.

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

> "The ladies angling in the crystal lake,
> Feast on the waters with the prey they take;
> At once victorious with their lines and eyes,
> They make the fishes and the men their prize."
> —WALLER:

Henley regatta has brought an immensity of "youth and pleasure at prow and helm" about, and the ladies have cast their lines in pleasant places, and certainly hooked more men—bless their little *arts!*—than fishes. The main stream during the past fortnight has been all but unfishable, in consequence of the passage to and fro of pleasure boats, steam launches, and hundreds of fearfully and wonderfully made house boats; the river is, however, assuming once more the even tenour of its way, and punts may be seen doing "a quiet bit of fishing" undisturbed for an hour or more by steaming coffee-pots and shrieking Noah's arks. The river is now in prime order for all-round fishing, and roach, chub, dace, and barbel are well on. Barbel require stiffish baiting, but when once got together, bite like gentlemen—campers-out: Roach and chub are as clean as smelts (whatever that may mean), and are taking the usual piscine luxuries, such as snails, frogs, greaves, lob-worms, gentles, &c., &c. At Maidenhead a friend of "The Sun, Jun.," has taken a pretty trout of 2½ lb., and a Mr. Lanyon a nice haul of barbel and a trout of 3 lb. At Marlow, Mr. Roberts, 1 jack and some decent roach. Hurley, Mr. Brooksbank, 2 tench, 5 lb. together, and some fair roach. River hourly improving. Weather glorious; wind due west.—MARLOW BURR.

Ancholme.

On Saturday last I paid a visit of exploration to Bishop's Bridge, which stands at the junction of the main river with the Rase. The waters were too low for much execution, and below the village they are too much encumbered with weeds to permit of good pike-fishing. There are doubtless many small pike, but by way of change, and to please the young ones, we fished very largely for the gudgeon, which were swimming about in shoals in the Rase. We caught some dozens in a very short time. Then I threw the fly and hauled out some roach and dace from a pool below the bridge. Visitors, would do well, however, to stick to the middle and lower parts of the stream. For a mile or two each side of Brandy-wath is probably the best locality. Not much has been done on the trout streams owing to lowness of water.—THOMAS FORD.

BRIGG AND DISTRICT.—The weekly trip from Sheffield to Brigg on Monday brought about thirty rodsters, and on the same day a large number of Hull anglers took part in a club match near Saxby Bridge. During the week the water has been in fairly good condition, of a good colour, and free from weeds in the neighbourhood of Brigg, and it is becoming clearer higher up the stream. There is also a great improvement in the bottom up stream, the bottom weeds having been mown, and the surface weeds are being gradually drawn down stream, leaving good swims perfectly clear upwards. On Tuesday Mr. A. C. Finney, Mr. G. Smith, and the Rev. G. Whaite, well known lovers of the gentle art, had a day at Brandy Wharfe, and met with some fine sport, as jack, perch, and eels were feeding voraciously. Their takes included 15 jack, 5 of which were returned to the water, but the rest were fairly fed. Ten perch were caught with artificial minnow, but these were only small. The water proved too fine for bottom fishing, and nothing was done excepting with eels, which, though somewhat small, were rather lively. Roach are not yet on the feed, but bream are inclined to take worm and maggot off the bottom; but are not feeding well. Large numbers of bream may be seen, but owing to the amount of natural feed in the water through recent rains and rubbish from the drains, these will not bite. With favourable weather, however, good sport is anticipated by local anglers, who have recently formed an association which promises to be a success.—GLANFORD, Brigg.

Bovey.

It is now some time since that I have been able to report to the columns of the FISHING GAZETTE the sport partaken of in this beautiful stream, the Bovey, at Bovey Tracey, where I hope to arrive to-morrow, and place myself under the same hospitable hostelry roof, viz., the Union Hotel, which is still presided over by Mr. and Mrs. Wolfenden, whose kindness, &c., &c., I have spoken of in my previous notes. Having received an invite from some kind friends to whom I directed attention to the above stream, I shall embrace the opportunity, and endeavour to keep you posted up with the doings for the remainder of the season. The reports I have received up to the present state that the weather is very unpropitious, fish inclined to be scarce, but the hotel and inmates unexceptionable, exceedingly kind, fare A 1. Tuesdays sport: fourteen trout, largest 6½ ounces. Wednesday: Began at 10 30, fished until 1.30, nine trout and one peal, 1¼ lb., also four trout varying from 6½ to 8 ounces each, and on Saturday, from 2 to 5 o'clock, ten trout, and a nice little salmon of about 4 or 5 lb. was lost through being lightly hooked. These were all taken with the fly, and no doubt the most taking is the cochybondhu, Granham, and Palmers. This I consider splendid sport, considering there are so many trees along this stream that it is really difficult to throw a fly, and with the wind dead against you, almost impossible, and, as my friend states, is apt to make one impatient and also use flippant language. The streams now are all very full, and fine weather is greatly desired, but, unfortunately for all outdoor sports, it still continues very threatening. To-day (Tuesday) it looks better, but as I am scribbling it has commenced to rain again.—FRANK GOSDEN, Exeter.

Camel and Inny.

Mr. John Ford, of London, is having a fortnight's holiday on these Cornish rivers, and is meeting with fair sport. The weather is, however, of the usual nature so far west—one day wet, the next fine. On the 10th inst. he had a few hours on the little beck, which runs in the sea at Trebarwith, and caught sixteen nice fish, losing about as many more, being out of practice. On the 12th he went to Davidstow, and caught in the afternoon only thirty-four nice trout; on the 15th, in the Camel, above Slaughter Bridge, he had forty-four, some good fish amongst them. Mr. J. Davidson, of Davidstow, has also recently had some nice takes. Owing to the heavy floods which have recently prevailed, the salmon and peal have this year run up the Camel in advance of the ordinary time. A salmon was caught a few days ago which weighed 10 lb., and Mr. Teague, of St. Teath, caught a nice peal last week which weighed 3½ lb.—THOMAS FORD, Caistor.

Chichester.

The water the past week has been in capital condition, but the weather has not been satisfactory to rodsters. Angling is gradually improving, and with more seasonable weather good sport may be anticipated. Some fair takes of roach and bream have come to hand during the week. those taken being principally small. An eel of 3½ lb. was taken by Mr. W. L. Coombes recently. Fish are not yet in condition.—GEORGE F. SALTER.

Coquet (Northumberland).

On the 15th the river was flooded, and the salmon run freely. The river is in good condition for fishing; the wind from the west, and good ripple. In the trout fishing, Mr. Short 7 brace, Mr. Armstrong 5 brace.—A. GLASS.

Dove.

This river is now in very good condition for either the fly or worm. Some excellent dishes of roach have been secured during the week. Chub and dace are also biting well, and we have daily had large numbers of rodsters out after them. Trout have not been rising particularly freely at the fly, and the heaviest fish have been killed with the spinning baits, Gregory's Gresham, the Derby killer and Foster's well-known contrivances having proved the most paying, both in the main river and the brooks. Somehow or other, and I cannot explain why, barbel have not yet begun to bite with any degree of freedom, and I can only hear of a few solitary ones being captured. The baskets of trout have run to an average of about six brace this week, not more. There are myriads of naturals on the water, and the fish seem about surfeited with them. —THE SPLODGER.

Exe (Exeter).

In spite of the storms and unsettled weather, numerous anglers have been out, but, as a rule, sport has been very indifferent, even for coarse fish. The river has been very much coloured from the land waters coming down, and the fish have been so glutted with the food brought down that even eels have been difficult to get hold of. A few trout have been grassed in the upper waters, but there has been nothing doing in the lower portion. Salmon are as plentiful as ever, and grilse are running up in splendid condition and numbers. I saw seven (this morning) pretty fish, weighing on average 4½ lb. each. Salmon bass have just taken us almost by surprise. Although they have been looked for for weeks past very few have been taken. On Saturday last some hundreds were taken in the Bight, and over the bar towards Budleigh, also Dawlish and Teignmouth, the latter place, in my opinion, being the better starting point for them, as you are quicker upon the fishing ground upon the turn of the tide. Mackerel seem quite gone, but whiting are coming along in good earnest, but small as yet. We want fair weather and plenty of sun. Teignmouth is also a good starting point for this fishing. After mentioning salmon bass, or sea perch (*Perca marina*), the river perch (*Perca fluviatilis*) follows, but they are very shy at present. A few have been taken over 1 lb. each, and I have heard of one turning the scale at 2 lb., but did not see it. Fishing with two young gentlemen, who were successful in taking a few eels where others could not get a nibble, I secured a very pretty perch, rather over ½ lb., but have not had one since. Roach are fine and plentiful. Dace plentiful, but shy. Around the Ballast Quay and Quaybridge, the influx of visitors has been, as usual, great, but very poor creels have been the rule. To fish these parts free from molestation, you must be there on the spot by daylight, fish until, say, six or at latest seven o'clock. You may do something before the regular army arrive. A friend of mine doing so last week secured some six dozen roach, many weighing over 1 lb. each. This reminds me of the following lines:

> "I will get my rod, go forth and seek delight,
> These pleasant summer early morning hours."

P.S.—In my last week's report, please read the line "Chatters over stoney ways"; stoney having been printed as "strong."—FRANK GOSDEN.

Ilfracombe.

The weather this week has been most unfavourable for bass fishing, the wind blowing strong, accompanied with heavy showers; however, fishing parties have not been deterred from taking their daily sport. They run down as far as Bird-in-the-Hole, and bring up, and have been rewarded each day with some good catches of bream and e few whiting, in fact, bream have been more plentiful this week than they have been for some time. The fishermen are glad to see the mussel cart coming again, as that and mackerel are the best bait for these fish. A few crabs only have been taken from the holes, the ground sea being too much for them to fish them proper. The fishing from the pier and jetty has not been so good owing to the heavy swell. The trawling skiff has been down in the bay once this week; they brought up very little fish. The weather to-day is a little finer.—E. Comer.

Lea (Ware).

Although rain has fallen during the week, the water is rather bright, and not much to be recorded. On Sunday last, several of the Bloomsbury Brothers were out here; but, with one or two exceptions, the takes were small, one of about 10 lb. (roach and dace) being the best. Better sport is anticipated hereabouts when the weeds are cleared, the river being considerably hampered at present.—"Lion and Wheatsheaf," Ware.

Medway (Tonbridge).

The water during the week has been somewhat thick, by reason of the heavy rains, but notwithstanding this, some good sport has been had. On Sunday and Monday eels bit very well, and there have been some good catches of roach and bream. On Thursday morning a match was fished above the town, when Mr. J. Cox gained 1st prize, with a splendid tench; and E. Holloway was 2nd, with perch. The warm weather will, no doubt, by Sunday if we have no more rain, bring the roach and bream well on.—Ye Medway Water Rat.

Ouse (Littleport).

Water very bright, but overgrown at bottom with flannel weed. Sport here last week was very bad, I had nothing worth reporting. This week it has been a little better, as bream have been feeding a little mornings and evenings. Roach came on a little last Friday, and a few dozens were taken. The following are the best takes:—July 14th, Mr. J. George, Bassingbourne, 37 roach and silver bream; July 16th, Mr. J. Lees, London, 5 good bream; July 17th, Mr. Treadway, Littleport, 5 bream going 14 lb.; July 19th, Mr. W. Thurston, Cambridge, 5 bream going $14\frac{1}{4}$ lb.—C. South.

Rother (Selham).

Cold winds this week have checked roach angling. On Sunday Mr. Mitchell had a bag $10\frac{1}{4}$ lb. A carp 4 lb. has been taken near the Mill, and a nice pike $6\frac{1}{4}$ lb. by Mr. G. Wilson. Mr. Dabbs, a labouring man here, has taken 152 sizeable roach since the 16th ult.—J. Adair.

Taw and Tributaries (N. Devon).

Water very seriously high, but it is hoped as yesterday was dry, and the night, the rain may hold up, and the rivers will settle back, which must take 3 or 4 days for the small streams, and 7 or 8 for the Taw, where there must must be a lot of salmon gone up, but the peal are very scarce. I saw a good dish the other day, taken from the Yeo, one over a lb., and many large fish amongst the 3 dozen. Some few dishes have been taken, but the water was too high for any quantities. Large blue and silver flies are the killers.—Rusty Game.

Thames (Goring).

Water here now a little better; a few fine days will soon get the water in good order. Nothing doing much in the fishing; have been taking some good roach and dace.—John Bush.

Thames (Shepperton).

The water is in better condition than it has been for some time. Very good prospects for all-round fishing. F. Purdne in two days four dozen roach and dace and three dozen gudgeon; H. Purdne three dozen roach and dace in two days. A gentleman fishing with a lad took a trout of $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; barbel fishing, a fisherman the same day caught one bream of 4 lb., one barbel of 2 lb., four eels, largest 2 lb., and several fine roach. Barbel fishing in one and a half days ten barbel, largest 4 lb. Bank fishers have been doing well.—W. Rogerson.

Thames (Windsor).

During the last fortnight water has been out of condition, and weather altogether very uninviting to the angler. In quiet waters bags of roach have beeen had, and as many as 43 lb. fell to the rod of a bank angler (Mr. Pond, of Slough) in one week, taken principally from the Romney lock cut. Chub have been very scarce, water being too thick for whipping or the fly, the best fish being one of a little over 4 lb., taken by a bank angler, worm fishing. Several jack have been had, but small. Mr. G. Wright, of Windsor, had a brace last night going about 6 lb. I weighed one this morning picked up in a dying state with a chub of over 2 lb. stuck in its throat, it went just 10 lb. By Saturday water will be in excellent trim if no more rain, and chub ought to rise well to the fly or to the numerous baits used in whipping.—B. R. Bambridge

Trent (Newark).

The water has not been in very good condition most of the week; but it is now improving. Bream have in a few instances been biting very nicely, fairish bags of those fish and roach have been had by various anglers. One bag I saw on Sunday contained something like 28 lb., gentles being the fatal attraction. A few bags of less weight than the foregoing have also come under my notice, cadbaits being the principal lure, while worms have also done fairly among the eels and flounders, &c. The majority of the roach and bream were only in middling condition, being lumpy, slimy, and generally disagreeable, but with fine weather will rapidly improve. Thursday: Water rapidly improving; by this is in print will be in fairish condition for general angling, and with judicious baiting the angler is sure of some sport among the finny tribe.—The Trent Otter.

Trent (Nottingham).

On Tuesday and Wednesday the river in this district was receding. Showers were, however, of frequent occurrence, and not so many rodsters as usual were out. For the last few days I have paid special attention to the Shardlow, Weston, and Swarkestone allotments, and have killed a nice assortment of roach, dace, perch, and bream with worms and maggots. Nearer Nottingham excellent sport has been met with amongst roach and dace with the latter bait; whilst in a few instances bread paste proved successful. Eels have not run so well as last week, and there has been less doing amongst flounders. The barbel swims are still unfishable, and are likely to be until the weather settles down, when a baiting ought by all means to be employed. From the lower reaches the doings do not appear to have been on an extensive scale.—The Man at the Clubs.

Tweed and Teviot.

For the past week little has been done in these rivers. On Saturday last we had a flood of fully 5 feet, and this has been the means of allowing a large number of salmon and bull-trout to enter the upper reaches of the river. On Wednesday last Mr. Kerss on the Edenmouth water killed a brace of salmon, which were 9 lbs. and $11\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. respectively. But no more salmon have been caught since on any of the "casts." On all the rivers, however, good takes of trout have been pretty generally got, the flood above alluded to having in a great measure allowed anglers to kill a dish on the more favourable days. On Monday last, Mr. Kerss, on the Edenmouth water, killed a very nice clean-run sea-trout of some 6 lbs., and the same gentleman on the same day lost two other fish. The netting on the Tweed at the Coldstream stations has been very productive, over a score of salmon, about the same number of grilse, and many trout having been got on the various stations. The Esk river, in Dumfriesshire, has been giving good sport, large quantities of salmon and trout having been got there during the past fortnight. The salmon netting stations of the Berwick Fishing Company have also done well during the week, although grilse have not been in such numbers as the season should warrant. The weather is now much more settled than it has been, and the rivers are in good order. Wind mild and warm, blowing from the south, with slight showers of rain.—MaxWheel, Kelso, July 20.

Wharfe (Yorkshire).

Owing to a succession of heavy freshes down this river the bottom-fishers have been having a fine time, but, except on one evening last week, there has been too much water for fly-fishing; on that occasion I killed three fair-sized fish with red ant. Maggots and wasp grub have been the most successful bottom bait; two dishes of ten and fourteen fish respectively having come under my notice, all of which were taken by this means. A few nice eels have also been caught during the week. To-day (Wednesday) the weather appears more settled, and every prospect seems to indicate some good fly-fishing during the next few days.—Francis M. Walbran.

Welsh Harp (Hendon).

To enumerate each individual take here during the week would monopolise more space and time than would be consistent, but I may say that brisk indeed has been the business this week at the Harp; and should Sawyer, at the end of the season ask for a "few days off," hard indeed would be the fisherman's heart who did not wish him "bon voyage" after his almost stupendous efforts this season to look after his patrons. Fish are still well on, although the weather has somewhat disturbed the waters.—Resident.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE TOURNAMENT PRIZES.

The prizes were distributed last Friday evening at the Forester's Hall, Clerkenwell, by Mr. R. B. Marston. Hearty votes of thanks were passed to the prize-givers, the judges, &c. All prizes not won have been handed over to the secretary of the Anglers' Benevolent Society, Mr. R. Ghurney; and all who did not have their prizes last Friday night are requested to apply to him at the Foresters' Hall, Clerkenwell, by letter.

THE INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION.

The Prince of Wales presided on Wednesday morning over a general committee of the Great International Fisheries Exhibition of London, 1883. The Secretary, Mr. John W. Mollett, having read the minutes and notice convening the meeting, the Chairman of the Executive Committee, Mr. Edward Birkbeck, M.P., read the report, which set forth the progress already made. Mr. Birkbeck then said that he could add with pleasure that the Netherlands' Government had applied for from ten to twelve thousand feet of space in one block. With reference to the measure that had been taken for promoting the holding of local meetings in different parts of the country, circular letters had been sent from the Lord Mayor of London to the mayors of the different towns, inviting co-operation, and amongst other results an influential meeting would be held at Chester on Monday next under the auspices of the Conservators of the River Dee Fishery Board, of which the Duke of Westminster is president, at which the executive committee would be represented by himself and other members. On this subject the Prince of Wales remarked that he had found when he was at Yarmouth that the mayor was taking a lively interest in the matter, as he did in anything that affected the welfare of the fishermen and fisheries. Referring to the subject of prizes for methods of saving life at sea, his Royal Highness stated that the Deep Sea Committee was at that moment engaged in considering how they should apply an offer from Mr. Edwards of prizes of £50 or £100 for this humane object. Generally reviewing the progress of the work of the committee, his Royal Highness said that it was very gratifying to see that America had come forward so liberally with a vote of £10,000 and the allotment of a special fishery steamer to the use of the exhibitors, which he had no doubt would be on view in the Thames during the exhibition. The action of the Netherlands Government was equally gratifying; they had appointed a central committee under the presidency of his Excellency Count Charles de Bylandt, to work in correspondence with a committee in London, and when he turned to the colonies he found that Canada and New Zealand and New South Wales had already contributed to the fund, and no doubt many others would follow. The Prince of Wales, in conclusion, alluded to the satisfactory arrangements that had been made by the Site Committee, by which they had obtained the use of the Horticultural Gardens without absolutely disturbing the society's own enjoyment of their premises. After some further conversation, in answer to inquiries respecting the detail arrangements of the committee, the Marquis of Exeter proposed a vote of thanks to his Royal Highness for his kindness in coming down to take the chair, which was carried with acclamation, and the meeting then separated.

CLUB REPORTS.

ACTON AND EALING ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members have weighed in fish since my last report:—Messrs. Head, Howell, A. Eydman, Cook, Statten, and Taplin, who took a prize on July 11 with a nice show of perch and chub from the Thames. At our meeting on Tuesday last, Mr. Simpson, our secretary, gave us a very interesting description of another day's netting carried out by the Thames Angling Preservation Society at the Chelsea Waterworks, Sunbury, at which he was present, and assisted in the capture of about 5000 lb. of good fish of various kinds, which were turned into the Thames. Such a good day's work reflects great credit on all engaged, and ought to gladden the hearts of all Thames anglers. Our members were of opinion that something more than thanks ought to be given, so voted a guinea to be forwarded to Mr. Brougham for the Thames Angling Preservation Society, hoping richer clubs will send more, if they have not already done so.—Black Bag.

July 20.

ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several of our members were out on Sunday, the 16th inst., and succeeded in filling our trays with some very good fish. Mr. A. Shakel, bream, 4 lb. 15½ oz.; Mr. T. Bowling, bream, 5 lb 2½ oz.; Mr. R. Smith, 1 lb. 8¾ oz.; bream; Mr. Hale, bream, 2 lb. 3¾ oz.; Mr. B. Powell, perch and roach, 1 lb. 15¼ oz.—D. Davis.

July 19th.

ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

The committee desire to express their grateful thanks to those ladies, gentlemen, and angling societies who so liberally contributed valuable prizes to the Second Fishing Gazette Bait-Casting Tournament in aid of the funds of the above society.—R. Ghurney, sec.

BATTERSEA FRIENDLY.

There were several good shows on Sunday last, notwithstanding the inability of many members to weigh-in on account of the delay that occurred on S.W.R. Among those fortunate enough to arrive home in time were Messrs. Anstey, Potts, Sampson, and E. F. Sampson.—H. W. Payne, president.

July 22.

BROTHERS WELL MET.

There were some excellent shows of fish at this club, Mr. Sutcliffe having a brace of splendid bream, over 7 lb, and some well-conditioned roach, 1lb. and upwards; Mr. A. Gunston some remarkable roach, reaching to within 2 lb. each; Messrs. H. Canton, W. Harris, A. Jarvis, H. Memnette, W. Tame, C. Elliott, and J. Marsden capital trays. The Pulborough and Amberley excursions continue to be well patronised, and Mr. Clout, the genial manager, and his nephew Fred, are persevering in their attentions to the wants of the anglers.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed in on the 9th:—Mr. Nitz, roach; Mr. Payne, roach and bream; and Mr. Mortimer, one roach, weighing 1 lb. 4½ oz., all from Amberley. Mr. Castell had dace from the Colne on the 16th; Mr. Nitz, roach and bream from Amberley; Mr. Mortimer, roach from Pulborough; Mr. Castell, roach from the Roding; and Mr. Perry, roach from the Thames. —Cas.

CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The members of the above society were out on Sunday in good force. The following gentlemen weighed in fish:—Mr. Tomkins, roach; Mr. Dochree, roach; Mr. Couling, 8 lb. roach; Mr. Jelleman, 5 lb. roach; Mr. Shearman, roach; Mr. C. Turner, roach. On Sunday next the members fish a pegged down match at Pulborough for eight prizes, value £7. All fish to be weighed at the water side before leaving. Messrs. Stebbing and Jones referees.—R. Stebbings, sec.

CROWN PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The above society had their first return visit paid them on Monday last, at their club house—the "Crown Tavern" Clerkenwell Green—which proved very successful, it being a very wet night. The chair was occupied by Mr. Willcockson, ably faced in the vice by Mr. L. Gorsuch. Mr. H. Sterling capitally accompanied on the piano, and Mr. W. Gorsuch doing the same on the violin, while the following gentlemen sang some first-rate songs, and several of whom deserved and got an encore, were:—Mr. Willcockson, 2; Mr. L. Gorsuch, 2; Mr. Brockwell, 2; Mr. D. Howes, 2; Mr. C. Watling, 2. Mr. Raymont a reading from Henry V.; Mr. Sutters, Mr. Rust, Mr. Maythorn solo on the concertina; Mr. Burkett, Mr. Dulley a recitation; Mr. Chapman and the worthy host, Mr. Caddell, sang, "My Heart just as Light as the Wind that blows the Leaves from off the Trees." When the roll was called, there were eighteen clubs numerously represented—viz., Amicable, Waltonians, Acorn, Convivial, Canonbury, Great Northern, Odds and Evens, Reform Star, Sportsman, Anchor and Hope, Barbican, Buckland, Eustonians, Little Independent, Original Clerkenwell Piscatorials, Crown Anglers, Patriotic, and the City of London. Bravo Mr. Castell!—W. R. Burwash, junr.

GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members showed some fair takes of roach and bream from Amberley:—Messrs. Page, J. Fitch, J. K. Fitch, Young, Parkins, Kirk, Baker, Parrett, Hutchings, and Theobald. From the Thames Messrs. W. Watling and Porter had roach. Mr. Ames jack from the Welsh Harp.—J. A. Fitch, jun., sec.

July 19.

GREAT YARMOUTH PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The weekly meeting of the above society was held on Monday at the club house, when several gentlemen, members of London societies, were enrolled, and have since had some good sport on the Bure; Mr. Hewetson, of Putney, especially having been able to send Mr. Hoole a fair sample from Yarmouth to Barnes as a proof that the Yarmouth Society have good angling waters. A fine specimen of bream was also exhibited by Mr. Chapman, measuring 21½ inches long, and weighing nearly 5 lb., caught in the Bure by a gut line, within six miles of Yarmouth, which also proves that the gentlemen forming the Bure Preservation Society have done some practical work in preserving the water; in fact, Yarmouth only wants to be more known to anglers to insure it a perfect successful angling town second to none in the Eastern Counties. The meeting was adjourned till the next Monday to make provision for the contest for the first prize, a cup given by Mr. Lark, the secretary, who will be only too pleased to give every assistance and information to members of other societies visiting Yarmouth, and hope the anglers of Yarmouth will forbear taking unsizeable fish, as has been done at Potter Heyham during the past week, and who, as anglers, should set a better example.

162, King Street, Yarmouth.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The special meeting of this society, held at "Masons' Hall Tavern," on Wednesday evening, was largely and influentially attended, the proceedings passing off in a highly satisfactory manner, notwithstanding the disappointment occasioned by the absence (through serious illness) of Mr. G. Shephard Page. The Society is greatly indebted to Mr. R. B. Marston, who very kindly undertook at a few hours' notice to read some notes he had made relative to the black bass, which formed a very excellent substitute for the paper so anxiously anticipated from Mr. Page. Mr. Marston gave a very able résumé of our knowledge relative to this fish, which it is now proposed to introduce into English waters, and after an interesting discussion it was unanimously resolved "that the Gresham Angling Society use its best endeavours to promote the introduction of black bass." A vote of condolence with Mr. Page was also passed. A large number of representative anglers and pisciculturists were present, but as a report will probably appear in another column, it will be needless to repeat particulars. The meeting was very enthusiastic and a number of valuable suggestions were made, relative not only to the black bass, but coarse fish culture in general; the proposed new bye-laws for the Thames, and other matters of general interest. It is very satisfactory to find that with all the attention devoted by the society to the numerous questions now engaging attention, the members are not behind in taking fish. Mr. W. Norman has weighed-in one tench of 3 lb. 4 oz., and Mr. G. H. Young some 30 lb. of barbel during the past week, besides several other takes.

KING'S CROSS UNITED ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this society on Sunday last, competing for two valuable prizes, succeeded in getting some capital roach from the Thames. Mr. Morley, heading the list with 12 lb., took first prize; Mr. Davis being a good second, with 10 lb.; Messrs. Perkins, Burnett, Baynham, and Bell also had a nice show amongst them.—G. Treadwell, hon. sec.

July 19.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday last our tray of fish presented a very different appearance to the Sunday previous, the most noticeable being jack and roach caught by Mr. T. Scott; tench, roach, and rudd by Mr. J. Keene; and roach and perch by Mr. J. Petrie. Our members wish to remind all friends of the vocal and instrumental concert to take place on Monday, July 31st, at the club house, Russell Arms, Bedford Street, Ampthill Square, N.W., for the benefit of T. Castle, who through serious misfortune is greatly reduced in circumstances.—H. Moore, secretary.

NORTH-WESTERN ANGLING CLUB.

On Sunday last we had another good show of jack, &c., from the Welsh Harp. Mr. Shackell, one very nice fish, 5 lb. 11 oz.; Mr. North, one 5 lb. 8 oz.; Mr. L. Roxbee, four fish; Mr. Marshall, three ditto; and Mr. W. Roxbee, one; Mr. Smart, three bream, 9 lb. 2 oz. during the week; Mr. North weighed in barbel from the Thames.—H.

ORIGINAL ALEXANDRA SOCIETY OF ANGLERS.

We had a fine show of fish on Sunday last. Mr. W. High headed the list with roach; Mr. Dymond, roach and dace; Mr. Brockett, bream; Mr. Thorn, bream; Mr. Huskisson, roach; Mr. Stanton, roach; Mr. Blackledge, roach; Mr. Hunt, roach; Mr. Dymond, perch; Mr. Morton, a fine perch.—W. High.

P.S.—A book was found at Waltham belonging to the Cavendish; it is at Mr. Wheeler's, at the King's Head, Waltham.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Several members were out on Sunday last, and met with fair success; Mr. G. Drew weighing-in 5 lb. roach and dace, from the Thames; Mr. Obbard, trout and dace, from the Lea; and Mr. J. Drew, bream and perch, both from the Thames. Quarterly night Monday, July 31.—Thos. Wm. Lucy, sec.

July 20.

PECKHAM BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members fished a peg-down match at Weybridge on Sunday last for the president's cup, when the winner turned up in H. Williams. The next match will take place on Sunday, July 30, for two prizes given by Messrs. Genale and Missard—open match.—W. H. Page, hon. sec.

ROYAL PISCATORIAL.

Messrs. Hughes and Hockley have been having some sport out of "Father Thames," in spite of the rumours that have been circulated as to the "Old Gentleman's" condition. On Tuesday he found them sport among the tench, perch, and eels. On Wednesday he was well enough to supply them with barbel, one of which fell to Mr. T. Hughes that turned the scale at 10 lb. —this will be added to that gentleman's collection of piscatorial trophies when preserved. Several of the members have been having some sport from the Lea, Welsh Harp, and other waters.—Pixie.

July 20th.

SOUTH BELGRAVIA ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 16th inst., J. Smith, jun., had a fine show of bream and roach, F. Allard some excellent roach and bream, and H. Eccarius some pretty dace and roach.—H. Lees.

STANLEY ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

Our members have not met with much success since the last report. Many of them have been out in a variety of directions in hopes of getting sport, but have been disappointed, as the takes all round have been very poor, both in quantity and quality. On the 28th, Mr. Wheatstone, perch, roach, and dace; on the 1st, ditto; 8th, pike, perch, and chub; on the 1st, Mr. Pistrucci, roach and dace; 2nd, ditto; 9th, ditto; 16th, amongst others a nice roach, 1 lb. 5 oz., Mr. D. Humby; on the 9th, roach, one 1 lb. 4 oz.; on the 10th, Mr. Rose, perch; on the 10th, Mr. Scull, dace and trout; 17th, roach and dace; on the 10th, Mr. W. Humby, roach and dace; on 17th, Mr. Walker, perch and roach.

STOKE NEWINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Since my last report Messrs. C. F. Robinson and W. Robinson have done well among the chub and roach, the former gentleman having among others a fine chub weighing 4 lb. 4 oz., which has been sent to John Barretts for preservation. On the 16th inst., Messrs. Harris and Gretton exhibited perch, bream, and roach.—Thos. Gretton, sec.

UNITED BROTHERS.

There was a very fair show of fish at our club room on Sunday last, the 16th. Among those who weighed-in were F. Belton, roach and bream; J. Payne, roach; J. Currans, bream, all of good size. The members of the above society will fish a pegged-down match in the association's waters at Weybridge on next Sunday, the 23rd, for a series of prizes.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

On the 16th, Messrs. Piolaine and Gilbert weighed fish for the July competition. The former had some nice roach, and the latter had chub. On the 22nd, a competition will take place for a guinea float, given by Mr. C. Beale, and 10s. 6d. given by Mr. J. Bedford. The special prize list for the season is charming (if variety is charming). There is a silver watch for one kind of fish, pipe, tobacco, spittoon, and a gross of "blazers" for another; half a ton of coals comes next, a spinning rod, hair brushes, scarf pins and last, though not the least, about a dozen guinea and half guinea prizes.—PIXIE.

July 21, 1882.

WALTONIANS.

On the 16th Mr. Malcolm had roach, 11 lb.; bream, 3 lb. 7 oz. Mr. Grace had roach, &c., 5 lb.; Mr. Roland, roach, &c., 4 lb. 10 oz.; Mr. Good, jun., roach and bream (one roach 1lb 2¾ oz), 5 lb. 11 oz.; Mr. Togwell, roach, &c., 2 lb. 13¾ oz.; Mr. Jos. Moore, roach, &c., 3 lb. 2¾ oz.; Mr. Luxton roach, 2 lb. 4¼ oz. (one fish 1 lb. 9 oz., Mr. Watson also weighed in fish.—A. J. MARRIOTT.

WEST CENTRAL ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had an excellent show of fish on Sunday last from Pulborough and Amberley. Mr. Taylor had four roach, weighing 5 lb. 3 oz., and 4 lb. 14 oz. of bream; Mr. Webster, 6 lb. 5 oz. of bream, one weighing nearly 4 lb., and two roach scaling 2 lb. 11½ oz.; Mr. Bradley had four tench, weighing 6 lb. 6¼ oz., which were all in splendid condition, and looked quite a picture on the tray. Mr. White had a fine show of roach and dace; Mr. F. Beard had ditto, as also did Mr. Oliphant. Mr. Donald Smith had some roach, and showed one, a perfect beauty, weighing 2 lb. 3 oz., which he is going to preserve himself. Since the opening of the season we have been very successful with specimen fish, especially with roach.—R. I. BEARD, jun., sec.

July 17.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"WEE" BINGHAM.—The best kind of ring for your jack rod would be one nearly half an inch in diameter, with the loose steel ring inside. Any tacklemaker can supply them.

M. LAWRENCE.—We are under the impression that "Freake" is the correct spelling, but in any case a "Freke" bag is meant to be the same thing. You should call at Woolgar and Co.'s, on Ludgate Hill, if you want to see the original pattern.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

THE WHARFE.

SIR,—W. P. H. is somewhat unfortunate in his advocacy of the fast-waning glories of this once noble river. "Watchet" would have had us believe that this river was no longer contaminated, and would rest his lament on that fact. Then follows "Cinnamon Fly," a resident of Bradford, who speaks with a practical strength to the sewage of Otley; and, to crown all, "Rambler," in last Saturday's *Bell's Life*, has upwards of a column of by no means complimentary observations upon the deteriorated state of the Wharfe. There is no use disguising the fact, this river has seen its best days, and is coming rapidly down to the profligate state of its sister Aire; and all the attempts to call fingerlings, fine trout, or four or five-inch graylings takeable *umbra*, will not deceive those who know the river below Bolton.

But what says F. P. H. "There is a regular and ample supply of water now as in the past . . . . the Leeds Corporation spent £180,000 purchasing land, and making reservoirs for no other purpose than storing water to supply Wharfe's in case of drought."

"For no other purpose" writes Mr. P. H., and twits "Veteran" and myself for not knowing anything about it. "For no other purpose; and the ratepayers of Leeds are denied the right of angling on their own ground and in their own waters, simply because one pompous individual has possession of the sporting right, and keeps it for no other purpose but to prevent any one from angling, &c."

"For no other purpose," I refer again to Mr. P. H's. letter, and there it is plain, and, so far, intelligible enough. Now if your readers care to refer to the act for authorising the mayor, aldermen, and burgesses of the borough of Leeds to make and maintain additional waterworks; and for other purposes, (15th July, 1876), they will find, as I have given it from its title, that there existed other purposes than to supply Wharfe in case of drought. How Mr. H. P. could dare with the same pen, and use the dye-water of the Wharfe to hazard such a statement to humbug your readers he alone must reconcile with truth and consistency—the attempt is as transparent as the Wharfe water is opaque.¶

Instead of Leeds merely undergoing this lavish expense for the welfare of the Wharfe, the purposes as directly set forth in the Bill—Anno Tricesimo et Tricesimo primo Victoriæ Reginæ—were to supply the thirsty population of Leeds with water for domestic purposes, and the mills with hydraulic power, including dying, skin-washing, chemical and other infusions, &c., injurious to fish life. To understand the liberality that is claimed to the Wharfe by the advocates for pollution, it should be understood the Act of Parliament in question and for the obtainance of which the town and neighbourhood of Leeds expended £180,000 was not specially to "supply the Wharfe in time of drought," but should there be any affluent or waste waters left over from the bountiful supply of the tributary Washburn and its several springs—which hitherto did refresh the Wharfe in time of drought—it should be permitted to flow into that river. And it should be further understood (although F. P. H. may not know it), that by the Leeds Waterworks Act of 1862 the corporation were authorised, by means of their works, from time to time to take from the river Wharfe any quantity of water not exceeding six million gallons in any one day, inclusive of another pretty little grant of two million five hundred thousand gallons. But as the preamble tells us, "Whereas the present supply of water is inadequate both in quality and *quality* (mark that F. P. H.!) for the wants of the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood of Leeds," and therefore they seek authority to bleed the Wharfe in one of its arms instead of its vitiated body, as being a purer source.

Before going any further I will appeal to you, sir, that in this Imperial Act there is sufficient evidence to show that on or abour 1862, when the river Wharfe was found "both in quality and quality" to be deteriorating, the water had arrived at that stage which threatened to become as foul and impure as the river Aire, still closer to Leeds, and therefore fully justifies "Veteran's" statement that during the period he alluded to it was gradually getting from bad to worse.

Perhaps one word is due to an observation of F. P. H. in regard to the "pompous individual" who will not allow F. P. H. and his co-mates to fish in the reservoir. If they will take the trouble to read the Act of Parliament, Section 11, they will find that that gentleman (as do others) has reserved his right to free access thereto for himself, family, visitors and gamekeepers, and it may be F. P. H. &c.'s misfortune and not their fault that they do not find themselves in the above category. As well might my butcher or poulterer expect to be asked to my table because I purchased the viands of them, as the men of Leeds to expect free access to land purchased from private individuals for special purposes; and, moreover, the necessity that the catch basins shall be kept from the remotest chance of contamination. There are others who have very properly reserved their rights besides the owner of Farnley Hall, but all have agreed that nets shall not be used to the disturbance of the water upon the purity of which so much depends, as to the standard of animal life and manufacturing produce.

A question may arise here that the storage of the Washburne is instrumental to the saving of waste; but of this especial locality the late Mr. John Simpson, the civil engineer mentioned in the Act, states that from the natural gradients all the springs ultimately found their way into the Wharfe. CREEL.

THE YORKSHIRE WHARFE.

SIR,—I am sorry to find "Creel" still clinging to the theory set forth by his friend and correspondent, "Veteran Angler," on his observations of the river Wharfe.

I do not intend to write you at great length until I hear what his correspondent has to say, and "Creel" has promised to write more fully as soon as he supplies him with further information, which I hope and trust will be more authentic and true than that which he last gave, and thereby causing this controversy.

The river was not in a woeful condition, as "Creel" asserts, when the great reservoir was made for Wharfe supply, or, as he puts it, "to flush it."

I still adhere to my former statement "that 'Creel' knows nothing of that reservoir" (or, rather, seemingly knows nothing), so I will give him a brief, and I hope explicit, idea of it, and if your valuable space would allow, I would give the whole water scheme, with the plan of the same.

The river Washburn empties itself in the river Wharfe a little above Pool, and eight or nine miles above that it is closed by a dam, or there are two large reservoirs made, as it were, in the bed of the river, these are the supplies for Leeds. The river is divided thence by a conduit to the reservoir at the pumping works at Arthington (not Arthing).

The storage reservoir I mentioned in my last, and which "Creel" has taken upon himself to move to Arthington, a distance of nearly five miles from there), is known as Lindley Wood reservoir, and is sufficiently large to make up the flow of the river Wharfe in such seasons as may require it, and to compensate Pool Mills and others for any loss they may be put to in case of a dry season. It has a capacity of 570 million gallons, and a surface area of 90 acres, and I say again it is for no other purpose but to use as a storage and compensating reservoir, and the shrewd people of Leeds (as "Creel" styles them) have no reason whatever to place a veto upon the disturbance of the water with contaminating substances, while natural filtrations are going on, for there is no filtration at all.

The ratepayers of Leeds can fish in the two supply reservoirs by obtaining a ticket from the waterworks committee, but the storage reservoir is denied their admission by a pompous aristocrat, who, I again say, has the sporting right, but never fishes it; and I do believe, without prejudice, that he would not allow the people of Leeds to look at it if he could stop them; but, Mr. Editor, if I could get twenty anglers to go and fish it, I would do so to test his authority.

I am pleased to find "Creel" acknowledge that the people of Leeds drink the water of Wharfe. Surely he does not imagine us drinking water as black as ink, and that could be used as such, and has on its surface a scum which is palpably offensive—there is not much shrewdness about the people of Leeds if they do.

I am surprised and sorry to find "Creel" has been so misled by his friend, hoping he will give a full account, as promised, I await the same with deep interest and the utmost impatience.—I am, &c., F. P. HAMMILL.

Leeds.

FISHING AT WIMBLEDON LAKE.

SIR,—Visiting Wimbledon Lake last week I was much surprised to see three or four anglers, belonging to London clubs, fishing for carp *without a reel*, and, being rather curious as to how they would proceed in case of hooking a fish 6, 8, 10, 12, or 14 lbs.

Mr. J. Gear, of the Pavement, Clapham Common, is setting up one at the present time, weighing exactly the latter weight, taken by the landlord of the Fox and Dog, Wimbledon, and most artistically landed by the brother of the lake keeper, at least, so I was told.

I approached a likely looking gent, and in my blandest manner asked him what he was fishing, for.

"He was fishing for carp."

"What, with a flagstaff like that?" I replied.

The flagstaff had eight, if not nine pieces. It appeared to me to be endless. It had not a single ring upon it, and you could have knocked down a bullock with the bottom joint.

The line reached about half-way down this formidable prop.

"But," I said, "you could never play a large fish with tackle like that!"

The answer was very familiar to me:

"I should like to get hold of a 6 pounder, and I would soon show you."

I then left him for a considerable period, and, strange to say, he had his wish gratified, for he hooked a fish quite that weight, if not larger, and it simply smashed him all to ribbons; and the keeper told me there were far more carp got away than were landed, owing to this stupid practice.

Anglers fishing in this water cannot do better than use a good strong line and tackle, a rod that would kill a barbel 8 or 10 lb., decidedly springy, but strong, and ledger with paste and worms, using a light weight.

The grand secret of success when fishing from the bank is to get out as far as possible.

By attending to the above, several very clever and knowing gentlemen may save themselves considerable disappointment in the future. N. B. Carter, of St. John's Street Road, supplies medium-sized *triangular* hooks on strong gut, yet which will be found excellent for this kind of fishing. The paste bait will be none too large, when all the hooks are properly covered, and it stops on them much better than on one hook; in fact, he has them quite small enough for roach fishing with paste. Try them.—I am, &c., MARK ANTONY.

POACHING NEAR TONBRIDGE.

SIR,—I should like to give publicity through the columns of your valuable paper to a small portion of what I have lately heard and seen concerning one of the best rivers in England for coarse fishing, viz., the Medway.

On Sunday last I was fishing the river some distance below Hartlake Bridge, when I got into conversation with a man who told me, and which from inquiries made I found to be true, that he was shepherd to a farmer close by. He informed me that the river and back streams—of which there are a great number on the Medway—were netted terribly both by himself, his master, and most of the natives; that if I had been down there a short time before I could have seen his master's son "Frank" and others, shooting the large fish almost daily; and that in particular whilst a young gentleman whom he believed came from Holland, was staying at his master's house it was quite a common thing to see "Frank" out shooting the fish, and this young gentleman diving in and fetching them out. He also informed me that his master had a very large net which was kept especially for a bend in the river—which he pointed out—and that when the river was flooded, and the fish, as was their usual habit, had congregated in this "still" in enormous numbers, they were swept out by hundreds. I told him that I supposed the netting was confined to the water below Hartlake Bridge, as above that it is preserved by the Tonbridge Association, and he assured me that they had no more trouble in netting above than they had below the Bridge, and that once or twice whilst "Old Forster," the Tonbridge bailiff, was kept talking by some of the gang, others were netting the back streams within, comparatively, a few yards.

Now, Sir, a great deal of this may be yokel brag, but from his evident knowledge of the backwaters, the depth of the river in various places, the rocks, &c., in the bottom, of which I know a little, there must be something in it.

As if to verify some portion of the above, I heard from a friend of mine (the secretary of a London angling club) that about 5 o'clock on the same morning at East Peckham he saw three men dragging the river with a large sweep net.

Returning to Tonbridge by the river bank I and the friend above mentioned, saw some pike that had been taken and retained, one at the lock below Hartlake Bridge weighing about 4 oz., another higher up weighing about 8 oz.!

My reason for writing this is to wake anglers up to the way in which this river is being depleted. It may be said that there are now two associations preserving this river. So there are; but what sort are they? One, the Maidstone, allows fish to be taken of any size (my informant was a well-dressed man, who said he was a member of the Maidstone Association, who on seeing a roach measuring 7¾ inches returned to the river, remarked, "What is that for? . . We keep all fish that come to our hooks;" and on being asked the question as to how far the Maidstone Association intended preserving, replied "Nothing near so far as Hartlake Bridge"); and the other, the Tonbridge, although they have put a large quantity of fish into the river above the town allow fish to be taken—in fact, there is no prohibition all, it is simply a request—of such ridiculously small size that the men taking them might very well be denominated members of the Minnow and Stickleback Brigade.

There is one thing more I should like to mention. A native informed me—and I have no doubt he could be found if wanted—that last year he sold a London club man eighty-two roach, some of large size, which he had caught for 30s., and that on Friday last week the same man was down the Medway and informed him that the roach he bought gained him a prize at his club. Now, could not this man be found out? There were very few large takes of roach from the Medway last year, and I expect still fewer anglers (save the mark!) that went down to the Medway last Friday.

Apologising for taking up so much of your valuable space.—I am &c.,

A MEDWAY ANGLER.

P.S.—I enclose my name and address, not for insertion but to show my *bona fides*.

THE TOURNAMENT.

SIR,—Your account of the "Second FISHING GAZETTE Tournament" has interested many an angler in the country, and has made some speculate as to the reason why the attendance was not very large indeed. No one can write himself an angler until he has become quite independent of weather, and hence the threatening morning must not be made responsible to any great extent for absentees. Can it be that there does not exist generally a sound belief in the skilful use of tackle, and that many anglers estimate their own powers by occasional successes under favourable circumstances, instead of sitting in judgment upon their blank days, and hence are content? Surely one of the great charms of fishing is that there is always scope for continued efforts after excellence, and it must have been of advantage to any one to see masters of the rod and line display their skill.

Throwing with a single-handed rod would have been to me the most interesting contest. In carrying out the competition, to make all conditions as equal as possible, ought not some allowance to be made for the height of the angler? Surely the disadvantage of a very short angler would be a positive quantity.—I am, &c., X. Y. Z.

FISHING AT BIRMINGHAM.

SIR,—I am a subscriber to your useful and interesting paper, and have noticed the kind way in which many questions as to angling in certain localities are answered by yourself and correspondents. Would any brother angler, who is well up in the subject, be good enough to write stating where fishing is to be found in this neighbourhood, what kind, and what kind of fish are to be caught?

Why should we not have fishing clubs here as in London, and by joining together, rent some river or rivers and properly preserve them? As it is at present, the anglers of this neighbourhood are singularly divided, and do not seem at all alive to their interests.

If any other Birmingham angler is of this opinion, let him write and express his views on the subject, and something may be done.—I am, &c.,

July 20th. AVON.

["Avon" should call on Mr Gregory, Vyse Street, Birmingham, and he will find there are several clubs in Birmingham. Some of them rent waters.—ED.]

A GOOD SUGGESTION.

SIR,—I should be very glad to hear of an angling club which does not make a practice of fishing on Sundays; and, as I noticed a correspondent (in last week's issue, I think), making a similar inquiry, I thought it might be possible for some of your readers to form a club. Personally, I should prefer that the meetings be not held at a tavern or a public-house.—I am, &c.,

London, July 18th, 1882. T. A.

THE NEW FISHERY SOCIETY.

SIR,—I should like to ask the committee of the United London Angling Association whether they have fixed, or intend to fix, sizes that fish may be taken in their waters? If they have not, but intend to, I hope the sizes will be (at least for roach) something better than they are on the Lea.—I am, &c.,

July 19. MAYFLY.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

FROM the Thames the reports of good takes are few and far between—like the proverbial angels' visits—and the same may be said of the sedgy Lea, beloved of "Honest Izaak Walton." Apropos of the river Lea, and of the river "Lea preservation" that body deserve the greatest praise for having, by the exercise of a judicious and liberal policy secured a really efficient preservation of the river. Among the means they have employed have been freely posting notices, offering and paying rewards, everywhere securing (and with the best result) the active co-operation of the police and of the respectable inhabitants, the legal testing of alleged private rights, &c. When we remember how the river Lea preservation is carried on by a body of working men at a comparative small cost, soliciting no subscriptions, giving no big dinners, boasting no staff of full regularly paid keepers, but depending principally upon the means above-mentioned, it is a source of wonderment how so much has been done out of so little; on such a river as the Lea, too, once in many parts a very hotbed of poachers, where hulking vagabonds were wont to earn beer and baccy by wielding in broad daylight huge cast nets at 1d. a throw. But then those who wonder little know the hard work, the incessant watching, care, and, in many cases, the sacrificing of private opinions to the clear good of the cause. The names of such gentlemen as Messrs. Smith, Baylee, early pioneers of the movement, now bearing such grand fruit; of poor George Oram, who made the preservation of the river his one great object, and whose happiest moments were spent at night or in the day time in long walks on its banks or rowing on its broad bosom, doing efficient duty as honorary bailiff—or of head bailiff Ghurney. As one who has watched the movement I claim to understand and appreciate the means by which the ends have been achieved; and cannot help thinking that for downright hard work, carried out with great unity of purpose, the Lea Preservation Society, now amalgamated with the United London Anglers' Central Committee, might well be pointed out as an example to be followed by many more pretentious associations formed for similar objects.

This (Friday) evening the monthly meeting of the West Central Association of London and Provincial Angling Societies will be held at the Portman Arms, Great Quebec Street, Baker Street. Several matters of importance will be brought forward for discussion, among others the new proposed Thames Conservancy bye-laws, which, if passed as they stand at present, will only too truly be driving the last nail in the coffin of our free Thames—as your correspondent, Mr. Geen, crudely but truly puts it. Appeals to the Conservators, where the defence of ancient public rights have been the end sought, have been so almost invariably unsuccessful, that, though the form of such must again be gone through in this case, that we must not be blamed for having left untried any possible means; yet I fear it will have to come to a public agitation, and an appeal to the Board of Trade.

It is to be sincerely hoped that the Thames Preservation Societies will take the lead in an agitation of this kind. I was told by a prominent angler a few days ago that, with exception of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, the upper river societies were not alive to the seriousness of the danger just now threatening London anglers. I am exceedingly loth to believe this, and, indeed, will not, without the clearest proof.

The new association at Henley seems to be started in the right spirit, and all true piscators will join in wishing it the success it will so well deserve if it continues in the paths it has mapped out for itself; but good wishes and moral support, though they are very great no doubt, are of little use in preserving waters without the sinews of war; and I respectfully commend this fact to the notice of anglers, clubs, and associations. The Thames Angling Preservation Society are greatly to be congratulated on the magnificent haul they made at the recent netting. All true piscators will, I feel sure, join with me in hoping the experiment will be repeated again and again, and with the same success. But we must not allow such immediate success to cause us to lose sight of the great piscatorial problem of the immediate future—I may almost say of the present. I refer to coarse-fish culture, upon the practically successful solving of which depends the replenishing of our rivers, lakes, &c., on a scale with which the most magnificent hauls from reservoirs will not bear the most distant comparison.

HARBOURS OF REFUGE.

A Society has been formed for the promotion of increased Places of Safety on our Coasts for Fishermen and Mariners. The splendid society, the Royal National Life-Boat Institution, saves 500 lives per annum; but, in spite of this, there are about 800 lives lost each year.

It is desired to save as many of this latter number as possible. An influential Committee has been formed to carry out this object, and it is supported by the Duke of Teck, by fifty Peers, the Archbishops, twelve of the Bishops, and nearly 200 members of Parliament.

The purpose of the Society is to direct public attention to the existing national calamity, to arrange deputations and public meetings, and to carry out the work arranged by the Committee. The Prince of Wales, on his recent visit to Hastings, in reply to an address from the fishermen, expressed great sympathy with the movement, he himself having a brother and two sons exposed to the perils it is sought to mitigate. The Rev. James Weller, of Amersham, and the Rev. G. Roy Badenoch, LL.D., Whitehall Gardens, have been amongst the earliest workers for this object; and Mr. F. Johnson, of St. Leonards-on-Sea, the hon. sec., was the original organiser. It is hoped that the public will subscribe liberally in support of so noble and patriotic an undertaking, a work which cannot fail to enlist the warmest sympathy of the English people. If energetically supported, the Committee have every hope and prospect of success.

Subscriptions should be forwarded to Mr. F. Johnson, the hon. sec. Cheques crossed London and County Bank, Hastings Branch.

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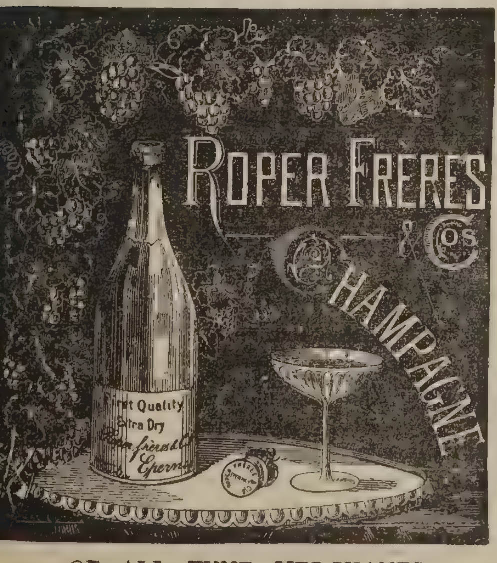
SPECTACLES versus BLINDNESS.—One-fourth of those suffering from blindness can trace their calamity to the use of common spectacles or lenses imperfectly adapted to the sight. Mr HENRY LAURANCE, F.F.S., Oculist Optician, personally adapts his IMPROVED SPECTACLES at his residence, 3, Endsleigh Gardens, Euston Square, London, daily (Saturdays excepted), 10 to 4. Sir Julius Benedict writes:—"I have tried the principal opticians in London without success, but your spectacles suit me admirably. The clearness of your glasses, as compared with others, is really surprising." Dr. Bird, Chelmsford, late Surgeon-Major W.E.M., writes:—I could not have believed it possible that my sight could have been so much improved and relieved at my age, 82. I can now read the smallest print, although suffering from cataract on the right eye." Similar Testimonials from John Lowe, Esq., M.D.; J. P. Lynn, Physician to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales; Ven. Archdeacon Palmer, Clifton; Lieut.-Gen. Macmullen, Brentwood; the Rev. Mother Abbess, S. Mary's Abbey, Hendon; and hundreds of others. Mr. Laurance's pamphlet, "Spectacles, their Use and Abuse," post free.



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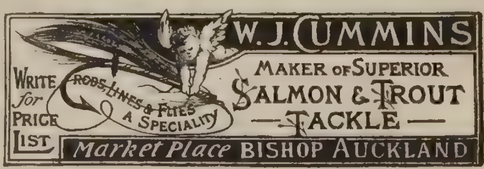

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Applications for tickets will be treated according to priority, but a preference will be to applicants for " season tickets." Boats for angling and stands on the river will be allotted by the head keeper, and no angler will be permitted to use a boat or fish a stand that has not been so allotted. Superior accommodation can be had on application to Mr. T. Mullarkey, at Glendalough Hotel, Recess, Galway. Anglers are requested to take out their licences in the Ballynahinch district, as by doing so they increase the fund for the preservation of the district.

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Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, JULY 29, 1882.

A DAY AT HAZLEFORD FERRY.

THE breeze blows fresh from the north-east as I leave my house in Mansfield to catch the 9.35 train from Rolleston Junction; and what care I though the sky is covered with leaden clouds, and the cold wind sings through the telegraph wires, as, after a short stop at Farnsfield and Southwell, and a change at the Junction, I leap out at Bleasby Gate, and, shouldering rods and basket, set out with a merry heart for Hazleford Ferry. Yonder are the wooded hills which slope upward for 200 feet above the flat meadows, along which glides the silvery Trent, and there I shall find my dear friend and companion on many a fishing excursion. Now I cross the stile which gives a short cut over a couple of fields to the Fish Inn and ferry-house, and while yet some distance off I almost walk on tiptoe to get the first glimpse of the much-loved river. Ah! there it is, flowing just the same as when 30 years ago I swam my little boats, and with fourpenny hazel-rod of two parts and a complete penny tackle, I tried, mostly in vain, to hook the minnows and little dace which basked in the shallows just above the old Trent Bridge, at Nottingham. But here comes the ferryman, who will soon put me across that deep swift "inway" so dear to barbel and barbel-fishers. Landing upon the steep bank, I make my way across the island to the backwater. Now let me try to describe the place. The Trent at Hazleford is very broad, but just below the ferry-house the stream is divided by an island, which turns the main volume of water down by its left bank, and this is called the "inway," and is the navigable part of the river. The branch to the right of the island is wider than the inway, but it has an almost imperceptible stream which, after flowing for some two or three hundred yards, is blocked by a dam or weir of large stones. At high water the stream rushes over this obstruction with a roar, for the fall is considerable, and after being broken up by gravelly shoals into several small streams, unites and flows in a gentle or strong current (according to the state of the water) till it reaches the river about 300 yards below. It is to the upper reach of water that I direct my steps this morning. Just above the weir, the bank, broken and washed by successive floods, descends abruptly to a lower level, where you can just pass between the trees and the water's edge. As I near the spot, a whistle brings my friend's head above the bank, and, of course, my first question is "Well, have you done anything?" I find he has been live-baiting all the morning, and taken only a small pike, about 2½ lb. Nothing discouraged, I put my rod together, and threw out a live bait for a start. Then we seat ourselves on a sloping ash, which, from the giving way of the earth, is resting on the bank behind, and discuss our sandwiches and drink our coffee, which we have just heated over a spirit lamp. Having finished our meal, and charged our pipes for the post-prandial smoke, we chat for five minutes, all the while keeping a sharp eye on our floats; but though the place looks so fishy, and the wind fresh, and the water just the right colour—that is, next to no colour at all—not a run do we get, though we try close to the rushes, as well as further out. So we decide to try the lower water. In five minutes we are at the spot, and it looks a place for anglers made. The bank here, which slopes down for 10 or 12 yards, has just such a fringe of rushes as pike fishermen love to see; but on the right these rushes spread out into a great bed mixed with tall reeds, and through which it would be next to impossible to land a fish. Having each selected the best landing place we can find, we stand a few yards apart, and are ready for action. But, at the risk of being tedious, I must try to describe the water here. This backwater is about 30 yards wide. Down the middle goes the stream, rather too fast for pike fishing. On the near side there is a back flood, the water gently working up the contrary way of the current. Right across yonder the bank is very steep, and is covered with dwarf trees and brambles, which overhang the water. Under this bank, and for half a dozen yards out, the water is quite still. Now I decide to get out there if possible, as it looks a most likely place, and fortunately to-day the current is not very strong, or the pressure on the line would sweep my float right down the stream. Looking into the can, where I find we have only ten baits for the whole afternoon's work, I select a fair-sized dace, which is soon flying through the air towards the opposite bank. Flop it goes into the water just where I wanted it, but no float appears, and I strike at once, and am soon bringing the struggling captive across the stream. My friend is ready with his gaff, and the next moment I am down on the grass releasing my hooks from the jaws of a nice 5 lb. pike. Having baited again, I naturally throw across to the same spot, and again—in less time than it takes to write it—the float is down again, and I am pulling in. This time the fish is rather smaller, not being much over 4 lb. Having thrown it up the bank I am "at it" again, and drop as near as possible in the same spot. The bait has scarcely time to turn round after its aerial flight and sudden splash into its native element, before the float is gone again, and in a few minutes I am rejoicing over a beautiful 7-pounder. I wonder how long this luck is going to last, and am almost too excited to put on my bait; but ready once more, and "whirr," goes the reel as I throw out. But the float this time shows no signs of disappearing, so I let it be a few minutes and then draw in again for a fresh throw. This also is unsuccessful, but the next time I get a 3-pounder, and now the game is up, as far as I am concerned, for I have used half the baits, and of course leave the other five for the sole use of my friend; but he is sadly out of luck, for, though he manages to get out to the right spot, not a run can he get, and I have to content myself with roach-fishing, which, after getting four pike in six throws, all in a quarter of an hour, I admit was very flat work. Now it is 3.30, and, though there are yet a couple of hours of daylight, we must pack up and be off to the ferry, as our last train leaves the distant station in less than an hour. This was my first bit of luck in pike-fishing, and I confess I have never had such another. The fish altogether weighed 19¼ lb.—no great weight, to be sure—but the sport I shall remember as long as I can hold a rod.

HAZLE.

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether the may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

NOTES ON THE 1883 EXHIBITION.

The Americans have voted ten thousand pounds towards the expense of sending their exhibit, and ask for ten thousand feet of space. This is nearly a quarter of the entire amount of space occupied by the great exhibition at Berlin.

* * * * * * *

We are very glad to see that Sir Philip Cunliffe-Owen, K.C.M.G., C.B, &c., has now a place on the Executive Committee.

* * * * * * *

We understand there has been a considerable number of prizes given by private donors for essays on various subjects. We hope these essays and other prizes will be made widely known; in the case of the recent Edinburgh Exhibition most people knew nothing about the essays until the prize winners were announced.

* * * * * * *

Local committees in connection with the exhibition are being established all over the country; this is a most valuable aid in creating interest in the affair.

* * * * * * *

The site of the Exhibition will, in all probability, be the Horticultural Gardens at South Kensington, and we do not know a more suitable place, except the Crystal Palace, which we suggested a year ago nearly. But it appears the Crystal Palace Company's terms are prohibitive. We should have thought it would have paid them to pay for the show, but they know best.

* * * * * * *

Sir B. T. Brandreth Gibbs, the director and secretary, has resigned his executive functions, and the secretarial duties have devolved upon Mr. J. W. Mollett, formerly of the staff of the Royal Commission of the Paris Exhibition of 1878. Mr. Mollett will prove the "right man in the right place."

* * * * * * *

Mr. Mollett will be assisted, and we venture to say, very greatly assisted, by Mr. Harry W. Towse, who at first for a considerable time had the secretarial duties entirely on his own shoulders, and who consequently is thoroughly well up in the history of the undertaking from its very commencement under the auspices of the Fishmongers' Company. His unvarying courtesy has made him many friends in the angling and fishing world.

THE YORE, YORKSHIRE.

It was with great pleasure I perused the very able paper on the above-named stream by Mr. Thomas Ford in your paper some time ago. Mr. Ford must excuse me differing from him in some points. I purpose to give you my experience of the "Upper reaches" of the Yore. When speaking of the "Upper reaches" I mean the extensive length of water under the protection of the Hawes and High Abbotside Angling Association, *i. e.*, from Yore Head to Yore Bridge at Bambridge. From Yore Head to Shaw Paddock is at present remarkably free from fish, owing, it is said, to the continual drain on the stream through the "cowl net." This implement is plied, I am told, most energetically every time there is a heavy water. For the benefit of the uninitiated, I may state that a "cowl net" is a monster "landing net," and in the hands of a professional "cowler" is a very effective means of keeping down the stock in the river. It was no uncommon thing for a cowler to go out when the river was fresh and bring back 4 or 5 stone; but now, I am told, he does well if he gets one stone, From Shaw Paddock to the Moor Cock there are some grand streams; but I am sorry to say—and I can say it on good authority—a good pound fish, instead of being the rule, is the exception. From the Moor Cock to Thwaite Bridge is a remarkably fine length when the water is in proper trim, but the fish run small. The lengths I have spoken about seem never to have recovered the treatment they received at the hands of the navvies employed in the construction of the Settle and Carlisle and the Hawes and Northallerton branch of the North-Eastern Railway. We now come to what in my humble opinion is the best stretch of water *i.e.* from Thwaite Bridge to Mossdale Beck meeting with Appersett Beck. The whole length is most difficult to fish owing to the thickness of the timber growth on each bank; but wading down the middle, any angler, in a fair water, can make a very decent dish. From Mossdale Beck to Hawes consists of fine streams and deep holes, in which harbour many fine fish, both grayling and trout. The fish in this length are extremely shy, and require the finest possible tackle. From Hawes to Bambridge the water is much of the same character as the last mentioned, only there is more of the flat. Good fish is the rule in this length, but are most difficult to catch, although a nice breeze and single hair will hardly ever fail to bring some to the bank. Grayling are very numerous in this length, and seldom are caught under half a pound. I have had many an expedition to Semmerwater, and must think Mr. Ford's remarks, anent the finny inhabitants of this lake, were made in ignorance of the character of the fish. Semmerwater trout are noted in this locality for their biting qualities. Any day with a fair water any expert can make a good dish. I have myself got as few as fifty in an afternoon, and one local angler took 17½ lb. without stirring from his "set." Bream and roach are both numerous in the lake, but are never angled for, as they are considered worthless. I saw a stuffed specimen of a Semmerwater trout the other day, which weighed 7¼ lb. when caught. The trout in Semmer water are fit earlier than their brethren of the Yore. They are snug in the depths during the most severe winter. Feed during the spring months is very plentiful, as the crayfish (with which the lake abounds) are then in a "jelly state," so to speak. With respect to the crayfish, a friend and I took 1700 from nine baits one afternoon. I consider it a great national loss that salmon cannot ascend the Yore any higher than Aysgarth Force. Many miles of the best spawning ground in England would be open to that noble fish if a ladder was erected to enable him to mount the Force. I must ask a plain question: Why is not a ladder erected? Is it to satisfy the proclivities of a favoured few? If so, I think they would best increase their sport by the fish getting over the force, inasmuch as the number of fish visiting the Yore would materially increase yearly. I may say the Hawes and High Abbotside Angling Association is in flourishing condition, and the committee of management are doing their best to protect the river. The funds at present will only allow an occasional watcher, but I trust soon to hear that funds will be forthcoming so as to enable the committee to employ a regular watcher. Owing to the open season we are looking forward to a good season. Tickets are issued to visitors at the rate of 1s. per day.

Tarn.

[Having fished the water "Tarn" describes we can fully endorse his remarks—especially as regards the nets and poaching which goes on between Aysgarth to Bambridge.—Ed.]

THE EFFECTS OF POLLUTION ON THE YORKSHIRE RIVERS.

The Calder.

In my research through the minutes of evidence taken before the commissioners appointed by Government to inquire into the best means of remedying the pollution of streams, I have come across much useful testimony, which few men would care to summarise at the expense of the deep wading one has to undergo through the rivers of text, contained in Blue Books.

Mr. Joseph Rhodes, the Mayor of Wakefield, says:—"In my early days the river here was pure, or nearly so. I am speaking of the river Calder. The water was then sweet and clean, and it was full of fish—roach, perch, &c."

Mr. Henly Morgan, Deputy Town-clerk of Wakefield, says:—"I have seen fish in the river eighteen years ago near the bridge, and people getting them out. And now there is not a fish left, not of any kind, not even eels."

Mr. James Oakes, of Wakefield, was born near the banks of the Calder, a mile above Wakefield, and has a familiar acquaintance with the river from Wakefield Bridge up to Supsett, about two miles above Wakefield; had from a long time to cross the river twice every day, and walk a quarter of a mile down its banks; had frequently bathed in it during that period, and spent many of his Saturday afternoons fishing in it; frequently drunk the water and seen other people drink it; has seen at Wakefield Bridge and in other shallow parts, hundreds of fish at certain periods of the year, and witnessed pike of all sizes taken out during the floods, as well as trout up to three pounds in weight. He confirms the statement of the Town Clerk that the water was as pure as waters ordinarily are. There were fishermen (anglers) to be seen passing through the village up to about fifteen or twenty years ago.

Mr. Samuel Holdsworth, M.D., and alderman of Wakefield, gave similar evidence, stating he used to catch eels, perch, chub, &c.; but not, perhaps, for 12 years has he had a fish, by angling or otherwise, out of the river.

Mr. William Woolass, Wakefield, has fished in the Calder when there were plenty of fish in it, and taken chub, dace and bream, and sometimes caught some salmon trout. Now they have no fish whatever; fish could then be seen in shoals of scores and hundreds. It is now polluted with all sorts of filth—refuse from every place. He has seen more than forty dead dogs pass in a day when a flood has been on; but not regularly, only in a case of flood. To a question whether there were any fish above, the witness replied: "Sometimes I take an occasional walk up that way, but I never, as I used to do, see any fish there; that is as far as Kirkthorpe Farm, about two miles."

Mr. W. Holmes: There are a few gudgeons, I believe, at the Frost Dam and Pen Bank Dam, but none to be seen in the river. In the mountains fish are to be met with, but if they venture down near Leeds they are soon seen floating about at the top to escape the nasty water, and there is certain death for them.

Mr. George Smith, Wakefield: The river, when I first knew it, was full of fish; the water has killed them.

Mr. William Wood, of Dewsbury, would be surprised to see a fish now. Mr. John Charlsworth to the same effect; Mr. Joseph Tattersfield, of Ravenshorpe, to the same effect; Mr. W. Pollard, of Grange, near Leeds, to the same effect.

Mr. Samuel Smith, of Leeds, remembered catching fish in the becks, where the centre of the town now stands; and used to angle from an island called School Close, which at that time consisted of green fields and hedges, with testers, and scarcely an inhabitant in it.

Mr. Robert Garside, of Leeds, corroborated the last witness.

Mr. John Milligan, of Keighley, gave important evidence. He was surgeon of the district for many years, and can recall the time when the trout used to come up to spawn, and, jumping the dam stones, five or six feet, to get higher up the river, where there were sandy beds in which they could deposit their spawn. So plentiful were the trout that the woolcombers used to come and capture the fish at the dam stones—stones so placed as to give the water a direction down to the wheel of his mill.

Mr. Hepinstall, of Pontefract: That they had no other water for drinking purposes up to twenty years ago. I used to take chub, roach, dace, and gudgeon, and such like, and have seen salmon leap at the dam in October and November, up to 1850. Numbers of gentlemen came to this district, fly-fishing. During the last few years of the gradual putrescence of the water, I generally carried a little camphor in my pocket, and applied it to my nose. During that time we generally burnt a little pitch when the stench came from the river into the mill. One year the part of the water mill which runs into the river got coated with a white substance, almost as if you had painted it over; and when you touched it it was white, soapy, and greasy, and it washed off again. The river is going from bad to worse.

I shall leave off here. It is clear that the "Veteran Angler" has noticed in the decadence of the Wharfe the same symptoms that heralded the destruction of the Aire and Calder; and if these splendid rivers must be crushed under the wheels of Moloch's almighty dollar, and the god Shoddy, my poor voice will no more stay their fate than the old lady's broom will keep out the Atlantic.

Surely, here is evidence more than sufficient to sound the alarm. History repeats itself with nations, and so it does with rivers; with this difference: that nations when they are at the worst can recover themselves. Not so rivers; when once polluted, they rarely acquire again their normal state of purity. Therefore it behoves all men, anglers in particular, to watch over the fortunes of the aquatic blessings of Nature with more than heartfelt, soul-inspiring zeal.

CREEL.

NORWICH PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

THE first match this season of the above society was held on Thursday last, July 20, at Horning. The competitors, who numbered 38, started from the Club House, Walnut Tree Shades (in waggonettes supplied by Mr. Russell, of the Bull Inn, Magdalen Street) at 6 30 a.m. After a pleasant ride of an hour-and-a-half, they arrived at Horning, where the host, Mr. Thompson, accorded them a most cordial welcome. The boats being drawn for, the start was made for the fishing ground. When the boats were all moored, the signal was given and fishing commenced at 9 a.m. At 4.30 p.m. another signal was given, and rods, lines, &c., being packed up, and the boats were soon at the Ferry Inn, where the fish were weighed in. The following are the names of the winners:—1. Mr. Geo. Corbyn (the present holder of the challenge cup), who also took the prize for the greatest number of fish; 2. Mr. E. H. Corbyn, who also took a prize for the heaviest fish; 3. Mr. W. G. Capon; 4. Mr. Mobbs; 5. Mr. W. Page; 6. Mr. Spelman; 7. Mr. G. Cubitt; 8. Mr. Butler; 9. Mr. J. Murrell; 10. Rev. Matthews, B.D.; 11. Mr. A. Sim; 12. Mr. R. Bradley; 13. Mr. Lemon; 14. Mr. R. Smith; 15. Mr. Olivant; 16. Mr. J. D. Turner; 17. Mr. Hinsby; 18. Mr. R. Page; 19. Mr. H. Sutton; 20. Mr. W. Wright; 21. C. Daniels, Esq. After the weighing-in was over the members adjourned to the large room of the inn, where a capital meat tea was provided by Mr. Thompson, in his usual excellent style. Tea being done, a start was made for home, and songs and jokes enlivened the way.

On the following Tuesday the distribution of prizes took place at the club-room, the Rev. Matthews, B.D., being in the chair. The prizes, which were as under, having been selected, toast and song filled up the remainder of the evening. The prizes comprised salad bowl, biscuit caddy, Gladstone bag, breakfast cruet, general rod, butter cooler, cane rod, jam jar, umbrella, tackle book, plated salts, camp stool, enamel salts, creel, silver tankard, tin of biscuits, 1 dozen Bristol snap tackle, tackle case, pike rod, 1 FISHING GAZETTE pliers. Also a breakfast cruet for the largest fish, and a general rod for the largest number.

Songs were sung by Messrs. Midland, E. H. Corbyn, R. Nudds, W. G. Capon, S. Pye, and J. D. Turner, the latter gentleman presiding at the piano, Great credit is due to the committee, and more especially to the hon. sec., Mr. W. G. Capon, for the success which has attended the first match of the season.

ANGLER.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

B. J., Huntingdon.—The pike-fishing in Norfolk and Suffolk is very good indeed in the rivers and broads in the autumn and winter. Spinning the American spoon is the best plan. Of course you may get fish now here and there; but they get so much natural food now, and the weeds interfere so much with spinning, that it is uncertain work. We should advise you to go in for roach, rudd, and bream fishing on the Yare, either at Cantley or Buckenham, or Brundall. There are comfortable inns at each place; the charge for boat is only 1s. per day; there is no charge for fishing, but every angler is expected to give something to the funds of the Yare Preservation Society. Bad luck attend those who do not.—ED.

G. S., Caledonian Road.—A society, called the Thames Rights Defence Association, exists for the express purpose of defending public rights of fishing. There are very few places where this public right does not exist below Staines. If you want good bank-fishing we cannot advise you, as the river is at the mercy of steam-launches, boating parties, canoeists, &c. Should advise you to go to the Monkey Island Hotel, Maidenhead, to commence with. Mr. Bob Plummer will give you all the necessary information. Good takes are often made by bank angling from this island, as also from Eel-pie Island, at Hampton Court.

Dr. R. T., Bow Road.—We cannot recommend you to go to Ilfracombe for freshwater fishing, as there are only a few small trout streams in the neighbourhood, and the trout are very wee things; but for sea-fishing of all kinds you cannot well go to a better place. There is no regular fishing-tackle shop at Ilfracombe; but Mr. Rowe, fishing-tackle maker, Barnstaple, knows all the streams, and can supply the proper flies, &c. You will get fair trouting at Lynmouth, on the Lyn. The river, we are glad to say, is now preserved by a society, and if they would only fix a standard size below which no trout could be retained, there would soon be first-rate fishing there. The fish will grow to any size, if they only get quiet and plenty of food.

A. E. H., City Road.—The New River Company do not permit angling in the river itself, they issue a limited number of tickets for some of their reservoirs, but there are always far more applicants than tickets. What a fortune any one could make who rented a water (and kept it well stocked with fish) by selling day and season tickets.—ED.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

GROUND-BAITING.

SIR,—In the FISHING GAZETTE, of July 15, is a letter signed "Creel," on the pollution of streams and lakes, and arguing that pertinent question which every genuine angler will acknowledge is a step in the right way, viz., 'against ground baiting." This practice is, I feel confident, only put into operation by the pot fishermen incited by the prizes given by angling clubs. Why, in all reason, do not these members seek the health-inspiring banks of the stream to fraternise in the quiet companionship of their fellow piscatorials, and not for the object of gaining prizes by quantity of fish, captured in most cases by the aid of casting into the water a quantity of that suspicious and disgusting compound, ground-bait. Owners of private waters ought to adopt "Creel's" suggestion when granting angling permits: You may fish, but you shall not pollute the water by using ground-bait.

It is to be hoped ere long that the clubs of that metropolis of bottom-fishermen, London, will make this a hard-and-fast rule in their outings—no ground-baiting.—I am, &c.,

FAIRFISHER.

[We feared that "Creel's" remarks would be misunderstood. He is far too good an all-round angler to join in the outcry against the proper use of ground-bait. In fact, he has written hundreds of times in its favour. All he protested against was the throwing in of stale greaves, carrion, gentles, &c., into waters reserved for drinking purposes; and he is right. We have often protested against some of the nasty mixtures used by some anglers, but should consider the roach, rudd, barbel, bream or carp angler who did not use proper ground-bait as little better than a lunatic. Of course in well-stocked little-fished waters ground baiting is not so necessary; but in Thames, Lea, Trent, Ouse, &c., it is as necessary to know how to ground-bait properly as to know how to fish. Even Izaak Walton found ground baiting-necessary; and we entirely agree with him and all the other angling authorities who treat on float-fishing and know anything about it.—ED.]

NETTING THE RESERVOIRS.

SIR,—I see from the enclosed extract that—thanks to the Directors of the Chelsea Waterworks Company—a large consignment of fish have been placed in the Lower Thames. This is all very well, and gentlemen anglers have much to be thankful for, but how about the poorer brethren, that cannot afford to pay 8s. or 10s. a day for a punt? Why should not the upper portion of the Thames receive its share, such as Shiplake, &c., that can be reached at a small railway fare, and afford excellent bank fishing? Of all the consignments of fish to the Thames I cannot hear one for the upper portions (places that suit the bank anglers best). I find that permission is frequently given to private friends to fish these reservoirs, then why could not our association purchase the right to these or similar pieces of water for angling purposes? It would be far better to obtain water that could be easily protected and thoroughly stocked, than attempting it with rivers that are sure to be poached to death.—A. PORTER.

P.S.—The Welsh Harp is an example of what can be done.

[Our correspondent ought to know that the Thames Angling Preservation Society have no jurisdiction above Staines, and can only apply their funds to the improvement of the river between Richmond and Staines; but surely the bank fishers below Staines will get their share of the reservoir fish. The Preservation Societies of the Upper Thames must look after the Upper Waters. For the benefit of those who, like our correspondent, imagine the T.A.P.S. preserve the whole river, instead of only part of it, we insert this letter. —ED.]

WHO IS THE FATHER?

SIR,—At the Anglers' Tournament Dinner, July 8th, Mr. Geen stated that he was the originator of the Anglers' Benevolent Society. That Mr. Geen has done much for the welfare of the above society all who know him must admit. To him must be given great praise for the success of the inaugural dinner, which gave that society so large a sum to start with. To him the *humble(r)* angler has much to be thankful for. That he has been instrumental in causing many gentlemen to connect themselves with, and give liberally to the above society. Admitting this, and even much more, there is the possibility of Mr. Geen not being the originator, and therefore not the Father, of the above society; for myself and many other anglers have looked upon Mr. Ghurney as holding that honourable position. So, sir, you will see there are two fathers and two originators. No doubt the disappointment to Mr. Ghurney is great, he considering that the honoured name of Pater belonged to him, and him alone. Upon the principle of giving honour where honour is due, I ask which is the legitimate Father of that beloved child, the Anglers' Benevolent Society?—I am, &c.,

83, Maria Street, Kingsland Road. G. MANNING.

THE PROPOSED THAMES BYE-LAWS.

SIR,—I should like to ask our Thames anglers to consider the clause 11 of the new bye-laws proposed by the Conservancy, as published in the *Times* of Wednesday, July 12. If not quite so awful an onslaught as clause 14, to which Mr. Geen has called attention, and which must be resisted by all earthly means—and there is no time to lose; one month, and the shackles will be clapped on—still, clause 11 is one of those villainously innocent laws that afterwards astound one with the powers they confer. It reads that every person following the profession of fisherman shall pay one shilling, and be duly registered, and that every boat, punt, or vessel shall also pay one shilling, and be duly numbered on bow and stern, &c. Now, I beg you mark, the clause read with other Acts conferring powers upon the Conservancy means this: that the Conservancy shall have the power to refuse to register any person, boat punt, or vessel they may deem undesirable from any cause whatever. Now, I can point to more than one place where the local magnate has such a dislike to punts fishing near his grounds that constant quarrelling and petty annoyance is caused to any anglers who persist in doing what they have a perfect right to do—viz., continue fishing. The first use that will be made of that clause will be to refuse more than half the number of punts their license, and so clear their neighbourhood of the nuisance of so many anglers. If this is allowed to become law, we may soon read something like the following report from Mid-Thames:—"On Wednesday last, two well-known London anglers came down here to fish, but on arrival found that the licence had been refused for more than two punts, instead of the six usually here, and those two were engaged; so they went down to the next fishing station, and there obtained a punt, but there being no registered fisherman disengaged, the landlord of the house offered to fix the punt in the swim for them, and has just got a summons for breach of bye-law 11, being an unregistered fisherman. The anglers did not catch anything, as the riparian owner, who cares nothing about fishing, has given his tenant, the miller, consent in writing, under clause 14, to net, and that part of the river he had just dragged clean." Well, now, brother anglers, what shall we do? I suppose the matter is hardly within the province of the Thames Rights Defence Association. I propose that every club secretary shall, in the names of its members, appeal to their respective members of Parliament to oppose those two clauses. Let the Hammersmith clubs appeal to Mr. Firth and Sir C. Dilke—and each other London club may thus obtain the metropolitan members' opposition—and by no means forget to support Mr. Geen in any action he may take. I should be very pleased to subscribe towards defraying any expenses incurred in the struggle for a free upper-Thames.—I am, &c.,

Thames Traveller.

[We intend to print and distribute a petition form for the signatures of London and Thames-side anglers who object to the proposed new bye-laws.—Ed.]

POACHING NEAR TONBRIDGE.

Sir,—I was somewhat surprised at some of the statements contained in a letter from "A Medway Angler," in your last week's issue, on the above subject; though, at the same time, I am very pleased with some of the information he gives. "Near Tonbridge" seems to "A Medway Angler" to be an indefinite distance, somewhere between Tonbridge and Maidstone. I feel it will not be right on my part if I allow the letter to go unanswered. The Tonbridge Association preserves the river to Hartlake Bridge, and no farther, and therefore is not responsible for what takes place below that point. With respect to the stupid brag about "Old Foster," our bailiff, I may say that, knowing the man as I do and also the water, I do not believe a word of it. The only streams about Hartlake that the gang in question would be likely to net, or in fact can net, are the mill stream and one running from the Old Tumblers; and these are where it is possible to net them, quite openly and visible from the towing path. It is quite true that the party in question had a few fish from one of our streams during the close season, but they were within an ace of being caught, and do not like the district a little. The Maidstone Association, when they get into working order, intend to preserve right up to Hartlake; so perhaps my shepherd friend may find his old places as dangerous to poach in as our district.

I may state that we have a difficulty about undersized fish from pot-hunters, not from anglers. Would "Medway Angler" kindly point out how, with no Conservancy Act, we can compel the return of undersized fish to the water? With respect to there being no very large takes of roach from the Medway last year, I must contradict such a statement, as some large and good bags were taken in this fishery.

If, at any time, "Medway Angler" can give me any reliable information about poaching, I should be obliged; but the next time he ventures to grumble through the medium of your valuable paper—not without cause, as far as the Medway below us is concerned—I hope he will be a little more particular as to where he places "near Tunbridge."—I am, &c.,

Edm. Hollomby,
Hon. Sec. Tonbridge Fish Preservation Society.

THE WHARFE.

Sir,—The third report of the commissioners appointed to inquire into the best means of preventing the pollution of rivers, at pp. 44, 45, says:—

"The water-supply of Leeds thirty years ago belonged to a private company, and was obtained from the Aire; it is now in the hands of the corporation, and is derived chiefly by pumping from the Wharfe."

"The *quality* of the present supply (1867)" is also a ground of complaint.

"The water of the Wharfe, liable to occasional discolouration from peat, is now becoming deteriorated by the discharge of sewage and manufacturing refuse from towns and places on the banks above pumping station. In consequence of this, and in anticipation of the increasing wants of a town growing both in population and manufactures, the corporation are now applying to Parliament for powers to resort to a new source, and to bring in a daily volume of twenty millions of gallons of water." Not, mark you, into the river to refresh it in time of drought, but into Leeds, to become converted into diluted sewage, and then poured into the Aire!

If this evidence, printed by authority, is not sufficient to abundantly show the gradual deterioration of the Wharfe, which could not other than culminate in what we now find, I could upon it accumulate a mass of similar facts as given before the commissioner by residents upon the banks of the Wharfe, and citizens of Leeds; and how the diverting of twenty millions of gallons a day from one of its natural tributaries can be for its good, will take more eloquence than Mr. M. is likely to command, to convert those not selfishly interested to his way of thinking—if he does think so.

To give one instance, among many, of how the impurity of the upper waters of the Wharfe is affecting the tidal waters below and about Tadcaster, up to which the tide flows, witnesses remembered "smolts being taken by small mesh nets in that district in such quantities that they were sold by the cart-load to farmers to manure the land with." Analogous facts may be found in Mr. Frank Buckland's and Mr. Spencer Walpole's reports. Let Mr. M., who gives such an unqualified denial to the state of the Wharfe, as asserted, between Ilkley (I had nearly written Inkley) and Leeds, turn to the 13th annual report of the inspectors of salmon fisheries of England and Wales, page 126, and there read, with a blush, that so long ago as 1874 it was reported to H.M.'s Government that "the tanneries and other pollutions at Otley have greatly increased during the past year and have become a public nuisance."

There is something really Milesian in Mr. M.'s logic. To tap one prolific tributary after another, and then declare this diversion of the element from its normal channel was for the benefit of the Wharfe, might be a very good argument for Arabi to advance in mitigation of punishment for damming the flow of the fresh water to Alexandria.

Is there, then, any occasion for the gift of prophecy as to what must be the ultimate fate of not only the Wharfe—which is, as a sequence, following the destiny of the Aire—but the rest of the once splendid rivers and fisheries of Yorkshire; for we know that local engineers have already their eye upon the Nidd, the Ouse, and their tributaries. As far as the doomed Wharfe is concerned, Bradford taps the attenuated and suffering stream by a conduit between Hebden and Kilnsey Craig, and still asks for "more," although it will be found that this conduit is in connection with a second one, called Cholker Reservoir; and which second one, sooth to say, drains a third, called the Grimwath Reservoir.

"Oh," cries Shoddy—who does not desire to see beyond the length of his nose—"it will serve our time. What do we care for posterity?—posterity never did anything for us."

But I will give the best argument I ever heard for the desecration and despoilment of the picturesque Wharfe. It is this—the trade of Yorkshire is the very life of its inhabitants, poor as well as rich, and any measure would be a fatal blunder which should improve the state of the rivers, and the water supply generally, to the serious injury of the trade. Let me grant this, for the nonce. But I contend, that not only is a purification of the rivers and an improved water supply, compatible with the best interests of Yorkshire, but if the worsted and woollen traders are to continue to progress as they have done up to this time—even if they are to hold their own and continue to prosper at their present development—such improved water supply must be found elsewhere, and that without delay, instead of converting the pride of the Yorkshire valleys into fishless channels of fetid mud, poisoning the harmless cattle and innocent inhabitants on the banks.

Leeds is not the only Yorkshire centre of this species of self-inflicted desecration. Let Mr. M. glance at Wakefield, Castleford, Knottingley, Huddersfield, York, &c.

What I wish to assure your readers is that I have fully substantiated my statement that the "Wharfe is going from bad to worse" and that such a charge is neither "ridiculous or false," as boldly enunciated by Mr. M. For the truth of which I refer to the overwhelming weight of evidence I have culled from parliamentary papers and other documents, not relying upon my own personal experience of that shamefully and shamelessly abused once "famous trout stream."

As after the trouble Mr. M. has so foolishly given me to substantiate the real question at issue—Is or is not the Wharfe gradually deteriorating and becoming of the pestiferous character of the greatly neglected Aire?—perhaps he will state where I have accused the people of Leeds of drinking the waters of the Wharfe? I am aware that I made an error in the locality of the catch-basin to supply Leeds, but I maintain this does not in any degree affect the principle, or invalidate my statement, viz., that, in effect, ere long the Wharfe will be no more than a common sewer, as all the evidence of the several parliamentary commissioners have shown the Aire now to be.

Here my part in the controversy must end.—I am, &c.,

Creel.

THE WHARFE.

Sir,—I have read with amusement and also, I am sorry to say, with indignation, the letters on the subject which have appeared in your last four numbers.

I know the river from its source downwards, and I am glad to tell you that it is unpolluted, except in a few instances. The worst pollution which comes into the river is above Otley, and proceeds from Burley Wood Head Bleachworks, and some mills, which destroy all the fish in that tributary beck, and certainly causes the water, where it enters the river, to be as black as ink. There are one or two paper mills lower down, which do not at times improve the appearance of the river in their immediate neighbourhood; but at the same time do not seem to injure the fish, as a very favourite spot for bottom fishers is close to one of them. I do not consider the river Wharfe to be polluted as much as even some of your beautiful chalk streams in the South. There are few trout rivers in England that have not more or less to contend with paper mills and tanneries.

The water of the Wharfe, except during freshes, which bring much peat water down from the moors, is unusually clear and bright—perhaps that is the reason certain of your correspondents complain there are no fish in the river. Let me assure you that there are plenty, if anglers can catch them—there's the rub.

The Kilnsey Club, near the source, hatch out large quantities of trout fry every year, and keep their water amply stocked, as any one taking a day ticket at the Tennant's Arms there, will soon discover.

In the Burnsall Club waters there are plenty. At Bolton still more, though there they do not run quite so large.

As "Watchet" writes (and no one is better able to judge, nor is there a better fisherman in Yorkshire), there are plenty at Ilkley, and so on to Denton, Burley, and Weston; if a man knows how to fish fine he can fill his pannier.

In the Otley Club water, thanks to the indefatigable secretary, Mr. Pratt, there are plenty of trout and grayling, fish of 1 lb. to 1½ lb. being constantly taken.

F. P. H., in his letter of the 8th inst., gives the numbers of fry turned into the club waters, as he writes, between Otley and "Leeds" (I was not aware that the river Wharfe ran by Leeds, the river there is usually called the Aire). These are incorrect. The real numbers are:—For 1878, 17,000; 1879, 21,000; 1880, 27,000; 1881, 26,000; 1882, 26,000. Besides the above 15 000 Malham Tarn trout fry were turned out one year, and nearly 1000 fish, weighing from 2 oz. to ¾ lb., presented by Mr. Francis Darwin, of Creskeld, who kindly rears fish for the benefit of the club. 2000 Malham Tarn fry were presented also by Mr. Fawkes, of Farnley Hall, and 1000 *Salmo fontinalis* fry by Mr. T. W. Stansfeld, of Westwood Grove. He also tells us that an Otley gentleman caught fifty trout in a few hours in April last in a distance of two fields with fly. The correct number was thirty-five or thirty-six. None weighed a pound, and several were under 7 inches—the limit enforced by the Otley Club. So much for the value of F. P. H.'s evidence. I presume he and (F. P. Hammill, who dates from Leeds, is the same person, and I should like to ask you what you think of his remarks respecting the owner of the sporting rights over Lindley Reservoir. They are not written in that spirit in which the author of "The Complete Angler" was wont to address his readers, nor in the manner in which, as a rule, correspondence is conducted in your interesting paper.

The Leeds Corporation, when they purchased the land for Lindley Reservoir, did not include the sporting rights; and, therefore, the Leeds ratepayers—of whom, I suppose, F. P. H. is one—have no claim on the fishing. He might just as well complain if any one possessing game preserves should decline to give him permission to go in and shoot the pheasants if he asked for an order to do so. I wish he and his twenty friends he writes about would pay a visit to the reservoir. I think before the day was over they would all probably be enjoying themselves in Otley police cells.

Mr. Fawkes is a good sportsman, and not the person F. P. H. describes him to be. To him the Otley Angling Club are indebted for their fishing rights on the north side of the river, from Otley Bridge to Weeton, and also for some on the south bank. He gives permission to many anglers to fish in Lindley reservoir, and at the same time opens the doors of Farnley Hall to any one who wishes to see his priceless collection of Turner pictures.

Let F. P. H. fish in Swinsty and Fewston reservoirs, where his Corporation have the fishing rights. There are plenty of fine fish to be caught there. I have myself taken trout in Swinsty over 2 lb. in weight. And let him, when next he writes to the FISHING GAZETTE, use Waltonian language.

In conclusion, I would observe that if the Rivers Pollution Act was carried into effect, we should never see such correspondence as has appeared in your pages. The rivers Clare and Calder are for the most part "inkpots." The Wharfe, fortunately, is still pure—long may she remain so and contribute to the sport and amusement of "true" disciples of Izaak Walton.—I am, &c.,

YORKSHIREMAN.

[Our correspondent is thoroughly acquainted with the Wharfe. We can personally bear out his remarks as far as the head waters of the river are concerned, and only wish that all our streams, as a whole, were as pure as the Wharfe! Mr. Hammil's remarks certainly seem to be unjustifiable, and he evidently knows nothing of the gentleman he attacked, except that he prefers not to permit angling in his reservoir. Mr. H. will have plenty to do if he is going to attack all proprietors of waters who will not let him fish.—ED.]

CANAL FISHING WANTED.

SIR,—Can you or any of your readers inform me if there is any canal fishing for pike, roach, &c., say between Sheffield and Bath, with good accommodation where a lady and gentleman could stay for a few days.—I am, &c.,

Leeds. FRED. MOSER.

FELL BECKS, HOOKS, &c.

SIR,—I think, as I have fished a good deal in Westmoreland, it is incumbent on me, on the one hand, to express my appreciation of that excellent article on fell-beck fishing which appeared in your columns; and, on the other, to assent to a very considerable extent to "Sprint's" statement relating to size of fish in the Westmoreland becks. The average weight of trout taken by the fell-beck fisher, whom "Sprint" quotes as his authority, was in one case nine to the pound, in the other nearly eleven; whilst we are told that eight or nine to the pound is the average weight in the best of the fell becks of Westmoreland. The figures in my diary, however, give slightly different results:

	To the pound.
In Long Sleddale or Sprint beck and burn, Skeggles burn, and the upper sections of the Kent beck and burn ..	7·62
In many burns and becks of the upper waters of Lune and Edena bove Tebay and Kirkby Stephen, including Upper Eden itself	7·08
In the upper sections of the Rawther beck, where it forms the boundary line of Westmoreland, including a few fish taken on one occasion from its tributary the Norr Gill burn, which runs from the Yorkshire side	6 57
The average of two seasons in the first and second of these localities	7·27
The average of the three seasons of fly-fishing in the three localities	7.045

At the head of the Peasey beck I once got a sample of nine fish of about one ounce each, or 16 to the pound, but this was an isolated case. Other examples might be given, but these are sufficient to show that the average size is almost exactly seven to the pound.

In relation to "Sprint's" sweeping assertion that you "may fish a lifetime in them and never take a trout of half a pound," I feel compelled to remark that this is drawing the long-bow with a vengeance. "Sprint" denounces it, preposterous to state that in a fell beck a trout of a pound weight may be caught in a day's fishing; yet Mr. Howard only mentioned one, and not two or three as alleged. I think, however, we shall be nearer the truth if we say that it is preposterous to deny that there are fell becks and burns—and there is a decided difference between a burn and a beck—in such a large district as Westmoreland which do not yield a fair sprinkling of one-pound trout. It is true that I have never caught trout of this size in streams of these dimensions in the county named, but I have often done so in Yorkshire within one to three miles of the Westmoreland border; whilst in the latter county, so late as 1880, I remember one large burn, where on the only two occasions in which I fished in its waters I got several trout on each day, weighing half a pound each, or only a trifle below that amount. In fact trout of a pound in weight may be occasionally taken in almost any beck or burn where there are a few deepholes here and there, where they can escape the devices of the poacher, provided there is a fair food supply, as in the streams flowing from a heather clad and peaty upland.

I endorse "Sprint's" remarks on hair casts, but do not fully assent to his proposition relating to whole hair-lines. The difference in weight between a soaked and dry hair-line is even too great for my approval, as the hair requires a fine silk bedding to fill the interstices between its strands, and render it more nearly solid than when alone. I have never found the hair and silk mixture, when of good material, rot any more quickly than the dressed line; in fact its porosity is in favour of its drying rapidly without rotting, instead of becoming waterlogged in the crannies of a cracked dressing.

Turning to the subject of hooks. I may briefly observe the properties, which it is necessary that a serviceable hook should possess, may shortly be enumerated, each requirement being mentioned separately; even the one and the same conformation may result in two or more concomitant benefits.

1. The direction of the point and barb-piece should be identical with each other, as well as with the lines of impact and of force, in order to ensure penetrative power.

2. A similar identity of the conditions enunciated in the foregoing qualification should exist, so as to reduce strain or pressure on the great bend by reducing resistance to a minimum.

3. It is essential that the point and barbpiece should be prolongations of one and the same line, in order to secure rigidity of this part of the hook.

4. It is demanded that the inflection of the foregoing joint lines be such as to be identical with the line of force, so that by this prevision lateral leverage at the angle or minor bend may be eliminated, at which point the barb-piece should be normal to the extremity of the curve of the great bend.

5. It is requisite that a hook should possess as great holding power as possible and it is found, by making the line of impact of the barb-piece and point correspond with the line of force, the tenacity of hold is far greater than in more eflected implements.

6. As no hook is perfect which readily allows the reception of the narrow mystache of a trout between itself and the shank without resulting in an effective penetration to a point beyond the barb, it is found necessary to carry inflection as far as the line of force. In most instruments it often happens that the mystache is received within the bend of the implement, so as to hit against the cavity of the arc and rebound thence without even pricking the fish, or at least after only futilely glancing along the easily abraded surface. With the lines of force and impact identical, such faulty action is almost impossible; and with a bend such as is advocated, and very similar to the Limerick, which is long and gradual, the rebound without a forcible impact of the point is absolutely impossible. as the mandible, on striking the oblique surface of the bend, is driven laterally still further down, and in so doing the point sinks more deeply into its upper aspect. In Sneck-bent, Pennell and some other hooks, with the ultimate portion of the implement and main bend almost or quite transverse to the line of the shank, this cannot occur with any degree of certainty.

7. It is essential that the barb should not be too rank, and to conform to this requirement it is needful to resort to inflection to the line of force, so as to still further increase penetrative power, by the possibility of an advantageous limitation or reduction in bulk of the beard, which under these conditions is no longer so urgently required of bold proportions.

8. There is a peremptory demand for a degree and form of curvature of the great bend not exceeding that which is absolutely required, in order to ensure the greatest attainable rigidity under pressure. It is necessary that this curve should practically accommodate itself to the law, which determines the length of conjoined point and barb-piece, and which decides that there should be room for the mandibles of a fish, hooked with the full grip of the arc, to turn within the bend, or descend vertically some distance into its cavity, when the point rests in the first case on bone or cartilage, through which it will not easily pass beyond the barb, or in the second or somewhat softer tissues; otherwise a block will over and over again occur, which, in the latter case, directly precludes penetration, or, in the former, may only too frequently cause the hook, after impinging slightly, to lodge in such a position that the line, instead of pulling or striking in the direction, even approximately, of the line of impact, imparts a jerk, sometimes almost at right angles, to the direction in which it should be acting.

9. A practical uniformity of thickness throughout the bend, resulting in a corresponding uniform strength and rigidity of its different sections, has been proved, both experimentally and theoretically, to be—as far as any working purposes are concerned—all that is requisite. Besides this, the act of rendering one part thinner than another is invariably attended by damage of some kind or other to the substance of the wire; whilst the hook is usually rendered extremely weak in the thinner areas, apart from the consideration of any direct injury to the material.

10. It is indispensable that a hook should be capable of penetrating a nearly flat surface, more or less covered with slight asperities, on whichever side it may lie, or rather drag. and not be as in the bent or deflected hooks, which cannot impinge on either side indifferently, when dragging over a plain, and which can only do this when passing a prominent ridge; and then, if simply glancing, with many probabilities of whatever hold is made, being merely an uncertain flesh-hold, when the hook is gliding on that side from which the point is deflected.

11. The length of the straight shank should only be sufficient for the reception of the body of the fly, with the hackles fairly in advance and clear of the point, the wire beyond the body assuming at once a curved contour, in order to reduce the sine of the angle of the arc.

12. It is unquestionable that the curve of bend and grip of hook should be sufficient to receive the mystache of a 1 lb. trout, and still be as small as can be had for effecting a reliable hold when impinging elsewhere in the jaw, and not merely in the flesh.

13. A fine tapering point, which will insinuate itself into cartilage or bone under very moderate pressure, is unquestionably superior to one of short dimensions.

14. Roundness of wire in all parts of the hook wherever attainable, so that, in the case of point and barb-piece, the metal may not cut its way out of the hold, or, in that of the shank, may not sever the gut and wrappings, are indispensable necessities.

15. The minimum length of point and barb-piece is determined to be essentially, not less than the distance from point to shank just opposite, measured along a line falling vertically upon the latter. This minimum extent is required in order to allow the mandible of a pricked fish to turn within the bend, as before enunciated, even if its extremity should touch the shank, a thing not possible in the sproat hook, in which form the great bend of the wire prevents penetration in the case of a fish struck with the full grip of the hook.

16. It is requisite that the barb-piece should not be quite normal to the sections of the great bend, which are not close to its root, and which, although formed by a slightly more open curve, are still only trivially dissimilar from the latter in that respect. This provision, owing to the barb-piece and point being jointly a trifle longer than the distance between the latter and the shank, whilst ensuring a greater rigidity of the arc still admits of the turning of a pricked mandible within the bend and also increases the certainty of a successful impinging of the point through the side of the mystache when falling edgewise into the cavity of the hook.

As inflection beyond the line of force is out of the question; the strain brought to bear upon the wire of a hook, as far as the nature of the curve is concerned, is pre-eminently controlled by the distance of the crest or bulge of the bend from the nearest part of the line, joining the end of the shank and the point produced indifferently beyond the latter and by the total length of the hook; these two dimensions determining the value of the size or the cord and arc.

17. It is essential that the barb-piece and point should be of an inflection such as will admit of the instantaneous transmission of the hold to the main bend in those cases in which the point and barb-piece have only just covered their fine and cutting edges in the flesh—by this action converting a precarious flesh-hold into a reliable and serviceable loop encircling the thick and rounded wire.

18. Black is, unboubtedly, the best colour for the metal, as being least conspicuous and reflective; while, perhaps owing to optical conditions the most natural appearance of opaque and floating bodies passing between the fish and a bright sky.

The hook which I brought out some years ago was designed so as to conform to all the foregoing requirements. In a subsequent pattern, however, by abnegating the advantages of the 12th essential, I have been enabled to produce a small double fly-hook lying in a single place, but possessing only a very small grip and, consequently, far more inconspicuous than otherwise would be the case. This hook is suitable for burn fishing, hair-tackle, and a very deleicate hand, as the hold is often merely in the flesh; but at other times cartilage is easily penetrated, and occasionally both jaws are clamped together—whilst I have, even by means of these hooks with such narrow grip, landed two good fish at once.—I am, &c.,

ROBERT BALDERSTON.

Ripon, 17th June.

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SPECIAL NOTICE.

IN CONSEQUENCE OF SOME OF THE ILLUSTRATIONS

Not being ready, we have BEEN OBLIGED TO POSTPONE OUR

TOURIST AND HOLIDAY DOUBLE NUMBER

UNTIL NEXT WEEK.

IT WILL BE PUBLISHED ON AUGUST 5, AND WILL CONTAIN

Articles of Special Interest and Several Illustrations.

Mr. R. B. MARSTON'S Paper on the "PROPAGATION OF COARSE FISH" will appear in this Number with Illustrations. As this Number will be widely advertised and distributed beyond the large ordinary sale, it will be a most valuable medium for all

ADVERTISEMENTS

addressed to a well-to-do and sport-loving section of the community.
APPLICATIONS FOR SPACE should be sent in to

THE MANAGER, "THE FISHING GAZETTE,"
12, FETTER LANE, LONDON.

RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

"There see the sun both rise and set;
There bid good-morning to next day;
There meditate my time away;
And angle on, and beg to have
A quiet passage to a welcome grave."—WALTON.

The river should be seen just now at sun-rise and set, and any man with a soul beyond the pedal ones would be glad to "meditate his time away" on the banks of the English river, which is a thin silver streak in Wiltshire, and becomes a thing of beauty and a joy for ever in Berks. and Bucks. Fishing is now in the cream of perfection, and with a little more of the present fine weather will become butter, or, in the language of the day, "real jam." Barbel are as hungry as hunters, and can be brought to book with a liberal diet of worms. Chub are "on the fly," and can be obtained in quiet waters by dapping with a blue-bottle, or by deftly casting a black palmer in the early morning, or a white moth in the dewy eve. Roach are still shy, but perch and gudgeon are not backward in coming forward. From Mapledurham, I hear of nice bags of miscellaneous fish by both bankers, campers, and punters. At Hurley, Mr. Davis, who is the worthy host of the "East Arms," has been getting well amid the perch. Mr. Davis will be pleased to cater for brother piscators in these quiet and unfrequented bits of the Thames at fair prices—butter, eggs, and milk brewed on the premises. Marlow, Bourne End, and Maidenhead reports all favourable as to past, present and anticipatory sport.

Thursday evening, 7 o'clock: river perfection for any seasonable fishing. I advise anglers to bring baits down from town, or possible disappointment may accrue.—MARLOW BUZZ.

THAMES (Above Locks).

AT KINGSTON.—John Johnson, sen., has been getting roach of a good size, and bream up to $2\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; John Johnson, jun., has been catching a few jack, the largest 7 lb. The bank anglers have been getting plenty of bream up to $4\frac{1}{2}$ lb. each.

AT HAMPTON COURT WEIR.—Charles Davis, on Tuesday, 4 jack, 2 of them going 6 lb. each.

AT HAMPTON DEEP.—The punts have been taking about 6 dozen of very good roach each in the day.

AT SUNBURY.—Thomas Stroud, 5 barbel and 2 chub; Alfred Stroud, 6 dozen and 2 barbel; John Stroud, 4 jack, the largest 4 lb.; Abraham Stroud, 4 dozen roach and 5 chub; Mr. Lundy, a small trout with a fly, which was put back again.

AT WALTON.—George Hone, one day, 8 dozen of roach, a bream of 2 lb., and one chub; and another day, 4 dozen of roach and a bream of 5 lb.

AT HALLIFORD.—J. Strudwick, in one day, 7 good chub, and G. Strudwick, in two days, 11 dozen of roach.

AT SHEPPERTON.—David Hackett, in two days, 2 dozen of roach, 5 barbel, 4 perch, and 2 chub; H. Curr, during the week, 15 barbel; W. Rogerson, in two days, 3 dozen gudgeon, 2 perch, and 5 barbel; W. House, a trout of 5 lb.; F. Purdue, in four days, $6\frac{1}{2}$ dozen of roach and dace, 8 dozen of gudgeon, 8 perch, and a jack of 2 lb.; H. Purdue, in one day, 8 dozen of gudgeon and 5 perch.

AT CHERTSEY.—James Poulter, in two days, 7 dozen of roach, 1 chub, a trout of 1 lb. 2 oz., and one perch; and another day, 5 dozen of roach and dace.

AT STAINES.—Samuel Scott, a trout of 3 lb.; John Keene, sen., one day, 11 dozen of gudgeon, 2 perch, and a jack of 3 lb.; and in three other days, 18 dozen of roach and dace; C. Hone, in two days, 6 barbel and a jack of 7 lb.; and John Keene, jun., 5 jack.—H.

Ancholme District.

Just as I sent off my report last week, I received an invitation to spend an afternoon on one of the best trout streams in the county. One of my sons accompanied me. We arrived at our destination about two o'clock, and between then and five caught fourteen beautiful fish. The two largest weighed $3\frac{1}{2}$ lb., and were both caught by my son. Our operations were, however, brought to a premature close, owing to a terrific thunderstorm, which burst suddenly upon us. Despite the clearness and lowness of the water, I have no doubt that we should have doubled our take if we had been able to fish up to twilight. The water in the Ancholme has been but little affected by the occasional storms, but it remains of a fine colour for pike-fishing, and some good catches has been made. One gentleman had sixteen one day to his own rod. A party went over from Caistor the other day to Brandy-Wath, bottom-fishing, but they only caught about a score. I had some fine sport whipping for roach on Saturday last, catching occasionally two at a time. But the best success followed from charging the fly-hooks with small gentles.—THOMAS FORD.

FAIRBANK, BRIGG.—Very little bottom-fishing has been done in the Ancholme this week. Bream are biting very fitfully; one or two good catches, however, were made near Brigg a day or two ago. Half a-dozen fine bream fell to the rod of a native, varying in weight from $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. to 2 lb. A very fine bream, weighing 3 lb. 9 oz., was also taken by Mr. C. Spright, of Brigg, a little higher up the stream; but, with these exceptions, nothing worthy of note has been done. No pike worth mentioning has been landed, though the junior members of this class have been making themselves very prominent. The water in the neighbourhood of Brigg is of a fairly good colour, but much spoiled by weeds, which have been mown from the bottom, and are now floating on the surface. Three good perch fell victims to the allurements of artificial minnow, and these were well fed and clean. Large shoals of bream were seen near the surface on Monday close to Brigg, but these were unwilling to nibble. Prospects are good with regard to quantity, but all anglers must wait patiently. We had a small contingent of Sheffield rodsters at Brigg on Monday.

Ballynahinch.

Still heavy floods for the three days in the earlier part of the week, it being very stormy; but the latter three it seems to have settled into fine weather, strong sunshine with light winds. The following are the takes for the week:—On the 19th, Messrs. Eades and Houlgrave, 30 trout; same date, Mr. W. H. Banner, 18 trout; Mr. C. C. Johnstone, 1 salmon, $5\frac{1}{2}$ lb., and 17 trout; Mr. Blandford, 1 salmon, 7 lb., and 11 trout; Mr. Beuamont, 1, 8 lb., and 11 trout; Messrs. Annadale and Hone, 1 salmon, $8\frac{1}{2}$ lb., and 43 trout; Mr. Bury, 13 trout. On the 20th, Messrs. Eades and Houlgrave, 32 trout; same date, Mr W. H. Banner, 6 trout; Mr. C. C. Johnstone, 7 trout; Mr. Blanford, 14 trout; Mr. Beuamont, 3 salmon, $7\frac{1}{2}$, $7\frac{1}{2}$, and $6\frac{1}{2}$, also 23 trout; Messrs. Annadale and Hone, 48 trout; Mr. Bury, 21 trout. On the 21st, Messrs. Eades and Houlgrave, 43 trout; same date, Mr. Blanford, 25 trout; Mr. Beuamont, 17 trout; Messrs. Annadale and Hone, Messrs. Moser and Grayson, 58 trout; Mr. Bury, 21 trout. On the 22nd, Messrs. Eades and Honlgrave, 68 trout; same date, Mr. Blanford, 14 trout; Mr. Beuamont, 1 salmon, $17\frac{1}{2}$ lb., and 26 trout; Messrs. Annadale and Hone, 55 trout; Messrs. Moser and Grayson, 33 trout; Mr. Bury, 14 trout. On the 24th, Messrs. Eades and Houlgrave, 53 trout; Mr. Blanford, 2 salmon, 6 and $7\frac{1}{2}$, also 14 trout; Mr. Beuamont, 21 trout; Mr. Annadale, 42 trout; Mr. Hone, 50 trout; Mr. Bury, 1 salmon, 12 lb., and 17 trout; Major Carnegie, 12 trout. On the 25th, Mr. Blandford, 15 trout; Mr. Beuamont, 10 trout; Messrs. Annadale and Hone, 16 trout; Mr. Moser, 24 trout; Mr. Bury, 1 salmon, 6 lb., and 11 trout; Major Carnegie, 1 salmon, $6\frac{1}{2}$ lb., and 14 trout. Weather and water is most favourable.—WALTER BLACKADDER.

Camel and Inny (Cornwall).

Mr. J. Ford, of London, caught on Thursday in last week, between 9.30 and 4.15, forty-four splendid fish on the latter river. Only two or three were under $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. each. On Saturday last he and Mr. J. Allen, of Davidstow, visited the Lank River, a tributary of the Camel, which rises between Roughtor and Brown Willy. The fish were very numerous, but small. Mr. Allen had 76, Mr. Ford, 66.—THOMAS FORD, Caistor.

Chichester.

Recent rains have somewhat improved the condition of water in the canal, which was previously bright, for piscatorial pursuits, it now being all an angler can desire. Fish are coming well on the feed, especially in early morning, when many *habitués* of the Goodwood race meeting may be seen indulging for awhile in innocent sport before flying at higher game with the stentorian "Two to one, bar one." Takes have during the past few days been highly satisfactory, some good bream coming to hand. Mr. Wickenden had a handsome fish of $2\frac{1}{4}$ lb., while Mr. Summers and Mr. Young have made good bags. Light tackle seems now useless, several anglers losing good fish. Gentles seem the most killing bait, while small roach have secured some good eels. Fish are fast improving in condition.—GEORGE F. SALTER.

Coquet (Welden Bridge).

The sport still very poor, and the weather is very unsettled. The best creels, G. Wilson, 8 brace; T. Dixon, 7 brace. From 3 to 4 brace are about the average baskets at present.—A. GLASS.

Dove.

This river has been running very high and strong during most of this week, but to-day (Thursday) it has gone down a good deal, and there is less colour in the water. I consider that the river on some days has been too thick even for the bottom fishers, though a fair quantity of roach, dace, bream, perch, chub, and eels have been killed with the maggot and cockspur worm. We certainly want a spell of fine weather now. It has been almost interminably wet for weeks, and our anglers are heartily sick and tired of such abominable weather. The flies that have been, and are now, killing best are the July olive, the golden spinner, and the honey-dun bumble, while in the brooks Gregory's Gresham, and the universal have done best; one take of $4\frac{1}{2}$ brace of big trout being secured in the tributary, Henmore, with the aid of the former. Grayling are now getting well over spouting, and river watchers assure me that the season will be a good one.—THE SPLODGER.

Gowla.

The above has only been fished two days this season. On the 24th inst., by Messrs. Moser and Grayson, who succeeded in killing forty-two trout in four hours; and on the 26th, it was fished by Messrs. Eades and Houlgrave, who killed fifty-three trout.—Walter Blackadder.

Ilfracombe.

Sea-fishing has been going on with little variation since my last report; fishing parties are out every day and their catches of bream, whiting, pout and pollack average from 20 to 40 lb. per boat per tide An amateur, fishing from the rocks, brought a large bass to the surface, his gear not being strong enough it parted his line and disappeared. Fishing with rod and hand lines from the jetty has been very good for pollack, whiting, pout, and a few grey mullett have been caught. Yesterday mullett were seen in the harbour almost jumping out of the water. Several fine lobsters and crabs have been brought in from the pots and a few taken from the holes, Weather at present very fine, blowing a steady breeze from the S.W.—E. Comer.

Leicester.

Anglers having been favoured with about the first fine week of the season, have taken advantage of it and been out in large numbers, and but for the waters being drawn off for improvements in two of the large ponds of the local society's preserves, there would no doubt have been some good fish shown during the week, as both perch, roach and chub have been biting freely. Some fair takes of roach have been had from the river Soar with the wheat, whilst some good chub have been taken with the fly early in the mornings and evenings. A few fair-sized pike have been captured, the largest being one about 6 lb. From Aylestone reports show that some good fishing has been had. Several baskets of roach have been shown, and nearly all have been taken with wheat or malt. The Barrow-on-Soar waters have received a fair share of support during the week, the more-favoured bream holes being well looked after, and takes ranging from 5 to 20 lb. have been had. The Marlborough waters also have been well fished, and most of the subscribers to this water have had some good sport, as roach, perch and some moderate sized pike have been taken.—Alert.

Medway (Tonbridge).

The water is still in condition for all river angling, though somewhat dirty at the upper reaches. From, I suppose, the unsettled weather and cold nights, the finny tribe do not "hang on" as they should do. Bream and roach continue to be taken in fair quantities on the best baited swims, but they bite in the most erratic manner, one day taking almost anything, and the next not biting at all. All that is wanted is some warm weather, and then we shall be busy.—Ye Medway Water Rat.

Ouse (Littleport).

There is very little to report. I suppose they will come in time, but up to the present the blanks are too numerous for my liking. A few bream have been taken, but owing, I expect, to cold nights they have not shown up much. The best catch was by Mr. Wm. Thurston, Cambridge, with nine bream, going 23 lb. the lot; two largest turning the scale at $7\frac{1}{2}$ lb, on morning of 20th. On the 21st two gentlemen from Newmarket got eight good bream going 22 lb. But very few roach have been taken —C. South.

Thames (Goring).

Water in good order for all-round fishing; in good order for jack, perch, and chub. Friday eight jack, largest 5 lb.; Sunday eight chub, largest 3 lb., and some good perch; Wednesday seven jack, largest 4 lb., and some good perch. —John Rush.

Thames (Halliford).

The river is now very low and bright. Different gentlemen fishing with me since my last report; their takes have been as follows: Mr. Field, 4 barbel, 12 fine roach, 4 perch and 2 bream, (the perch and bream we returned to the river again); 2nd day: Mr. Innis, 2 barbel, 4 nice roach, 4 perch, 8 dace and 2 chub. 3rd day: Mr. Carter and a friend, 12 bream, the seven largest weighing $21\frac{1}{2}$ lb. and 2 perch; 4th day: Mr. Gibson, 5 bream, 3 chub, and 2 perch, all the above fish taken ledgering.—George Rosewell.

Thames (Richmond).

Mr. Francis in two days, 19 lb. of roach and dace; Job Brain in four days, 27 dozen and a barbel of $8\frac{1}{4}$ lb.; E. Brown, in one day, two dozen, and in addition five perch; C. Brown in one day, six dozen of roach and dace; and J. Bushnell two dozen.

Thames (Teddington).

J. Kemp in two days, $4\frac{1}{2}$ dozen of roach and dace; and Joseph Baldwin in four days, $11\frac{1}{2}$ dozen and a brace of jack weighing 9 lb. The netsmen below Richmond Bridge are reported to have taken some trout in the nets, and others are doomed to similar destruction. No netting ought to be allowed above Kew Bridge. One of the netsmen who has frequently been fined for illegal netting, it is said, was seen hawking strawberries for sale last Sunday. Is "Othello's occupation gone?"

Thames (Twickenham).

J. Hammerton in three days 16 dozen of roach and dace; James Coxen in one day $4\frac{1}{2}$ dozen; R. Coxen, 5 dozen and a barbel of 4 lb.; John Coxen $5\frac{1}{2}$ dozen; G. Coxen in four days, 43 lb. and a jack of $5\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; Pert Hammerton in three days, $14\frac{1}{2}$ dozen and a barbel of $3\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; J. Dobin in three days, 13 dozen and a couple of barbel; S. Cole in three days, 11 dozen; and H. Chamberlain in the same time, $12\frac{1}{2}$ dozen and three barbel.

Trent Newark).

The water has been in fairish condition most of the week, and sport has been fairly good. A friend and I have been out one day this week; but the weather was against us. Our bag consisted of half-a-dozen chub, two dozen roach and dace, about the same quantity of eels and flounders, and a bream or two; the fish are now in fairish condition, and rather inclined to take a bait; wasp-grubs are our most successful lure; but gentles, cadbaits, and worms have all been successful in killing fish; water now in capital condition All kinds of fishing can now be practised by the angler with some chance of success. —The Trent Otter.

Trent (Nottingham).

The weather in this district has again been of an unsettled character, but a very large number of anglers appear to have visited the river, which for once in a way has yielded a fairly large take of barbel. This pleasing bit of news reaches me from Shardlow, where on Monday a Derby gentleman, operating on a four-foot swim, succeeded in killing nine very fine fish, besides a quantity of dace and large eels. Reports are also more favourable from the water above—namely, Weston, and several capital hauls of roach (taken with bread) are to hand from Sawley and Trent Lock. At Hazleford a large otter has been caught in the eel nets, and four others are said to have been seen in the river over which Sir Henry Bromley enjoys the right of fishing. The sooner they are shot the better. On Wednesday the river rose nearly eighteen inches, and the bream contingent were again in high glee.—The Man at the Clubs.

Welsh Harp (Hendon).

Fine weather has prevailed here during the past week, and the water having settled again, fishing has proceeded uninterruptedly, and good baskets have been the result. The jack have for the most part been taken spinning, but, curiously enough, the largest of these fish have been taken with live bait. Several fine carp, including one of 7 lb. and another of $11\frac{1}{2}$ lb., have fallen to the lot of our fishermen; and, as I write, the banks around the lake are crowded with our subscribers, while Sawyer's flotilla of punts are dotted about in favoured spots.—Resident.

Wharfe (Yorkshire).

Another heavy flood came down this river early last Saturday morning, but the fish had got so thoroughly glutted with bottom food that very little was done on that day—the best dish that I heard of being ten fish, taken with maggot somewhere down in the Harewood district. On Monday evening a gentleman killed a nice dish of trout near Pool, with minnow; but fly has not been of much use, owing to the evenings coming in cold and misty. To-day (Wednesday) the water is getting into capital order for fly, and if no more rain falls, I anticipate some good sport. The August brown should appear shortly, when it will kill a fair share of fish. The red ant, shining black silver horns, and snipe bloa are also good flies to depend on.—Francis M. Walbran.

Wye and Derwent.

We have had first-class bottom waters on the Derwent the whole of the week, and I am pleased to say that the groundbait fishers, one and all of them, as a rule, have done exceedingly well all up and down the Derwent, and baskets averaging from 6 to 15 brace per angler have been made. The killing baits have been wasp grubs, gentles, and small dew worms, the wasp grubs proving the best baits used; and some heavy trout and eels have been landed. Mr. Fred Reeves killed a most splendid well-fed trout of 3 lb. 11 oz., with worm, close to Matlock town; besides a 4 lb. eel last Friday. On the Derwent, we have had a very many large fish killed lately. Grayling have been nicely on the feed, and a good many ground fish have been killed, chiefly with maggots. Trolling with the artificial Derby trout-killer and the natural minnow on the Derwent, below Rowsley, has also been followed with fair success, and some handsome trout have been landed. The fly-fishers have done pretty well on the Derwent, both yesterday and to-day (Thursday). The fish have rose the best close to the sides, and the honey-dun bumble, dotteril, and sand flies have all killed a fair quantity of fish. Sport on the ponds has been A 1, both bottom and top. The night-line party are killing a good number of large eels on the Derwent. Quiet now.—George James Eaton, Starkholmes, Matlock Bath.

CLUB REPORTS.

ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several of our members were out on Sunday the 23rd inst., and met with indifferent sport. Brothers A. Shakel, bream 4 lb. $6\frac{3}{4}$ oz.; D. Davis, roach; H. Scott, bream; T. Bowling, bream. A peg-down match will take place on Sunday the 13th August at Amberley.—W. Davis.

BATTERSEA FRIENDLY.

The contest for three prizes presented by Sir Trevor Lawrence, M.P., took place at Weybridge on Sunday last, in the association waters. The takes were far above average, considering the best parts of the day (morning and evening) are unavoidably lost. The following were the successful competitors:—Mr. Ansty, first; Mr. H. W. Payne, second; Mr. Mumford, third; Mr. Martin also had some very pretty roach (nearly 1 lb. each.) The winner of the first prize secured a fine bream, opposite the White Hart, at the last moment, weighing $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., which brought him to the front.—H. W. Payne, President.

BERMONDSEY BROTHERS ANGLING CLUB.

Messrs. Gofney and Owles weighed-in bream at this club on Sunday last. All communications to be addressed to the secretary, A. G. Croker, 163, Southwark Park Road, S.E.

CROWN PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The members of this club were out in full force last Sunday, Mr. Willcockson heading the list with a very handsome show of rudd, several going three quarters of a pound. A pegged down match will take place at Cheshunt next Sunday, July 30, for two valuable prizes given by Messrs. F. Long and Saundy; and on the following Sunday, August 6, a roving match at Waltham for Mr Wright's prize.—W. H. Burwash, jun., sec.

July 26.

EDMONTON AND TOTTENHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday last Messrs. Stephens and Tracey had a nice show of roach: Mr. Collyer, a pretty perch of 1 lb. $4\frac{1}{4}$ oz.; and Mr. Sellwood a tench. Mr. Snooks gave two prizes to be fished for. Members are requested to attend on Wednesday next, that being quarterly night.—W. G. Gardnet, sec.

July 27.

GOOD INTENT ANGING SOCIETY.

There was a good show of fish brought up last Sunday, Mr. Maybury having a good show of roach, Mr. G. Huggett bream, and many others roach, dace, perch and chub. It is with extreme regret that I have to record the death, after a short illness, of our esteemed treasurer, Mr W. Roberts, aged 23 years. He was beloved by every member of our club for his kind and generous disposition towards every one he came in contact with, and also for the deep interest and zeal he always took in the prosperity of our society. We hope our loss will be his gain. He will be buried at Abney Park cemetery this day, Friday 28th inst.—R. Murphy.

July 28.

GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS.

The following members weighed fish on Monday, from Amberley: Messrs. Young, Walker, Burness, Kirk, Baker, Hutchings, Hewett, J. Fitch, J. R:

Fitch, Theobold, and Parkin, the latter having two fine roach, weighing respectively, 1 lb. 8½ oz. and 1 lb. 4½ oz. Mr. Watley, bream from Welsh Harp; Mr. W. Watling, roach from the Thames· It is with great sorrow I inform you of the death of Mr. W. Phillips, which took place on Tuesday night. The meeting already called for his benefit will be held, and the proceeds handed to the widow.—J. FITCH, sec.'

GREAT YARMOUTH PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The above Society had its weekly meeting on Monday, at the Club House, when the secretary, Mr. Lark, presented a good report of the past week's work. It was decided to fish for the first prize on Tuesday, the 1st day of August, on the Bure, W. Hewetson, Esq., of St. Helier's, Putney, being elected as chairman. The secretary called attention to the past year's report of the Bure Preservation Society, when it was proposed by A. Mitchell, Esq., M.D., and carried, that the Piscatorial Society should contribute to the Preservation Society, whereupon W. Hewetson, Esq., entered his name as a subscriber to the Society for £1 1s.; A. Mitchell, Esq., 10s. 6d.; Mr. Laurance, soda-water manufacturer, 5s., and that the secretary inform Mr. Harmer of the fact at once. It was also mentioned that a fine basket of fish had been sent to the secretary of the Brentford Society, as a specimen of what could be got at Yarmouth, or within a few miles. A vote of thanks to the president and chairman closed the proceedings.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The weekly meeting of this society was held, as usual, on Thursday evening, J. T. Long, Esq., in the chair. The secretary read the correspondence, including a letter from G. S. Page, Esq., thanking the society for the vote of condolence passed at their special meeting on Wednesday last, in reference to his recent illness; and a special resolution was afterwards passed to the Marquis of Exeter, thanking his lordship for the good wishes he had expressed on the same occasion for the success of the society's meeting to promote the introduction of black bass into English waters, a matter in which his lordship had long since taken great interest; some fish from his lordship's lake being then shown to the society. A discussion on the proposed new Thames byelaws followed, which it was strongly felt required considerable amendment, especially those clauses referring to netting, and the dangerous innovations giving power to so-called riparian owners, putting them practically in a position which the law would not at present recognise. The secretary mentioned that he had received a very nice note from the Yarmouth Piscatorial Society, and wished them every success, it being most desirable to establish an angling society in that neighbourhood. A general discussion afterwards followed, in which Captain Alfred, Mr. Jardine, Mr. Crumplen, and others took part, and the proceedings closed with a hearty vote of thanks to the chair.

HAMMERSMITH UNITED.

On the 22nd Mr. Geen headed our weights for the season with a take of twelve barbel, scaling 40 lb. 4 oz., in addition to some chub and roach. On Sunday a match was fished for four prizes, presented by various members. A good muster went out, and, with the exception of two, were content to trust their fortunes to Old Father Thames. The following is the result:—1st Mr. H. G. Penney, 7 lb. 7 oz.; 2nd, Mr. Pitts, 5 lb. 13 oz.; 3rd, Mr. Steadman, with a splendid bream, weighing 4 lb. 5½ oz., taken at Hampton; 4th, Mr. Miller, with chub, roach, &c. The following gentlemen also had fish:—Messrs. Peachey, Hitchcock, Elms, Lewis, and Reynolds. The two last named vieited the Mole.—VORTEX.

HEARTS OF OAK ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had nice trays of fish this evening, amongst others being Mr. B. Cox, 11 lb. roach; Mr. R. Ford, 5½ lb. bream and 4¾ lb. roach; Mr. A. Fish, 4 lb. roach.—C. F. MILLIE, sec.

July 23.

HIGHBURY ANGLING SOCIETY.

There was an excellent show of fish at this society on the 23rd inst., the most prominent captors being Messrs. Anthony, Thomas, Howell and Ballard, the three former having between 30 and 40 lb. of nice bream.—J. E. WHEATLEY, sec.

IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several members were out on Sunday last, only one had a take of any note, that was Mr. T. Dennison, sen., who had some beautiful dace. On Wednesday, the 26th inst., we had a good display, Mr. G. Bliss had a tray of very handsome roach. Mr. G. Rolt also had roach. Mr. T. Dennison, sen., roach and dace. Mr. T. Dennison, jun., roach and dace. The two special prizes given by Messrs. A. Salmon and J. Wiltshire will be fished for on Wednesday, August 9, the usual conditions.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

Many of our members went out on Sunday and returned home with some very nice fish, which quite decorated our table. Messrs. Scott and Keene weighed-in roach, tench, perch, chub, and rudd; Messrs Letch and Hopton, bream, jack, and perch; Mr. Barr, bream; Mr. Castle, jack and roach; Mr. Petrie, perch and roach, and H. Moore, perch. We wish to remind all friends of our vocal and instrumental concert on Monday next, for the benefit of Mr. Castle, to take place at the club house, Russell Arms, Bedford Street, Ampthill Square, N.W.—H. MOORE, sec.

ORIGINAL ALEXANDRA SOCIETY OF ANGLERS.

Mr. Thorn had a fine show of bream; Mr. High had some fine bream; Mr. Brockett some bream and roach; Mr. Atkinson had roach; Mr. Morton some fine perch; Mr. Pearce perch.—E. DYMOND, sec.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The trays of the above society were well adorned with a variety of fish on Sunday last. Mr. Laundy having a nice show of Bream from Amberley, one scaling 4¼ lb.; Mr. J. Drew, roach and dace from the Thames; Dr. Lavender bream from the Ouse; Mr. Obbard roach, perch, and dace from the Lea, one roach weighing over 1 lb; Mr. Crafford bream, and Mr. T. Longman bream, roach, and perch; both the latter from the Ouse. Members are particularly requested to attend on Monday next, at nine o'clock to transact important business.—THOS. WM. LUCY, sec.

QUEEN'S ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Pearce had a nice show of bream, 8 lb.; Mr. Walford some bream, Mr. Morgan some roach. Several other members had small shows of roach.—L. WALFORD, secretary.

SOUTH BELGRAVIA ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had an excellent show on Sunday, all the trays being well stocked. The following gentlemen weighed-in:—Mr. Mandry, bream, roach, jack, and perch; Mr. Collins, bream and roach; Mr. Fulton, barbel and perch; Mr. Smith, jun., roach; Mr. Eccarius, roach and bream; and Mr. Usher, bream and roach.—HARRY LEES.

July 27.

SOUTH LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 20th, Messrs. Boorman and Graning weighed in over 35 lb. roach and bream from the Mole. Messrs. Head and Brenrod about 6 lb. roach, from Amberley. On Sunday, Mr. Graning 6 lb. roach; Mr. Boorman, 7 lb. roach. On the 25th, Mr. Goodey, from Chertsey, some nice roach, and to-day, Mr, Bate some nice chub and roach, from Richmond.—G. H. FIELD.

July 27.

STANLEY ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

I regret I have not a more satisfactory report to send you as the result of our piscatorial researches. Since last week's notice our worthy president, Mr. C. P. Wheatstone, had a nice show of jack, perch, roach, and chub, making a total weight of 24½ lb., including a roach of 1 lb. 5 oz. Mr. Pistrucci has been amongst the roach, and Mr. W. R. Humby chub and roach. Mr. Walker secured a splendid chub, weight, when landed, 5 lb. 8 oz., and the fish when returned from the skilful hands of Sanders will doubtless make another valuable and handsome adornment to the club room.

STOKE NEWINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had some very good shows of fish last week. Mr. E. Tomkins, our host, having a nice tray of dace, and our old friend, J. Wakett, about 8½ lb. of roach. Messrs. Read, Pring, Martin and C. F. Robinson also exhibited bream, roach and dace. The second annual dinner will take place on August 13, at the Pied Bull, St. Margarets, Herts. Tickets to be had at the club house, or of the secretary, not later than the 9th inst. Quarterly night, Aug. 2.—T. GRETTON, sec.

July 24.

TRAFALGAR ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above were well among the bream on Sunday the 23rd. Mr. Humphries, seven fish weighing 8 lbs. 4 oz.; Mr. Lord, 3 lbs.; Mr. Morris, 2 lb. 9 oz.; the above from Amberley. R. Gaze, two bream 7 lbs.; Mr. Richardson, one ditto 3 lb. 10½ oz. from Mr. Lake's New Ham Fishery. Mr. Wilson, 3 lbs. 4½ oz.; Messrs. Goldstine, Williams, Dewen, and Ally Sloper roach and bream from the Mole. Owing to the train being delayed on the South Western Railway on Sunday the 16th, some of our members did not arrive in London till past 12 o'clock, therefore could not weigh their fish in the club.—J. GAZE, secretary.

TESTIMONIAL TO MR. GREVILLE FENNELL.

LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	£	s.	d.
Proprietors of the *Field* ..	20	0	0
Mr. Thomas Spreckley (treasurer)	10	10	0
Mr. J. Paul, M.D. ..	5	5	0
Mr. P. Hood, M.D. ..	5	5	0
Mr. W. C. Jay	5	5	0
Sir H. W. Peek, Bart., M.P.	3	3	0
Mr. Samuel Pope, Q.C. ..	3	3	0
Mr. H. W. Davis	3	3	0
Mrs. H. W. Davis	2	2	0
Mr. P. Geen	2	2	0
W. E. (London)	2	2	0
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Mr. J. Beningfield	1	1	0
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Mr. A. Nuthall	1	1	0
Mr. Alfred Jardine ..	1	1	0
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Mr. A. H. Bossy	1	1	0
Mr. W. H. Brougham ..	1	1	0
Mr. T. R. Sachs	1	1	0
Mr. J. While	1	1	0
Mr. E. Frost	1	1	0
Mr. F. C. Clench	1	1	0
Mr. A. J. Little	1	1	0
Mr. R. Lloyd	1	0	0
M. R. B. Pownall	0	10	6
Mr. W. C. Virgo	0	10	6
M. G. Yarde	0	10	6
Mr. F. Coulson	0	10	6
Mr. W. A. Crump ..	0	10	6
Mr. L. Bonvoisin	0	10	6
Portsmouth Waltonian Angling Society	0	10	6
Mr. W. Lock	0	10	0
Mr. R. Howse	0	10	0
Mr. W. Wakefield ..	0	5	0

Advertisements inserted FREE by the Proprietors of the *Field, Land and Water* and the FISHING GAZETTE.

Subscriptions are invited, and will be received by the Treasurer, Mr. Thomas Spreckley, 13, Cannon Street, E.C.; or by the Honorary Secretaries, Mr. W. H. Brougham, Swayfield Villa, Hounslow, and Mr. P. Geen, Lowther Lodge, Lonsdale Road, Barnes.

ABUSE OF RAILWAY PRIVILEGE TICKETS.

IN the interesting report of last meeting of the West Central Association, which appears in our columns this week, will be found some reference to the above. Anglers cannot be too careful in guarding these privileges, and all abuses of them should be shown up and punished without one atom of sentimental feeling in favour of culprits.

THAMES FISHERY CONVICTION.—Alfred Turner, of Surbiton, was fined in the sum of 10s., and 12s. costs, for snatching fish off the parade. The conviction was made by the County Bench, at Kingston, on Thursday last, and Mr. Alfred Nuthall and Mr. W. H. Brougham attended on behalf of the Thames Angling Preservation Society.

WEST CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF LONDON AND PROVINCIAL ANGLING SOCIETIES.

THE ordinary monthly meeting of this association was held on Friday last, the 21st instant. There was a good attendance, thirty-one societies being represented. On the chair being taken by Mr. Bonvoisin, the business of the evening was at once commenced. The minutes of the meeting, held on the 16th June, were confirmed as read, after which the hon. sec. proceeded to read the correspondence, this being, as usual, voluminous. The reading of one letter gave great satisfaction to all present, being the notification of acceptance of Messrs. Crumplen and Sachs as representatives of the angling fraternity of London, on the sub-committee of the International Fisheries Exhibition, 1883. The correspondence being disposed of, the next matter laid before the meeting were applications from R. Relf, river-keeper, and J. Rush, fisherman, for convictions obtained by them for illegal fishing, &c. The particulars of each case being to the entire satisfaction of all present, the sum of £1 1s. was unanimously voted to each applicant. Relf obtained the conviction of three lads, who were each fined 6s. 6d., or seven day's imprisonment. Rush obtained the conviction of a gentleman for fishing in the fence months. The defence set up was that defendant was trout fishing; but, as he was using cheese paste, the magistrates convicted, the defendant being fined £1 11s. 6d., and a like amount for costs, making together £3 3s.

The Critchfield Angling Society was, on the proposition of Mr. Crumplen, seconded by Mr. Field, enrolled with the association. With such sponsors as these two gentlemen, the members of the Critchfield may be relied on to uphold the prestige of the West Central Association.

The hon. sec. then proceeded to introduce Mr. Pottle to the meeting, stating that that gentleman had addressed a letter to him on the subject of obtaining the privilege of fishing in the waters of the various parks in the metropolis, and he had invited him to attend the meeting to lay the matter before the association in person. Mr. Pottle, who was cordially received, in a carefully prepared speech proceeded to state broadly what was possible to be done in obtaining the privilege of fishing in the lakes in the various parks. He was certain, from careful observations which he had made, that these waters were teeming with fine fish, and that if the West Central Association saw a way of dealing with the matter, and succeeding in obtaining the sanction of the authorities to fish these waters, they would thereby earn the thanks and gratitude of the more humble brethren of the rod, and enable them to follow their sport with more success in the future than in the past. The vice-chairman (Mr. Beckett) followed, and was, as usual, listened to with great attention. He warned the Association against asking too much at one time, of the powers that be, and suggested that they should only ask for permission to fish during certain hours of the day, and also as to regulating the practice of ground-baiting. Mr. Murphy suggested that a deputation be formed to wait on the Parks' Commissioners, and ask leave to net the lakes, and place the fish so obtained in the metropolitan waters, at present open to anglers. After some remarks from the hon. sec., it was proposed by Mr. Adean, seconded by Mr. Starr, "That the matter be referred to the United London Angling Association Fishery Society, for them to take such steps in the matter as were thought necessary to carry out the suggestion."

Mr. Adean (Kingfisher Angling Society), taking advantage of an interval in the routine business, brought before the notice of the association, the capture, at West Drayton, of a net 30 yards long, by three members of his club, they being assisted by a native of the place. The matter was brought before the meeting with a view that some slight remuneration might be granted to the last named, as he was in a great measure instrumental in the capture of the net, and was subjected to a great deal of trouble and annoyance in consequence of his rendering such assistance. The matter was referred to the committee for investigation, and no doubt, if found satisfactory, a small sum will be voted, in recognition of the services rendered.

The remaining, and by far the most important, business of the evening was next brought forward. It was a reported case of abuse of the privileges granted by the London and South Western Railway. It appears a ticket (No. 1453) was presented at the booking office at the main line, Waterloo, on Monday, the 3rd inst., about five p.m., and a ticket for Walton was issued by the booking clerk. Immediately after the same privilege ticket was again presented, and another ticket for Walton asked for; this was not, however, issued, the booking clerk very properly detaining the privilege ticket. On the railway authorities informing the association, a special meeting was held, on the 14th instant, to investigate the case. The holder of the privilege ticket not being present, owing to his professional engagements, the matter was adjourned for his attendance. That gentleman being in attendance, he, in answer to interrogations, stated that on Sunday, the 2nd instant, he went to Shepperton, and must have lost his ticket. He did not know of his loss until communicated with relative to the fraudulent use made on the 3rd instant. As, however, the hon. sec. was making inquiries in the matter, and intimated that for several reasons it would not be prudent to state what was being done, the matter was further adjourned to the Committee of Investigation.

Cases of this description are subject to the most searching inquiry, as indeed they deserve to be, affecting as they do all anglers, as the railway will not continue the concessions made by them to the associations, if they are abused in any manner.

The hour being somewhat late the chairman claimed the attention of the meeting on a question of grave importance to London anglers. He referred to the proposed new bye-laws of the Thames Conservancy. He had at the last moment been asked by the president of the association (Mr. Geen) to bring this matter before the meeting. Not being furnished with any data he could not however place the matter fully before the meeting, but stated that the utmost despatch was necessary. After some little discussion taking place, the matter was left in Mr. Geen's hands, with the satisfaction of knowing that the interests of anglers would be zealously looked after by that gentleman. Mr. Ghurney intimated that a meeting was to be held on the 25th inst. on the subject.

A hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Pottle for his attendance and the trouble he had taken in bringing the waters of the London parks before the notice of the association, and one to the chairman for his able presidency, brought a busy evening to a close.

The following societies were represented on the calling of the roll:—Acton and Ealing, Bostonian, Battersea Friendly, City of London, Cambridge Friendly, Cobden, Critchfield, Duke of Norfolk, Duke of Cornwall, Golden Barbel, Good Intent, Gresham, Hammersmith Club, Hammersmith United, Hampstead, Knights of Knightsbridge, Kings Cross United, Norfolk, North Western, Prince of Wales, Piscatorial, Portsmouth Waltonians, Peckham Brothers, Queens, Savoy Brothers, South London, Sussex, St. John's Wood Piscatorials, Trafalgar, Waltonians, Westbourne Park Piscatorials, and Messrs. Ghurney and Chambers, representing the East Central Committee.

26th July, 1882. GABRIEL TREADWELL.

OXFORD THAMES ANGLING PROTECTION ASSOCIATION.

A MEETING of this Association was held in the Council Chamber on Tuesday the 18th, under the presidency of Ald. Galpin. There was a good attendance, and amongst those present were Messrs. J. Embling, T. W. Mallam, F. R. Hall (vice-president), W. J. Mayo (hon. sec.), Allen, Wyatt, E. S. Sheard, Innes, Clifford, Kelson, Hammond, Merckel, Cooper, Corbett, Heavens, Fell, Simmonds, Burrows, Barton, Ball, Riddington, &c., &c.

The Chairman said they had held a meeting, and it was determined to form the Thames Angling Protection Society. Since that time no less than seventy gentlemen residing in the locality had signified their willingness to belong to the Association. At the previous meeting he had the honour of being appointed president. He was always glad to do what he could for the innocent enjoyment and recreation of the people, and this was not only for them but for all classes of the people, and therefore he the more readily accepted the post. A vice-president was appointed in the person of Mr. Ryman Hall, and he was sure he would fulfil the duties with zeal and efficiency. Mr. Mayo had undertaken the more onerous duties of secretary, and he would continue, as he had done up to the present to his knowledge, to be indefatigable in his exertions to promote the interests of the Society. A committee had also been appointed, and it was thought at this stage of the business a public meeting should be called, and the result was now before them. The objects they had in view, as he took it, were not to interfere with existing rights; those who had rights, so long as they could be substantiated, they did not propose to interfere with, unless they could by negotiation obtain the enjoyment of fishing. But, on the other hand, they intended to protest most strongly against people assuming rights that did not belong to them. He must say he was strongly impressed that was going on at the present time to a considerable extent in the Thames. Now the Thames was a navigable river, and while there might exist a doubt as to the right of going on people's land to fish, or fishing from the towing path, it seemed to him that fishing in the Thames proper from a boat was a public right, and they as part of the public ought to do all they could to protect that right, and prevent anyone taking it from the public. He was not going to mention names, as he thought it would be wrong at a public meeting, but he had seen landowers along the Thames advertising fishing in the Thames, because their land abutted on the river. He had seen two or three cases tried where that claim had been most successfully resisted, and he could not but think that it could be resisted with an equal amount of success in this district if they only put their shoulders to the wheel and tried it. He might say they did not intend to take water for the purpose of fishing, or to issue tickets for angling. The object of this Association was pure and simple to protect the rights of public waters, It must not be thought for a moment that they were striving to act adversely to the interests of the angling society recently established in Oxford. The object that society had in view was by taking water to provide the means of encouraging angling in a legitimate and proper form. They might find it necessary to act in conjunction with other societies of a similar character along the Thames, but that could be considered hereafter. He thought they should take care to do so, inasmuch as they would secure their assistance, and also secure the benefit of their experience in the past.

Mr. Mallam, with the view of laying before the association the points they had to consider, read an article from *The Justice of the Peace* bearing upon the subject.

Mr. J. Embling said they doubted whether they were treated legally as far as the Thames was concerned. He fished it as a boy more than half a century ago, and he was never stopped in any way, and his sons fished it until two years ago without question. The landowners on the one side were determined to protect their rights, and where they (the public) to surrender their rights and privileges that they had enjoyed. He thought they ought not to yield in a moment, and he believed it was the intention of the society to test the matter, and in doing so he thought if they associated themselves with other bodies along the river they would get half England to support them.

A short discussion followed, and several gentlemen joined the society. The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to Ald. Galpin for presiding.

PRESERVATION OF THE UPPER WENSUM.

We are glad to state that a public meeting was held in the Corn Hall, Fakenham, on July 20, to consider the desirability of forming an angling association, and for preserving the river Wensum. A considerable number of gentlemen and tradesmen attended. Sir W. Jones, Bart., presided, and in a few well chosen observations recommended the movement, remarking that Captain Hamond, R.N., had kindly interested himself in the matter, and had written to several gentlemen thereon. Lord Leicester, Lord Hastings, and Edward Birkbeck, Esq., M.P., had replied most favourably, and their letters were read to the meeting by the Chairman, who also produced a letter from I. Howard Taylor, Esq., containing valuable suggestions to encouragement. Mr. Taylor regretted his inability to accept Sir Willoughby's invitation to be present, expressed himself very warmly upon the subject, and enclosed a copy of the rules of the Yare Preservation and Angling Society, Mr. C. Horsley, jun., acted as secretary *pro tem.*

After a lengthened deliberation, in which several gentlemen took part, and which served to show that the waters of the Upper Wensum are particularly favourable to the breeding of trout and other first-class fish, it was proposed by Captain Hamond, seconded by A. Digby, Esq., and carried, "That it is desirable to form a fishing association at Fakenham, to acquire the right of fishing in the Wensum and other waters, to be called "The River Wensum Preservation Society.'" Mr. Digby spoke in high terms of the capabilities of the river. He knew something of the other rivers of Norfolk, but none of them were more favourable than the river Wensum for the production of good fish under proper management. The fish, however, had been badly used by netting, poaching, &c., and it would take the soctety three or four years to secure success. He would move "That a committtee of management be appointed to carry on the affairs of the society."

Mr. W. B. Cowles said that he had fished in this river thirty years, and always found trout, and he was informed that one weighing 4 lb. was caught on the common part of the river by fair angling a day or two ago. He believed he now knew where there was one weighing 5 lb. He had had as good sport on this river as he had enjoyed on some of the Irish rivers and in other countries. He would, therefore, with pleasure, second Mr. Digby)s motion.

This was carried unanimously.

The Rev. R. Rackham said that in the neighbourhood of Bintry his rights were frequently infringed by persons who began to net the river on the Saturday night and continued doing so until early on the Sunday morning, and he was glad that such a society as this was about to be formed. He had himself caught very fine fish in the river, and all that was required was proper preservation. He should be very glad to support the society in any way he could. He concluded by moving "That a general meeting of the members of the association be held in the Corn Hall, at noon, on the 16th of August, to receive the report of the committee, and arrange for carrying out the same."

This was seconded by Mr. E. W. Southwood, and carried.

Mr, Charlton, in a few appropriate remarks proposed "That the thanks of the meeting be given to Sir Willoughby for presiding on this occasion, for the interest he has manifested in the movement, and for the kind offer of the use of his manor waters for the association."

Captain Hamond seconded, and the resolution was carried unanimously.

Sir Willoughby Jones, in acknowledging, said it gave him great pleasure to be present at so representative and unanimous a meeting as the present. He would cheerfully do all he could to support the movement, and though he was by no means an experienced angler, he did not know but what he should, in his old days, take the pleasure of fishing for some of those splendid four and five-pound trout that had been referred to. He always had felt pleasure in doing what he could for Fakenham, and he should continue to do so.

Mr. M. W. Hodgett offered some valuable hints as to the desirability of enacting a graduate scale of charges of membership, so that all classes may alike reap the pleasure and benefit of legal fishing, and Mr. Horsley replied that he believed there was a general wish to admit the humblest persons as members by charging the lowest possible rate that would cover the necessary expenses. Preservation, not exclusion, will, therefore be the motto of the association, and it is to be hoped that netting, poaching, and unfair treatment of these native finny tribes will speedily become a thing of the past.

The following gentlemen were appointed a committee of management, viz., Captain Hamond, R.N., Mr. W. B. Cowles, Mr. C. Horsley, jun., A. Digby, Esq., Charles Hamond, Esq., Revs. R. Rackham, and E. W. Duwell, Messrs. E. W. Southwood, M. W. Hodgett, T. Charlton, F. Atkinson, W. Tuthill, and G. Tillson.

A FISHING EXCURSION IN EWCROSS.

It has often been to me a source of no small amount of surprise why Yorkshire anglers do not patronise that part of their country known as the Wapentake of Ewcross, as they ought to do.

I often go into the dales of Ewcross when following my piscatorial pastime, and I can assure any of my readers who may be fond of the "gentle art" they will travel many days before they find a better district for sport. Fish are plentiful in all the streams, and in the larger ones are of good size.

The particular part to which I would have my readers transport themselves is to the foot of that "monarch of hills," yclept Ingleboro'; and I purpose to give them an account of one day's sport whilst visiting in that locality. I chose the small town of Ingleton as the centre from which to work. Ingleton stands at the junction of two mountain streams, tributaries of that queen of streams, the Lune. Having permission to angle in a stretch of water down the river from the town, I started early one morning, the water being in fine trim for the fly. Rain threatening, I put a supply of worms into my bag before starting. Down the whole length of my liberties I only landed three fish. I thought this was exceedingly bad, considering I had fished nearly a mile of water. However, on reaching the extremity of my liberties, rain began to fall, so I made for a disused lime-kiln, in which to shelter, and judge my surprise on entering to see an old friend of the angle sitting quite comfortably on a large stone, enjoying his pipe. After the usual salutations we found on comparing notes that we were about equal with respect to luck. "It's the rain, man," said my friend, "we're ga'an to hev it reet." After a few minutes' chat, my friend says, in the peculiar dialect of the district: "A'll tell yo' what a think, I kna a spot where we can hev some reet sport, if it'll nobbut rain reet." "Well," said I, "I think it will do that. "Well, then, come on," said my companion. "We'll fish this runner up to't 'Church Style' (a public-house, by the way), where we'll hev a glass for 'Auld Lang Syne,' and a drop in a bottle, for we'll need it afore we get to 't far end; it's a dree road to't Buck Becks." Off we started, and before we got to the "Church Style," I had increased my catch to seven. After some bread, cheese, and beer, and getting something into a bottle, off we started on our journey. The rain now came down in torrents, just as it does sometimes at Keswick, where Bobby Banks says, "When it does rain, it rains reet, and yo' mun' do as we do—let it come." We shall just manage to get there in time to catch the becks coming," said my friend, breaking the silence for the first time since we left "Church Style." The road was a regular "constitutional," and I was not sorry when we reached the far end, just before the flood came. I had just "tackled up" when my friend calls out "Look out, here it is;" ano sure enough, on looking up, I saw the water coming down a yard at a burst, and what before was a small mountain stream, was quickly turned into a raging torrent, sweeping all before it in its fury. I cannot find words to describe to you the terrific grandeur of the spectacle. After the rush of water was over, we commenced operations, and it was hardly possible to drop into any likely spot without getting, a bite or a fish. We plied our rods with great gusto for over an hour and I succeeded in landing thirty-five fish, mostly about "quarters," and my companion thirty-nine of the same description. The "fresh" having gone, we started homeward, and on coming along the road we crossed a moor, and fished a beck which runs into a cave. We passed and tried several other becks, with more or less success, but as the "fresh" was gone and the water cleared we did not do so well. I was not sorry when I again saw Ingleton, I can tell you; I was properly tired. On counting up our catch we each had over fifty, varying from 3 oz. to ½ lb.

A LADY'S ANGLING ADVENTURE.

The family of Count Emanuel Andrassy, at present residing at Betler, amuse themselves ardently and very successfully with angling in the fine waters on the estate. The Countesses were recently fishing in the Sajo, near the mouth of the Szalova brook. The Countess Caroline, who had selected a place on the bank over a round, deep hole, suddenly felt such a violent tug at her line as betokened a heavy fish. After playing it until it was tired, the Countess wound up her line to land the fish, when, just as the latter was near the surface, the fair angler felt the strain increase considerably, and, leaning over the edge to see the cause, to her terror saw that an enormous otter had hold of her fish in its jaws. The Countess screamed, and this caused the otter to release its prey and make off. The fish could now be landed, and proved to be a splendid trout which weighed 6lb.—*Deutsche Fischerei Zeitung.*

"We are pleased to observe the well-known firm, Robinson and Cleaver, Belfast, have been appointed, by special warrant of the Imperial Chamberlain, Household Linen Furnishers to her Imperial Highness the Crown Princess of Germany, Princess Royal of Great Britain and Ireland. This special mark of favour is the result of the manner in which several orders from the Imperial household have been executed by Robinson and Cleaver (specially appointed to supply H.M. the Queen some years back), who are to be congratulated upon receiving such an additional recognition of the taste displayed in their designs, and of the excellence of the workmanship, for which they have been so long famous both in England and on the Continent."—*Belfast News Letter.*

Taking Undersized Fish in the River Lea.—A member of our society fishing at Broxbourne on Sunday the 18th inst., noticed four persons fishing at the Fish and Eels Weir, taking small perch, jack, &c., one man having in his possession 17 perch which would not weigh more than 1 lb. altogether, another having small jack about 6 inches in length. Surely this should be put a stop to, but where are the water bailiffs, to allow such a thing to be carried on.

Gregory's Spinning Baits. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[Advt.].

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

About the advisability of introducing black bass into our waters, opinion is undeniably divided—personally, I may say, I unhesitatingly give the proposed movement my hearty adhesion—but it is as well to hear both sides of every question, and among those who are of a different opinion some such arguments as the following are adduced: "The bass is a very hearty feeder indeed, grows rapidly, and to a great size; is admittedly a cannibal; is not only very prolific, but from its habit of watching its eggs, and guarding the young when hatched until they are able to take care of themselves by which an enormous percentage are saved which would otherwise infallibly be lost, as is the case with every other kind of British freshwater fish—it is self-evident that—particularly in waters of extremely limited area, as are our waters as compared with those of the American continent – the bass must, by the inevitable laws of multiplication soon outnumber all other fish; and next, by the equally inevitable law of the survival only of the fittest, proved by its rapid growth and prolificness and other favourable attributes above enumerated, utterly depopulate any water into which it has been introduced. Now, I have no doubt, all these statements, and others in the same vein which I heard made the other evening, only very much more forcibly put, could be very readily and satisfactorily answered; indeed, in one or two cases, they are touched upon in the capital article, "Black Bass in England," which appeared in last week's Fishing Gazette; but they nevertheless sound very feasible, and are of a kind likely to gain ground, particularly when taken in conjunction with a certain insular prejudice against the introduction of anything foreign. Though, as I stated, I cordially approve of making the experiment of introducing black bass into certain of our waters, yet I cannot agree with the remark recently publicly made, that by clearing a water of all other kinds of coarse fish they would, from an angler's point of view, be proving themselves the superior fish, thereby justifying an experiment leading to such results. The following up of such a proposition to its logical conclusion, would justify the deliberate introduction of jack and perch into well-stocked trout preserves.

A No. 1 District West Central Association district visit will be paid the Norfolk Angling Society, Norfolk Arms, Burwood Place, Edgware Road, on Monday evening next, 31st July, and as the notices have all been out some time, and publicity otherwise given to this gathering, a strong muster is confidently anticipated. The tench are not really moving at Elstree, and several friends who have tried after them have failed to score. I am glad to hear, upon the best authority, that the Upper Thames River Preservation Societies are keenly alive to the fatal blow angling interests would receive if the new Thames Conservancy bye-laws were allowed to pass. I hope the opposition they are organising will receive such support, not merely from the London anglers' clubs and associations, but from the thousands living along the whole Thames valley, as will not only carry this point, but clearly show the Conservators what the British public, whether anglers or no, think of this and similar attempts at curtailing undoubted rights of the many for the purpose of increasing the already far too numerous, and in almost every case, more than doubtful privileges of the favoured few; whether brother conservators or personal friends, etc., matters not. A few good takes of roach have been had from the neighbourhood of Pangbourne, but have been kept very quiet indeed.

Haslett writes:—"I was out three days last week, 3 bream, 5 chub, 3 perch, 2 dozen roach and dace. Out yesterday (Tuesday) afternoon, 4 dozen gudgeon, 5 perch; perch put back. Soon as I wake the barbel up will let you know."

[The *natural* food of the black bass consists of water insects, shrimps, and various other crustacea and creepers, larvæ, &c. The bass will not attack other fish if it gets plenty of natural food. We shall refer to this point again.—Ed.]

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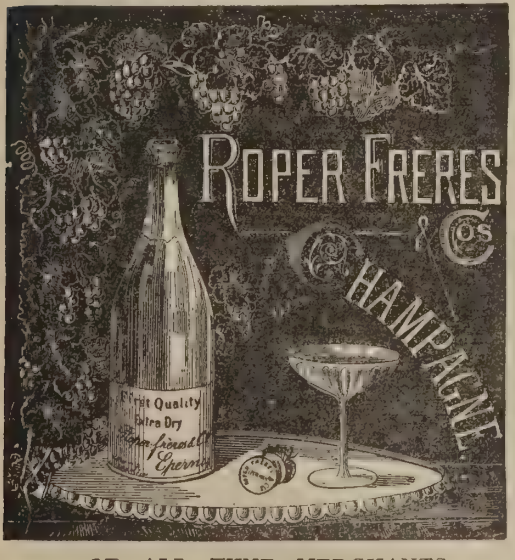

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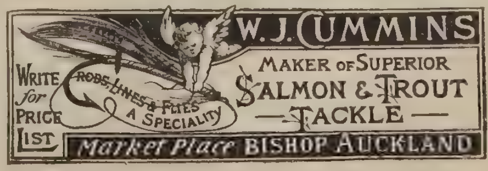

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Tickets will be issued at the following rates by G. J. Robinson, Esq., Roundstone, via Galway. Tickets for the whole season £50, tickets for the lunar month, £8; ticket for the week, £2 10s.; ticket for the day, 10s. Tickets are to be paid for when taken out, and are not transferable. The price of a ticket includes the use of a boat, but not the wages of boatmen, which are not to exceed 2s. per day each.

Applications for tickets will be treated according to priority, but a preference will be to applicants for "season tickets." Boats for angling and stands on the river will be allotted by the head keeper, and no angler will be permitted to use a boat or fish a stand that has not been so allotted. Superior accommodation can be had on application to Mr. T. MULLARKEY, at Glendalough Hotel, Recess, Galway. Anglers are requested to take out their licences in the Ballynahinch district, as by doing so they increase the fund for the preservation of the district.

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Craven Herald

(published at Skipton-in-Craven),

which has the most extensive circulation in the neighbourhood of these rivers.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 1882.

THE PROPAGATION OF COARSE FISH.

(Paper read at the Society of Arts Room, Adelphi, June 26th, by Mr. R. B. MARSTON. Mr. Edward Birkbeck, M.P., in the chair.)

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—The title of the paper which I have prepared to read to you this evening, the Propagation of our Coarse Fish, is one covering a very wide and important subject.

Ever since I have been in any way interested in angling, and more especially during the last few years as Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, the most important angling question which has ever come before me has been—"Where can I go to get some good fishing?" This is a question which I am quite sure has over and over again occurred to each one of you. Now this is a very simple question to ask, but I put it to you whether it is such a very simple one to answer?

Every angler knows that good fishing anywhere in the neighbourhood of our large towns is a most difficult thing to get. I have no doubt many of you have often been amused by reading in the sporting journals such queries as this—"Dear Mr. Editor, can you, or any of the readers of your valuable journal, inform we where I can get some good perch and roach fishing within twenty miles of London. I want a nice quiet place, not disturbed by boats and steam launches, and not frequented by London anglers, who seem to monopolise all the swims I have tried near town. I should prefer some spot near a good inn, and not far from a railway station.—Yours, etc., Timothy Flatfish. P.S—I want big fish." I get a great number of such inquiries as these, and I insert one now and then, just to see if any such place exists, and if any large-souled piscator will be generous enough to tell all the world about it! Only the other day we read a tantalising account of a splendid take of trout by Mr. Alfred Jardine, which occurred, we were generously informed, somewhere "to the west of Salisbury,"

This wise reluctance on the part of anglers to let everyone know where they get their fish arises from the fact that, however good a water may be, directly it becomes generally known, its fate is sealed—in a very short time it will be fished out, so immense is the army of anglers and so limited is their field of operations.

But I need not impress upon you the fact that good fishing is most difficult to get, and is becoming more difficult to obtain every year. You are all aware of this, and your presence here this this evening is a sufficient proof of it. Of course, you will understand I am referring more especially to public waters, and to those private fisheries which are open to the angler on payment of a small fee. If you ask any old Thames or Lea angler if the fishing has improved or declined since he first knew it, he will most certainly tell you that twenty years ago he could catch ten times as many fish as he can at present, and that blank days were then the exception rather than the rule.

If we go back to days which some here may remember, we find, according to the angling writers of fifty years ago that fish were very plentiful. Here is an extract from Salter's "Angler's Guide" published in 1825. He says:—"Shepperton deeps are well stored with fish, full of heavy barbel, chub, roach, and dace; there is also good bank fishing below for perch, roach, dace and chub," and he speaks in equally high terms of nearly all the fishing stations from Staines to Blackfriars Bridge on the Thames, and from Ware to West Ham on the Lea. It is amusing to read that, "At Stratford Bromley, and West Ham, a great many good roach, dace, flounders, etc., are taken, but it is very unpleasant fishing, the tide leaves the banks extremely dirty and slippery: and the angler is continually annoyed by the many passengers asking as to 'What sport?' 'Do the fish bite?' and other rude interrogations." I think you will agree with me, gentlemen, that the manners of the non-angling public have not improved since Salter's day, and that, if he were to fish from the Thames or Lea towing paths to-day, the "rude interrogations" addressed to him, would, in comparison with the above, be rude indeed!

Before going into the special question which has called us here this evening, I should like, with your permission, to say a few words on the subject of fish-culture generally. If there is one thing more certain than another it is that, as regards fish-culture, we English, who usually lead the way, are very much behind some other nations of the world. This is not flattering to our insular pride, but all the same it is a fact, and one which the sooner we look in the face and acknowledge, the sooner shall we be able to alter it.

Two years ago there was held in Berlin an International Fisheries Exhibition, which was a grand success, almost every nation under the sun sent exhibits. Now the only class of exhibit in which England can be said to have excelled was that of appliances for angling; but as regards fish culture, fish breeding apparatus of all kinds, fish passes, and fish transports,—England was far behind the Continent and America. The fact was patent to all impartial observers. Now, I do not for one moment forget the great and praiseworthy efforts in the way of salmon and trout breeding which have for many years past been carried on by private enterprise in England and Scotland. I do not forget that many streams in Tasmania and New Zealand are now well stocked with splendid trout sent out in the egg state by English pioneers in fish-culture. All honour is due to such men as the late Mr. Frank Buckland, the late Mr. Ponder, Mr. Francis Francis, Mr. Youl, the Marquis of Exeter, Mr. Charles Capel, Mr. Oldham Chambers, Mr. Andrews, Mr. Littlewood and others, who have done so much, and who are doing so much, for the increase of salmon and trout.

But these bright exceptions of private enterprise only prove more strongly the fact that we can point to no such general interest in fish-culture as is found among the Germans and Americans, and even in our own foreign dominions. I feel certain that our great International Fisheries Exhibition next year—an exhibition which we owe principally to the exertions of our worthy chairman—will give an immense impetus to fish-culture in this country. Let us for a moment look abroad and see what is being done. In 1873 there was not a single fish-breeding establishment in Canada; since that date no less than *nine* extensive Government fish-breeding establishments have sprung up, and in one year alone (1879) the young fry planted in the waters of Canada numbered over twenty-one and a half millions, and the eggs laid down in the autumn of the same year numbered over twenty-eight millions, thus showing the successful manipulation, at the Canadian Government fish-breeding establishments of a grand total of nearly fifty millions of young fish and fish eggs of the salmon family during the year 1879. Well, indeed, may Mr. Samuel Wilmot, superintendent of fish-culture for Canada, be proud of such results, for it is to his initiative and enterprise that they are due. I trust, gentlemen, the day is not far distant when a superintendent of fish-culture in Great Britain can report that fifty millions of eggs and fry are being annually placed in our rivers. Then we shall get salmon at a price within the reach of all.

Let us turn to the United States, and I have the pleasure to inform you, gentlemen, that we have present here to-night Mr. George Shepard Page, the President of the American Fish Cultural Association, and representative in Europe of the United States Fish Commission, and I trust, before we separate, he will address us. I am sure he will bear me out when I say that in the United States fish-culture has become a national institution; the United States Government gives hearty support to it, appropriates large sums annually for the express purpose of breeding fish and stocking rivers, not only does the Government do this but the whole nation supports fish culture, and is proud of such men as Professor Baird, Messrs. Livingstone Stone, Seth Green, Page, Mather, Gill, and many other hard-working scientific and practical enthusiasts. It would require far more time than I can ask you to give me to describe a tithe of the good which has in a very few years been accomplished by the United States Fisheries Commissioners, they have distributed to many hundreds of rivers over many thousand miles of North America, millions upon millions of young fish and eggs. I will mention only two examples of the good that has been effected. A few years ago many of the rivers on the United States Atlantic sea-board had been depopulated of salmon—not a fish was to be seen in what formerly were prolific salmon streams. The Commission set to work to remedy this, and in 1878 in the Connecticut River alone no less than five hundred salmon, ranging in weight from ten to twenty pounds, were captured in the shad nets at the mouth of the river, and were sold in New York market at from 3s. to 4s. per pound. If the fishermen had used proper salmon nets the catch would have been very much larger. A similar good result was effected in the Delaware, the Merrimac, and the Susquehanna Rivers. The second example is the stocking of the Hudson with shad—this fish is superior to our European shad; in fact, it ranks almost before the salmon, in America, as a food-fish. Well, the Hudson River fisheries had got into such a poor state that it no longer paid men to work them—the fish were almost extinct; through the exertions of Mr. Seth Green the Hudson has been re-stocked, and over a thousand shad have been taken at one haul of the net. Such a result speaks for itself.

Having thus glanced briefly at what has been done, and is being done, in the higher and more difficult branches of pisciculture, in order to show you what grand results may be achieved by perseverance and well-directed effort, I will now give you a few facts which ought, I think, to remove all doubt as to the possibility of the successful propagation of our commoner kinds of freshwater fish, which go under the general name of *coarse* fish. (It is a great pity we cannot find some better and fairer general name for these fish which give us so much sport than this word "*coarse.*") The carp is one of our so-called coarse fish, a few years ago there was not a single European carp in America. In the year 1877 Mr. Rudolph Hessell, acting for the United States Fish Commission, obtained 227 leather and mirror carp, and 118 scale carp from Germany, conveyed them safely over four thousand miles of land and sea and deposited them in the ponds of the Maryland State Hatching House at Baltimore. Subsequently Government voted a sum of money for the purpose of establishing the Government carp pond at Washington. You see the Americans do not think coarse-fish propagation beneath their notice; and from this pond fish for breeding purposes have been distributed all over the United States, and now there are millions of carp in America. Is not that sufficient encouragement to those who think of re-stocking our English rivers—nearly all our coarse fish belong to the carp family.

It may not be known to some here present, that our common English carp is what is known as the scale of the carp on the Continent, and is not nearly so good a food-fish as their leather and mirror carps, which are scaleless, or almost scaleless, varieties produced by judicious cultivation of the scale carp. We must get these superior kinds introduced into our waters and I would respectfully suggest to our chairman, Mr. Birkbeck—who is, I believe, president of the Norfolk and Suffolk Fish Acclimatisation Society, that that society—instead of introducing the pike, perch, and wels, as has been proposed, should introduce the German mirror-carp, and the American black bass; they would prove infinitely more valuable additions to our waters. With regard to the black bass, you know I have strongly advocated its introduction for some years past. Mr. Wm. Senior, who I am delighted to see here this this evening, has also advocated it. As a food-fish and as a sport-fish, it is considered by the Americans fully equal to the salmon and superior to the trout. It will thrive in any water and take any bait, from the artificial fly to the lowly gentle. We all know with what contempt many of our aristocratic trout and salmon anglers look upon other freshwater fish. Now I firmly believe, gentlemen, that the black bass would place coarse-fish anglers on a par with their wealthier brethren as regards sporting qualities of their game. But Mr. Geo. S. Page, who has recently safely brought over several pairs of this splendid fish, will, I hope, tell us something more about it presently; he is most anxious to introduce it to English anglers.

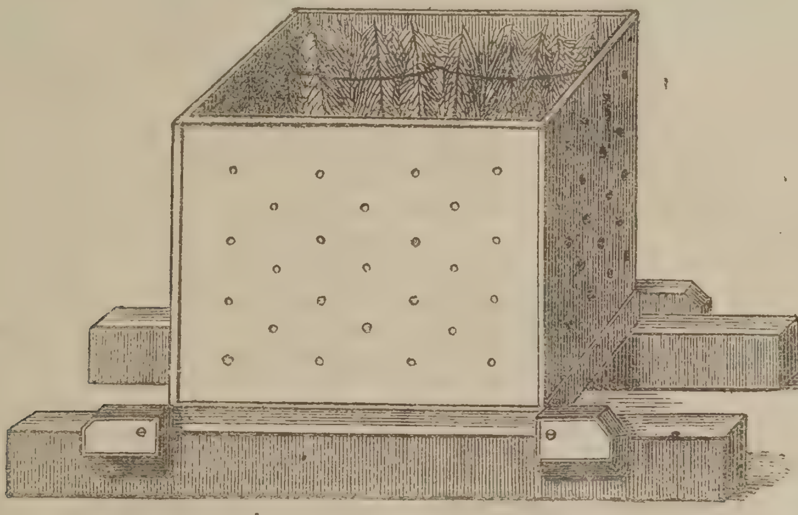
Coming now to the special subject before us this evening, I have for some time past been collecting all the information I could find bearing on the question of coarse-fish propagation. I need hardly tell you there is no English work describing this branch of pisciculture. We have never attempted anything of the kind in this country, and I have had to obtain my information from Sweden and Germany. I must acknowledge the kind assistance given me by Dr. Zenk, President of the Wurzburg Piscicultural Society. Dr. Zenk is a leading German pisciculturist—he was one of the jurors at the recent Edinburgh Exhibition; he called on me when he was in London and gave me some most valuable hints. Also I have specially to thank Mr. Rudolph Lundberg, superintendent of Inland Fisheries for Sweden. (I trust, before long, we shall have a superintendent of Inland Fisheries in this country to look after our coarse fish!) Also the editor of the German Fishing Gazette, who kindly inserted inquiries for me in his valuable journal, also to the official German Reports of the Berlin Exhibition, and to many German works on pisciculture. I mention these names because it is only right to do so, and that you may see I am not giving you merely my own theories of what we might do, but actual results of what has been done.

The conclusion I have come to after examining all the information I can get, is that we must not attempt to cultivate the summer-spawning or coarse fish in the way the winter-spawning salmonidæ are cultivated—that is, by means of troughs and trays and hand rearing—artificially in fact. We must not attempt it, because in the first place, it is far too expensive and uncertain, and because, as you will see presently, it is quite unnecessary, there being much simpler and more certain methods. In fact, it is the extreme simplicity of the thing which is its great recommendation. Anyone who has a piece of land with good water flowing through it can breed coarse-fish; and I am perfectly confident that if the matter is once practically taken up in this country, coarse-fish culture will become general wherever fish are wanted for sport or food.

The first method I shall describe to you involves only the use of what is known in Sweden as Lund's Hatching Box. At present its use is confined entirely to Sweden and it was invented in that country more than a hundred years ago by a Mr. Lund.

We have here a diagram of Lund's Hatching Box, which has been made by Mr. Hobden from a tracing sent me by Mr. Lundberg. Mr. Lund may, I think, be fairly considered the pioneer of coarse-fish culture, and I will now read you the letter in which the superintendent of Swedish Inland Fisheries describes Lund's apparatus to me. He says:—

"Replying to your letter on the 25th February, in which you request me to give you some particulars respecting Lund's hatching apparatus for the propagation of our summer-spawning fish, I herewith hasten to give you all the information I can. Lund's apparatus is remarkable on account of its being, for aught I know, the first attempt in Europe to promote the propagation of the above mentioned kind of fishes with human assistance. As you rightly suppose, the box is to be placed in shallow water near the bank, so that the water does not flow over it. Enclosed please find a true copy of Lund's original drawing, as it is to be seen in his memorial to the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, respecting his invention for the cultivation of fish, which memorial is inserted in the Academy's Records for the year 1761. Lund has not given any dimensions for his box, which may be of any size. The sides of the box are hinged, so that they can be let down and they are perforated with numerous small holes, so that the water circulates through. The inside of the box should be charred by fire to preserve it. The bottom of the box and the sides are lined with fir branches. As you will see from the drawing, the box is not to be placed directly on the bed of the river, but stands upon blocks. Lund was a member of the Town Council of Linkoping, situated near Lake Roxen, in East Gothland, a province of Sweden. During the summer, Lund lived at his villa on the banks of this lake and here he made his experiments in the cultivation of coarse-fish. His invention attracted but little attention until recent years. With some modifications (for instance, it is not only unnecessary, but prejudicial to let down the sides of the box, as he advised, in order to verify the spawn). With some modifications Lund's method has been adopted here in Sweden with success, and, in my opinion, for the hatching of perch, it is the most practical that has yet been invented. In a box of this kind six feet square and with sides two feet high, we place fifty female and from twenty to thirty male fish. These parent fish must be placed in the hatching box as near their spawning time as possible, and are taken out again as soon as the spawning is finished. The fish, of course, deposit the spawn on the fir branches. It is of great importance that the sides are closely perforated to ensure free circulation of the water. As I have mentioned before, we use these boxes principally for perch, but they can equally as advantageously be used for bream, roach, &c., &c. They are sometimes made to float on the stream by means of wooden buoys at the sides, where the water is subject to a rise and fall."



LUND'S HATCHING BOX FOR COARSE FISH.

In answer to a subsequent letter of mine, in which I inquired about the transport of coarse-fish spawn, Mr. Lundberg replied as follows:—"In reply to your letter of the 24th of March, in which you ask if it is possible to remove the fecundated fish-spawn deposited on the boughs from one water to another, I beg to state, that, if undertaken with the necessary care, it is very easily transported. In order to effect this, it is only necessary to place the spawn-laden branches in a fish-carrier filled with water, placing a canvas tray over and under them, so that they are, as it were, suspended in the water, and thus protected from the effects of shaking. To pack the spawn in the manner the ova of salmon and trout is packed (in damp moss), has not succeeded well, but I do not consider it impossible. With regard to the distances to which spawn can be carried, our experiments here have never necessitated a longer journey than two hours, because perch is a very common fish with us, and longer journeys have been unnecessary. As a matter of fact millions of fish can be hatched by means of Lund's box. Of course the success of any attempt to stock certain waters depends entirely on their suitability to the fish put into them. If the fish are over-crowded and have insufficient food, they will be seen in immense numbers, but never grow to any size. Such pigmies, our fishermen call by the expressive name of "Thousand Brothers." In concluding his letter, Mr. Lundberg says: "At all events the method is so simple and cheap, that it is well worth a trial, and if left to persons with some judgment, there is no doubt, the trial will succeed. The most practical experiment would be to establish several of these hatching boxes, rather than distribute spawn from one central apparatus. I have been a subscriber to the FISHING GAZETTE since 1879, and I wish you, English anglers, great success in your attempts to cultivate the summer-spawning fish, which seem to have been very much neglected."

I am sure, gentlemen, you will agree with me that we are much indebted to Mr. Lundberg for this most interesting information; coming as it does from such a practical source, it is, I think, most encouraging. I remember the last time I was present at a meeting of anglers in this room, one gentleman, a Lea angler, got up and gave us a most doleful account of the decrease of perch in the Lea; in fact, he said before long he expected to catch the last perch! If the Lea Protection Society—some of the officers of which are present, I see—would only put down a few of Lund's hatching boxes next spring, and procure some parent perch, they will soon be able to restock the Lea with perch; or any other fish.

Before describing other methods by which our coarse fish may be propagated in immense quantities, I will, with your permission, read you some extracts from the Official German Report, on fish-culture, at the Berlin Exhibition, in order to show you what one of the first fish-culturists of the day thinks of Lund's method. This report is written by Dr. Haack, director of the great fish-breeding establishment, at Hningen. In dealing with the Swedish exhibit, he says:—

"In the Swedish exhibit there were two small insignificant-looking models which were quite overlooked by the majority of the visitors, but which were of the very greatest interest to every thinking pisciculturist. These models, in spite of their simplicity and insignificance, show us the way we, in future, most simply, easily, and inexpensively may carry on the propagation of our summer-spawning fish to any extent."

Dr. Haack then describes Lund's box, and refers to its advantages as follows:—

"After the box, which of course may be of any size, has been furnished with fir, pine, or juniper branches, it is placed in any lake, pond, or gently flowing stream. Shortly before their spawning time, a few pairs of male and female fish are caught and placed in the box; they deposit their spawn on the branches, and are then taken out, and can be returned to the water they were taken from, if so desired.

As will be evident to everyone, the eggs which have been deposited and impregnated in the box develop in a perfectly natural manner, for the circulation of the water is fully provided for by the holes in the sides of the box, and the winds and waves promote the development by the gentle movement they cause. This most simple apparatus, in fact, presents us with a most easy and perfect method of cultivating every kind of summer-spawning fish, which does not require a strong stream for the deposit and development of its ova. Air, light, and sun are able to exert their influences on the eggs in the box in exactly the same way as if the eggs had been deposited in plants in the open water in the ordinary way. Wind and waves can in like manner exert their beneficial influence on the eggs, which at the same time are protected from the violence of the storm and the prejudicial force of the waves, from which causes alone millions of eggs are frequently destroyed in the open water. The sides of the box and the thickly placed branches effectually prevent this destruction. But this method of cultivating the eggs and fry presents yet further advantages, inasmuch as nearly all the numberless enemies of the defenceless egg and fry are shut out. (By placing a bit of netting over the top, swans, ducks, and other aquatic birds are kept away very easily.) It is unquestionable, he says, that in this way a much larger proportion of fish life is secured than can be the case in the open water, where the eggs and fry are at the mercy of countless insects, rapacious birds, the parent fish themselves, and other disturbing elements besides the winds and waves. As soon as the young fish can swim about and take care of themselves, one or two of the sides of the box are let down and the fish escape into the open water. Now commences their fight for life, and of course many thousands of them will doubtless perish. (If placed in a pond from which all other animal life has been excluded as much as possible, of course this loss would be reduced very much, and then the fry could be sent in fish-carriers to any part of the country by the million.) So highly does Dr. Haack think of this extraordinarily simple method of cultivating fish, that he says in one place, if it were generally adopted, the necessity for fence months would be quite done away with. He expresses his astonishment that this valuable method is practically unknown in Germany, and attributes this fact to the isolation of Sweden, which also accounts for the backward state of the higher branches of fish-culture in that country. He says:—"In very many of our German waters this apparatus can most certainly be used with the greatest success, and without in any appreciable degree interfering with the professional fishermen," eventually, of course, vastly to their benefit.

And now I come to a most important statement in Dr. Haack's report. "I must again," he says, "impress on the reader that we have here in no sort of way to do with any 'artificial' hatching. Artificial spawning and hatching, as practised with the salmonidæ, has up to the present time been a complete failure as regards satisfactory results when tried with the coarse fish." He states that although for twenty years past he has made numberless experiments in the artificial breeding of these fish, and has now and then succeeded in rearing a few thousand of them, he is nevertheless most completely convinced that all endeavours in this direction are a mistake, for invariably the results obtained from the simple natural breeding in small breeding ponds gave a hundred times better results than the most careful, painstaking, persevering artificial culture. He is not acquainted with a single instance where any one has succeeded in breeding the summer-spawning fish artificially, and the statements that have from time to time, been inserted in scientific journals, to the effect that artificially bred carp eggs have been sold in large quantities, have never to his knowledge been substantiated, though he is well acquainted with French piscicultural experiments.

It may be well here to give you a chief reason why these experiments have failed; it is that whereas the eggs of the salmonidæ are non-adhesive, and each egg can be separately attended to, the eggs the summer-spawning fish are adhesive, and stick together in masses so that it is impossible to manipulate them properly and separate the fertilised from the unfertilised, the dead from the living. But in Lund's box they develop in a perfectly natural manner, and at the same time it protects them from their enemies. But I think many of you will agree with me, that, as far as some of our streams are concerned, this box will do more than this. It will enable fish to spawn which would otherwise never find suitable and undisturbed places. You all know how completely many of our streams are becoming canalised in consequence of the improvements in the navigation, and will remember how strongly "A Thames Fisherman" dwelt on this point in those capital letters which appeared last year. Every bit of land that can be reclaimed from the water is reclaimed, the stream is confined as much as possible to its proper channel, and those shallow spawning places so necessary for the fish are rapidly disappearing, and even where they still exist they are so constantly disturbed by the river traffic that the fish have little chance to spawn. In my opinion this fact, perhaps more than any other, accounts for the decrease of fish. But with the very simple apparatus I have endeavoured to describe to you, we can in a great measure get over this difficulty. We must establish these hatching boxes, obtain our parent fish, then protect the eggs and fry until the latter can take their chance with some control over their own destiny; and it is simply marvellous how soon our coarse fish learn to swim. They do not take three months in the egg shape, and then carry their food about with them in a big bag which clogs their movements for another twenty or thirty days—like the salmonidæ; on the contrary, the coarse fish comes out of the egg in about a week's time—according to the temperature—and then when he does come out he is perfect, and can swim as well as his mother; he has not got to suck the egg, or umbilical sack, as it is called, for twenty days, like his aristocratic cousins.

It only remains for me to describe to you two other methods by which our coarse-fish may be most easily propagated in immense numbers and having gone so fully into Lund's box, which I think we should experiment with first, I shall not detain you much longer. The first of these methods is what I have called a breeding hurdle, we have breeding boxes and breeding ponds, and I do not see why we should not call it a breeding hurdle, for that is what it really is. Mr. Hobden has kindly made us a diagram of it, and I think, gentlemen, we are much indebted to Mr. Hobden for the trouble he has taken, entirely without charge, to illustrate these things for us, he is an angler and says he feels that all anglers should help any scheme which promises to give us larger baskets of fish. I was not a little amused to find also that our friend the carpenter who made the stretchers, is also an angler, and also does it *con amore*. These little straws show the way the wind blows.

Well, gentlemen, this breeding hurdle is not in use in this country, as far as I know, though it is extensively used on the Continent, especially in France. It consists simply of a common hurdle with branches intertwined, and it is sunk in any shallow place, where it is desired that the fish may spawn. You will see it is merely Lund's idea without most of its advantages, but it is undoubtedly very useful where there are no good natural spawning places, or where you want simply to get spawn to send to some other water. I may mention that, though I cannot find from his writings that our good friend the late Mr. Frank Buckland, knew of Lund's box, he mentions the advantages of this hurdle, and recommends it, and, as I said before, merely for securing spawn for transport, it answers well enough.

You will remember a most interesting experiment carried out recently by Mr. Carrington, of the Westminster Aquarium. Mr. W. H. Brougham, the secretary of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, and some other gentlemen, sent one of the river-keepers to a stream near Walton, to procure some perch-spawn, with some trouble he got a supply and carried it in an ordinary bait-can to London to Mr. Carrington, That gentleman placed the spawn in his trout-hatching troughs and when I called at the Aquarium, some fourteen days afterwards, I was delighted to find that a good deal of the ova had hatched out and the young fish were swimming about, so small as to look like very small pins, perhaps ¼ of an inch in length. I have not heard how the young fry got on since, but I fear Mr. Carrington would not be able to keep them long; they would require sun and air in an open water to thrive well. I suggested it would be a good plan to put them in the Serpentine, but what their fate was, I do not know;* but at any rate this experiment proves conclusively that, as I stated three years ago in the Gazette, the simplest way to stock a water with perch, would be to remove the boughs with the spawn on them as placed there by the fish, to another water that you wished to stock. Lund's apparatus, of course, would give much better results, but this plan would answer when you have plenty of perch-spawn to spare. I forgot to mention that the reason why fir branches are recommended, is that they last much longer without falling to pieces and rotting, and also their shape is more suitable.

I now come to the last part of my paper and feel I have tried your patience pretty severely, so I will be as brief as possible.

We have here a diagram of a breeding pond for summer spawning fish, in which they may be propagated on the most extensive scale. Naturally, such a pond entails considerable expense to make, but once well made, it will last for centuries. But any ordinary pond with a little expenditure may be made to answer probably. You will see that in one portion of the diagram the water is coloured dark, and elsewhere light. The dark part is made to represent deeper water—say from four to six feet, and the rest is shallower water running up to a few inches in depth. The pond should be fed by a stream of water, and there are sluices for regulating the supply. In Germany, where the carp is in great esteem as an article of food, and where carp-culture is carried on to an enormous extent, the fish-farmer usually has three ponds. The first is the spawning pond, the second the feeding and growing pond, and the third is the stock and wintering pond. To stock such a pond as shown in the diagram, say of an acre or so in extent, requires only that a few pairs of parent fish be placed in before the spawning time; they deposit their spawn on the shallow sides of the pool, and the deep water affords the shelter from danger and heat. They are taken out after they have spawned, as they would destroy their own offspring, which will soon be swarming by hundreds of thousands in the water.

This, ladies and gentlemen, brings me to the end of my descriptions of these simple methods of propagating coarse fish. We have near London miles upon miles of water which ought to furnish us with sport, but which at present it is almost if not quite waste of time to fish. Our Sheffield friends rent, I believe, no less than 200 miles of water for the 20,000 members of their clubs, their great complaint is the scarcity of fish. Personally, I know from the inquiries I so frequently get from all parts of the country that fish are wanted both by angling clubs and private individuals. I do not know where they are to get them, though I could name a dozen places where they can get salmon and trout. The fact is, coarse fish are not to be got in nine cases out of ten, at least in a *fair* way. At present, the stocking of one water means (if I may use the expression) the unstocking of some other water. A. wants coarse fish and orders them of B, who employs

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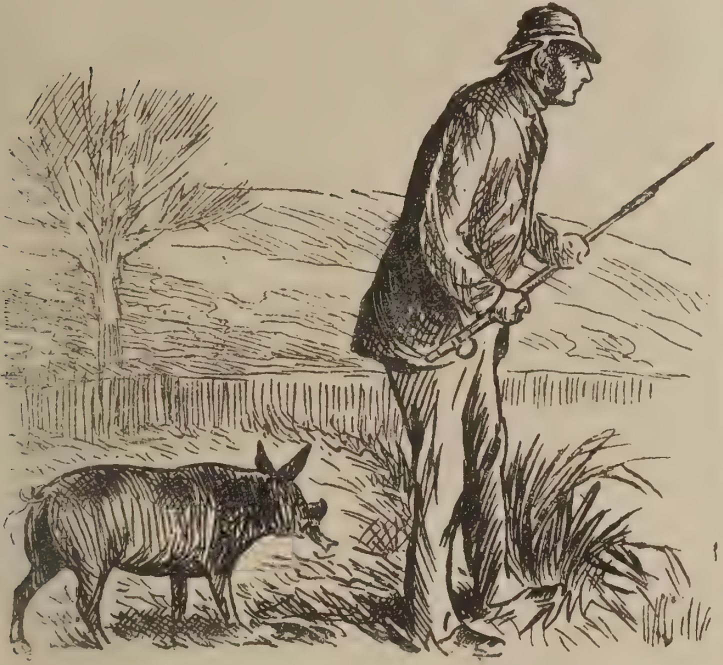
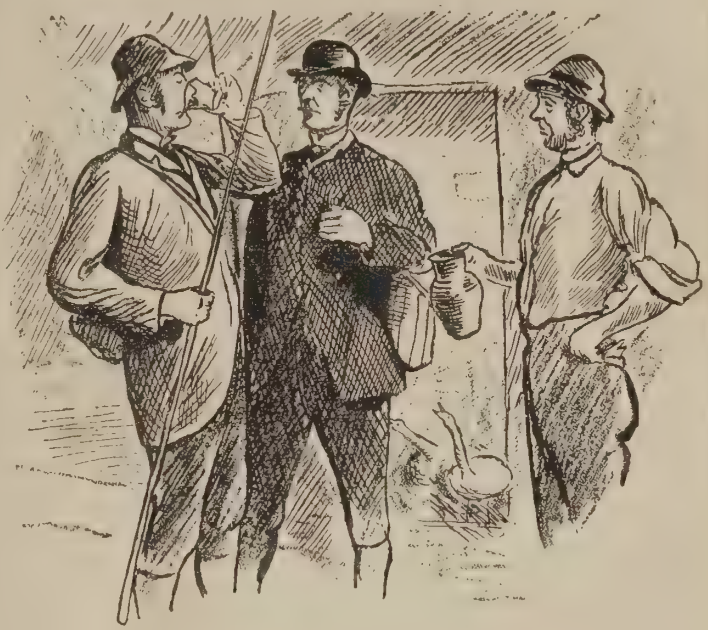
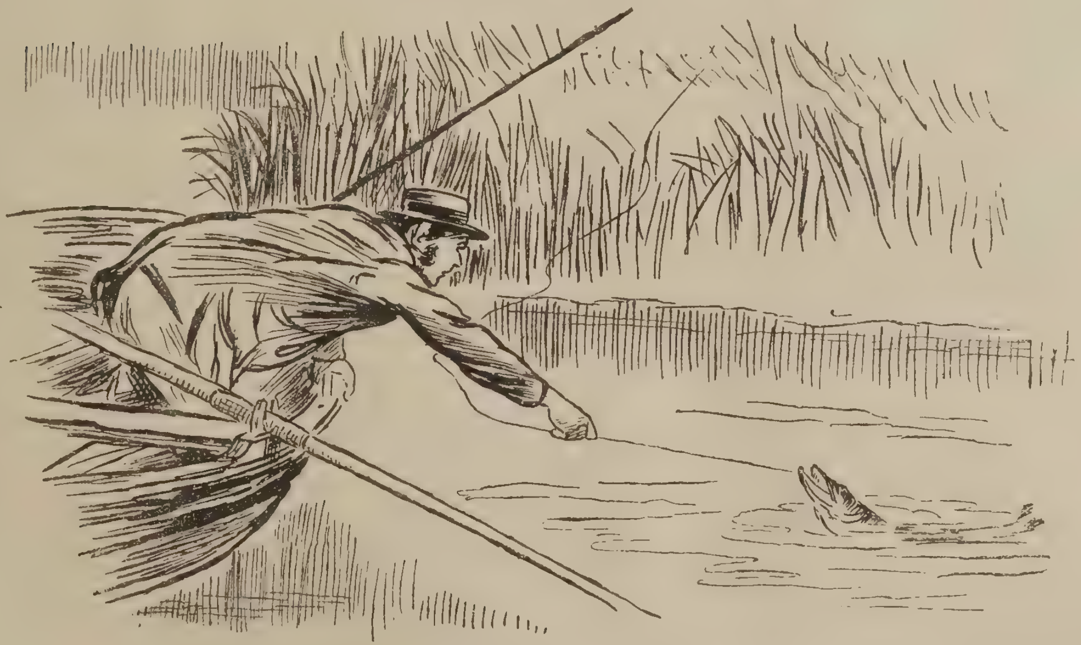
* The majority died, but a portion was placed in the water in St. James's Park.



BEATS ALL THE BAGS AND FISHING BASKETS!



"LOOK SHARP, OLD MAN, I'VE GOT A THIRST I WOULD'NT TAKE A DOLLAR FOR!"



DESERVES TO LOSE HIM!

men to net and poach a water, and so A gets his fish! I am sure, therefore, that any society which takes up coarse fish culture earnestly will not only immensely benefit its own waters, but will have plenty of fish to sell and find plenty of purchasers, and at remunerative prices. One thing should be invariably insisted on, and that is, that whatever kind of fish you cultivate, let it be from the very best and strongest stock you can obtain, and infuse as much fresh blood into your waters as possible. I do not believe in hybrids as far as our coarse fish are concerned. There will never be any real difficulty in getting good stock fish. Thousands of splendid roach, perch, pike, chub, dace, &c., &c., are annually destroyed by owners of trout streams; these gentlemen would be only too glad to get rid of their coarse fish at no expense to themselves. I need not tell you how wonderfully prolific the coarse fish are. Mr. Buckland tells us that he himself weighed and measured the roe in a 16 lb carp and estimated the eggs at considerably over a million; it is not probable such a fish would ever spawn, but you may guess from this what a numerous family even a five-pound fish could produce, if they are properly nursed.

In conclusion, gentleman, although trout-fishing is my favourite sport, as an enthusiastic angler for all kinds of fish, I can only hope that before long something may be done in the directions I have indicated. I may be asked "Where do you propose to begin?" and can only say if I had a stream of my own I should begin there, and that is where I advise you to begin, on your own waters wherever you may want fish. There are certain societies established avowedly for the purpose of stocking our waters, let them begin. The matter does not rest with any single individual, it concerns us all; and from what I have seen at many meetings of anglers which I have attended during the last year, all are agreed that a start shall be made. If what I have been able to lay before you this evening leads up to any such movement, I shall be delighted at such a result of my efforts, and have no fear of the result. I thank you all for the way you have so patiently listened to me, and trust you will overlook the manner in which I have landed my first fish, in the shape of a paper of this kind. I must personally thank our respected chairman for so kindly honouring us with his presence. I always feel that in Mr. Birkbeck we anglers have a powerful friend, who will help us in the future as he has done in the past. We all know what a deep interest he takes in fishing matters, especially as regards our important sea-fisheries. It is, perhaps, chiefly owing to his exertions that the deep sea fishery disputes between this country and the Continent seem in a fair way to be satisfactorily settled. The recent Norwich Exhibition, and that great International Exhibition which is to open at South Kensington next year, owe their success chiefly to him; and when I tell you that he has a beautiful river full of fish flowing through his lands, in Norfolk, which he, on principle, has thrown open to all fair anglers, you will see his interest extends also to what is most dear to us. I must not forget to thank Messrs. Geen and Hoole and other gentlemen who have so warmly assisted me; in fact, it was a happy idea to combine the testimonial presentation to our worthy friend Mr. Bonvoisin, with what to some, might possibly not alone have been a sufficiently attractive subject.

R. B. Marston.

[As will be seen from the press reports of the meeting, the above paper was most warmly and enthusiastically received, and the meeting decided unanimously that coarse fish culture should be attempted by the new United Associations Fishery Society, who will devote at least fifty pounds a year for the next five years to this object—R.B.M.]

CRUCHLEY'S REDUCED ORDNANCE MAPS OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

Just now, when anglers are starting on fishing excursions to all parts of the country, it will be appropriate to draw their attention to the above maps, which are published by Messrs. Gall and Inglis, of Edinburgh, and 25, Paternoster Square, London. These maps are planned on a scale of two miles to the inch, so that the smallest hamlets and most out-of-the-way rivers and roads are indicated. For many years past we have made a point, whenever starting for any new fishing grounds, of getting the map or maps which include that section of the country. A small index or key map is to be had gratis by applying to Messrs. Gall and Inglis, and the angler can then in a moment select the sections he will require, they are sold separately at 1s. plain and 1s. 6d. coloured. We can most strongly recommend them as trustworthy, clear, and inexpensive guides. It is simply wonderful how limited is the information one can obtain in rural parts, as to the rivers and brooks and lakes; but with one of these maps the angler is independent, and can arrange his own excursions without reference to the oldest inhabitant.

DOGS.—Naldire's Prize Medal Dog Soap destroys Fleas, cleanses the skin, and improves the coat and health of the dog. "Naldire's Soap is harmless to Dogs, but fatal to Fleas."—Frank Buckland. Price 1s., of all Chemists, Perfumers, and Grocers. N.B.—See that you get Naldire's Soap.

THREE DAYS' FISHING NEAR HULL.

About a month since I made an inquiry through the medium of the Fishing Gazette, as to the fishing to be had in the neighbourhood of Hull. As I obtained no answer to this inquiry, I presume that locality is unknown to the majority of your readers. In the meantime my friend L. and I, have paid a visit to the above town; and, for the information of any of your readers who may chance to wander there, I give you an account of our doings, trusting it may not be altogether void of interest. In the first place, I will confess that, although ardent lovers of the "gentle craft," both L. and I are duffers at anything but float-fishing.

Having resolved to make the trip by water, behold us with our full equipment of luggage, (including, of course, our well-beloved fishing-tackle) embarking on board the General Steam Navigation Company's s.s. *Bittern*, quite prepared and expecting to have a thoroughly good time. When, however, we arrived off Yarmouth L became pensive and unsociable, standing for a considerable time leaning over the side of the vessel, gazing with an earnest and steadfast stare into the depths below, till at length his love for piscatorial matters completely overcame him, but I draw the curtain. We arrived at Hull on Sunday morning. Monday we devoted to making inquiries as to where we should find sport and learned the following:—

At Gox Hill Gravel Pit good roach, bream, and eel-fishing is to be had, the fish are of fair size and last year two gentlemen fishing there, took in one day over 1 cwt. of roach and bream; this promised well. At Aram, first-class all-round fishing is to be had and also in the canal, near Driffield. Good bream-fishing may be had at Ferryby Sluice (near Barton-on-Humber) the fish running to very large sizes, five and even seven pounders being by no means uncommon. All the above places are within easy reach of Hull and the fishing is free.

Tuesday we determined to try our luck at Gox Hill Gravel Pit. Gox Hill lies on the other side of the Humber, in Lincolnshire, about half an hour's run from Hull. To get there, the intending visitor should take his ticket at the pier (not on the boat) cross the water to New Holland, enter the train there and Gox Hill is the next station. The Gravel Pit is then twenty minutes' walk. It is rather a pretty piece of water, lying by the side of the road. Here the bank is only about three or four feet high, but opposite, it is quite twenty feet and down this one has to clamber (with considerable risk to the neck). At the bottom tolerably secure seats are to be found. At one end of the Pit there is a sort of small peninsula, quite flat and only about six inches above the water; to get on this, a dive must be made down the almost precipitous bank, which, however, being well covered with trees, offers certain branches to clutch at and so lends very material assistance in the descent. Off here, and almost close to the side, between six and seven feet of water will be found, so that one can fish, sitting well back out of sight, an advantage not by any means to be despised. The day was warm but showery, and (alas, that I should have to chronicle it) the fish were anything but on the feed. At the end of a couple of hours we had taken two bream, both rather under the pound and four roach of about half-a-pound each. Then they left off biting altogether. After waiting for a considerable time without getting a touch, my rod was laid in the ruts, and (I am ashamed to own it) as I sat watching my float, the heat and silence (broken only by the twitter of the swallows as they skimmed over the pool) had their effect on me, and at length my eyes closed and I was in the land of Nod. Waking with a start on feeling a few drops of rain on my face, I saw my float executing a dance; but, by the time I had it in my hand, all was quiet again, and on pulling it up to examine the state of my bait (gentles) I found it bitten clean off my hook. We continued fishing till dark, without getting so much as another knock and the result of our days fishing was six fish, weighing under four pounds. Still I am convinced that there are fish there for those who know how to catch them.

Wednesday we were fortunate enough to fall in with an old acquaintance, himself an enthusiastic angler, who at once agreed to join us in a day's fishing. Acting on his suggestion, we took the train from the Paragon Station to Beverley; walked to the river Hull, took a boat, and pulled gently up to Aram, one of us pulling while two tried spinning from the back of the boat. At certain places pleasant recollections were awakened in our friend's breast as he informed us, "Just under that tree I landed a 12-lb. jack last year. Just here I caught a 3 lb. perch, &c., &c." On our way we passed through spots the very beau ideal of jack water, but again to-day we had "na loock;" the fish would not bite, and when we returned all we could show were two roach of about $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. each. In the train we met some brother piscators who had all fared even worse than we. They had seen, so they told us, "millions" of large roach just above the lock at Aram, but empty creels were the order of the day.

On Thursday we had some very novel experiences. We were offered a day's trout fishing in one of the best trout streams near

Driffield. Now, as I owned at the commencement of this, at anything but-float fishing, we are mere tyros. Still we accepted the kind offer (or rather I did, L. having decided, on this occasion, to play the part of an onlooker only). On one occasion I had tried fishing with a blow line; and as I had read that this is often a very killing method of fishing for trout, I determined to try it. In the morning the weather was overcast, and a fresh breeze blowing, just the thing for a blow line. As we took our seats in the train, I entertained strong hopes of registering before the day was out the capture of "my first trout." Arrived at Driffield we found that we had a four miles' walk before us, and it being market day no conveyance was to be had. Still the weather was fine and the country very pretty. For some distance we followed the canal, and to all appearances it was full of fish. We noticed particularly some "whacking" roach swimming about near the top of the water, now and then lazily sucking in some unfortunate, half-drowned fly as it floated by them.

Just before we arrived at our destination, much to our disgust the rain came down in torrents, compelling us to seek shelter in the farm-house close by the water we had permission to fish. As soon as it cleared up a little we sallied down to the stream. Whilst putting the rod together (which, be it said, was an eighteen feet cane roach rod, very springy) we saw several trout of about two pounds' weight, darting about and feeding. No sooner was our line out than down came another heavy shower, effectually wetting our floss silk line, and beating down all that was left of the breeze. What was now to be done? Well, I determined to whip, as my rod was springy; so, attaching a couple of artificial flies I had brought at Driffield, I let out about ten yards of line and giving a few preliminary switches with the rod, attempted to throw out in the direction of a fish I had just seen rise. For a first attempt I didn't do so badly, certainly my line did fall all of a lump, but still at quite three yards' distance from me and in the water too. Well, let's try again, better luck next time! The result of my second trial was peculiar in the extreme, for no sooner had I attempted to make the throw than I heard a strange row behind me, and on turning round beheld L. executing a kind of war dance, and using language the very reverse of complimentary towards me. On ascertaining the cause of all this fuss, I found him with one of my hooks through his ear; and such, sir, was his unreasonableness that after spoiling my cast in this careless way, he actually talked to me as though he and not I was the injured party. When he was released I made another trial, and if the length of throw were the only point aimed at, I should have been well on the way to perfection. I felt my line going out as though it had something heavy attached to it, and on glancing up I perceived my two top joints, which had worked loose, making a rapid journey through the air, and a moment afterwards falling in the stream with a most inviting splash, which would most certainly attract the attention of all the trout in the neighbourhood. Fortunately the line had twisted round one of the rings, and I was thus enabled to land the wandering portions of my rod.

A brilliant idea here occurred to me: I remembered having an artificial minnow in my tackle case, why not attempt some spinning? It's true the minnow was mounted on gimp, and rather large, yet the gimp was fine, and a trout might not object to it on that score, and if I did only have my roach-rod with me that, less the three top joints, might be made to answer every purpose. Hastily taking off my flies I put on a silk-running line and attached the minnow. Here again the question arose, how to throw out? I had seen a jack fisherman lay his line in coils at his feet, and seen it run out beautifully. I tried that way, but my line tried to get through the rings altogether, and couldn't, while the minnow, after jerking violently backwards and forwards a few times, at length decided to stop itself by winding the spare line round my neck, which it did with astonishing neatness. For the next throw L.'s services were called into requisition to hold the line out clear of the ground. This time we got on better; we managed it thus, the minnow was swung to and fro to get sufficient momentum, when it had obtained this I counted one—two—three, let go. "What an awful muff you are to be sure" (this last from L.), as the bait went flying off with some force in the wrong direction, catching him nicely in the face. It was with difficulty that he could be persuaded to help again; at last his good nature overcame him, and now this contrary minnow took an upward flight, falling just at my feet. After singing that beautiful little hymn—

"If at first you don't succeed, try again"—

We did so, and actually succeeded in throwing right into the rushes on the other bank, here for some time that wretched minnow sulked, holding to the rushes and resolutely refusing to be coaxed out. When, at last, it was again in our possession, we improved rapidly. It fell in the water almost every time, and then L. was summoned to haul in the line, thus drawing it through the water. Once, on its return trip, we perceived a trout following the bait and appearing to meditate a rush. Sir, the excitement of that moment was intense; so intense, indeed, was it, that L. forgot to continue the hauling process, and, as a natural result the minnow first stopped, and then sunk to the bottom, whilst the trout with a disgusted wag of his tail, turned away to seek some more worthy object for his affections.

We did not easily get over this disappointment, and soon after I packed and shouldered my creel, and we returned to the farm-house, where we made a hearty tea, for, if we had caught nothing else, we had caught wonderful appetites. After tea we took a couple of guns and tried to bag a rabbit or two, but, the rain coming on heavily again, these gentry would not show themselves at all, and after knocking over a few crows, we found it was time to make our way back to the station.

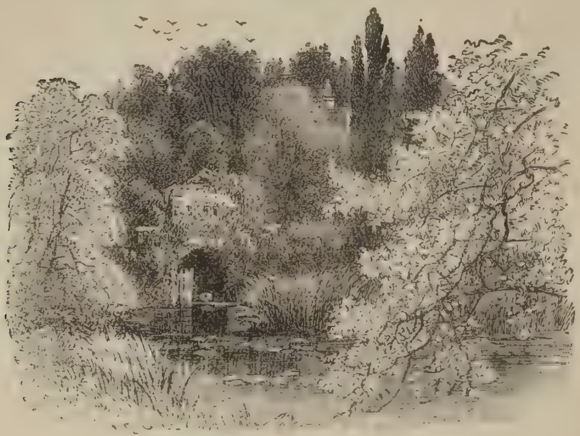
And thus ended our third and last day's fishing in that neighbourhood; and although we might certainly have had a more successful time, a more enjoyable one it could scarcely be possible to have.

That there are loads of fish in the place I have mentioned, there can be no doubt, and large bags are, I believe, the rule. I hope, one day, one will be made there by your humble servant

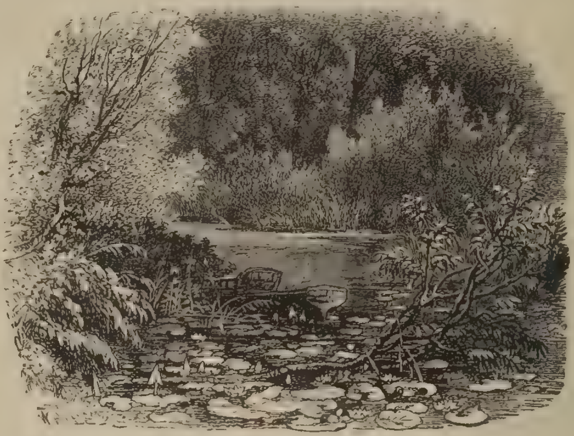
Utja.

"THE FRIENDLY ANGLERS" AT WINDSOR.

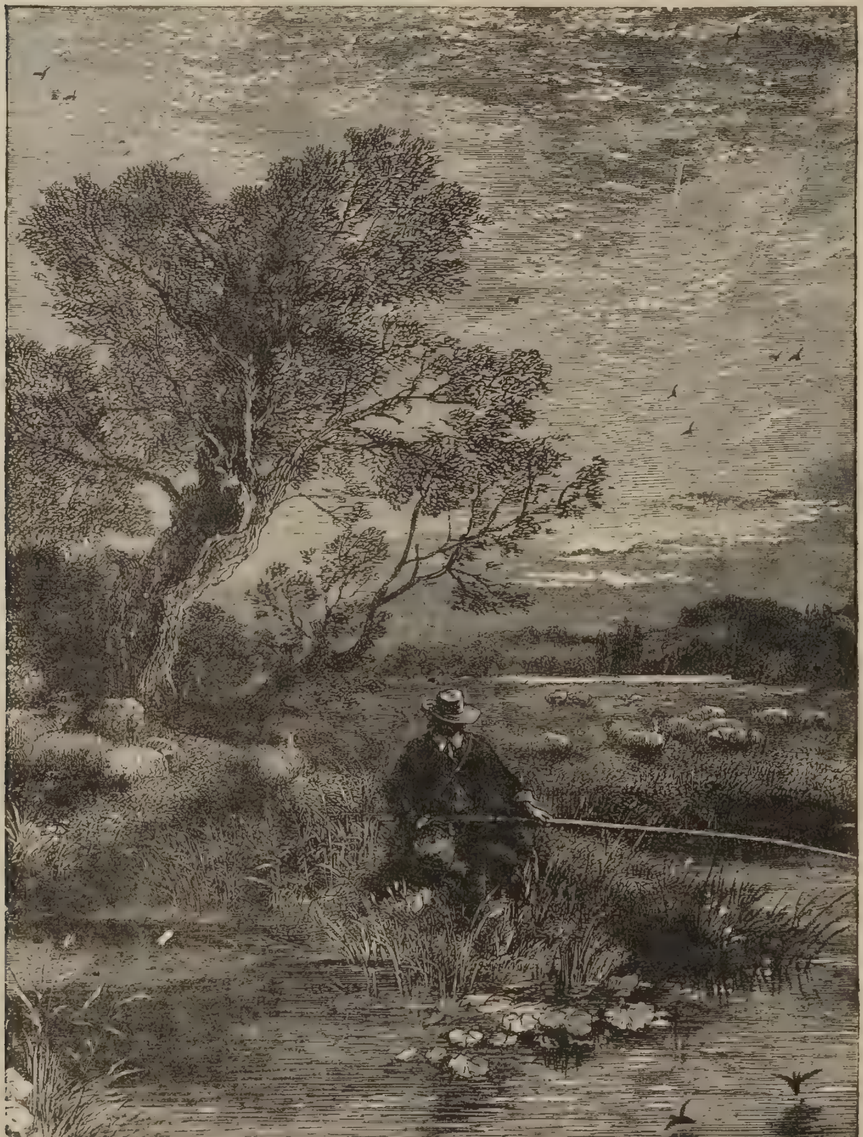
The "Friendly Anglers" mustered in good force on Saturday afternoon last to do suit and service at their annual summer dinner at the New Inn, Eaton Square, Windsor. The day was oppressively hot, and the members and friends preferred remaining outside in the garden at the front of the hostelry previous to the hour fixed for the dinner, where there is a young oak tree, planted fourteen months ago by Mr. W. Paine, the respected treasurer of the club, which he brought from Burnham Beeches, and is now known as "Paine's Oak." It is but a small plant, and at present does not give great promise of further growth. At half-past five o'clock there was a forward movement of the body of guests to the spacious dining-room upstairs, where the "Friendly Anglers" for very many years have thoroughly enjoyed their summer spread, and without the slightest difficulty or confusion all were soon comfortably seated. The dinner, consisting of "fish, flesh, and fowl," fully sustained the high reputation of the house. Mr. Dawson ably discharged the duties of chairman, and Mr. Robert L. Pugh, the great champion perch fisher of the society, and the recent captor of a Thames trout of 9½ lbs., most effectively filled the position of vice-chairman. There were amongst others present Messrs. T. Cliff, C. M. Le Good, W. Paine, Hazelden, King, W. H. Brougham, J. P. Wheeldon, F. S. Hoblyn, Blockley, Newson, Barwell, Grant, J. Gillatt, Palmer, Bayfield, Nickenson, Goodall, Taylor, Woodhall, Berry, Macrae, Mitchell, Page, &c., altogether numbering forty-two. After the enthusiastic disposal of the loyal toast, and "three cheers for the royal navy," the chairman gave the toast of the evening, "The Friendly Anglers," which he remarked was simply giving "our noble selves." He had been for many years a member of that society, and he would truly say in that time there had never been any dissension amongst them; all vacancies had been filled up with good anglers, and already 1,500 lb. weight of fish had been weighed in, and the best part of the season had yet to come. There had been some fine specimens of salmon, trout, perch, and tench exhibited. Of the latter, a case of three of 3 lb. each would soon form a portion of their splendid museum. All he need say of the society was, that it was never in a better or more prosperous position. The toast was warmly responded to, and Mr. F. S. Hoblyn replied. He said that it was a great honour to return thanks for such a club as their own, and he was extremely proud of being a member. There was nothing but unity and good fellowship amongst them, and if ever the society cease to exist, it should be when his existence was no more, but he hoped to enjoy a long life with them. Mr. Pugh then gave "The Press," and coupling the names of their good friends Mr. W. H. Brougham and Mr. J. P. Wheeldon, he referred in very grateful terms to the effective services of those gentlemen in the angling world. Mr. W. H. Brougham, in replying for "The Press," said he had been connected with it all his life, and he would be always ready to help the "Friendly Anglers" in every way in his power. He referred to the recent netting of reservoirs, and to those places being eminently adapted for propagating coarse fish. He concluded by expressing a regret which they would all feel, in the absence of those interesting articles of Mr. Wheeldon in *Bell's Life*, but he sincerely hoped in his new venture they would all rally round him and accord to him the support he so richly deserved. Mr. J. P. Wheeldon very briefly replied. Mr. Pugh then gave "The Visitors," which was replied to by Mr. Hazelden. The chairman proposed "The Officers," coupling with the toast the names of Mr. Le Good, Mr. W. Paine, and Mr. King. This was followed with "The Stewards," and acknowledged by Mr. Taylor. One of the most demonstrative toasts was "Mrs. Goddard, their excellent hostess," which was proposed in felicitous terms by Mr. Hoblyn, and nothing less would satisfy those present than the appearance of Mrs. Goddard, when they gave her a very hearty reception. There was some excellent harmony, contributed by Messrs. Le Good, J. P. Wheeldon, Thomas Cliff, Bloxam, and others, and when the end came at ten o'clock, all expressed themselves as having spent a very pleasant and most enjoyable evening.—B.



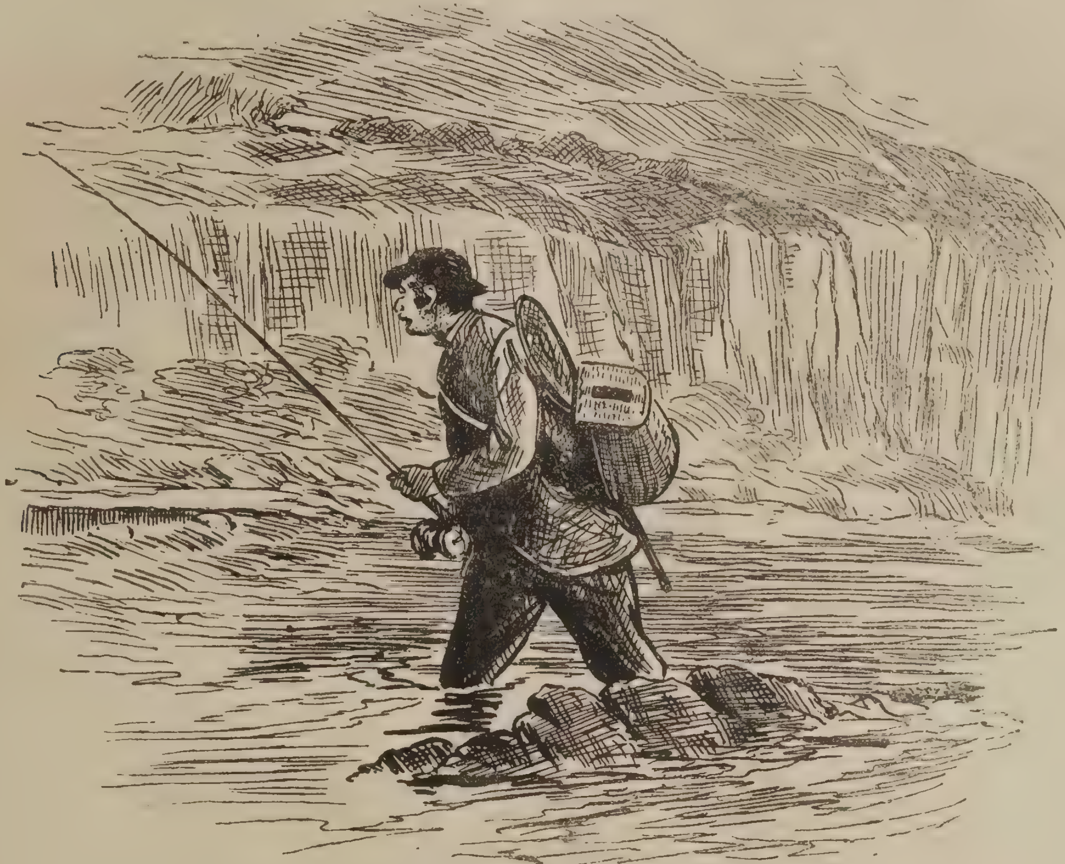
AT AMBERLEIGH HOUSE, ON LODDON.



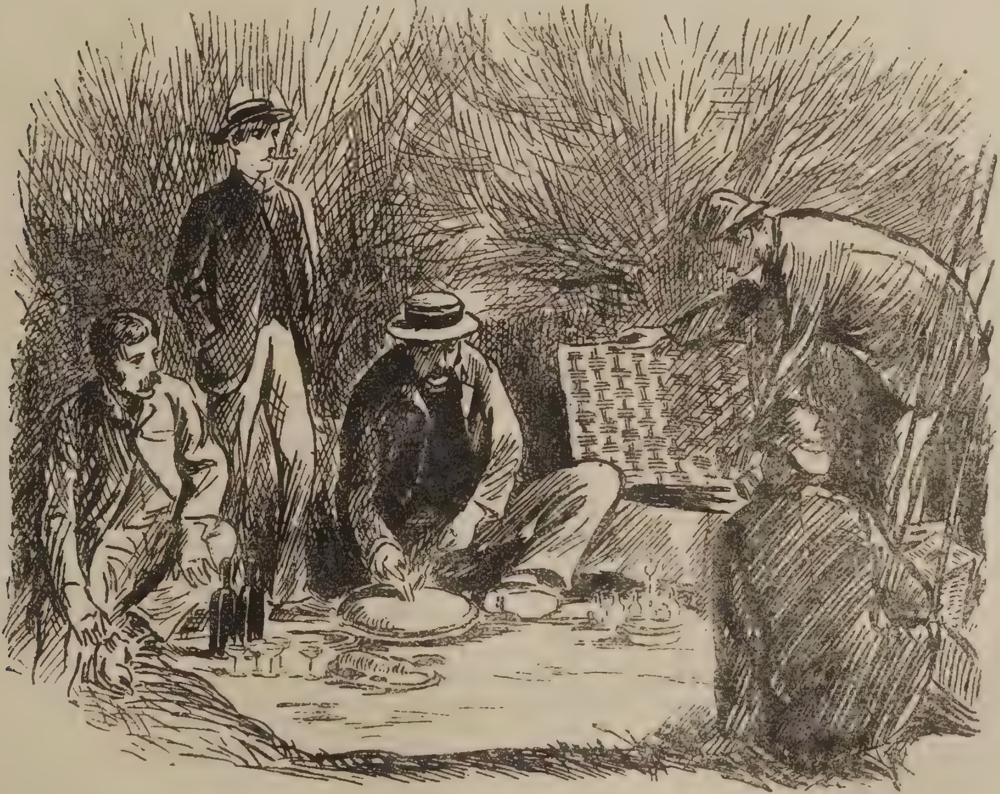
ON THE LODDON.



THE LEA IN WALTON'S TIME.



FLY-FISHING FOR TROUT AND GRAYLING IN AUGUST.



ON THE FEED—EEL-PIE ISLAND.

A GOSSIP ON SALMON AND HINTS AS TO TACKLE.

By J. P. Wheeldon.

Very diffidently indeed do I proceed to gossip upon salmon; but, inasmuch as it is done in the columns of the Fishing Gazette, a journal devoted to students of the angling craft of every degree, I simply jot down a few feeble ideas, in the hope that someone else may improve upon them. Salmon-fishing is a princely sport, exciting beyond all description. It only needs to watch the face of an old salmon-angler when describing some sensational episode of past days, to be convinced of this. Most assuredly, he thinks a deal more about killing a clean fish than ever Indian shekarrie would of successfully potting the biggest old man-eater that ever struck down with his murderous paw tough, sinewy palkee bearers, or lay in wait for tender little maidens at the village fountain. Very deservedly too, for possibly there is nothing in the world to compare with the first brilliant burst of a hard-hooked salmon, fresh from the sea, clean as a smelt, and with sea lice clinging to his deep silvery sides. Small wonder is it, then, that scores of hard-worked men, toilers with hand and brain, should eagerly seek for the enjoyment of such glorious health-giving excitement, when it is to be had absolutely at one's very back door. I say at one's back door, advisedly, because travelling nowadays and the same thing thirty years ago, are vastly different things. As a matter of course, there are far more salmon fishers now than there were at such a period. Why? The answer is very simple, and lies in the fact that, whereas when I was a lad the journey from London to Scotland or Ireland was a tremendous accomplishment, it is now, thanks to Flying Scotchmen and Dutchmen, allied to Pullman cars, about equivalent to a run between an early breakfast and a late dinner. It naturally follows that where thirty years ago a man who had actually killed a salmon, a veritable, indisputable salmon, was looked upon as a kind of piscatory god, men of the same ilk are now as plentiful as blackberries.

Possibly it is a pity that it should be so, because it follows that salmon rivers are flogged continuously by a class of men, moneyed, it is true, but bearing the stamp of money alone, whose absence would be conspicuously to the advantage of true sportsmen, and particularly those with moderately filled pockets.

I frankly admit at the outset that I do not intend to set myself up as an authority upon salmon fishing, neither do I intend to go in for a wholesale system of poaching upon the ideas of other men, whose practical experience has far exceeded my own upon this particular branch of the art. It may be that in certain styles of modern angling I can hold my own with a good many. On the other hand, it may be that I cannot, but I certainly fancy I can, and I may possibly be in a position to assert some day that the fancy applies particularly to salmon. Just now, however, I am somewhat modest on the point, so that I shall confine myself in my remarks to a very limited area.

First, as to choosing a rod. Here the leading principle would appear to be that a man should never choose a weapon unsuited to his bodily strength and height of person. Handling a rod or a gun in the maker's shop, and manipulating the same tool out in the field or through a long day by the river side, are two totally different things. A man picks up a gun a pound or so heavier than he is usually in the habit of carrying, and at first sight the extra pound appears to make very little difference. Spend a quarter of an hour over the matter and the result becomes cast in a different mould. The gun begins to feel a "leetle too heavy, eh, Mr. Baker," and one does not get it up to the shoulder with an equal amount of ease and quickness of action. What, then, must the issue be after an hour or so's hard walking across stubble or turnip? Precisely the same reasoning applies in the choice of a rod, and a fly-rod more particularly, because sundry sets of sympathetic muscles are being brought constantly into play.

It is an entirely different thing in the matter say, of a pike or barbel rod, because in the latter case one frequently has the opportunity afforded of resting the arms and shoulders by either watching the play of one's livebait float from a standpoint upon the bank, or waiting for the vigorous pull of a barbel at the bait on one's ledger, while the rod rests over the till of one's punt.

Very much depends also upon the class of water which it is intended to operate upon. For lake fishing or casting from a boat it is obvious that nothing is gained by using an inordinately long rod. Fourteen to fifteen feet in length is long enough for anyone in reason, and with such a rod I should incline to think that as much water could be covered with either fly or spinning bait as was at all necessary. On the other hand, where the cast has to be fished from the bank (that perhaps being a standpoint made up from the most objectionable material, consisting of broken stones and nice handy lumps of rock, and where, moreover, the best bits of water lie, as they would appear to have the knack of always doing, just beyond reach) a lengthy rod, so long as the operator has the necessary power over it, is invaluable. For such work, from sixteen to eighteen feet should suffice. If the angler can make the work of wielding anything more extensive through a day's hard work a matter of pleasure, so much the better. Eighteen feet would be quite long enough for me, of that I am certain. Mr. Francis, however, tells us in his admirable "Book on Angling" that the master of Lovatt uses a rod something like twenty-four feet in length. I am by no means a weakly man, and in times gone by have had a good deal of experience with a twenty-foot roach rod. Judging by the way even that kind of thing makes one's arms ache I should say that the master of Lovatt, as a specimen of muscular Christianity, is very much to be envied.

It is impossible to lay down a set of given laws in the choice of a fly rod. In the hands of some men a whippy rod is an abomination, and all such swear by a stiff one. One of the very best hands on the Wandle that I ever saw throw a fly—and it is a by no means easy river to fish either, by reason of the delicate quality of the tackle one is bound to use in ensnaring its capricious inhabitants—uses, to my eyes, an immoderately stiff rod. There are other fishermen who delight most in a rod so pliable and whippy that it is capable of being almost tied in a knot. Thus it is very much a matter of fancy allied to general practice, and one cannot lay down a hard and fast law. In buying a new rod, therefore, go first to a really good maker, and pay a fair price for the article purchased. Secondly, choose that which suits best the amount of personal strength possessed as well as its general adaptability to the hand and arm intended to wield it.

A plain, free-running, check winch is the best, with the handle affixed to the plate. It is far better than the old-fashioned samples, and is not so likely to catch or hang up the running line. Never be afraid of having the winch too big or of too great a capacity in the matter of holding line. Always provided, however, that the size does not destroy the balance of the rod. In any kind of fishing, a little pokey winch is, in my eyes, an abominable nuisance. I have known salmon anglers who have affirmed that, armed with a winch capable of holding sixty yards of line, they were indifferent as to the strength and game, of the biggest salmon that ever put his nose up. Good anglers into the bargain, but I beg to differ. I seldom go out pike fishing without at least 100 yards of line on my winch; perhaps a little more than is really necessary, but then I fish very fine. But, surely, if the anticipated fight with a lubberly old pike wants say, sixty yards, double, at least that quantity is wanted for a fish which for daring, dash, and determination, could give the best pike that ever bit gimp a very long start, and beat him.

Never use a harsh, hard winch. The easier a winch goes the better, and I am not at all sure that for everything save, may be, fly work, the wooden "Nottingham" would not be the best of all. As for worm-fishing, or angling with the live or dead shrimp, I am confident it would. I shall say nothing, however, under these latter heads, because worm-fishing, to my mind for salmon, barely reads like the thing. Spinning sounds better; and assuredly, if I ever find myself upon the banks of lake or river again, where salmon may be fished for with the spinning bait, I shall use the new "Bell's Life Spinner," made by Alfred, of Moorgate Street, and nothing else, casting with a heavy lead entirely from the reel.

An eight-plait, tapered and dressed line is as good as can possibly be used. Three or four at least should be taken upon any salmon campaign, and of different thicknesses and strength. Heavy rods and extensive far-off casts want heavy lines. Light, easy casts just the reverse. In purchasing the casting line or gut bottom, never haggle about pence. Buy the best, the roundest, and clearest gut that can be had, free from specks and flaws, and if you cannot get a tackle-maker to make your three-yard casts to your own order, make them yourself. Never have a bit of binding in a cast at all. Binding frequently serves to cover the sin of careless and bad knotting. Tie your own knots, and there will be far less occasion in the future for frightening the game after a mishap by sitting down upon a big stone and giving vent to heavenly language with the soft pedal down.

Flies are so multifarious in their number, and vary so much for different rivers, that it would be impossible to give a list of them in anything short of the space of a three-volumed novel. I shall therefore say very little about them, because I believe that an ounce of local experience is worth a ton of far-off theory. I certainly do not believe that half-a-dozen flies will kill salmon all over the world, so that my advice would be to an intending explorer, take with you a full list of such flies as are known to be good killers upon the particular water you intend to fish. When at head-quarters, if you have not got precisely what you want, it is probable that either a local fly tier may supply your need, or that a day's post may be equal to the deficiency. For a wonderfully comprehensive list of salmon flies for nearly every river in the kingdom, commend me to Francis Francis. It is a very difficult, if not impossible matter to attempt to impart theoretical knowledge upon the best principle of casting, striking, and so on. If a man can throw a trout-fly well, or even approaching it, a very little practice will make him equal to the far less elegant method of casting over a big pool with a double-handed salmon rod. Apart from that, I do not believe that the most accomplished theorist that ever lived taught much, if anything at all, as to a matter of detail which is, after all that can be said or argued, only to be acquired by knack, constant practice, and considerable personal skill. My best advice to a beginner is, never try too much. Keep the length of your casting line well under your own command, and "long throws," the summit of nearly every fisherman's ambition, will come by slow degrees.

One thing, however, I may add, and cannot impress it too strongly upon the attention of a novice or beginner—never thrash time after time over a rising fish. If you notice a salmon popping his "neb" up, with just a curl, or a little boil in the water, that fish looks likely, very likely. Cast over, therefore, or rather somewhat above the spot where you saw him break, and let the fly sweep gently over him. If after three throws, or four at the outside, he makes no sign, come out of the water, rest him for half an hour, and try him then with something totally and entirely different, both in size and colour, to the first mouthful of feathers and tinsel submitted. If that is refused, again come out, smoke a pipe, or say five of 'em, and then try him with something different again. Another refusal—go home.

A fish that comes up with a thundering splash, throwing himself smack out of water, head and tail up, is no good. He does not mean business, so let him alone. In working the fly with the point of the rod, keep the rod down, and as much line in the water as you can, so long as it works straight. My own idea is that a fly kills best well under water.

With these remarks I shall close my gossip on salmon. If the reader has not gained much, it is simply because under this head I have little to teach from personal experience. If I could spin a more useful yarn I would gladly do it; but I hardly care to make up for my own deficiency by re-cooking the opinions of others, and trusting to my readers' interest in the point at issue for not discovering the robbery.

THE TACTICS OF FISH.

I HAVE before dwelt upon the cunning of the salmon as shown in his sulkying habits when hooked and his dogged resistance to almost every effort by an angler to dislodge him from his fastness beneath a boulder and some overhanging rock, and pointed out the ingenious device of the late Mr. H. L, Rolfe, which in the form of a sheet of paper sent down the line, has never failed to prove an effective ejectment to this stubborn lodger in the deep. All salmon fishers are equally aware of the habit of this fish, when hooked, of the endeavour to dash out the fly or break the gut with its tail. The accepted plan upon such occasions is to lower the point of the rod on the instant of the fish's spring, so that the fish comes down on a slack line, recovering the line immediately. I have known a salmon resort to this trick six or eight times, and not cease until it has become apparently tired from its exertions. Trout have the same propensity, and this "dodge" succeeds more often, strange to say, in the smaller salmonidæ than in the larger, as many an angler, to their great disappointment, can testify. Being prepared for this peculiarity should be the fisherman's constant care. I never knew but once in all my pike slaughterings a jack to essay this acrobatic leap for liberty, but I can recall one case in which a pike exhibited extraordinary evidences of instinct, if not of reason. I was fishing one of the lakes which head the Loddon at Old Basing, then the property of Lord Boston, when, in spinning, I hooked a fish of just over 11 lb. This pike, upon feeling the hooks, made a desperate rush to the extreme end of the lake, clearly defining its exact passage in the water by the small fry which leapt above the surface to avoid their fell enemy. I had, however, got my prey so well in hand that all its visits to the air were futile. I contrived to turn him, and had brought him some distance home, when he made a desperate effort, and taking out about twenty yards of line, made for a small bunch of reeds in the centre of the pool. With regard to this vegetation, I had been cautioned by the keeper, as the foundation of it was the stump of an old willow, which had been dragged there, armed with nails to prevent netting. Round this formidable obstacle the pike carried my line, and the keeper gave the fish up for lost. Not so did I, but placed my rod with some loose line drawn from the reel on the side of the pool, lighted my pipe and sat down to bide my time, or rather that of my quarry, with the assurance to the keeper that, as the fish had coiled the line round this impediment, the chances were it would soon free itself. This it did, when another succession of somersaults followed. They proved, however, unavailing; and, as a last resource, the pike plunged into the reeds, and catching firmly hold of a mouthful of stems with its jaws, struggled and shook its head with great energy, as if to tear out the flight of hooks. The water being beautifully clear, and the bottom of silver sand, every movement of the fish was distinctly discernible, and a greater example of the expedients a fish would and could resort to for life, I never before, nor since, have witnessed. How often similar proceedings in other fish may have taken place in water too opaque to watch their movements, it is difficult to say. But I have no doubt that the cunning of the pike may have such resources as I have here spoken of, and others which it only required the pellucidness of their natural element to render manifest.

It has been often urged that it is the nature of fish, when thrown alive on the land, to turn their heads to the water and make for it if possible. This may be done if the grass is wet and the soil slimy; but my experiences do not prove this, excepting with eels, as a rule. The fact is, that the experiments I have seen tried by others, have almost invariably been practised on sloping banks, the tendency, therefore, by the slightest movement of the fish, being to bring them closer to stream or pond.

Those who have seen greyhounds coursing a hare, and the doublings of the latter, will have observed somewhat the tactics of a pike in pursuit of a dace or gudgeon. The only way in which the victim can escape, and that perhaps only for a time, is to leap upwards above the surface of the water, and which permits the pike, incapable of checking its impetus, to pass under it. But a very few leaps of this sort exhausts the unfortunate bait, and let the destroyer once pass its victim, it will then, with that powerful rudder, the tail, describe a semi-circle round it, which causing a strong vortex, brings it within the fatal snap of its relentless jaws. This process may be witnessed on a larger scale in the clear green sea-water of the ocean, when the flying fish are being chased by the voracious bonito. The perch, I believe, from observation, does not select a single fish and pursue it to the death, but after driving a shoal of fry into shallow water, makes a headlong dash amongst the lot, and seizes right and left all that are within his reach. There are, however, instances in which fish intended as a meal for both pike and perch escape, with, it may be, the loss of part of their tail, or a liberal reduction in the size of their bodies, from the teeth of their tormentors.

Now, it is a notable fact that the subtlety of the salmon in seeking an escape from the angler, by a resort to the crevices of rocks, and that of the pike, as related above, are attributed in their quality of the carp. William Pilkerton, in Pennell's "Fishing Gossip," in relation to this fish says: "The well known Horatian motto, *Carpe diem*, might, without any great violence to the original, be rendered, catch your carp to-day, if you can, for the cunning customer may not be inclined to give you a chance on the morrow." Its suspicious carefulness is almost proverbial among fishers, and it even contrives to elude the fatal sweep of the net, as described in the *Prædium Rusticum*, by Vanière, who has not inappropriately been termed the French Virgil, and is thus translated by Duncombe:—

"Of all the fish that swim the watery mead,
Not one in cunning can the carp exceed,
Sometimes, when nets enclose the stream, she flies
To hollow rocks, and there in secret lies;
Sometimes the surface of the waters skims,
And springing o'er the net undaunted swims,
Now motionless she lies beneath the flood,
Holds by a weed, or deep into the mud
Plunges her head, for fear against her will
The nets should drag her and elude her skill;
Nay, not content with this, she oft will dive
Beneath the net, and not alone contrive
Means for her own escape, but pity take
On all the hapless brethren of the lake,
For rising with her back she lifts the snares,
And pets the captive with officious cares;
The little fry in safety swim away,
And disappoint the nets of their expected prey.

A subject of this kind must necessarily take of a discursive character, but I had intended it to have had its methodical sequence; as, for instance: (1) The tactics display by fish in their pursuit of food; (2) When taken and its doubtful character; and (3) When captured, and trying to escape. But one division, as the facts occur to me, I have found running so much one into another that I have preferred the more conversational, rather than the conventional mode of treatment.

It will doubtless occur to the icthyological scholar that the above lines in reference to the carp would almost literally apply to the family of the mugil or mullet. And here I would ask permission to correct a common error, which confounds two distinct fish which differ in almost every characteristic of form, colour, and habits—namely, the grey mullets with the red or surmullets. Oppian, of the mullet, says:—

The mullet, when encircling lines enclose,
The fatal threads and treacherous bosom knows.
Instant he rallies all his vigorous powers,
And faithful aid of every nerve implores;
O'er battlements of cork undaunted flies,
And finds from air th' escape that sea denies.

There is, however, here no friendly mud to help the fish, as the net for the mugil is shot near the shore, where its leaded bottom reached a hard, gravelly, or consistent sandy ground; but the watchful eye of of the fish, as soon as it discovers the barrier of restraint, instead of rushing to the only but yet distant opening, which it might not be able to reach before the tide ebbed, boldly essays to spring, or rather tumble over the headline, and when one succeeds, all the rest will be sure to follow.

CREEL.

[We have frequently seen pike spring from the water when we have been playing them.—ED,]

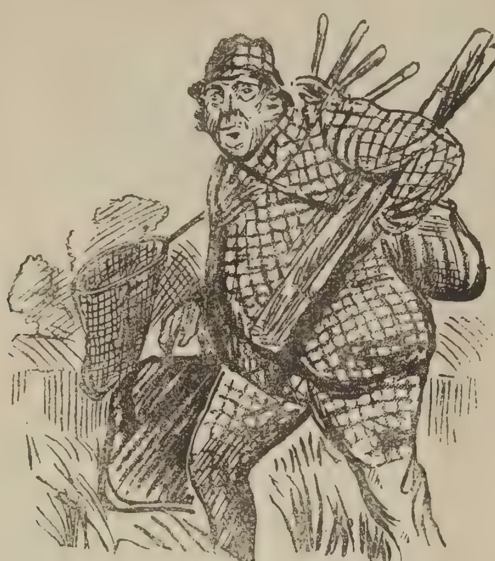
(*To be continued.*)

THE BROADS AND RIVERS OF NORFOLK.

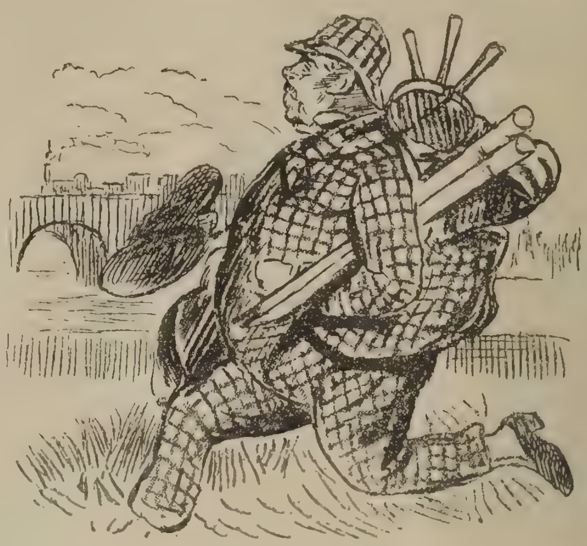
THE "Broads and Rivers of Norfolk," with chart map showing the various points of interest, railway lines and stations, is the title of a most useful little sixpenny guide, which has just been published by that friend of anglers, Mr. P. Soman, *Argus* office, Norwich. We have so often expatiated on the splendid free fishing which the Norfolk rivers and broads afford, that it must be unnecessary to say more in their praise. They afford by a long way the best, most accessible, and cheapest fishing for roach, rudd, bream, pike, perch, &c., in the United Kingdom. Railway travelling on the line of the Great Eastern is extremely cheap, and most liberal reductions are made to club anglers; this line opens up all the best fishing. Living at the river side inns is both good and cheap; the rivers teem with fish, so much so, that the catches are estimated by the stone weight instead of by the pound. The air is splendid, and there is a peculiar charm about the scenery on these broads and rivers which never tires.

The author of the little work before us is a most enthusiastic admirer of the Dutch-like character of the country he describes, with its dykes, windmills, reed-fringed rivers and broads, vast expanse of meadow-like marshes dotted with fine cattle, with here and there a gentle tree-covered elevation. Norfolk is a perfect angling paradise. Next to salmon and trout fishing, we know nothing so delightful as an angling holiday spent at some quiet inn on the Yare or Bure, varied with excursions to the different broads, and trust before long to renew our acquaintance with them. We have sent many a London piscator to Norfolk and have invariably found that when once they have been, anglers always look forward with pleasure to future visits. To those who contemplate going, we would say get Mr. Soman's little guide, which gives abundant information for anglers, and if further particulars are required, call on Mr. C. Greene, the tackle maker, of Norwich, who will fit you out with the proper tackle, and tell you where to begin.

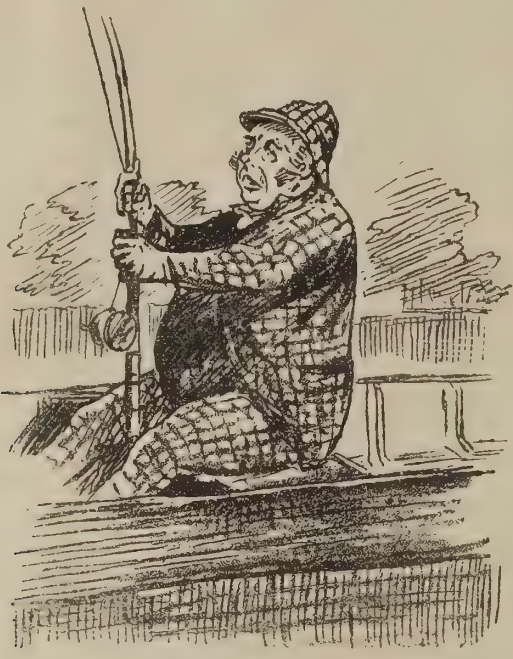
GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether the may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]



THE "COMPLETE" ANGLER.



WILL HE CATCH IT?



"GOT HIM ON!"

A FAMILY PARTY.

LODDON WATERS.

NOTES ON THE BLACK BASS.

By R. B. Marston.

The late Mr. Frank Buckland, in his work on "British Fishes," devoted considerable space to the description of such foreign fish as he thought would be desirable additions to our rivers and other waters. With reference to the black bass, he says:—"Among the perches that promise well for acclimatisation the fish which seems to me the most suitable of all is the black bass. In December, 1878, Mr. Begg, a Scotch gentleman who has a residence near Lake Huron, brought to England some living specimens of black bass from the St. Lawrence. Most of these were sent to Mr. Mason, of Eynsham Hall, Oxford, and Mr. Begg himself took a number of them to Dunrobin Castle, the seat of the Duke of Sutherland. It is to the Marquis of Exeter, of Burghley House, Stamford, that English fish-culturists owe the present acclimatisation of black bass in this country. Mr. Silk, the able and successful pisciculturist to the marquis, has been twice to America, at his lordship's expense, to fetch these bass. Mr. Silk kindly gives me the following report of his expeditions. The pains he took to obtain success does him the greatest credit." Mr. Buckland then quotes Mr. Silk's account of his first expedition in 1878, when he left the Delaware River with 250 fish, and got 153 of them safely to Stamford, and of his second expedition, in 1879, when he started with 1,200 and brought 812 alive to Stamford. Most of these fish were placed in a lake belonging to the marquis, called Whitewater.

The next importation was in the spring of this year, when Mr. George Shepard Page brought over some dozens of large fish for the Duke of Sutherland. We published an account of Mr. Page's work recently.

Value of the Black Bass.

Thirty-three years ago, "Frank Forester," the Izaak Walton, of America, wrote thus of the black bass in his work on "Fish and Fishing in America." And it must be remembered that Frank Forester was a thorough sportsman, well acquainted with salmon and trout fishing. He says "The black bass is one of the finest of the American freshwater fishes; it is surpassed by none in boldness of biting, in fierce and violent resistence when hooked, and by very few only in excellence upon the table."

Mr. Charles Hallock, formerly editor of *Forest and Stream*, one of the best sporting journals in the United States, thus refers to the black bass in his most valuable work "The Sportsman's Gazetteer."

Among the various candidates for popular favour for introduction into new waters, the the black bass has always deservedly occupied a very high place. The excellence of its flesh, its rapid growth, its endurance, and its game qualities, all contribute towards this appreciation. Its great merit lies in the fact that it requires no care in the way of culture, since a few pairs transferred bodily, will in time furnish a numerous progency. In consequence of its habit of making a nest and guarding it against intruders, the fish is enabled to readily secure the perpetuation of its race." . . . He then describes the almost endless kinds of flies and baits with which the fish may be captured, and says: "A heavy bass breaking water and leaping three feet into the air at the end of fifty yards of line and a light rod, is a sensation which, once experienced, will not soon be forgotten." In another place he says "no opportunity should be lost for enlightening those who look to his active qualities for superlative sport."

The only objection I have ever heard raised by English anglers against the introduction of the black bass, is that he will clear out all the other fish. But this is quite a mistaken idea. Mr. Hallock says on this point:—

"Many writers have maintained that black bass will in time destroy all other fishes which may be found in the waters into which they are introduced. I have never supported this theory, and careful observation disproves the charge Professor M. G. Ellzey, one of the fish Commissioners of Virginia, says:

"'I have repeatedly fished in the upper waters of the Roanoke for two years past, where bass have been plentiful for many years, and I find the usual varieties of catfish, suckers, sunfish, chubs, minnows, etc., existing in great abundance in the same pools in which I have been in the habit of catching the black bass. I have recently observed the same thing with regard to a large tributary of the Potomac river, in which I have fished ever since I was four years old. Notwithstanding the presence of great quantities of bass, the chub, sunfish, &c., have never been more abundant in the stream than now. Notwithstanding what has been said and supposed, the bass fishing on the Potomac has never been better, nor have the smaller varieties of fish appreciably diminished in that river. In almost all the streams that run into the Ohio river bass exist along with great abundance of other sorts, and here they have existed ever since the discovery of the country. It is, therefore, plain that, as a general thing, fish are incapable of exterminating other sorts in the open waters of running streams.'"

The reason he gives is that the natural food of the black bass consists of the small shell-fish, fresh water shrimps, crayfish, creepers, &c. No one pretends that the black bass if placed in a small confined water, where it cannot get sufficient natural food, will not feed on other fish, because it will; but it must be remembered the black bass is a vastly superior fish to any of the common white fish it may destroy. No one would think of putting them into trout and grayling streams!

Mr. Seth Green, whose name as a pisciculturist is so well known, in his work, "Fish Hatching and Fish Catching," says: "The black bass are courageous and never give up their lives until after they have made a good fight. As soon as they are hooked they throw themselves out of the water with a rush, and endeavour to smash the line, and shake their heads fiercely in their attempts to dislodge the hook. When they jump out of the water it is well to drop the point of the rod, as, if they succeed in flinging their broadsides on the line, they are apt either to snap it or tear out the hook. They are rarely brought to the net till they have leaped a half-dozen times from the water, sometimes as high as three feet from its surface. The thrill of dread which this manœuvre on their part arouses in the mind of of the fisherman is never staled by repetition, and there is no assurance of safety till the bass is fairly landed."

Dr. J. A. Henshall has written quite a large and very valuable volume on the black bass. It was reviewed in this paper some months ago.

The Black Bass as a Poor Man's Fish.

Although it rises well to the fly and affords the fly-fisher superb sport, the poor angler will find he can take the fish with just the same baits that the uses for jack, perch, roach, &c. Mr. Parker Gillmore, the well-known English traveller and sportsman, who is thoroughly well-acquainted with all the best fish and fishing in the world, writes thus of the black bass:—"I fear it will be almost deemed heresy to place this fish on a par with the trout; but I am bold and will go farther. I consider he is the superior of the two, for he is equally as good as an article of food, and much stronger and untiring in his efforts to escape when hooked."

The Colour of the Black Bass.

The following notes is taken from "The Book of the Black Bass," by Dr. Henshall of Cincinnati—a very capital book by the way. "The external appearance of the fish, as exhibited in the colours and markings, differs so greatly and constantly in different parts of America, that it would be useless to describe them minutely in a specimen from any given locality; for, as the vernacular names of fishes are usually bestowed with reference to the outward peculiarities of colouring, this has already given rise to much confusion in naming the species. Thus they are called black, green or yellow bass, respectively in different sections of the country; and not without reason, for black, green and yellow are the predominating primary colours of the two species. The colour, however, is always darkest on the back, with a gradual shading or paling towards the abdomen or belly, which is always white or whitish. There are two species of bass—the small mouthed and the large mouthed, both equally game fish according to Dr. Henshall. The bass spawns in the spring, it builds a nest in the gravel, and the parent fish protect the eggs and fry in a remarkable and most pertinacious manner. They hibernate in the winter."

BARRACUTTA FISHING OFF CAPE OTWAY.

It is many years ago, and I have forgotten what we had been up to, but I distinctly remember that we had to pick a considerable quantity of oakum as a punishment, instead of going below with the rest of the watch at eight bells, and as we sat on the deck on the lee side of the wheel-house—immediately under the watchful eye of "Old Blowhard," the first officer—we arranged the following little scheme, which gave us our revenge upon our old enemy, and also provided us and our hungry messmates with a feed such as we had not known for many a long day.

My chum in disgrace, like myself, was a middy, along with five others, on board a Melborne clipper. Our indulgent friends and parents had provided us with an abundant store of provisions on leaving London; but, as usual, we were robbed on all sides, and the result was that at the end of a month we were daily fighting for our "whack" of the ship's allowance. We were also in much the same predicament with our outfit. Mine cost, at least, fifty pounds; but on the day in question my best suit—in fact, the only suit that I had—consisted of a dungaree jumper and an old pair of canvas pants. I was not a bit worse off than my unfortunate messmates; we had been most unmercifully plundered by all hands, consequently it is not to be wondered at, that when we had lost everything we should in our time follow the example of our elders. When matters had arrived at this state, we held a conference in our cabin, to consider the situation. My particular chum, Deaf Ned, was voted to the chair, and before the meeting was broken up by the officer on watch, who suddenly appeared on the companion ladder, blessing our heavenly bodies, and ordering the watch aft to heave the log, we had taken our solemn oaths, on the bottom of an old tin pannikin, that we would stand by each other in our struggle for something to eat, instead of daily half murdering each other, as had been our practice when the grub was served out. Deaf Ned was a character, and as we sat on the lee side of the wheel-house picking oakum he appeared to me to be working out some problem in his mind, which caused me to ask what he was thinking about; for I felt certain that he was arranging some plan for clearing the steward's pantry, or else he had discovered some loose boards in the store-room bulkhead. He, however, cleared the matter up, by asking me whose watch it was from twelve till four, meaning the first watch next morning. I replied that it was mine. "Well," said he, "I'll tell you what the game is. I heard Old Blowhard tell the steward that we should be off Cape Otway by midnight, and that he was to get the fishing lines out and ready for him when he came on deck at twelve o'clock; he says he always catches plenty of Barracutta just about here." "Now," said Ned, with a twist of his lower jaw which indicated that he meant to eat some of them Barracutta; "how shall we work the oracle, eh?" We considered the matter over, and as I was in Blowhard's watch, I was of course to be one of the principal actors. We arranged our plans, and at twelve o'clock that night I turned out of my bunk in high glee at the prospect of doing Old Blowhard once. He was on deck mustering the watch, I was just in time to answer my name, which he always called out first, to catch me if he could. "Tomkins," he cried out in his peculiar style. "Here, sir," I answered. "Hallo, what's up now?" exclaimed he, as I surprised him with my ready answer, which, I must confess was something unusual, as I generally had to be roused out of my bunk with a sea boot or a wet swab. "Go aft, Tomkins, I want you," said he, after the muster roll was finished. I did so, and found a long fishing line baited with a piece of white rag and ready for putting over the stern, on the weather side of the wheel-house. "I'm going to do a bit of fishing to-night, Tomkins, and I want you to watch the line," said he, as he lowered it over the stern. "Yes, sir," answered I, manifesting great interest in the performance. "You must keep your eye lifting on the line, and as soon as you see anything flacker up at the end of it "you must come and tell me." "Yes, sir—yes sir, I'll come and tell you, replied I, rather too eagerly, which caused Old Blowhard to look out of the corner of his eye at me in a very suspicious manner as if he doubted my word; but as he was certain that I could not pass him with any fish without his seeing it, he took no further notice but left me to watch the line. The night was very dark, but fine, and as soon as Old Blowhard had left me, I heard a very low whistle over the ship's stern; and, looking over, I saw my chum's head out of one of the stern ports, which had been opened during the day to ventilate the state room, which was undergoing a thorough cleaning out, and consequently empty. Deaf Ned was there, ready for action, and as soon as Old Blowhard's back was turned, I lowered the bight of the fishing line to Ned, but held the fag-end in my own hand. We had previously arranged on a system of signals, so that in reality it was Ned that was fishing, and I was watching Old Blowhard. Ned must have been very careful in getting through the saloon into the stateroom without being seen, and I was just thinking what a clever fellow Ned was when I saw a tremendous flackering up in the water about one hundred yards astern, and I could hear Ned hauling the line in, hand over fist, into the state room port. I anxiously watched Old Blowhard, who had just returned on deck from his cabin, where he had been cutting up a pipe of hard tobacco. I kept my eye on him, and every now and then glanced over the stern to see the struggling fish that Ned was hauling in. In about three minutes it was safe into the port, and as quickly as possible the line was thrown out again. A low whistle, and Ned put his head out of the port. "It's a plugger," whispered he in an undertone, and quickly drew his head in again, and I had only just time enough to give him the signal to let go the line when Old Blowhard came aft. "Felt a bite yet Tomkins?" "No, sir," I replied "I haven't." "Well, that's strange; there's plenty of Barracutta off this coast. Give me hold of the line." I did so, and he hauled it in to examine the hook, which appeared to be all right, and he threw it out again and walked away. Our plan was a perfect success, so much so, that before daybreak Ned had four skelping big fish safely stowed away in our cabin. About half-an-hour before the end of the watch we had a smart shower, accompanied by a squall of wind, which increased to a strong southerly buster. Sheets and halyards were let go, and as the watch was nearly up, all hands were called. I rushed below to call the mids. Ned was peacefully slumbering in his bunk. He thought it was Old Blowhard coming; there was a rush for the oilskins, and I put the first one on I got hold of. Ned did the same, and we were soon hurrying up aloft to stow the royals and top gallant sails. Old Blowhard caught sight of us going up aloft with our macintoshes on. "Hey, you young lubbers, come down and take them things off," shouted he, pointing up to us. This just suited him, he knew we should get soaking wet to the skin. There was no help for it, so down we came and took them off. He grinned with delight as he put the macintosh on that he had just taken from Ned, and he walked up and down the deck in it, every now and then looking up at us poor wretches who were hanging on to the yards wet, to the skin. It was full daylight when we came down from aloft, and I was nearly on deck when a sight met my gaze that almost paralysed me. The captain and all the officers were on deck standing round Old Blowhard; they seemed to see something about him that caused them to laugh most immoderately. "You must have had a good night's sport among the Barracutta," remarked the captain quizzingly. "No, sir; never a fish," replied Old Blowhard, looking round to see the cause of the fun. "That's strange," replied the captain, "I thought you had caught so many that you had to carry them away on your back. Come, Mr. Blowhard, where are they. We'll have them for breakfast. This was too much or Old Blowhard. He soon had the macintosh off; and, to his astonishment, saw that the back was covered thick with fish-scales, perfectly fresh. He laid it down on deck, and gazed upon it with an expression on his face that clearly convinced me that he was getting ready for somebody. This caused me to reflect that the sooner I got forward into our den the better it would be for me, but I was too late, he twigged me dodging behind the companion hatch. Ned was surveying the whole scene from aloft, hid behind the mast, in the mizen-top. "Tomkins, my boy," exclaimed Old Blowhard, "come here a moment." "Yes, sir," replied I, very meekly. "Whose macintosh is that?" said he, pointing to that unfortunate garment spread out on the deck. "It's mine, sir." "Is it, now?" replied he, with a leer on his ugly face, that was scarlet with rage at being humbugged in such a fashion in the presence of the officers, who enjoyed it immensely. "And you didn't catch any fish this morning, did you?" "No, sir, I didn't," replied I, growing bold at seeing the officers enjoying it so much.

It would have gone very hard with me if the captain had not been there; but as Old Blowhard could not get anything more out of me, I was sent up to the mizen crosstrees for half a day as a punishment. But I had the satisfaction to know that my hungry messmates would have a rare feed, and that they would save me a tit-bit.

Deaf Ned saw all that had taken place from his hiding place in the mizen top, and as I passed him on my way up to the crosstrees, he promised to look after my interest as far as the feed was concerned, which he did, and when I came down at midday I found a rare feed of cooked fish and half a loaf of soft tack stowed away in the head of my bunk; and what was more surprising to me, I was presented with half a bottle of pickles by my grateful messmates, as a token of their gratitude for the share I had taken in the Barracutta fishing. I never asked where they got 'em from, but guessed that Ned had been round the steward's pantry.

Africander.

THREE WEEKS' HOLIDAY IN NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK.

THE first fortnight of my holiday was spent at Lowestoft, which is a most enjoyable place; and I think a short description of the town and surrounding country will not be out of place before I come to the more weighty matter of angling. The town, in which is comprised the village of Kirkley, claims to be of more antiquity than Yarmouth, which the following amusing anecdote exemplifies: "At the time the learned Potter was vicar of Lowestoft he received a letter from the Archbishop of Canterbury, which was addressed to him at 'Lowestoft, near Yarmouth.' Potter, apparently indignant at the slight thus put upon the town and its more ancient condition, in his reply to the Archbishop added a postscript, in these word: 'My lord, when you direct to me again be pleased to write simply Lowestoft; Lowestoft does not want Yarmouth for a directing post, for Lowestoft was, ere Yarmouth rose out of the azure main.'" Among the attractions of the town are the Bell Vuė Gardens at the north end, which have a most lovely view of the sea and denes. The walk along the denes is most beautiful, their sides are clothed with heather, bracken, gorse, and most lovely moss; also at this end of the town there are two most powerful lighthouses—one a revolving light the other a stationary one; at the south end there is a capital tennis-ground. The principal hotel in the place is the Royal, which, from all accounts, is most comfortable. But the greatest attraction, to the angler at least, is the harbour, which is most extensive—it is formed at the mouth of the river Waveney; a few miles up is Oulton Broad, of which more anon. One of the sides of the harbour forms the pier, which is 1300 feet in length, and form a splendid promenade; half-way down it is a reading-room and a band-stand, where a band performs twice a day during the season. But to return to the harbour. It was constructed by Sir S. M. Peto, in fact Lowestoft owes most of its present prosperity to that gentleman, who purchased Somerleyton Hall, a most magnificent place, a few miles from Lowestoft. Its present owner, Sir Saville Crosley, kindly gives leave to the public once a week to view his grounds and conservatories, which well deserve a visit. I suppose they must be some of the most beautiful in England, they are especially famous for their fuschias. But to revert to our subject—the harbour and the fishing there. The fortnight I was there was most unfavourable to anglers; but every morning I saw numbers of visitors of all ages and sizes trying their luck in the harbour. The tackle they used mostly was a running-line float and gut bottom, two or three hooks, the lower one just touching the bottom. I also saw several paternosters in use. The principal fish caught are smelts (which the natives call cucumbers), dabs, eels, small plaice, whiting and occasionally a small turbot. It was not my luck to catch anything of a reasonable size, a few nice smelts and some small eels and dabs were about all I caught. But though not successful myself, I saw several nice fish caught, among others several eels of 2 and 3 lb., and one nice turbot of 2 lb. The baits principally used are shrimps, with and without their skins, and fresh herring; these can always be obtained from boys, who drive quite a lucrative trade in selling bait. Apart from the angling, the harbour is a very pleasant place to spend a morning in; fishing-boats are continually arriving and delivering their cargoes. There are two very fine fish markets on the quay, one for flat fish and the other for herrings. The amount of fish that comes in is something enormous. It is very interesting to watch the fish brought ashore, especially the coarse fish, as with them there is more variety. One day a most magnificent sturgeon was brought up, weighing 22 stone—it was a monster. I also saw some John Dorey and a variety of curious fish.

I was particularly struck with the immense size of the halibut, and was told by the fishermen that they had seen them weighing—well, I should not like to say what, they may have been humbugging me. While you are staying there, if you want a good, fresh, cheap dish of fish, go down to the market when a boat has just come up, then's your time for a bargain. Now for the herring market: this is much newer and is very spacious, the quantities of herrings brought up is wonderful, but even their numbers pale before the numbers which are brought up at Yarmouth. It may be interesting to some to know how much netting is taken on board a smack. "The boats take from 101 to 161 nets each, each net of an average length of about 50 feet and 12 feet in width."—Wall's "Guide to Yarmouth."

Both at Lowestoft and Yarmouth, there is splendid fishing for the angler from the beach for codlings, the water being very deep close in shore—in maps it is marked as the "five fathom line." The *modus operandi* is as follows:—A line from 50 to 80 yards in length is attached to a weighty piece of lead, which has joined to it a ring; the line must be armed with as many hooks as the owner may fancy and baited with *fresh* herring, but the great art is the throwing out. To accomplish this satisfactorily it is necessary to have a stick—a broomstick, I believe that is what they use. At one end a spike must be inserted, now put the ring which is on the lead upon the spike and hold your stick in both hands, give it a good swing and out goes your line; after a little practice it can be thrown to a great distance. The sport obtained is thus very exciting, two or three codlings being often brought up at once, and their weight varies, I am told, from 1 to 6 lb. You hold this line in your hand, and tell by the jerking when you have a bite. It is no use beginning this fishing much before the 1st of October. Now for the fresh-water fishing in the Broads close to Lowestoft. I write of them as I found them; I dare say I am not competent to form an opinion, as I had not many opportunities of trying their capabilities, and had no friends to show me favourable spots. After fishing in three of them, I formed the opinion that, to obtain much success you want to know them well, or to have a friend with you who knows them. My first visit was to Oulton Broad, which, as I said before, is two or three miles up the river. Starting at Lowestoft at about nine o'clock a.m., you are landed at Mutford Bridge station after about a quarter of an hour's journey; there you alight, and after a five minutes' walk come to an inn, which, if I recollect rightly, was called the "Sportsman's Arms." There you can obtain bait for yourself and the fish, ground-bait, and boats; the charge for the boats per day is 2s. I can't say I think much of their worms, which are most peculiar reptiles with bluish heads. the ground bait is very tolerable, a mixture of bran and meal I fancy. The only thing I objected to in my boat, was that they gave me a pair of sculls each about six inches too long, and at the end of the day I hardly had a piece of skin left on my knuckles. It certainly was my own fault for not looking after them better. One piece of advice I give to all who intend fishing there—be sure and see that you have an anchor at each end of your boat, or an anchor and a pole; it is most disgusting to find that when you have baited a place your boat has swung round. That is how I was taken in; but for all that I had a most enjoyable day, though the sport was not good. I tried several places, the perch absolutely refused to bite at all, they evidently did not like the worms, then I tried for roach with paste, leaving my paternoster to take care of itself. With them I was more successful, but at the end of the day I had only about a score nice ones. About four o'clock I heard the pike begin rolling about in a shallow place, so I caught some bait, and rigged up a rod with snap tackle, and went to try my luck among them, but with no result, except that of losing my temper—well, it was enough to provoke a saint to see those pike striking out all round and not getting a touch. I am sure there are many heavy ones among them; I advise anyone going there to try that place, it is easily found, it lies on the right hand of the entrance to the river which leads to Norwich, at least I think it does; any way, the boatman will show you the place; he told me there were tons of pike there. The Broad is a beautiful piece of water, and very large. There are several nice yachts on it, both steam and sail. Being so close to the sea, it must be the very place to keep a boat on. I was told, but I cannot vouch for the truth of it, that there are some sea trout in Oulton. I should think it very doubtful if there are. My next visit was to Fritton Decoy.

Y. Piscator.

(*To be continued.*)

FLY-CASTING MATCHES AS PRACTISED IN AMERICA.

We asked Mr. Geo. S. Page if he could give us any particulars of the fly-casting tournaments in the States, and he has very kindly obtained the following most interesting information from Mr. Reuben Wood, the present champion fly-caster.—Ed.

"July 13, 1882.

"To Geo. Shepard Page, Esq., London, England.

"Dear Sir,—Your very kind favour of June 28th just at hand, through *Forest and Stream*.

"I herewith enclose printed rules as desired, taken from published report of the State Association. I would add, no person is eligible to enter a contest unless a member of a club in good standing, and the club one of those forming the State Association, for the protection and propagation of fish and game.

"The intention of the originators of these contests, I think, was to encourage and instruct amateurs in fly-casting; but, by some means, of late years the judges have laid but little stress upon any of the points except distance, a ruling that, while I stand unequalled for distance, I deprecate, from the fact that while a man may be able to cast a long distance, he may at the same time do it in a most awkward manner, and in the nice points in handling a fly-rod for fishing, such as "accuracy" (in being able to cast his fly direct to a certain spot), "delicacy" (in being able to drop his fly lightly upon the water), and "style" (being able to handle his rod easily and gracefully, using both hands equally well, in fact, a practical flyfisherman), be entirely deficient.

"The art is, as compared with England, new with us, and I am sorry to say our best fly fishermen do not, as a rule, attend our contests, for the reason that they are held in connection and in a measure as a side show 'to the Grand Pigeon Slaughter,' the grand object of the gathering, rather than the object originally intended when the Association was formed, and as the name of the Association would imply—"For the protection and propagation of fish and game."

"I would advise (1.) Keep your fly-casting entirely separate from any other sport. (2.) Choose your judges from your old men who have a reputation and a thorough knowledge of the art as practised, and required to capture the wily trout.

"As to our records on distances Seth Green has a record, made at Syracuse, in 1869, of 84 feet; from the best sources I am assured that it was guessed at, as it was the first year any report was made of the length of cast. For the next two years no record was kept. In 1871, the best cast was 65 feet with 12 feet 3-inch rod; salmon-casting, rod 17^3, 80 feet; 1872, Seth Green, 65 feet, 1st prize, length of rod not given; 1873, no record given, I took 1st, casting 65 feet with a heavy wind; 1874, R. Wood, 1st, 68^6, 11^6 rod; 1875, R. Wood, 1st, 75 feet, 12-foot rod; 1876, R. Wood, 1st, 69 feet, 12-foot rod; 1877, Iva Wood, 72 feet; 1878, my brother and I let Seth win with a record of 70 feet, 12-foot rod; Rochester, 1879, we did not cast. J. J. Meldram, one of my pupils, 66 feet, 12-foot rod. Salmon casting, Meldram, 1st, 72 feet; 1880, Ira Hood, 1st, 70 feet, 10^6 rod; 1881, R. Wood, 1st, 75 feet, 10-foot rod. Salmon casting, R. Hood, 1st, 110 feet; Ira Hood. 102^{10}, 17-foot rod; H. Prichard, 92 feet, 15-foot rod; 1882, R. Wood, 1st, 75 feet, 10-foot rod. You will observe the rules allow 5 feet to the foot for excess of length in rod. We think it too great, yet have followed the rule for years.

"The State Association owns, and we use for measuring distance, a cord with buoys attached, weighted underneath, so that when the cord is stretched the buoys stand upright, and the numbers easily read for some distance. Buoys placed 5 feet apart. Our first buoy is marked 25; a knot is tied in the rope at zero, that is, drawn to the stake from which we cast, so that the buoys register correctly. The odd feet between the buoys are estimated, if the full distance is not reached, as it would take so many buoys to mark every foot. Thus, I believe, I have given you all the points on fly-casting.

"As to black bass, we find them nearly, if not quite, as gamey fish as the brook trout. They attain a weight of nearly, or quite, 6lb. In a swift, rocky stream a two pounder will give any man all the proof he may require on this head. We are stocking many of our depleted trout streams and inland lakes with them, and prize them very highly, not only as a game fish, but as a table fish. If any one finds their peculiar flavour too strong, skin them, and most of it is lost. You cannot find a fish, other than the trout, within my knowledge, that will give you the sport they will.

"I think I have given you all the points you require; but if not, shall be pleased to reply to any future inquiries you may make. Keep your fly-casting separate from all shooting, and you will find that it will raise your standard, and increase your fly fishermen. And every new fly fisherman I look upon as another fish warden, for he will help you keep the poachers from your streams.

"With best wishes for your success, both in fly casting tournaments and also with your black bass.—I am, &c.,

"Reuben Wood.

"74, South Salina Street, Syracuse,
N.Y., U.S.A."

"George S. Page, Esq.

Rules of N.Y. State Association for Contest in Fly Casting.

No rod shall be allowed over eleven feet six inches, nor less than nine feet six inches in length, and it shall be used with a single hand.

A practicable line and reel shall be attached to the rod.

Three flies, one stretcher and two droppers, must be used, and a casting line or leader of single gut, of not less than eight feet in length.

No attached weight of any kind on the line or fly shall be permitted.

Allowance of distance shall be made according to the length of each rod of five feet for every foot of length, and at that rate for each part of a foot.

Each contestant shall be allowed five minutes for style, delicacy, and accuracy in casting, and five more for length of reach; and, in case of accident, such as parting or fouling of the fly or line, the referee may allow additional time, in his discretion.

No cast shall be valid unless the line be retrieved.

The contest shall be as to distance, accuracy, delicacy, and general style combined; and the distance, if practicable, shall be measured along the water. The casting shall be done with one hand, across, against, and with the wind.

The distance of the casting shall be measured from stretcher fly to the mark that the person casting toes with the advanced foot.

Salmon Fly-Casting.

The foregoing rules shall govern, except that the contest is to be with double-handed rods, which shall not be over twenty feet in length; the shortest length should be stated, as I cast against a grilse rod of fifteen feet with a salmon rod of seventeen feet, having to allow Mr. Prichard ten feet, as difference in length of rod; the casting line or leader shall not be less than ten feet in length. Allowance of distance shall be made for length, but not for weight, and no more than one fly shall be used.

A PLEASANT THING TO "REVIEW."

Messrs. Roper Frères and Cie., of Epernay, have sent us a case of their first quality extra-dry champagne to review! We have reviewed it, and shall keep on doing so as long as it lasts. It is a most pleasant wine, and with a knob of ice in it, makes a most delicious drink this sultry weather. For pic-nics on the river, for banquets, in fact, for all occasions, we can confidently recommend this brand to all who like a dry champagne—infinitely superior to the trashy sweet stuff, in our opinion.

That Yankee who said he "had a thirst on him that he would'nt sell for a dollar," would have appreciated this Roperian draught!

CRITCHFIELD ANGLING SOCIETY.

THE inaugural dinner of the above Society, was held at the Middleton Arms, Queen's Road, Dalston, on Thursday, the 27th ult., when about thirty members and friends sat down to a spread, which, for abundance and elegance, did great credit to the host, Mr. Treasurer Johnson.

The chair was taken by the President, Mr. A. C. Critchfield, who "filled" it in every sense of the term, and was ably seconded by Mr. Charles Hayward as vice.

The Chairman was supported by Mr, Charles Deacon, Mr. John Jones, and other gentlemen well known in the parish of Shoreditch and the Borough of Hackney.

After the viands had been sufficiently well discussed, the time-honoured host of "The Queen and Royal Family" was given, and enthusiastically drunk with musical honours. "The Army, Navy, and Reserve Forces" was also given, coupled with the name of Mr. H. R. Fletcher, late of Her Majesty's Foot Guards, who replied briefly, and, as a soldier should, to the "point."

The Vice-Chairman proposed, "Success to the Critchfield Angling Society," coupled with the name of the President. The toast was received with acclamation, and drank with the usual musical accompaniment. The Vice-Chairman in the course of his remarks, said that this society would acquire a better tone of respectability from the fact of its not meeting on Sundays.

The President then replied in a neat speech, setting forth the advantages of angling to both old and young alike, and expressing an opinion that the society, with the elements it was composed of, and the advantages it possessed, would shortly be second to none, either in number or other qualifications. The toast of "The Visitors" was next given, and duly honoured, to which Mr. John Jones replied, in a sound and practical speech, demurring at the same time, that he was named to reply for "The Visitors," as he had already become a member, and was very proud of this fact.

Mr. T. Glass, in a highly complimentary speech, then proposed "The health of the Secretary, which was very cordially drank.

The Secretary," in acknowledging the compliment, gave the information that twenty-three gentlemen had already been enrolled during this the first month of the society's existence, and that nine more gentlemen were waiting to become members (cheers)

Messrs. Deacon and Merreton entertained the company with duets, &c., during the evening, and Messrs. Ellis, Hayward, Berry, and other gentlemen, enlivened the proceedings with some capital songs, Mr. Lee kindly presiding at the pianoforte. J. F.

P.S.—Some inquiries having been made in a recent number of the FISHING GAZETTE for a society in which Sunday angling was not recognised, the gentlemen enquiring would do well to communicate with the Secretary of the above, who will be pleased to furnish particulars. Address, Mr. John Featherstone, 6, Broke Road, Dalston, E.

FLAMELESS COMBUSTION.

AT the soiree of the Society of Chemical Industry recently held at Owens College, a new theory of combustion was practically illustrated by Mr. Thomas Fletcher, of Warrington, the results being so totally unexpected that many present would, and in fact did, go away with the impression that some deception was being practised. Mr. Jacob Reese, the inventor of the Reese fusing disc, has stated his belief that if it were possible to produce combustion without flame, the temperatures and duty obtained from any fuel would be enormously increased. It has remained for Mr. Fletcher to not only prove the possibility of flameless combustion in more than one form, but also to demonstrate practically the enormously high temperatures which can be obtained by this means. Taking a ball of iron wire about three pounds in weight, Mr. Fletcher placed it on a slab of fire clay, and directing a blowpipe flame on it for a few seconds he suddenly blew the flame out. The temperature increased so rapidly that in a few seconds the wrought iron fused and ran into drops, and this temperature was steadily maintained. The room was darkened, but the closest examination did not show a trace of flame, although the fact that the gas was burning was proved by repeatedly relighting and extinguishing it. The same experiment was repeated in another form by directing the flameless heat into a small fire clay chamber, in which a refractory clay crucible, made especially for nickel melting, was partially fused and worked into a ball like soft putty, the sides of the fire clay chamber being at the same time fused. The heat was so tremendous that the blowpipe laboratory which was given up to Mr. Fletcher for the evening was much too hot to be agreeable, in spite of open windows and ventilators. How far this discovery can be utilised remains to be seen, but it would appear that the presence of flame, usually considered to be a sign of combustion, is really an indication of imperfect results, and the best duty is to be obtained only when flame is totally absent. It is certain that such temperatures as obtained by Mr. Fletcher without flame have never previously been obtained with the fuel used, which was nothing more than a small gas supply for a quarter-inch pipe, assisted by an air blast. As regards the soiree, the society may be considered a promising infant. It is under a year old, and about seventeen hundred were present on Thursday, the building being inconveniently crowded. The meeting next year is to be in London, the president for the year being **Mr. F. A. Abel**, C.B., F.R.S., of the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich.—*Warrington Guardian*, July 12, 1882.

REMEDY FOR TOO-HARD STRIKING.

(Correspondence from the *Field.*)

SIR,—Noticing Mr. Francis Francis's remarks upon too-hard striking in fly-fishing, I thought I would send you a little account of what I consider a perfect remedy for this fault, which nine anglers out of ten are prone to.

I use the very finest-drawn gut I can get in trout fishing, and I used to find that in trying to make a cast when my line was fast, unknown to me, in some bush or snag, I smashed something pretty often, the reason being that I held the line in the grasp with the rod.

But for some time I have adopted the plan of striking from the winch—that is to say, I do not hold the line at all in the hand. Of course, the winch used must be a check winch. I prefer a slight silent check, a check which will prevent a fifteen or twenty-yard cast from pulling off when you draw from the water or make a fresh throw. The advantages of striking in this way are:

1. No matter how hard you strike, you cannot break your line, as it simply runs a foot or so off the winch, and thus gives to the strain after the resistance required to send the hook home has been overcome.

2. If your line catches in an iron fence behind you (about the worst catch you can make), just when you are exerting all your strength for a long cast, and you are holding it tight, you must smash your rod or line; but if you strike from the winch the line runs off, and your rod is saved that heavy "jam" which one always hates to feel. To give a practical instance of the value of this style of striking in grayling fishing, I may mention that last month I was fishing the Yorkshire Derwent in the club waters between Forge valley and Hackness. It was the first time I had fished them, and I got thirty-five brace of trout in four days, the first two days being half spoiled by thick water, I used nothing but fly, the limit is ten brace, and on the last two days I put back five or six brace of good fish. Every fish was struck from the winch, and I rarely missed a fish. In addition to the above trout, I caught and put back at least ten brace of grayling, with which the river abounds. Now I was not fishing for grayling—in fact they were a nuisance, taking up time—and I struck them just as I did the trout, instantly and pretty hard; and yet I do not remember losing a single grayling from too hard striking. Many trout fishers will remember how often they have struck off a grayling's lip.

July 16. R. B. MARSTON.

PANORAMIC RAILWAY GUIDES.

MESSRS. BEMROSE and SON have sent us sixpenny panoramic guides to eleven of the great railways, viz., Great Northern, Midland, Great Eastern, Great Western, London and North Western, London and South Western, South Eastern, North British, Glasgow and South Western, L. B. and S. C. R., and London, Chatham and Dover. These guides are edited by Mr. R. Kemp Philip, and each contains a capital map of the railway it describes. The novel feature in these guides is that, along the centre of each page runs a double line of rails and stations; tunnels, rivers, &c., are marked, and the distances given. On the down and up sides is a description of the scene which presents itself through the carriage windows, and whatever locally pertains to history, biography, science, agriculture, manufactures, or commerce, is pointed out in plain language and readable type.

It will be seen that the tourist who has one of these guides will have a wonderfully entertaining companion, and the angler will find them specially interesting as giving him the names of the many rivers he crosses in his railway journey; indeed, we notice with pleasure that Mr. Kemp has not forgotten to give notes about the angling here and there, and we can assure him that if he will make this feature more general and prominent in future editions, and refer to the fact on the cover, he will find a great increase in the number of his readers. But as every angler possesses, or ought to possess, a copy of the "Anglers' Diary and Guide to Fishing Stations," he can easily supplement the general information of the panoramic guide by reference to his "Diary."*

CAPITAL WADING SOCKS.

MR. J. W. TACON, of 277, High Holborn, sends us another pair of his hand-made fishing socks, which he advertises to send post free for 2s. We have not worn out the last pair he sent yet, and perhaps that is the best testimonial they could have, as all other socks we have tried have been demolished in half the time. Whether for putting on over the waders, or wearing for warmth in the winter, these socks answer admirably and we have pleasure in recommending them.

BLACK BASS FOR GERMANY.

WE learn from Mr. Fred Mather, editor of New York *Forest and Stream*, that he is about to send a number of black bass to Herr Max von dem Borne, Berneuchen, Prussia. We trust that Herr von dem Borne will let us know how his importation succeeds. The black bass is said to be such a fine food fish that, apart from its sporting qualities, it is sure to be appreciated in Germany. We trust British prejudice will not prevent its general introduction into our streams. We mean to do all in our power to introduce it to British anglers, having thorough faith in it.

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* This invaluable work gives an alphabetical list and particulars of many thousands of fishing places (inland and sea). It can be had by sending 1s. 8d. in stamps to the Manager, the FISHING GAZETTE, 12, Fetter Lane, London.

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

In a morning up we rise,
  'Ere Aurora's peeping;
Drink a cup to wash our eyes;
  Heave the sluggard sleeping.
—J. CHALKHILL.

The best game just now is certainly in the fishing line, to get up early (but hardly before "Aurora's peeping" to my thinking) and before the "madding crowd" is astir, try quiet nooks and corners for perch or chub; but certainly, by all means, "drink a cup" to wash the eyes, if by any means obtainable. To do this comfortably, the keen ones get a little "neat" in the bag over night, and coax the first kindly cow in the morn to dispense the needful vaccine matter. Roach are well on, and the water in the best of trim for this fishing, both for bankmen and puntsters. Chub are being had with fly best, but fine and far off men are having sport with lobworms and cheese paste. Trout are seen everywhere, but gudgeon and barbel, as yet, are not to the fore, At Maidenhead, Captain Haynes, out with Harry Wilder, on Tuesday, took four good trout, best going nearly 5 lb., and second fiddle 4 lb. A piscator resident of Maidenhead, out with L. Wilder, has taken a jack of 5 lb and one bankman is credited with 43 lb.—a miscellaneous bag—of roach, perch, chub and dace. At Marlow, Captain Rawson, out with "Tipney," this week, captured two fine trout, the best a beauty of 5 lb., requiring not only the Captain but two Sergeant piscators to take it prisoner and land it in durance vile. At Hurley, Messrs. Birch, Brookbank, and Bunning have been paying their attention to "all round work" and have got "on the square" with some dozens of beauties. At Medmenham, Mr. Troupe, same few days since, between 4 a m. and 8 a.m. got 10 lb, of chub and 3 trout, all with fly. By the way, I forgot to mention that the Marlow Angling Association have lately turned in 300 trout into their waters below the weir. The Henley Association's first conviction was obtained on Tuesday; G. Arlett, a well-known man in the district being fined £1, and his large cast net being ordered to be destroyed. At Hambledon, on Friday, a pretty lot of trout, 72 in number, were obtained from the brook and distributed in the Hurley, Hambledon, and Henley waters; the fish scaled from ½ to 5 lb. each. Mr. Fowler, with Parrot, in the Henley district, on the 28th ult, got 34 lb. of perch and chub, and a brace of nice trout, all taken near Marsh Pool.

THURSDAY EVENING.—Weather superb, and water of the Thames in spanking trim, but if anything a wee bit too bright.—MARLOW BUZZ.

THAMES (Above Locks).

AT KINGSTON.—Some small jack and chub have been taken. The roach have not been feeding.

AT HAMPTON.—One of the anglers in the Deep took 9 jack. The water is low and bright and the fish quite off the feed.

AT WALTON.—Mr. Abbott, in one day, 7 bream, the largest 4 lb. J. Hone, in five days, 9 doz. of roach, 15 bream (largest 5 lb.), 2 doz. of gudgeon, 1 perch and 1 jack, G. Hone, in one day, 10 bream, 1 roach and 1 chub, and another day 3 bream, 1 perch, 1 chub, and lost a large carp.

AT HALLIFORD.—E. Rosevell, a trout of 3½ lb. J. Pardue, 14 chub; several good takes from the other fishermen, and every punt was out on Tuesday.

AT SHEPPERTON.—F. Pardue, in two days, 5 doz. of gudgeon and 4 perch. H. Pardue, in one day, 4 jack and 2 doz. of roach; and another day 9 doz. of gudgeon and 2 perch. W. Rogerson, in three days, 17 doz. of roach. D. Hackett, one day, 13 perch. W. Hone, 24 good roach.

AT CHERTSEY.—James Haslett, in two days, 7 barbel and two perch; and another day 1 barbel, 2 jack, 12 perch, and 5 doz. of gudgeon. Messrs. Wheeldon and Thurston 27 barbel, of which 15 were put back again. J. Poulter, in one day, 5 doz. of roach and one jack. T. Taylor, sen., 2 doz. roach and dace, and 7 small bream.

AT STAINES.—C. Hone, 4 barbel and 2 small trout. T. Collier, 10 doz. of gudgeon and 6 perch. J. Keene, sen., in one and a-half days, 30 doz. of gudgeon. Mr. Banfield, 14 doz. of gudgeon and 5 chub. J. Keene, jun., 5 jack. E. Keene, 3 jack and Mr. Blackman 3 barbel of 3½ lb. each.—H.

Chichester.

The water here is, although low, in good condition, some fair takes being chronicled the past week. The weather now is all an angler can desire. Good sport is looked forward to. Fish may be seen in myriads, yet are not well on the feed. Some good bream, a roach of 1¼ lb., and some good eels have come to hand, all in greatly improved condition.—GEORGE F. SALTER.

Ilfracombe.

Some good fishing can now be had at the reservoir, for which weekly or monthly tickets can be obtained from the clerk to the Local Board. Sea fishing on Friday and Saturday. Some splendid strings of mackerel were brought in by parties out whiffing. A few boats ran down as far as Baggy Leap, and brought up there catches of bass, averaged about 30 lb. each boat. Sunday 20 crabs where taken from the holes between Hillsborough and Rillage. Monday, blowing strong; fishing parties afraid to venture further down than fresh water, when they out anchor and commence fishing for bream and whiting pout; after two or three hours' sport, they return with from 20 to 40 lb. each boat. Tuesday a small seine was put across the harbour—20 lb. of soles, and a few lb. of plaice was taken from it. Wednesday, a thick fog and heavy sea running; a few boats fishing in shore, caught several pollack and whiting. Fishermen report good prospects of fishing and plenty of mackerel long shore; but the wind blowing strong from the north, there is no chance for boats to get out until there is a shift in the wind, which they hope will be soon. A few small Tamlin cod has been caught from the jetty with rod and line. Very few lobsters has been brought in this week from the pots.—E. COMER.

Lea (Ware).

Several good takes of roach have been made here during the week, principally with the little blood worm, plenty of which are obtainable here in the ditches. One gentleman out the other evening got over 30 roach in less than two hours at the little iron bridge swim, with the baits alluded to. Paste or gentles are of no use while the water continues so bright. The weeds have now been cut, and good sport may be expected among the jack. I hope to be able to report you some good captures next week.—LION AND WHEATSHEAF.

Medway (Maidstone).

Water in splendid condition for all kinds of fishing. Chub are well on and take the fly freely. Roach and bream are biting well early in the morning and late in the evening. Pike are not in good condition, and should not be taken yet. The following fish were weighed in last week:—A. H. Emery, carp, 3 lb. 12 oz.; T. Mellis, bream, 2 lb. 12 oz.; R. Ellerington, roach, 7 lb. 10 oz.; and carp and roach, 8 lb. 3 oz.; A. Emery, bream, 2 lb. 5 oz.; R. Ellerington, roach, 7 lb. 4 oz.; D. W. Pine, chub, 6 lb. 12 oz.; and chub, 5 lb. 14 oz.; A. Roberts, bream, 17 lb.

Medway (Tonbridge).

The water in splendid condition, but no fish ravenously on feed. Bream, roach, and chub have been taken during the week, but the ground fish require well and persistent baiting. All that is required is some settled hot weather.—YE MEDWAY WATER RAT.

Taw and Tributaries (N. Devon).

The water has not gone back, although it is very fine, and I was in hopes after the last three days' and nights' fine weather it would remain fine and the rivers would fall, but alas, the rain, the dreadful rain, has come again. I have heard of and seen some some fine dishes lately. The Yeo has given up thirty dozen, and, no doubt, others I have not heard of. The Bratton stream was fished by a man last Saturday, and he got 50; also the Muddiford, and four dozen were caught, and as he always fishes it Saturdays, he never fails to get some trout. Three gentlemen fishing the Bray last Saturday took four dozen; another on Monday had three dozen and six. I saw a dozen peel taken in the nets to-day by one boat. Another fisherman caught an otter in a mill. he had evidently taken up his quarters for some time, but was imprudent enough to go a step farther than usual, and was received by a pick thrust into his head; He weighed 17 lbs. I have just heard of a gentleman taking three peel with the fly in the Taw to-day. The 2 and 2½ inch solid Devons will be the killers for salmon and peel for some days.—RUSTY GAME.

Thames (Eynsham).

Water in good condition for fishing. There have been some fair takes of jack, trolling with gudgeon. The perch have fed well; most of them have been taken with large lob-worms. Roach not well on the feed yet. Several chub have been caught with the ledger, also with artificial bees and wasps.—W. B. HOWE.

Thames (Goring).

Water in good order for all-round fishing. Prospects for the next few days are good. On Thursday last, ten jack, the largest 5 lb., and some good perch. On Friday some good perch, the largest 1½ lb. On Tuesday, fifteen dozen of gudgeon, two dozen of roach and dace. On Wednesday, six dozen of gudgeon and some good roach and dace. Gudgeon are biting well with worms.—J. RUSH.

Thames (Hampton.)

Water in bad condition; too bright. Best take this week 4 dozen roach and dace, bank fishing; barbel and jack not feeding. Rain wanted for all fish. Punt fisherman above and below lock doing no good.—E. SWAN.

Thames (Shepperton).

Water is in very good condition. Very good prospects for all sorts of fishing. F. Purdue, two days, 7 dozen gudgeon and 2 dozen roach; H. Purdue, two days, 4 jack and 9 dozen gudgeon; myself, five days' fishing, 2 bream, one 4 lb. and one 2½ lb., 2 dozen roach, 4 dozen gudgeon, and 3 perch, 13 dozen roach, and 8 jack and 2 perch. Returned great part of the roach and 5 jack to the river again. —W. ROGERSON.

Trent (Alrewas).

The weather has been delightfully fine the past week, and the water in first class order for all-round angling. Roach and dace have been biting pretty freely at gentles, and "Reynolds," as usual, has met with the lion's share of the sport. A 12 lb., 10 lb., and 8 lb. basket have been captured by him in his three journeys to the weirs. The fly fishermen have had a glorious week, but unfortunately my correspondent does not advise me of which fly has proved the most killing, and which is a very essential part of the business. The following are a few of many satisfactory results:—The Rev. Darwin Burton, 4 brace of grayling, averaging ¾ lb. each, and 4½ brace of trout; Mr. Waters, of Coventry, 7 brace of grayling and some nice trout; another angler 2 brace of grayling and a brace of trout, the largest 2 lbs. Perch have been fairly on at both worms and minnows. Mr. John Roberts, jun., of West Bromwich, got fairly amongst them last week, and, besides some smaller fry, took 7 beauties, which scaled 6 lbs. To-night, Thursday, the river is reported in grand order, and although the wind has been a little cold and boisterous for the time of the year, I anticipate a strong contingent will visit the river to-morrow and Bank Holiday, on angling art intent.—James Gregory.

Trent (Newark).

The river is now in capital ply, and anglers generally are having a fine time of it. Some very good baskets of coarse fish have been had during the week. Bream have been had, running up to 5 lb. weight; and chub, roach, dace, &c., have also been had in goodly numbers, while a few barbel have also been brought to grass. Gentles and wasp-grubs have been killing baits, while the worm has also done its share. Anglers should now pay a visit to the Trent, for the scenery is beautiful, the weather delightful, the water in good condition, and the fish waiting to be caught. Gentles, cad-baits, and wasp grubs will be found capital baits to lure roach, dace, and chub to their destruction; while a bit of bread-paste, or creed malt or wheat, will not be refused by the crafty roach, and worm-fishers will find barbel and bream ready to take that bait.—The Trent Otter.

Trent (Nottingham).

The river here is running at a very low ebb, and the barbel swims are fishable, although, as yet, the fish do not appear to have made much show. At Shardlow a few were got on Wednesday, and the same swim yielded seven fish on Thursday. In the Weston length the subscribers have been busy, and Mr. J. Theaker is credited with a splendid take of chub, dace, and roach, the whole being caught with wasp grubs in less than two feet of water. Since then further takes, though on a much smaller scale, have been had with the same bait. Pike are stirring, and a large take is reported from the Thrumpton length, which is very strictly preserved and in most exclusive hands. Roach below Nottingham bite freely at maggots and bread paste, and the artificial fly adepts are said to have caught some nice lots of dace on the shallows at Burton, Joyce, Honeringham, and Gunthorpe. Worms on Thursday were growing scarce, and were making in price 7d. per hundred.—The Man at the Clubs.

Tweed and Teviot.

The past fortnight has not been one of the best for anglers, although a few fish and trout have been got. The best takes of salmon have been killed on the Sprouston, Hendersyde, and Edenmouth waters, and various baskets of trout, varying from 2½ lbs. to 4½ lbs., have been got by a few of the more successful anglers, who still prosecute this sport during the evenings. On the netting stations some fair takes have been hauled, but on the whole things are not so good as they were at the same period last year, grilse being very scarce this season. The largest salmon that has been killed for a fortnight back was got by Mr. Farrand, on the Lees-water, on Saturday, and turned the scales at 14 lb. The Brothers Kerss, on the water above-named, have been successful in killing about a dozen between them for a fortnight's hard work. The weather is very fine and mild—too bright for angling purposes, and the sooner we have another flood for anglers the better; but, for the sake of the country, it is hoped that the present harvest weather will continue. The wind, as I write is due west, with a light breeze blowing, and bright sunshine.—MaxWheel, Kelso.

Welsh Harp (Hendon).

The excessive heat of the past week has, to a great extent, militated against our fishermen here, as they have not cared to face the exposure of the almost tropical sun; but the takes have, as a rule, been, considering all things, very fair.—Resident.

Wharfe (Yorkshire).

This river, after a long continuation of high waters, has settled down to a nice fly level, and no doubt some good sport will now result. I saw a grand dish of trout on Friday night, which had been taken by a well known Leeds angler in Swinsty reservoir. He also had a golden tench, a fish that I never have seen before taken in this district. I believe that wasp grub was the bait employed. Some nice trout have also been taken in the Wharfe, mainly by spinning the minnow, and, as I heard that one of them had scaled 1½ lb., you may rest assured that there is something left still in the Wharfe larger than "fingerlings" and "5-inch grayling," as stated by a correspondent lately in this paper.—Francis M. Walbran.

Wye and Derwent.

Sport during the past week, both on the Wye and Derwent, has been first class, and baskets averaging fully from 6 to 18 brace per angler have been made. The killing flies have been the small honey dun, bumble, dotteril, little black and red flies. Grayling are now rising free on both rivers. The bottom fishers did remarkably well on the Derwent both yesterday and to-day (Thursday), killing some very heavy baskets of both trout and grayling, chiefly with wasp grubs. Both barbel and coarse fish are nicely on the feed.—George James Eaton.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

The 30th brought to a close the July Sunday's bank competition among the members of this society. The result is as follows:—Mr. J. Bedford, with 31 lb. 7¼ oz. of roach and bream from the Medway, won the first prize, a side of bacon, given by Mr. F. Grigg; Mr. Piolaine had 10 lb. 10¼ oz. of roach and dace from the Thames, which entitles him to a box of cigars, given by Mr. Towers; Mr. H. Bayley, with three or four pretty roach from Amberley, that turned the scale at 6 lb. 9½ oz., landed 10s. 6d. given by Mr. W. Brown. The following prizes are given to be competed for on August 6 and 7:—£1 1s. given by Mr. Gilbert, 10s. 6d. given by Mr. Irons, and a pair of hair brushes given by Mr. Delehaye.—Pixie.

Railway Concession to Volunteers in Uniform.—As there are many volunteers amongst the goodly army of anglers, they may be pleased to hear that the London, Tilbury and Southend Railway are granting tickets available to the 11th inst., at 5s. first class and 3s. third class, to and from Southend, to reach the National Artillery Association Encampment at Shoeburyness. The trains thus selected from Fenchurch Street are to day special through at 1.50 and 6 p.m. To-morrow, Sunday, ordinary trains at 2.5 and 7.45 p.m. Return from Southend on the 11th by special train at 1 25 p.m.

FACEACHE, TOOTHACHE, PAINS IN THE GUMS, NEURALGIA. —Adam Smith's Neuralgine is a Certain Cure. Bottles, 1s. 1½d., 2s. 9d. Post free from Proprietor, Chemist, Wednesbury. London Agent, W. Edwards, 157, Queen Victoria Street.

CLUB REPORTS.

ACTON AND EALING ANGLING SOCIETY.

Since my last report we have had some better shows of fish than I before sent you; Mr. Head having won a gold pin with a nice jack, Mr. Townsend taking a silver biscuit plate with a good show of roach at the same competition. Mr. Simpson, of West Drayton, has shown some good perch; Mr. A. Eydman, tench and roach on two occasions; Mr. Howell, roach, dace, and bleak; Mr. Cook, bream and roach. Windsor Joe, since his tumble out of the punt at Twickenham, seems to have lost all his nerve and skill, as he has weighed-in nothing since; several other members have not been in their usual form, and are anxiously waiting for the days to get shorter, when they say that they can catch more fish —Black Bag.

August 3.

ACT ON THE SQUARE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this society have commenced their series of matches for 1882-3. On Saturday, July 22, the consolation prize (a silver cup), given by Mr. H. Chapman, for those members who did not take a prize last season, was competed for, and won by Mr. F. Brien, the match taking place at the quarters of the club, viz., the Ferryboat, Tottenham. On Saturday last we fished a match at Waltham for a prize given by Mr. Brien, victory resting with Mr. Chapman, so that these two members won each others' prizes. Several of the subscribers and also one or two of our members have been having some very fine barbel, viz., Messrs. Chapman, Duke, Willmott, Herbert, and Short; but a good run of water is wanted just now to clear off some of the silk weed.—A. George, hon. sec.

Aug. 1.

ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Since my last report I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of 10s. 6d. from C. Busbridge, Hampstead Angling Society (annual subscription), 8s. 2½d. from Izaak Walton, and 8s. 6d. from West Central Angling Societies' donation boxes.—R. Ghurney, general secretary.

ANGLERS' PRIDE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed in on Sunday. Mr. H. Mallett had a very excellent show of bream: two 3 lb. 3½ oz., two fish over 2 lbs., and several over 1 lb. each. Mr. Gafney, 5 lb.; Mr. Haines, 6 lb.; Messrs. T. Fiddes and Soar also had fish. The next South London visit will take place at the above Club on Wednesday, August 16th.—J. Marshall, Sec.

BATTERSEA FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

Only a few of our members were out on Sunday last, and the majority of those were very little short of a blank. Mr. Mumford had 2 lb. 4 oz. roach and bream, from Amberley, and Mr. H. Martin 3 lb. 2¼ oz. of roach, from the Wey.—H. W. Payne.

BROTHERS WELL MET.

For many years past, it has been the custom to have an annual day's outing among the members of this society, when the silver medal and various other prizes are competed for. Unlike the majority of clubs, who usually award the medal for the greatest gross weight of fish, in this instance it is given for one day's fishing, and the winner may be entitled the champion for the year being. Amberley was again the chosen place, and the swims which were pegged out were satisfactorily selected by Mr. H. Hunt, the secretary, and Mr. W. Sutcliffe. Although the tide was a very bad one, nearly 40 lb. of fish was the result. The contest, as all contests of this kind should fluctuated considerably during the day; and, upon weighing, Mr. Sutcliffe proved the winner of the first prize, the silver medal, with 11 lb. 5½ oz. of roach and bream, all fine fish; Mr. A. Gunston, second; Mr. H. Canton, third; Mr. J. Calcraft, fourth; Mr. M. Harris, fifth; Mr. H. Bodein, sixth; Mr. W. Harris, seventh; Mr. B. Redwood, eighth; Mr. W. Tame, ninth; and Mr. W. Hanson, tenth. Everything passed off satisfactorily, and a very enjoyable day was spent.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following weighed-in on July 23: Messrs. Warden, Chambers, Mortimer, and Plumstead, sen., bream and roach from Amberley; Mr. Castell, roach from the Roding; and Mr. Silk, a jack and some dace from the Thames. On July 30, Mr. Mortimer had bream and roach from Pulborough; Mr. Castell, roach and dace from the Wey and Mole; Mr. Lundy, a jack from Tottenham; and Mr Nitz, roach from the same place. Mr. Fowler on several days last week had good sport in the waters near Yarmouth.—Cas.

CROWN PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Several members of the above society were out last Sunday, the 30th ult., the trays were well filled with roach, rudd, perch, tench, &c. Mr. Willcockson having rudd, perch, and tench; three of the latter weighed 5 lb. Mr. Neagus having a nice show of roach. The members are requested not to forget next Sunday at Waltham.

DUKE OF CORNWALL ANGLING CLUB.

The members of the above club were pretty well on the job on Sunday, Mr. Aldridge being to the fore with a brace of nice jack; Mr. Kettle, with a good show of roach; several others, with smaller baskets, contributing to the trays,—J. Heckford, sec.

GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members showed some very fair takes of bream from Amberley:—Mr. Young, 16 lb. 8 oz.; Mr. Burness, 10 lb. 2 oz.; Mr. Theobald, 7 lb. 2 oz.; Mr. Parkin, 11 lb. 12 oz.; Mr. Page, 3 lb. 10 oz.: Mr. Parett, 1 lb. 12 oz. From the Welsh Harp, Mr. Watley, 6 lb. 12 oz.; Mr. Stammer, 3 lb. 1 oz.; Mr. Mayes, 3 lb. 6 oz.; Messrs. Walker, Scott, and Parrett had roach. A considerable number of the members attended the funeral of the late Mr. W. Phillips, who was interred at Finchley on Sunday last.—J. Fitch, jun., sec.

P.S.—I have in my possession the second joint of a roach rod found at Amberley three weeks ago. The owner can have the same by applying at the club-house.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The Thursday meetings of this society still keep up their interest, although at this season of the year many members are necessarily absent. The chair this week was occupied by J. F. Clarke, Esq. The secretary having read the minutes, announced that several members, including Mr. A. W. Parker, Mr.

Meadmore, Mr. Bryant, and others had taken fish since last meeting, and it was hoped to hear of some good takes during the approaching holidays. Mr. Edward Bennett, of Great Yarmouth, had also taken about $3\frac{1}{2}$ stone of pike, perch, and roach at Ormsby Broad. Among the numerous additions to the library was a valuable copy of Bagster's edition of Walton (1810) presented by Mr, Graham Bennett. The committee have had frequent meetings to consider and revise the society's rules, and will shortly submit them to the members, and it is thought they will meet with unanimous approval. Their high standard has been fully maintained, and the weight of fish allowed to be shown are in several instances increased. The prize distribution for the past year will shortly be announced. Among the successful competitors are Messrs. F. S. Barnard, T. P. Cooper, T. Crumplen, J. McDowell, Mr. King, E. Frost, G. Chambers, Dr. A. C. Tucker, W. T. White, Dr. Defreiz, Graham Bennett, G. Chambers, H. H. Barrett, R. Bryant, and A. W. Parker. The society's prizes, not being given in money, the prize winners are requested to state their wishes, which will at once receive attention. The usual river reports from Bartholomew, of Goring, and others were read, from which it appeared that the water was now very bright, and not much had yet been done. Captain Alfred mentioned that some large takes of barbel had been had at Chertsey. The meeting closed with very cordial thanks to Mr. Clarke, who very ably presided.

HEARTS OF OAK ANGLING SOCIETY.

Good trays of fish this evening, Mr. R. Ford showing in bream and roach, two bream weighing 6 lb, ; Messrs. J. Whitmore, B. Cox, H. Cook, and A. Fish, roach; Mr. C. Cuthbert, sen., perch. This club is progressing very favourably at their new quarters, The Dolphin, Church Street, Shoreditch.—C. MILLIE, sec.

July 30.

MAIDSTONE ANGLING AND MEDWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY.

President: The Mayor of Maidstone. Vice-Presidents: H. A. Brassey, Esq., M.P.; J. J. Ellis, Esq., J.P.; L. J. W. Fletcher, Esq., J.P.; J. Hollingworth, Esq ; Roger Leigh, Esq., M.P.; Major Roberts, J.P.; Captain Prentis, J.P.; A. F. Style, Esq.; A. Warde, Esq.; and C. Whitehead, Esq., J.P. Chairman, Mr. D. W. Pine; Vice-Chairman, Mr. T. Oakley. Committee: Messrs. W. H. Bensted, J. C. Brewer, C. A. Case, W. S. Mellis, R. Ellerington, G. Friend, C. Gibbs, W. Hook, J. Keeley, W. Keeley, F. Pine, jun., T. R. Price, W. Shrubsole, J. Smythe, and C. E. Wright. Mr. David W. Pine, hon. sec., *pro. tem.*; Mr. T. Oakley, assistant hon. sec. An association has been formed under the above title, and has for its object the preservation of the river and the culture of all kinds of fish. Competent authorities have been consulted, and their report is most favourable as to the grand capabilities of the Medway as a fish producing river. It is not contemplated to put a stop to any person whatever, fishing fairly, but in order to improve the public angling, fishing during the fence months, and all poaching will be rigidly opposed. The co-operation of the riparian proprietors has to a great extent been obtained, and the work is still going on. Trout are being reared, and in due course will be turned into favourable places, and a keeper has been appointed. In order to perfectly carry out the scheme, funds are required, and the society makes an appeal to the public, especially those interested in all kinds of sport, rowing men, &c., &c. Persons may become honorary members upon subscribing a sum of not less than five shillings annually, although larger amounts will be most useful. Persons wishing to become members will kindly send their names and subscriptions to the hon. sec.

ORIGINAL ALEXANDRA ANGLERS.

Mr. Atkinson had a fine show of roach from the Forty Guinea Water, Broxbourne, some scaling 1 lb. each. Mr. High had bream from Daynham; Mr. Blackledge, roach; Mr. E. Brockett, bream; Mr. Thorn, bream; Mr. Stanton had some fine roach from the Thames.—E. DYMOND, sec.

PECKHAM BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this society were out on Sunday, when Mr. W. Brancher won the prize given by Mr. Gendle, and Mr. Gendle that given by Mr. Winard; Messrs. Ojan, Williams, Stidolph also had fish. Mr. Brancher had a bream 3 lb. 1 oz, and a roach 1 lb. 7 oz. The fish have been sent for preservation. The president, Mr. Brodie, had a fine take last week, the three largest fish, tench, weighing 12 lb. 7 oz. These have also been sent to Needham. The next match for the President's Cup will be fished on Sunday the 13th. Full particulars at the club house.—W. H. Page, hon. sec.

August 2nd.

STANLEY ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

Appended I hand you the list of fish taken by some of our members during the week. Mr. Baldry, perch; Mr. W. R. Humby, trout, roach and bream; Mr. Wheatstone, perch, roach, dace, chub and barbel, one fish weighing 6 lb. 13 oz.; total, 30 lb. 12 oz. Mr. Pittrucce, roach and dace. Mr. Screll, roach and bream. I regret to say that those who have been out during the week have not met with the sport their perseverance deserves, and, owing to the absence of any exceptional takes of fish or exciting topics for discussion, our meetings have been poorly attended, especially as many members are out of town.

August 3.

SURREY PISCATORIALS.

On the 26th ult. several of the honorary members competed in the Thames for prizes. The sport was rather slow, one nine fish that would weigh were taken by five members. On August 9 the grand competition of the season will take place. The following are the prizes given for that occasion:—First, silver cup, valued £11 11s.; second, silver lever watch, given by Mr. Beckett; third, pair of £2 2s. boots, given by Mr. Boalch; and, fourth, £1 1s, given by Mr. C. Meadway.—PIXIE.

THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

In the barbel competition on Monday last, Mr. G. H. Thurston, of the Chertsey Bridge Hotel, took the first prize of three guineas with $22\frac{1}{2}$ lb. weight of barbel, and Mr. G. Robinson the second prize of two guineas with 22 lb. weight of barbel, and one guinea for the heaviest fish 6 lb. 1 oz. Mr. Shipway weighed in 6 lb. 11 oz., and Mr. Forman 6 lb. 9 oz. Mr. Thomas Huggett had a pike of 10 lb. and a splendid show of roach.

THE STOKE NEWINGTON.

Very little being done by our members at present, although several have been trying different fishing waters. On the 30th inst. Mr. W. Robinson had a few roach from Broxbourne, and Messrs. Gretton and Read a few bream from Dagenham. Mr. W. Robinson wins Mr. C. Martin's prize for the heaviest roach taken during the month with one weighing 1 lb. $\frac{1}{4}$ oz.—T. GRETTON, sec.

July 31.

WALTONIANS.

On July 30, Mr. Malcom weighed-in roach and bream, 6 lb $3\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; Mr. Luxton, one roach, 1 lb. $8\frac{1}{4}$ oz., and bream, 1 lb. $11\frac{1}{4}$ oz.; Mr. Grace, roach, 4 lb. 13 oz.; Mr. Good, jun., roach and bream, 4 lb. $1\frac{3}{4}$ oz.; Mr. Starr also weighed-in roach.—A. J. MARRIOTT.

WEST CENTRAL ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had another good show of fish on Sunday, Mr. Taylor having roach and bream from Amberley, two roach weighing 2 lb. $10\frac{1}{4}$ oz., and 12 lb. of bream; Mr. F. Beard, roach and bream from Pulborough, and an eel, which weighed 2 lb. $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; Mr. Webster, roach and bream from Amberley; Mr. Payne, roach, one scaling 2 lb. 2 oz, from Amberley; Mr. White and Mr. Oliphant, roach, dace, bream, and perch from Woking.—R. I. BEARD, jun., sec.

August 1.

WOOLWICH INVICTA ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above society were out during the week, and the result was a very fine show of fish, Mr. Maddick scaling over 40 lb. of very fine barbel from the Thames. Also Messrs. Foster, Pycroft and Friend a fine tray of roach from the Medway.—C. FOSTER.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. G. TILLEY, Kidderminster Angling Society.—There is nothing very uncommon in a fish swallowing the plummet. Trout will rush at anything moving, at times. We have once or twice caught fish in this way when using a roll plummet, and have often noticed perch follow it as it was drawn up. At the same time, we could not advise you to angle with plummets; nor do we agree with you that your adventure "may lead to a new bait for trout-fishing."

W. G., Tottenham.—We think the black bass are still alive at the Aquarium; but they have lost their beauty, in consequence of catching fungoid disease from the carp in the tank with them, and will not live long, we fear.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[Much of the Correspondence on "The Wharfe," "Who is the Father?" &c., is crowded out this week.—ED]

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

HOW TO DISTINGUISH YOUNG CHUB FROM DACE.

SIR,—Some time ago you stated, in answer to a correspondent, that by examining the anal fin it was easy to distinguish the above, the fin of the one being concave and of the other convex, but you did not say *which* was concave and which convex.—I am, &c., F. de M.

Rheims.

[In the case of roach and dace the anal fin is slightly concave, in the chub it is slightly convex.—ED.]

THE CRITCHFIELD ANGLING SOCIETY.

SIR,—I think this club, which does not go in for Sunday fishing or meetings, may suit your correspondents who are enquiring about such a club. For particulars see Club Reports.—I am, &c. WALTONITE.

FISHING AT FOWEY, CORNWALL.

SIR,—Can you or any of your readers inform me what freshwater fishing is to be had in the neighbourhood of Fowey, Cornwall, and, if any, I should also be glad to know the names of a few flies useful in the district in September.—I am, &c., SAMUEL HARRIS.

[There are two or three small trout streams, the *Anglers' Diary* says, near Fowey, and first-rate sea fishing. You may get sea trout and salmon in September. You cannot use better flies than these, we think:—Sand fly, alder, soldier fly, coch-y-bondhn, blue upright, and the various duns—light, blue, yellow, olive, and whirling. The Devon minnow is also useful in these streams. —ED.]

A NON-SUNDAY ANGLING CLUB.

SIR,—I quite agree with your correspondent "T. A." in his suggestion as to the formation of a fishing club who do not fish on Sundays, I believe there are many young men who would belong to such an one, whose views of religion and, in some cases, the scruples of friends would not permit them to indulge in their favourite sport on that day. I shall be glad to hear more of this.—I am, &c. JOHN J. HARRIS.

52, Andover Road, Hornsey Road, N.

POACHING NEAR MAIDSTONE.

SIR,—In your valuable paper issued on July 22, there appeared a letter signed "Medway Angler," which may lead to misconception and a wrong impression on the part of some of your readers.

"Medway Angler" says: "The Maidstone Association allows fish to be taken of any size." This, Mr. Editor, is quite false. In our book of rules (which I beg to enclose), rule 7 gives the proper scale of sizes for all fish; and any member weighing-in fish of less size than stated is fined 1d. for each fish. So much for that. Again, "Medway Angler" says that "we do not preserve nearly so far as Hartlake Bridge." This is an error, as we have fixed our boundary at that place, where we meet the Tonbridge Society, which is working with us in a very satisfactory manner.

Of course, we are quite in our infancy as an association, and we cannot undertake that every member of our fishing club will behave himself in a sportsmanlike manner; but we are immensely surprised that any one connected with our society should have so wilfully made such gross misstatements to "Medway Angler."

Hoping you will spare me space for this letter—I am, &c, DAVID W. PINE, Chairman of the Maidstone Angling and Medway Preservation Society.

NETTING NEAR TONBRIDGE.

Sir,—I should like to say a few words as to the inaccurate reading by Mr. Hollomby of my letter on this subject.

As to large takes of roach, Mr. Hollomby contradicts a statement which was never made. I did not state there were "no" large takes, but that there were "very few," and, as Mr. Hollomby says there were "some," I think we agree. He also says that the Tonbridge Society preserve the river to Hartlake Bridge and no further. I am quite aware of that, and stated so in my last letter.

As to poaching, Mr. Hollomby admits that, within his knowledge, the poachers had a few fish from one of their streams. Is it not very probable that they had a great many without his knowledge? Are there no streams that could be netted besides those about Hartlake Bridge? If Mr. Hollomby will refer to my letter, he will see that I did not refer particularly to streams "about," but "above."

The difficulty Mr. Hollomby makes about the undersized fish, is quite amusing. Do the Tonbridge Society require an Act of Parliament to compel their own members to return small fish? I am aware that they cannot compel outsiders to do so; but how can they expect them to, when the society men themselves do not? Let the Tonbridge Society raise their sizes to something above the fry size they are at present, and so set the example.

I am glad to hear that, "when the Maidstone Society get into working order, they intend to preserve to Hartlake Bridge." When will that be? At present their efforts, according to their own reports, seem to be confined to fishing for prizes and breeding trout for one of the most sluggish rivers in England, when, higher up, the river is being netted out.

Mr. Hollomby makes a great deal of the words "near Tonbridge," but allow me to inform him that I had nothing to do with this heading.

Owing to my letter being too late for insertion in the Gazette for which it was intended, the Friday mentioned as the day on which the man who bought the roach was down the Medway reads a week late; it should be Friday, 7th July.—I am, &c., A Medway Angler.

[If correspondents would supply their own headings to letters, it would materially help us; as a rule we have to put the best we can.—Ed.]

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

The new proposed Thames Conservancy bye-laws continue to be the great topic of absorbing interest among anglers of all classes, coth in and out of the Metropolis. They are so utterly at variance with justice, nay, with common sense, that if the opposition to them is only conducted and supported in the right manner, it is bound to be successful.

Sport continues to be very indifferent, the water being very low and bright in nearly all the rivers, and the piscatorial scribe, whose duty it is to make up a *bonâ fide* report of takes in one or several districts, just now has all his work cut out, like the starved apothecary in "Romeo and Juliet," who by thinly scattering his poor and slender store, succeeded in "making up a show." Of all rivers to get authentic reports from, perhaps the Lea is the worst. I have not the slightest hesitation in endorsing Mr. Wheeldon's recently publicly-expressed opinion, that the Lea fishermen are undeniably the best roach anglers in the world, and one might add, the most secretive. Oh, the numberless little dodges I have seen resorted to to keep a good swim quiet! The number of naughty fibs told with the same purpose in view. In the Thames, when the fish feed, whether owing to professionals who are interested in publicity, or innkeepers, to whom an influx of anglers means trade, we hear of it, and fair reports appear in print. Not so on the Lea. As a rule, the fish find their way from the landing-net into the piscator's basket, and see light no more until shown for a brief season to be weighed in at the club, and even then, methinks, I have heard the most delightfully evasive answer given to some brother member who had the unwarrantable curiosity to ask—"Where the scaly ones were caught?" The post has just brought me a few lines from my good friend Mr. Vincent, hon. sec. of the Watford Piscatorial Society, in which the following occurs:

"I herewith forward you spawn from a roach taken in our water this morning. The fish weighed 11 oz. Should it have so much, if any, at this time of the year? Is it possible that the fish has spawned this year."

The spawn, which came to hand quite safe, and would fill a tablespoon, heaped up, is perfectly healthy in appearance, and does not warrant the conclusion that the fish was egg-bound. It could not, even if it had spawned unusually early, have filled in so considerable a quantity of spawn so soon in the season, and I therefore conclude it must be an exceedingly late fish.

The visit to the Norfolk Angling Society on Monday last was not the success it should have been. No doubt the intensely close evenings we are having make people prefer a stroll in the open to the unavoidably hot atmosphere of brilliantly gas-lighted rooms.

Good takes continue to be the order of the day at the Welsh Harp, and the other evening I had the pleasure of seeing a very pretty dish of perch, taken by Mr. J. H. Stead from this water, some of the fish weighing close upon 2 lbs.

This Friday evening will be held a meeting of the "West Central Association" working committee, at which business of the utmost importance will be brought forward for discussion and settlement. It is therefore hoped every committeeman who can possibly do so will attend.

NOTICES OF BOOKS, &c.

The Scientific Angler. Being a General and Instructive Work on Artistic Angling. By the late David Foster, of Ashbourn (compiled by his sons), with Illustration and Steel Engraving of the Author. London: Bemrose and Sons. Ashbourn: D. and W. H. Foster.

[We have received a copy of this work, and have only time this week to acknowledge it, and say we anticipate perusing it with great pleasure and shall notice it fully next week probably.—Ed.]

Art and Letters for August has the third instalment of an article on Modern Landscape, with seven interesting examples; continuation of the sketch of Carle Vernet, with a portrait, and reproductions of several of his works; Illustrated Notes on the Hamilton Palace Sale, and other welcome topics. A copy of Munkacsy's picture of Milton dictating "Paradise Lost" to his daughter, forms the frontispiece.

Cannon's Glue Powder.

Anglers will find this new glue powder extremely useful and convenient when putting ferrules, &c., on rods. The great advantage it offers is that it can be got ready for use in a minute or two, as you only have to pour a little boiling water on the powder and stir it up. Of course, it can be used like ordinary glue for any purpose, and is quite as strong as the best Scotch. We can recommend it.

KNEELING PADS FOR FLY-FISHERS.

Mr. Malcom, of Messrs. Woolgar and Co., 40, Ludgate Hill, has sent us a pair of just the very things we have been in want of for years, viz., kneeling pads. They are waterproof pads, to be fastened to the knee with straps. Anyone who finds it necessary to creep and kneel and walk on the knees a good deal to get at shy trout in a bright water with open banks, will join with us in blessing Mr. Malcom for his capital invention. These pads will save the fishing stockings, and, more important still, the angler's knees, both from damp and hard ground and stones.

THE GREAT INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION, 1883.

We are requested to state that the Executive Committee of the Great International Fisheries Exhibition took possession of the Horticultural Gardens at South Kensington, a site covering 22 acres, together with all the buildings and offices, on Saturday, the 29th ult., and that steps are about to be taken for the erection of large additional buildings.

Announcements have been issued by the committee to the effect that applications for space, and entries for Great Britain and Ireland, should be sent in by the 1st of September. In favour of distant colonies and countries, the date has been extended to the 1st of November.

THE PROPOSED NEW BYE-LAWS.

We are informed that "a meeting of anglers will take place on Tuesday evening next, at the Cannon Street Hotel, at 7 o'clock. Two delegates from each angling club, and representatives from the preservation societies will be present. Admission by card only." We regret to say we can give our readers no further particulars; in fact, we only get these quite unofficially at the last moment, and have no idea who is calling the meeting.

AN EASY SHAVE is obtained by using the Genuine LLOYD'S EUXESIS. Its cleanliness and portability will be appreciated by all who shave, as soap, water, and brushes are entirely dispensed with. EUXESIS soothes the most irritable skin, leaving it cool and refreshed. Sold in 1s. 6d. tubes, by Chemists, Perfumers, and the Sole Manufacturer, Aimée Lloyd, 3, Spur Street, Leicester Square, London. N.B.—Ask for LLOYD'S EUXESIS, prepared by the Widow, and observe her name, "Aimée Lloyd," on cap of tube.

A Correction.—In the report of the monthly meeting of the West Central Association it is stated that Messrs. Crumplen and Sachs have been elected on the sub-committee of the 1883 Exhibition. As there are eighteen sub-committees, it should have been stated that the above gentlemen have been elected on the sub-committee for obtaining loan collections of freshwater fish, stuffed or preserved. We have been requested to make this correction, as the applications to serve on committees are so numerous.

Gregory's Spinning Baits. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[Advt.]

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Variety entertainment, at 3.0
Mr. and Mrs. Toby, Performing Seals in Annexe, 5 30 and 9.45.
Organ Recital, by Mr. Albert Lowe, at 6.0.
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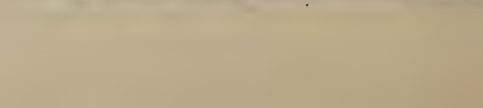
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Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 1882.

PROPOSED NEW BYE-LAWS FOR THE THAMES.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

THERE will be a conference of representatives from the various Preservation Societies. The three Central Associations and the London and Suburban Angling Clubs at the Cannon Street Hotel, on Tuesday evening next, at seven o'clock (punctually) to take into consideration the above bye-laws. The meeting is convened under the auspices of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, and the chair will be occupied by Mr. Thomas Spreckley, president. The admission is by ticket, in order to make the conference of a full representative character; if there are any angling clubs who have not received two tickets, they will be sent on application to Mr. W. H. Brougham, Swayfield Villa, Hounslow. Although the list of angling clubs has been compiled from the three Central Associations, there are such constant alterations in the addresses of clubs, that some of them may be unavoidably omitted. B.

THE PROPOSED THAMES BYE-LAWS.

AN important conference of delegates from the Thames Angling Preservation Societies, was held at Maidenhead, on Wednesday, August 9th. The following gentlemen amongst others being present:—Messrs. T. B. Sharpe, R. Nicholson, J. H. Clark, W. G. Day, A. A. Wood, and Captain Haynes of the Maidenhead and Bray; Messrs. A. Butler, F. Brown, and Dr. Short, of the Reading and district; Messrs. H. Askew, and M. Clare Sturgis, from the Henley; Mr. R. Plummer, senior, from the Windsor and Eton; Mr. T. H. Wright from the Marlow; and Mr. C. P. Wheatstone from the T.A.P.S.; Mr. P. Green, president of the West Central Association was present by special invitation. The local and piscatorial press was also represented.

Mr. T. B. Sharpe, having been duly elected to the chair delivered a few practical remarks, after which the bye-laws were dealt with *seriatim*.

Many important amendments were moved, discussed, and carried, in such a business-like manner, as left no doubt that each and every delegate present had studied and made himself thoroughly acquainted, not only with those portions which are generally admitted to be objectionable, badly drafted, or made to enact the opposite of that which must be intended, but also with those portions which will undoubtedly tend to promote and protect the interest of the fishery.

While it may be considered unadvisable to make known the instructions given to those gentlemen who are elected to represent the Upper Thames Preservation Societies at the conference to be held at the Cannon Street Hotel, it would be idle to attempt to disguise that there was at this meeting, as at most meetings held on this subject, an unanimous expression of opinion that the Conservators should be informed that unless certain alterations are made the bye-laws must not be allowed to pass.

The opinion of this meeting went so far as to say that an influential and representative deputation should be formed at the conference about to be held, and that the head of such deputation should not only be expected to give a verbal statement of the opinions of the said conference, but also leave with the Conservators a written statement duly signed by at least a majority of the members of the said deputation, so as to prevent the possibility of discovering, when too late, that one member meant this, another that, and the head something totally different, which would result in the Conservators saying to themselves, those bye-laws have cost upwards of £400 in advertising, and we had better pass them as they are.

An interesting feature of the meeting was a formidable display of night lines, and an extraordinary sized cast net which had been captured, together with a notorious poacher, a travelling tinker by trade, Unfortunately the tinker subsequently made his escape, thereby proving himself too artful for Wilder, who, nevertheless, had shown considerable skill in the detection and capture. It is intended to introduce these night lines with the deputation, so as to demonstrate to the Conservators how unwise it would be to allow their use in the upper river.

The conference was brought to a close by Mr. P. Geen proposing a hearty vote of thanks to the chair for conducting the business, so as to enable them not only to get through the bye-laws but also to give practical instructions to their delegates,

FLY-FISHING IN JULY ON A WILTSHIRE BOURNE.

AS a general rule July is not a favourable month for the fly-fisher, the water in the small streams being low, and the trout by that time shy and difficult to catch; but this season, owing to the abundance of rain which has fallen, the little bournes which have their rise beneath the chalk hills of Wiltshire have been well supplied with water, and have been in an unusually favourable condition for fishing. They flow over a clean gravelly bottom, and many of them, although shallow, are well stocked with both trout and grayling. On the 27th July last, I started to fish in one of these bournes which loses itself in the river Wiley, about seven miles above the ancient city of Sarum. At 10 a.m. I commenced wielding the timber; the sky was cloudy, with a south-westerly wind blowing up stream, enabling me to cast a long, fine line. As I neared the bank I could see lots of small fish busy at their morning repast, whilst here and there a ring of larger dimensions denoted that the good ones were also on the feed. A few trial casts, and then I was well over a fish, which came, and with a bounce out of the water, was gone with my Wickham fixed in his jaw. It served me right, for using an old worn fly. Substituting a new one of the same pattern, I was again at them; a few casts more, and I landed my first, a small trout of a quarter of a pound. "Basket him" said the proprietor of the stream (who was carrying my landing net), "always kill the first; it ensures luck." I then tried two or three rising fish, but it was no go, there was nothing to hide behind; and although I was fishing fine, and far off I could not get over them without being first seen, After a while I caught sight of a brace of beauties lying under the opposite bank, an old willow here favoured my approach, I dropped my fly just above them, and as it came floating down, the foremost one yielded to the temptation, when he felt the barbed hook he dashed away up stream, taking out the line merrily; he then rushed into a bed of weeds, I tried to move him every way, but it was of no avail, so I summoned a haymaker to my assistance, who, after poking with his pitchfork for some time, managed (as is usually the case under such circumstances) to assist me to lose the fish. Hard lines, but there was no help for it. Another good one was rising about twenty yards above, creeping on my hands and knees I got within reach, one or two casts, not quite far enough, and then, ah, that's got him! as the splashing at the other end of my line told me he had accepted the proffered lure; a sharp fight of a minute or two, when I succeeded in steering him past a dangerous bed of weed, and he came walloping over and over down the stream towards me, his deep spotted side looking like a bar of gold, studded with rubies. My friend was waiting all ready with the landing net, when almost within reach he made another roll and broke away. Cruel luck, it was enough to try the temper of a saint, and I am afraid I used language not quite fit for ears polite. I still flogged on, but I was getting disheartened with my ill luck, when I felt a tug on the line; after a pretty bit of play, I landed a grayling of 1lb., almost directly after a trout of equal weight was basketed; this put me in good heart again. I then approached a weir thrown across the stream for the purpose of irrigating the adjoining meadows; below the fall there was a nice piece of deep water, overshadowed by alder bushes, through an opening I could see several fine fish, evidently on the feed. My first cast I had a rise, but missed, and got hung up in the bushes. I dared not show myself, so I detached my collar from the line without being seen and replaced it with another—the flies, a red spinner and a quilled gnat—and again made them an offer. Immediately there was a boil in the water, the music of the reel assuring me I was well fixed in a good one; as my hooks and tackle were of the finest, I had to work very patiently, and eventually was rewarded with the capture of a 2 lb. grayling. I took five fish from this pool, three grayling and two trout, all good ones. By lunch time eleven fish were brought to grass, and afterwards I kept on killing until about four o'clock, when they, unaccountably ceased rising; although a gentle rain was falling, and everything looked promising for sport, nothing more was done, so I gave up for the day, my total being twenty-one fish.

The next morning I was again on the banks of the stream, and was rewarded with sport equal to that of the preceding day. At one o'clock I put up the rod and weighed the catch, consisting of 21 trout and 13 grayling, which scaled something over 20½ lb. It would have been much heavier but for my bad luck with trout, as I lost five of the best that I hooked, which broke away, owing to the smallness of the hooks which I was compelled to use; but I was well satisfied, it being one of the best of the many good days I have had fishing on this stream. It is such days as these that never fade from the memory of the angler, but stand out in vivid distinctness when the unsuccessful ones of hard toil and many disappointments are forgotten.

Red Ant.

ANGLERS ON BANK HOLIDAY.

THE patrons of the sport of angling were in strong force everywhere on Bank Holiday. The various railway stations presented representatives of the rod, line, bait-kettle and seat, and real earnest hard working bank anglers. Not only was the Thames made the scene of their operations, but all available pieces of water were stocked with brethren of the rod. Here and there it could easily be detected were new aspirants to the angling art. Not of the kind I heard the other day, when an angler had been fishing hard for a long time, and on being asked what bait he was using, replied he had not been using any at all, as he thought the fish would hook themselves. Whilst I am on this theme, I may refer to a smart story I heard a few days since, of an aspirant to the fly-fishing art who, regardless of expense, had set himself up with new rod and line and a valuable book of selected flies. He went on whipping for some time and trying two or three kinds of flies without any result. His temper then got the better of his judgment and he threw the book of flies into the water, and in an angry manner told the fish to take their own choice. As a rule, they say an angler is remarkable for patience, but there is not a rule without an exception. Well, Bank Holiday on the Thames was enjoyed by a host of anglers, the weather contributing to their pleasure, but the fish did not do their part; as the saying is "They hooked it," and the angler did not get his hook, even with a tempting bait, at all well patronised. Still he went on and very few grumbled. The river-keeper is occasionally seen and here and there the angler is told he has been taking unsizeable fish, he pleads ignorance, of course—it is a common plea—the river-keeper says "Don't do it again." A few days previous, one of these professedly ignorant anglers was found at Penton Hook, he gives his name and address and the title of his club. Inquiries are made, the answer returns "the house is an empty one, and has been for some time;" but what about the club? The name given was "Hope," but a reference to the list of angling clubs distinctly negatives the existence of such a club. So much for the Thames. Then the "Black Dog water" at Feltham, the various portions of the Colne, the Lea, the Stort, and other rivers near the metropolis, were not wanting in rodsters. Some private waters, where permission had been obtained, were amongst the choice events of the day. In one of these—I never mention where—my friend Mr. Jardine once got some splendid perch, from a permission of mine—and I saw them caught. B.

[The fly-fishing story appeared in *Punch* last year.—Ed.]

NOTICES OF BOOKS, &c.

The Scientific Angler.—Being a general and instructive work on Artistic Angling. By the late David Foster, of Ashbourne, (compiled by his sons.) With illustrations and steel engraving of the Author. London: Bemrose and Sons. Asbhourne: D. and W. H. Foster.

"David Foster was born at Burton-on-Trent, September, 22, 1815. At an early age he was apprenticed to a jeweller, but young David preferred to roam the fields and woods, prying into the secrets of insect life. His delight was to talk with the old fishermen on the banks of the Trent, and to learn from them something of the habits and haunts of fish.

The art of angling so fired his soul that he arranged to enter the famous fish-hook manufactory of Messrs. Allcock and Co., of Redditch. The work absorbed all his powers; he originated many improvements in fishing tackle, and was justly valued for his cleverness and ingenuity. Foster was a born student of nature—angler and naturalist—his whole life being spent in the pursuit of knowledge appertaining to his favourite pursuits. He frequently visited the noted fishing streams in the three kingdoms, often making long tours in Scotland and Ireland with men of great celebrity.

From the time of Izaak Walton and his friend Charles Cotton, the limpid Dove has been the chosen resort of fishermen. The scenery is of the most romantic and beautiful description. Its beauteous swims, eddies, and streams filled the soul of David with delight.

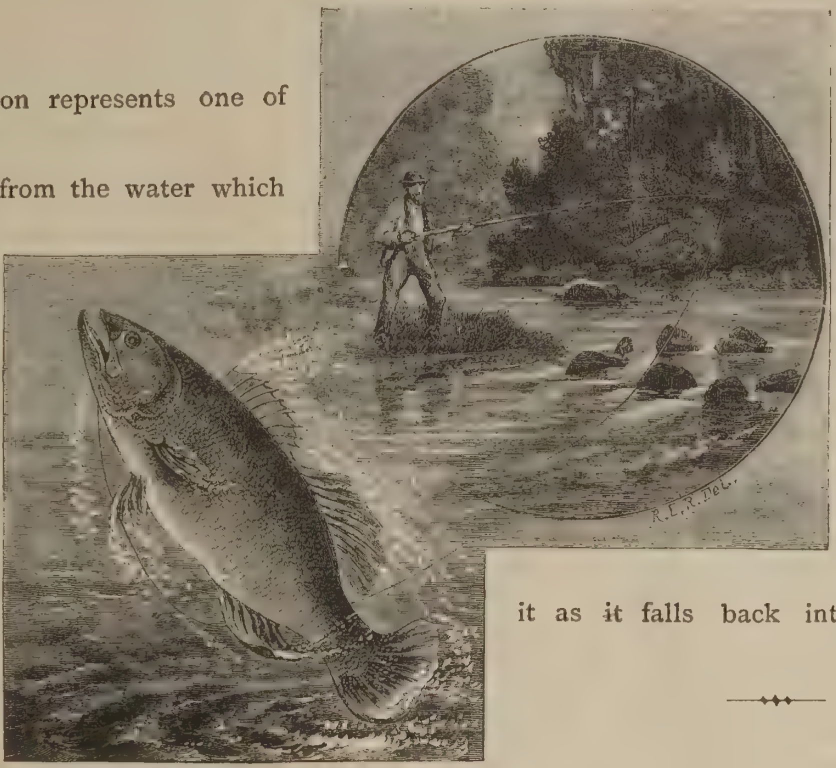
In the year 1841 he removed to Ashbourne to be near the Dove. Here he rapidly grew into notoriety as a "naturalist," and was significantly described "The amiable angler of the Dale." He applied himself with great energy and ingenuity to the improvement of fishing with the artificial fly; the study of aquatic insects; the forms and colours of flies found on certain waters; the times of their appearance and departure; and the methods of imitation. An entomological student, a man of keen observation and quick discernment, witty, courteous, patient, kind, and hopeful. He was a great favourite with gentlemen who made angling their recreation. Gifted with a natural fluency of speech, he was a ready and an amusing companion. For forty years he had been the "mentor" to whom the fly-fishers of the Midlands had been accustomed to apply for aid and instruction. "Born a naturalist," he sought to make nature in her insect creation a thing of practical wisdom. Men speak of him as a clever, original, well-informed man, "just and true in all his dealings."

In *Land and Water*, last August Mr. Foster was referred to in very flattering terms as the originator of several valuable improvements in the art of fly-fishing, &c., the most important being Foster's eight-plait waterproof line, and the new patent acme line. These lines are now in use throughout the civilized world, as well as his machine for refining gut, improvements in reels, rods, flies, &c. The last few years of his life were devoted to the pleasure of angling, and to the exercise of his inventive genius. A splendid rod, constructed upon an entirely new and original principle, was just completed when he died.

For many years Mr. Foster contributed to various newspapers "Notes on Angling." These, with a mass of manuscript on the art of fly-fishing, would make volumes of intense interest and usefulness, and be a fitting memorial of a man, who, for nearly half a century, stood among the leaders of his profession. I recommended the compilation of this volume, giving a digest of Mr. Foster's long experience.

Before closing these hurried sentences, I must not forget to state that

THE BLACK BASS.



THIS illustration represents one of the many leaps from the water which a big Black Bass will make in its attempts to get rid of the hook. American anglers aver that the fish tries to cut the line by falling on it as it falls back into the water.

◆

the sons of Mr. Foster have been for many years associated with him in the business, and have by their attention and cleverness added much to their father's comfort and success. They seem to have inherited the genius and virtues of their father. It will greatly interest the reader to know that the business is carried on under their able management. They purpose to bring out, as soon as possible, what is thought to be the most wonderful of all the inventions of David Foster—the 'new rod' alluded to above."

The abode kindly, sincere, and well-merited lines on David Foster, are from the "Brief Biographical Sketch," by Mr. James Wonnacott, of Ashbourne, prefixed to the work before us. So many of our readers are enthusiastic fly-fishers, that the mere announcement of the publication of a work on angling by the late David Foster, was, we are sure, sufficient to cause them to eagerly look for the book, and we are not at all surprised to hear that nearly the whole of the large first edition has been subscribed for already. For our own part, we can say that never have we anticipated more pleasure from the perusal of a new work on angling, than when we heard that the one under notice was to appear. Foster had such a sterling reputation amongst all our Midland fly-fishing friends, our own experience of his flies and tackle, our personal acquaintance with his sons, all impressed us with such genuine enthusiasm, that on receiving a copy of the work from Messrs. Foster, and before opening it we were disappointed to find the work was not double the size. After reading it through we have only one feeling of disappointment to mention, and that is that there is not more of it. Not for a moment would we infer that its information is meagre, but simply that it is so good and practical that we should have liked much more of it. Its three hundred pages are thoroughly well worth the moderate price charged for it; it is one of the most valuable and important contributions to angling literature which has ever been published, nor could it well be otherwise, seeing that it gives the life-long experiences of one of the best and most practical anglers who ever cast a fly for trout or grayling.

The fact that the first edition is already, before the book is fairly published, nearly disposed of, proves the estimation in which its author is held by fly-fishers; but the work appeals to anglers of all kinds. The author was a genuine all-round angler, and the first hundred pages are devoted to bottom fishing and the habits and haunts of our freshwater fish generally. The illustrations, over sixty in number, are very clear and good.

Some of the statements we do not agree with entirely, but these, for the most part, refer to questions which everyone is entitled to have his own opinion about, and do not in the least affect the value of the work as a whole. For instance, we are inclined to credit fish generally with a much higher development of the sense of taste than is accorded them by our author, in his chapter on "Habits and Haunts of Fish"; and again, in the same chapter, with regard to the statement that both grayling and young trout are devoured by salmon, is one we have never been able to verify, though we have for years tried, both in this country and in America and Germany, to find any one who has ever caught a salmon in freshwater with traces of freshwater food in its stomach. One gentleman who strongly affirmed that salmon killed trout, had the fish he caught in a trout stream close to his house carefully examined, but could never find anything in the shape of food, and yet there were thousands of trout in the water with the salmon, and many of the salmon had been in his pools for weeks. Salmon-fry in a trout river, of course, consume much food which the trout would otherwise get, but, on the other hand. the trout feed on the salmon spawn to an enormous extent. Nature generally strikes a fair balance in these matters. If this were not so, we ask, how is it there are any trout or grayling left? Seeing that before civilisation erected dams on our rivers. salmon could and did ascend to the head waters of most of our streams. In Iceland, at the present day, you find enormous quantities of trout and salmon in some of the streams. They have been there for ages, long before man appeared on the scene; surely the weaker fish would have disappeared, if it is true that the stronger prey upon them!

Again, our author states, in the same chapter, that "There has been a considerable falling off in the takes of salmon during the last twenty years or so." As a general statement this is not correct, though it may be true of certain rivers. In 1861, the total produce of the salmon fisheries of the English and Welsh fisheries was placed at £18,000. Of late years the produce has been reckoned at £100,000, the improvement being undoubtedly due to the action of the "Salmon Acts."

Again, the statement that "salmon frequent only the northern and temperate parts of the earth," would seem to ignore the existence of that superb salmon, the *Salmo quinnat* of California, which has become an esteemed article of food in every part of the world. In this most interesting portion on the "Habits and Haunts of Fish," the reader will find many valuable hints, and we sincerely hope in some future edition the compilers will be able to give us much more of the authors views and opinions, which the size of the present work has compelled them to omit. Chapter III. treats on bottom fishing generally, pond-fishing for perch, &c., gudgeon, dace, roach and barbel fishing.

Here is a Novel Method of Perch Fishing.

They will run eagerly at the minnow, especially in the summer months; but the method by which most sport may be derived from them is to cast for them with a trio of artificial red palmers or caterpillars (double-hooked) attached to a moderately strong fly-cast, one at the point, and the others mounted on gut lengths, and attached to droppers. These are used as small flies, just as when working (sinking) them for trout, with this exception—when a fish is hooked no action is taken whatever. The hooked fish will quickly be shown, and will work the remaining palmers infinitely better than the rodster can; and, incredible as it may seem, by this means each lure will have secured its capture in a very short time after the first was hooked, and the difficulty of landing these contributions adds in no small degree to the diversion. The best way to land a string of perch is to secure the endmost one in the net first, and when this is done the rest seldom get into mischief.

Whipping for Perch.

Doubtless many of our readers never think of fishing for perch with anything but float-tackle, paternoster, or ledger, but we can assure them there is infinite truth in Mr. Foster's advice, "that where perch are wary fine sport may often be had by 'whipping' (in fly-fishing manner, that is) for them with the cad-bait, fresh-water shrimp, and other aquatic insects in nymphæ, and even in clear water, under the overhanging banks, trees, on bushes." We would add that a marsh worm on Stewart tackle on a fine gut collar is a deadly instrument for taking perch with. The angler uses a fourteen foot, fairly stiff trout rod and throws the worm over hand, just as in up-stream worm fishing, and lets it sink a little then renews the cast. A big perch on a fly rod affords fine sport.

Gut versus Hair.

Our readers will remember the controversy on this question which at various times has cropped up in our paper. Some anglers appear to consider our advocacy of gut as an unpardonable offence. We have never pretended to give more than our own opinion, and hold that every angler is entitled to do that; and we have never refused to insert the views of those who do not agree with us. In confirmation of our view of the matter, we quote what Mr. Foster has to say on the subject, and it must be remembered his experience was gained on perhaps the most persistently fished rivers in the world—those of Derbyshire. He says:

Another consideration is the substance to mount the hooks upon—whether hair or gut—some anglers preferring one, and some the other. There are equally good anglers upon both sides, but the ancient hair, it cannot be denied, is rapidly losing ground before *refined* gut, which is now imported in such immense quantities from Spain, Sicily, China, and elsewhere, and may be said to be thrice the strength and half the substance of the traditional hair. It is, or should be, the object of the fisherman to reduce his lines and general tackle so as to be as nearly invisible as possible, to which end it is essential that the bulk and surface presentable should be reduced as far as is compatible with strength. It is therefore an advance in the right direction (and one that should have been taken before) to have the gut drawn while in its gummy state to as fine proportions as are requisite to meet special cases; for, although we were the originators of the gut-drawing system, we have no hesitation in claiming the superiority of the gut drawn accurately, prior to its being set and hard, as then it retains its enamelled surface entire. Had this been done a quarter of a century or so ago, the necessity for our oft-repeated researches would not have existed. To assert that hair of any description is equal to even gut of equal thickness is absurd. The former is not only *weak*, being hollow, but is given to stretch when strained, and is very susceptible to breaking at knots. It magnifies greatly in the water, and, lastly, absorbs the wet and swells. On the other hand, very little can be urged in regard to the use of gut that is detrimental. It can now be obtained one-third the thickness of hair, each strand being far superior in point of strength, and, when slightly stained the colour of the water where it is intended to be used, it is as near being invisible as anything ever discovered. Hair effectually superseded the Indian weed, and silkworm gut will eventually supersede hair quite as effectually.

We find so much matter of interest in the work before us, that we must reserve our notice of the rest, and greater portion of the contents for our next issue.

(*To be continued.*)

Angling Resorts near London: The Thames and the Lea.—By J. P. Wheeldon. New and cheaper edition. This is, we believe, the third or fourth edition of Mr. Wheeldon's capital little work. We spoke highly of it some years ago and can only confirm our then expressed opinion of it. Any Thames or Lea angler who possesses this little volume—and it can be had now for 1s. 6d.—will often find himself pulling it out from among its kindred in the book-case, to hear half an hour's pleasant chat from Mr. Wheeldon.

GERMANY AND THE 1883 LONDON INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION.

We very much regret to see a statement in a German paper to the effect that the Imperial Goverment have decided not to send any national collection to the London Exhibition, and gives as a reason the fact that our Government declined in any way to support the Berlin International Fisheries Exhibition. As the paper in question is the German *Fishing Gazette*, we fear the report is only too correct. Germany could show us so much in practical pisciculture and fish farming, that we hope no stone will be left unturned to get the decision reversed.

CLUB REPORTS.

ANCHOR AND HOPE.

Monday the 7th inst. our trays were very well filled, the following members weighing in: Mr. B. Powell, jack and bream; Mr. H. Scott, bream 8 lb. $7\frac{3}{4}$ oz.; Mr. A. Shakel, bream and roach 4 lb. $4\frac{3}{4}$ oz. (one roach scaling 2 lbs.); Mr. R. Smith, bream, 14 lb. $3\frac{1}{4}$ oz.; Mr. F. Bowling, 6 lb. $4\frac{1}{2}$ oz. (one bream scaling 3 lb. 7 oz.); Mr. Summers, bream, 3 lb. 13 oz.; Mr. D. Davis, perch and roach, 1 lb. $1\frac{1}{4}$ oz.; Mr. T. Bowling, bream and roach, 1 lb. $11\frac{1}{2}$ oz. The bream and roach have been sent to Mr. Miller, East Street, Walworth, to be preserved.—D. Davis.

8th August, 1882,

ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Since my last report I beg to acknowledge, with thanks the receipt of 10s. 6d. donation from the Izaak Walton Angling Society, and 10s. worth of fishing tickets for the Welsh Harp from Mr. Powell, Richmond Piscatorials.—R. Ghurney, sec. August 3.

BRISTOL GOLDEN CARP ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

A contest by the members of the above association was held at the Limpley Stoke Canal, Limpley Stoke, sixty-eight members contested for £15 in prizes, given from the fund of the association. The catches were very fair, considering the lowness of the water, and the canal full of weeds. Forty-three succeeded in getting fish, one member capturing eighteen perch. Over thirty returned to the Club House, the White Hart Hotel, Old Market Street, to weigh-in; several of the catches were over 1 lb. After business, an enjoyable evening was spent, the vice-president, and secretary's healths being drank with musical honours. The club is in a very flourishing condition, having a good balance at their bankers, and intend to have another contest during the season.—J. Hadden, vice-president.

CAVENDISH.

The most successful of our members last week were Messrs. Granfield and Soillieux, who weighed in about 15 lb. very fine tench; Mr. G. also having a Prussian carp scaling 1 lb. 6 oz.; Mr. Penton, as per usual, weighed in chub; other members weighed in, but their takes were unfortunately small.—E. Chambers.

9th August, 1882.

GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS.

Sunday, Aug. 6, the following members weighed fish from Amberley:—Mr. Baker, one bream, 3 lb. 15 oz.; Mr. F. Watling, 3 lb. 14 oz.; Mr. Stammers, 3 lb. 15 oz.; Mr. Watley, 1 lb. 10 oz., from Welsh Harp; Mr. Burness, chub, from Watford, Monday, Aug. 7, Mr. Theobald, roach, 8 lb.; J. Fitch, roach, 9 lb. 4 oz., two roach weighing respectively 1 lb. and 1 lb. 5 oz.; J. K. Fitch, roach, 6 lb. 4 oz.; Mr. Hutchings, 6 lb. 8 oz.; Mr. Porter, 1 lb. 2 oz.; Butler, 1 lb. 10 oz.; Young, 3 lb. 6 oz.; W. Parkin, 2 lb. 2 oz.—J. Fitch, jun., sec.

P.S.—Found on the Metropolitan Railway, on Monday last, a bait can; the owner can have the same by applying at the club house, Robin Hood, Southampton Street, Pentonville.

Aug. 10.

GREAT YARMOUTH PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

This society held its weekly meeting on Monday last under the presidency of A. Matchen, Esq.; P. Courtnay, vice; J. Hewettson, chairman. The president presented the first prize of the society, viz., a cup to Mr. Hannant, and in so doing remarked on the progress made in so short a time, showing that the society was well appreciated by the attendance of London anglers—Mr. Crumplen, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Pond, and others. Mr. Bennett, of the Gresham, is also a member of the Yarmouth, and showed a good quantity, about 30 lb. of large bream. F. Hurt, Esq., of Acton, together with J. Hewettson, of Putney, also sent in on Friday about 28 lb. of roach, rudd, and bream in splendid condition from Potter Heigham. The broads and rivers were visited by nearly 200 anglers during the Bank Holiday, and had good sport. Mr. Green, of the Yare Preservation Society, was also present, and mentioned a case when nearly two tons of freshwater fish were found netted, which clearly proves that the rivers wanted such societies as, thanks to those contributing, have been formed on each river, and thus stopped the wholesale destruction of fish that was going; there is still more to be done in the way of watchers when funds will admit.—J. Lark.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The weekly meeting of this society was held as usual on Thursday, the 10th inst., D. Cartwright, Esq., in the chair. After confirmation of the minutes, the secretary read the correspondence, including the usual river reports from Goring and elsewhere. The water was stated to be particularly bright, and not many takes were reported. An important communication from the Thames Angling Preservation Society was also brought forward, and Messrs. T. Crumplen and G. Austin were deputed to represent the society at the meeting in reference to the new Thames bye-laws, to be held at Cannon Street Hotel on Tuesday evening next. The takes of fish during the week included Mr. Edward Bennett (who took the first roach prize), one perch $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb., and bream 33 lb., two of these weighing 3 lb. each; Mr. Crumplen, bream $13\frac{1}{2}$ lb. (one 3 lb.); Mr. Bryant, one perch $11\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; Mr. G. Austin, one bream 2 lb. 14 oz. The librarian announced that Mr. Crumplen had presented Knight's "Life of Gresham" to the library, and Dr. Lloyd and Mr. Paterson promised a further addition. Mr. Jardine brought up several large specimens of pike lately taken. Mr. Wheeldon, who is always welcomed, was present at the meeting. Messrs. J. Beck, F. G. Tomlinson, and H. J. Vyle were ballotted for and elected.

The proceedings closed with a cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Cartwright for presiding.

GOOD INTENT SOCIETY.

On Saturday last the members of this club brought in some fine takes of bream, Mr. G. Hughes having 70 lb., Mr. Bell some good fish, Mr. Phillpot jack, Mr. Tavener dace, Mr. Gadbury bream and perch. Our annual dinner takes place at the Rye House Hotel on Monday the 21st inst., when we hope to have a large gathering; Mr. H. J. Tibbath, chairman; Mr. J. Smart, vice-chairman; dinner on the table at 2.30 sharp. Having spent a couple of days at Pulborough, I put up at the Arun Hotel—it is about ten minutes' walk from the station, and any brother angler that may be going to Pulborough cannot do better than put up there, the charges are very moderate, and the proprietor, Mr. Pearce, is most obliging, and studies the comfort and convenience of anglers, and I think, where anglers are well treated, we ought to make it known, then moderate charges would become more general.—R. MURPHY.

August 9th, 1882.

HIGHBURY ANGLING SOCIETY.

A strong muster of the members of the above society went forth on Sunday last to their favourite swims, the result being eminently satisfactory. Messrs. Anthony, Thomas and Sampson contributed a fine show of bream and roach from the Welsh Harp, the latter gentleman having some very nice fish. We also had a goodly take of roach from King's Langley by Mr. S. Howell, who took the prize of the day. On the 7th inst. (Bank Holiday), we were likewise favoured with some splendid tench (between 9 and 10 lb. by Mr. Devonshire, as also Mr. Higley with tench, roach, and perch, a brace of the former scaling nearly 6 lbs.; in addition, some good bream from the Ouse by other members. The annual dinner will take place at Mr. Lyndsell's, "The Pied Bull," St. Margaret's, on Saturday, September 2nd next, and members are particularly requested to attend a meeting of the society on Wednesday evening the 16th inst., in order to make final arrangements as to the number to be catered for, and other important business.—JAMES EDWARD WHEATLEY, secretary.

IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. G. P. Rolt had some good barbel on Saturday last, the 5th inst., from the Ferry Boat Fishery, at Tottenham. The heaviest one scaled 5 lb. Mr. G. Rolt had some good fish on the same day from the same water, amongst them was a beautiful perch, which weighed 2 lb. 9 oz. There were several members out on Sunday last, but only two showed and weighed in. They were Mr. T. Ward, who had roach, and Mr. G. Manning, who had roach and dace. Two special prizes were fished for on Wednesday, the 9th inst. Mr. W. H. Mecham secured first honours, Mr. W. Wilkinson second ditto. There was a fair competition for these prizes. Messrs. C. Green, T. Dennison, sen., and T. Dennison, jun., had good shows, and ran very close.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

A great number of members worked very hard to bring home a good show of fish this week, having the privilege of an extra day's fishing, but was a little disappointed, the most successful being Mr. Letch, with a show of bream and jack; Mr. Hopton, bream, perch and jack; H. Moore bream, chub, and roach; F. Hurwood roach; S. Evans jack and roach; and W. H. Evans, perch and roach. There were also several other members who weighed in. We hope to be more successful next week.—H. MOORE, Sec.

LIVERPOOL ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

Nineteen of our members had a day on the Vyrnwy on Monday last (Bank Holiday), but had only indifferent success. A fern case and stand, presented by Mr. Chandler, for the heaviest basket of fish, was won by Mr. Boulding: Trout and grayling, 1st prize, Mr. R. Woolfall (2nd and third not taken). Coarse fish, 1st, Mr. H. Davies, 2nd, Mr. Pearson, 3rd, Mr. Travis. The day was very bright, and the water low and clear, and but poor creels resulted. Messrs. Woolfall and Leaman had a good day amongst the roach on a mere near Northwich, killing some 20 lb. of 6 to 8 oz. roach in a very short time. A peculiar feature was noticeable in respect to this catch. A party had been fishing the same swim for several hours the same morning and never had a bite.

9th August, 1882. R. WOODFALL, hon. sec.

NORTH-EASTERN ANGLING SOCIETY.

On July 28th two members of the above society, namely, Messrs. Haylock and Melbourne, had a splendid day's sport on the Ouse at Huntingdon, resulting in 58 lb. of roach and bream, and an eel weighing over 2 lb. The fish were on view at the Society House, the Shepherd and Flock, Swan Alley, during the evening.—J. HUMPHREYS.

NORTH WESTERN ANGLING CLUB.

The only takes of any note by the members of the above during the past week was one by Mr. North, 13 bream, 38½ lb. from the Welsh Harp, and Mr. Bonvoisin, who is spending his holidays in the neighbourhood of Yarmouth, sent up a small hamper containing 32 lb. bream. The return visit West Central Association was paid to this club on Wednesday evening last; there was not a great number of clubs represented, but the good singing contributed to by Messrs. Welsh, Lownian, Gooch, Aldis, Heckford, Jennings, Constable, Hyde, Packman, Hillier and Rowland made up for any deficiency in the number present. Mr. R. Marshall, chairman, and Mr. Lancaster, sen., vice ditto.—H.

Aug. 10.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The next return visit of angling clubs enrolled on the Central Committee will take place on Tuesday next, August 15th, instead of Monday, August 14th, as previously announced in the numerous sporting papers.—THOMAS WM. LUCY, sec.

STANLEY ANGLERS.

The takes of fish this week by our members have considerably improved over those reported lately, and we have had some very good shows indeed. Mr. W. Ellis, roach and dace; Mr. C. P. Wheatstone, jack, perch, dace, chub, and trout, 21lb. 3½oz. total weight. Mr. Scull has been very busy with the roach, having scaled 50, weighing 17lb. 11oz., and 66, weighing 24lb. 1oz. Mr. Pistrucci made a fine show with 12 roach, scaling 9lb. 0½oz., 3 of which were over 1lb. each. Mr. D. M. Humby had a couple of nice tench; Mr. R. H. Humby, a bream of 3lb. 1oz. and 1 tench, 2lb. 9½oz.; Mr. W. H. Rose, 15lb 1½oz. of bream.—GEO. E. WALKER, sec.

August 10, 1882.

SURREY PISCATORIAL.

The following is the result of the competition that took place among the members of this society on the 9th:—Mr. Beckett, with 19 lb. 6½ oz. of roach, dace, and two nice grayling, won the 1st prize, a £11 11s. silver cup; Mr. Linstead had 13½ lb. of roach, dace, and jack, the 2nd, a silver lever watch; Mr. Bansback, out with C Brown, of Richmond, roach and dace, managed to get the 3rd, a £2 2s. pair of boots; Mr. Watson, out with J. Johnson, of Kingston, got among the roach that entitled him to the 4th, a £1 1s. prize. Several members visited Huntingdon, but returned too late to weigh their fish for this competition. The next contest will take place on the 23rd for three prizes, given for honorary members only. Messrs. Boalch and Watson are appointed to represent this society at the meeting to be held at Cannon Street Hotel on Tuesday next.—"PIXIE."

August 10.

THE HOXTON BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The annual dinner will take place at the Rye House, on Sunday, August 27th, 1882, at three o'clock. You will oblige by informing me on or before Thursday, August 24th, if we shall have the pleasure of your company on that occasion, so as to enable me to arrange accordingly.—R. GHURNEY, sec.

N.B.—The distribution of prizes will take place on Monday evening, September 18th, 1882, at nine o'clock, in the club room. Members will oblige by sending in their prizes not later than Thursday, September 14th.

UNITED LONDON ANGLERS.

A special general meeting will take place on Monday, August 11th, 1882, at 8.30. p.m. sharp; to consider business of importance:—The proposed new Thames Fishery bye-laws; the better representation of delegates; to hear the report of the test case in the River Lea, from Carthagena Lock to Calais Point, and other business. Chairman, Mr. S. Morgan.—R. GHURNEY, Sec.

At Worship Street Police Court to-day, before Mr. Bushby on an adjourned summons, George Hubbard and Arthur Alsworth were charged with using a prohibited net and taking other than bait to be used for angling purposes, to wit, pike, barbel, roach and dace of less size than allowed by the Lea Conservancy Bye Laws, and were fined £5 and 2s. costs each or one month's imprisonment in default. The case was proved by Thomas Verdun, local bailiff of Clapton, in the service of the United London Anglers' Central Committee, and a police constable. Mr. G. Cerbe, clerk to the Lea Conservancy Board, attended to prosecute.—R. GHURNEY, sec.

10th August, 1882.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

On the 9th Messrs. Gilbert and Delahaye, jun., had a very nice show of tench and carp from a place near Pitsea. On the 21st an open contest will take place for a dressing-case given by Mr. Rayner, and 10s. 6d. given by a member. "The Diamond Ring Day," is the 10th of September. Members are requested to bear that in mind.—PIXIE.

Aug. 10.

THE RICHMOND PISCATORIAL SOCIETY AND THE PROPOSED THAMES BYE-LAWS.

THE members of this society have met at the last two meetings, under the presidency of the chairman (Mr. F. C. Clench), in exceedingly large numbers, the principal business being to consider the proposed new bye-laws of the Thames Conservancy, when, after a lengthy discussion in the first instance, it was unanimously decided to postpone the same until the following meeting night; and as a preliminary step the T.A.P.S. be asked to take into consideration such revision of the proposed bye-laws as they may deem it necessary for the welfare of anglers. And further, the following resolution be sent to the committee of the Thames Angling Preservation Society: That this society venture to suggest to the committee of the T.A.P.S. the advisability of convening a conference of the various angling societies, with a view of taking such steps as may be necessary to obtain any amendments the conference may think advisable in the proposed bye-laws of the Conservancy. At the adjourned meeting a letter was read from the secretary of the T.A.P.S., acknowledging the receipt of the letter in reference to the proposed bye-laws, which should, agreeably to the wishes of the members of the R.P.S. be placed before the committee; also a second letter of subsequent date to the effect, the committee of the T.A.P.S. had acceded to the request of the Richmond Piscatorial Society to hold a conference of the angling clubs, such conference to be held at the Cannon Street Hotel, on the 15th inst. The proposed bye-laws and amendments were again fully investigated and framed for presentation at the conference. Messrs. Taman and Terrill, at the unanimous wish of the members, kindly consented to act as representatives, with an intimation to bring before the conference the advisability of urging on the Thames Conservancy the necessity of abolishing netting between Richmond and Kew bridges, on the owners of that privilege being compensated to such an extent as the Thames Conservancy may consider reasonable; the members present being Mr. F. C. Clench (chairman), Mr. H. Dickinson (vice-chairman), Mr. Houghton (treasurer), Mr. Rowe (librarian), Mr. Gaynor (curator), Messrs. J. D. Johnson, Plant, Griffiths, Smith, Downs, East, Hayward, Field, Eydmann, Nattress, A. J. Little, Dwelly, Powell, Crew, Harwood, Taman, Terrill, Wilson, Trinder, Pentrey, Heasler, Hester, W. Abbott, and Davis; Mr. P. Geen, honorary member; visitors, Mr. Sachs, of the Piscatorial Society, Mr. J. Pawsley, Gresham Society, Messrs. Wheeldon, Neville, &c. Takes of fish from the Thames: Mr. Little, 1 jack, 6 lb. 3 oz.; Mr. Hayward, 1 bream, 3 lb. 5 oz.; Mr. Smith, 19 lb. 4 oz. dace, 5 lb. 7 oz. roach; Mr. Rowe, 1 barbel, 3 lb. 7½ oz.; Mr. Nattress, 1 tench, 1 lb. 3½ oz.—J. H. GAUNT, hon. sec.

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

"Hope deferr'd maketh the heart grow sick."

In my last note I stated that the Thames was in prime order for angling; but its very goodness seems to have been its badness, for, in consequence of getting rapidly over the "hay fever and green grass sickness," it has become as clear as gin, and all kinds of fish seem to have sought the shelter of umbrageous weeds, from whence not any amount of gentle enticement or minced lobworm luxuries will inveigle them. Gudgeon are the coming fish, and are being had in quantities; but this year seems given to small ones, and cooks will bless the apparition of such infinitesimal morsels to brown, crisp, and dry with egg and bread crumbs. At Maidenhead some fair trout and barbel have been taken, and also trout at Marlow, Hambleden, and Goring. At Hurley, Messrs. Birch, Davis and Co. yesterday got some 3 dozen miscellaneous fish, but only by baited breath as well as swim, as the bed of the river could easily be discerned in 8 feet of water. Thursday evening.—Weather gloriously fine, with wind N.E. Water perfectly clear. Piscators going in for anything but gudgeon, but choose and exercise the "fine and far-off style" to command the least success.—Marlow Buzz.

THAMES (Above Locks).

At Kingston, John Johnson, sen., has been amongst the perch and jack, his best day being ten brace of perch, and one brace of jack. John Johnson, jun., has taken in one day five barbel, weighing altogether about 17 lb. A carp of $7\frac{1}{2}$ lb. has been caught from the banks, and a splendid lot of roach. At Walton, John Hone, in four days, 41 bream; George Hone, in three days, four dozen of roach and dace, and 17 bream; George Rogerson, in three days, 40 bream; and R. Walford, in one day, six dozen of gudgeon. At Halliford, J. Smedwick, in two days, 11 dozen of roach; H. Rosewell, in the same time, 8 dozen; Edward Rosewell, in one day, 5 jack; and George Rosewell has landed a trout of 4 lb. At Shepperton, F. Purdue, in three days, 15 dozen of gudgeon, and 15 perch; H. Purdue, in two days, 12 dozen of gudgeon. At Staines, Mr. C. Banfield, in two days, with John Keene, sen., 35 dozen of gudgeon, and 8 chub; Mr. and Mrs. Shaw, with J. Bent, in three hours, 9 dozen of gudgeon, and one perch.—H.

Ancholme District.

I and my boys had a turn out on Saturday last, and speedily caught 50 roach and dace with the fly. Msnday being Bank Holiday there was a large influx of anglers, who had somewhat varying sport; but, owing to the delightful weather, all had a most enjoyable holiday. The waters, owing to continuance of fine dry weather, remain very clear. The fishing would be improved by a fresh, but for the sake of the farmers we must not desire this. I had an hour's trout fishing last evening, and caught one brace of fine fish. In the Ancholme, the bream, roach, perch, &c., have been well on the feed. Mr. J. Atkinson and friends went to Harlem Hill on Monday, and had a fair catch. Mr. A. saw 16 trout the other day at the entrance of the Scawby Beck. A man caught 4, and did not know what they were. As they were only yearlings as yet he ought to have returned them.—Thomas Ford.

Ballynahinch.

Since last report the weather has been greatly against angling—strong sunshine and very calm. The following are the takes for the week:—On the 2nd inst., Mr. Dudgeon, 21 trout; Mr. Deverell, in a few hours in the evening, 5 trout; Mr. Bury, 20 trout; Captain Nicholson and brother, 20 trout; Colonel Johnstone and brother, 30 trout. On the 3rd, Mr. Dudgeon, 14 trout; same date, Mr. Deverell. 11 trout; Mr. Bury, 22 trout; Captain Nicholson and brother, 19 trout; Colonel Johnstone and brother, 16 trout. On the 4th, Mr. Dudgeon, 4 salmon, weighing 12lbs, $10\frac{1}{2}$lbs., $7\frac{1}{2}$lbs., and $5\frac{3}{4}$lbs., also 3 trout; same date, Mr. Deverell, 23 trout; Mr. Bury, 10 trout; Captain Nicholson and brother, 20 trout; Colonel Nicholson and brother, 33 trout, on the 5th; Mr. Dudgeon, 7 trout, same date; Mr. Deverell, 21 trout; Mr. Bury, 4 trout; Captain Nicholson and brother, 4 trout. The largest take by any one of the other rods for these last three days has not exceeded a dozen of trout. Weather so calm.—Walter Blackadder.

Chichester.

Owing to a leak in the Budham Lock, the water is considerably lower than usual, but in capital condition. Fish are well on feed, in the small hours of the morning some satisfactory sport having been obtained; I daily hear of big fish breaking away; the fine tackle of the past few seasons is this year useless; pound-fish seem much stronger, and the heavy weights have as yet all escaped. For bream paste seems most killing; all fish are now in good condition.—George F. Salter,

Dove.

This stream all the week has been running very low and fine, and bottom-fishers complain that the water has been far too bright for them. However, fair sport amongst roach, chub, and dace has been had with the wasp-grub, which is just now the very best bait that can be used for these fish. Every day the river banks are now thronged with rodsters, and I really think the number of anglers increases every season. Trout and grayling have been rising best in the evening, but there has been a fair rise on all day long, and on the preserved lengths sport has been excellent with the fly, though the spinning baits have proved next to useless. The golden dun, the doteril, and the July olive, have been most destructive. The average of baskets has run up to about 7 brace per rod, that is, to the experts. Barbel are now feeding freely, and I expect when a fresh comes on the river they will be found well on at the lob worms.—The Splodger.

Ilfracombe.

There has been a few days good fishing this week, parties whiffing getting some good baskets of mackerel and a few bass. Although they can see the bass playing thickly round the boats, yet they refuse to take the spinning bait, and the water being so clear they can almost see the bottom. Some good strings of gurnet, tubs, conger eel, and bream have been caught. To-day a boat drifting with her nets caught a quantity of mackerel off Clovelly; they were brought here and sold for 2s. a dozen. The fishing from the pier and jetty has been very good for pollack, whiting, conger eel, and dabs, and some fine lobsters have been brought in from the pots. Wind to-day blowing strong from the East.—E. Comer.

Lea (Ware).

A goodly number of anglers of various London clubs visited here on Sunday and Bank Holiday, prominent among them being members of the "Good Intent" and "Bloomsbury Brothers" who mustered rather strongly. The sport, as a rule, was far better than had been obtained here latterly, takes of roach from 10 lb. to 14 lb. were the rule rather than the exception, while in many cases really good fish were killed, several weighing over 1 lb., although I saw one a really fine fellow of $1\frac{3}{4}$ lb. taken at the boom, a handsome roach this was. Sport among the jack has not been really first-rate, the fish killed being as a rule small; the heaviest I saw killed on Sunday was one of about $4\frac{1}{2}$ lb., but some really fine jack are to be seen here and must fall to some lucky angler's skill, although I am afraid not before we get some rain, the water owing to this want is getting very low and as bright as it possibly can be. On Wednesday, in two hours, Mr. C. Clark, of the "Hoxton Brothers," was really fortunate, considering the mentioned state of the water, in taking over 10 lb. of roach and dace, and really good fish too, some weighing over a pound. Thursday I was out trolling and got two fair jack, these I took in the dead water between the town and Stanstead Lock, a reach of water I would advise those anglers in quest of jack to try their luck in. Live baits are somewhat difficult to obtain here, but as I generally keep myself well stocked, I shall only be too pleased to accommodate any brother anglers with them.—"Lion and Wheatsheaf."

Leicester.

The fine summer-like weather that we have been favoured with since last Friday week has induced a large number of anglers to visit the societies and neighbouring water, and, taken upon the whole, with fair results. Monday, being Bank Holiday, saw a large number of anglers fishing the Soar and canal, and, with roach biting more freely, a number of them had some good bags, ranging from four to ten and twelve pounds per rod. Good perch have also been taken with the worm, but takes of pike have been small. At Aylestone they have had more than their usual share of patronage, and these favourite waters have been yielding good sport. Last Sunday, a large number of anglers visited the Barrow waters for bream fishing, and as early as four o'clock on Monday many rods were at work, but the bream were not on the feed. Consequently, the bags were small. I could not hear of many takes over 10 lb. The Wreake and Narborough waters both received a share of patronage, and in the majority of instances, anglers have been well rewarded for their endeavours. The annual fishing contest of the local society will take place on Saturday, the 19th inst., when, in addition to the valuable money prizes given by the society a number of tradesmen are supporting the movement by giving some valuable prizes to be competed for. The waters at Leicester and the neighbourhood are fine and in good condition for angling.—Alert.

Medway (Tonbridge).

The water is in capital condition for all kinds of angling, and during the week some very large bags have been made. Mr. T. Elliott has had very good luck with the fly-fishing for chub. On Monday the river was regularly beseiged with anglers, a large number of whom had very good bags. Mr. E. B. Grave, below the town, had 20 creditable roach, and, trying for pike, hooked a veritable "hummer," but he broke him away. Mr. R. A. Wallas Beeching has been having some good sport with roach and bream, as also have the Messrs. Bartram, opposite Tonbridge Castle. Messrs. T. Hewitt and Jempson, fishing above the town on Saturday, caught 10 bream, weighing 28 lb., and on Monday they secured 31 lb. 10 oz. of bream and roach, the largest roach weighing $20\frac{1}{2}$ oz. With a little judicious baiting, fish seem to be right on.—Ye Medway. Water Rat.

Ouse (Littleport).

Water still very bright and weedy. Roach and perch are coming on, I hope, though but very slowly. All anglers are taking a few, though I am sorry to say there has been nothing worth reporting the last fortnight, the best catches being $2\frac{1}{2}$ dozen roach one day last week by Mr. George, Bassingbourne, and a nice little dish of roach and perch on Wednesday morning by the Rev. W. Tillbrook, Comberton Vicarage, Cambridge. I also hear of several decent pike having been taken by Mr. E. Hills, of Ely, a little higher up the river.—C. South.

Thames (Eynsham).

We have had a great many anglers this week, Monday being Bank Holiday they were very numerous. The water is in capital condition and sport has been good. Roach and perch have been caught in large quantities, the former with malt, the latter with minnows and worms. Mr. Clench, chairman of the Richmond Piscatorials, had a splendid take of barbel on Monday; altogether the fishing bids fair to be very good for some time.—W. B. Howe.

Thames (Halliford).

Owing to the water being so low and bright the fishing is very bad. Different gentlemen fishing with me since my last, report their takes have been as follows—viz., 1st day, Messrs. Plimpton and Bennett, 4 dozen roach and dace; 2nd day, Mr. Halford and friend, $4\frac{1}{2}$ dozen roach and dace; 3rd day, Mr. M. and G. Palmer, $7\frac{1}{2}$ dozen roach and dace; 4th day, Mr. Wheeler, trout fishing, took one between 3 and 4 lb.; 5th day, Mr. Geo. Palmer, one trout, which turned the scale of 4 lb, weighed at Mr. Stone's, Ship Hotel, Halliford, being the sixth trout Mr. Palmer has taken with me this season, and being the thirteenth I have had the pleasure of landing this season.—George Rosewell.

Thames (Windsor).

Many anglers are under the impression that fishing for barbel under a broiling sun in a bright water is useless, and this week I am able to upset this theory; providing fine tackle is used and swim properly baited beforehand, as between 3·15 and 3·50 this afternoon I piloted a gentleman, Davies, Esq., of Elmley Castle, Pershore, Worcester, to a swim, where, in the thirty-five minutes he caught six barbel going about 15 lb. Having missed his train, and there not being another for some time, he tried to get a fisherman for an hour or so, but without success, so I took him to a swim I had baited with the above result. Had he not been obliged to leave, our take would doubtless have been considerable, he took away the two best, and the rest were returned. On the 4th inst., I had my first day's "outing" this season, and took out Francis Francis, Esq., of the *Field*, and his friend Ledger, Esq., they had about 50 lb. of barbel, the bulk of which were taken in the evening, opposite Windsor Bridge; all were returned by Francis Francis, Esq.'s request, with the exception of four which were injured. Before breakfast on 7th inst., Mr. John Godard, of Eton, fishing with me, took 6 barbel and 1 chub in about 1¾ hours, and the next morning, before breakfast, in two hours and a few minutes, Pierrepont Brooke, Esq., of the 93rd Sutherland Highlanders fishing with me, had 13 barbel going 32 lb., when weighed at the Victoria Barracks. They were afterwards distributed to the men of his company. On the 7th inst., George Lumsden, fisherman, of Eton, took a fine specimen of a Thames barbel, weighing 10 lb., which is now in the hands of Cooper for preservation, and will be another addition to my local trophies in angling. On the 4th inst., Master F. E. Layton, of Windsor, took a very handsome carp of 6 lb. 7 oz., whilst fishing for roach in the mill stream; this, also, is in the hands of Cooper, and will be added to my collection. On the 6th inst , Mr. Lock, of Eton, had a very pretty trout of 4½ lb., which he took spinning at Boveney Weir. Some good bags of roach, perch, and gudgeon have been had, and several have been topped with stray barbel. Mr. Sowerbutts, of Eton, with a friend, had forty-three roach and dace, and numerous others have had jack, chub, perch, and barbel, but of no size or quantity worthy of mention. At Datchet, a well-known local angler had a nice bag of barbel one day, going 36 lb.; though this is an excellent piece of water for barbel, but few seem to make bags, there must be something wrong with the baiting or bait. Water at time of writing is good for time of year, and barbel will come freely to greaves, if properly baited beforehand, and properly fished for with fine tackle. Jack are numerous, and I have lately noticed some rare big fish feeding, and, in a month or two, expect some heavy ones will be had.—B. R. Bambridge.

Trent (Newark).

The water is as clear as unadulterated "Old Tom," and so low that nearly any swim can be reached from the bank. Fair quantities of all kinds of fish have been taken during the past week. Chub and bream have been taken with the wasp grub; roach and dace have been biting very fairly at gentles and paste, while the worm has also succeeded in deluding eels, flounders, bream, barbel, &c. Scratchings have also been successful in one or two instances in taking barbel, although catches of the latter fish have been the exception and not the rule. I have been out a couple of days this week, and, by a bit of judicious ground baiting, I succeeded in capturing 6 dozen roach and dace, principally roach. Half my fish averaged ¾ lb. each. Plain bread paste was my most successful lure. Any sort of summer fishing can now be practised with some chance of success.—The Trent Otter.

P.S.—A few inches more of water in the river would be an improvement.

Trent (Nottingham).

This river is still very low, and during the week thousands of anglers have been out, especially in lower waters. On Bank Holiday the rodsters were, in fact, a sight to see. At Honeringham upwards of 40 lb. of chub fell to the skill of two of our principal fishermen; and in the fishery below a take of 23 lb. of the same species was also recorded. In the upper lengths, six splendid barbel were killed on Monday, with the worm. the largest being 6½ lb., and below, at Shardlow, Mr. J. Theaker, accompanying a resident gentleman, succeeded, amongst other fish, in taking close on 50 lb. of chub. All these latter fell to the worm, ignoring, singularly enough, the wasp grub. Some very good roach and dace have been caught at Sawley and in the Willington district. Mr. Brown, of Derby, is credited with having killed another very fine salmon.—The Man at the Clubs,

Tweed, Teviot, and other Scottish Rivers.

During the past week the weather has been very warm, and, consequently, with a rising temperature. We have had a decided fall in the size of all our rivers, and a falling off of the take, as against those of last week. Notwithstanding these incumbrances, the disciples of Old Izaak have had exceedingly good sport, taking the thing all round, although on one or two of the waters the returns are reported almost *nil*. On the Tweed, Mr. P. Elliot has killed one very good trout of fully 3 lb. weight, and on the Makerstown water, Mr. Roughhead has killed 1 grilse, and 1 bull trout, the former of which weighed 6 lb and the latter 8 lb. On the Bemersyde waters, Colonel Haig has killed a good few salmon during the past three weeks, and on the salmon casts at the Pavilion, Melrose, Major-General Henry has also been successful in killing a number of salmon and trout. Mr. Roughhead, on the Makerstown water, on Wednesday, killed a couple dozen trout with worm, but the rivers have run too long small for such lures to be effective now. On the Teviot, Mr. T. Murray, Kelso, hooked a very nice fish at Maisondieu streams, but lost it after having run it for some time. Angling at Coldstream Bridge, John Collingwood, Esq., of Collingwood House, killed a 10 lb fish, and was broken with another, while another gentleman had one of 14 lb. The netting stations on the Tweed at Coldstream are doing fairly well, considering the state of the weather and water. Bandibus station has had 20 salmon, and the English water 10 grilse and one trout. At Berwick, the produce at the netting station does not improve as the season advances, and as the time draws on for the closing of the net season lessees are not extremely jubilant over a good season till the close, seeing that grilse, which ought now to be very numerous, are exactly the reverse. Last year, at the same period, the opposite was the case. At the Wilford fishery a beautiful salmon of 40 lb. was got, and some of a lesser weight. Prices just now at Berwick are—salmon and pike 1s. 2d., and trout 1s. per lb. In the same period last year prices were—salmon and pike 11d., and trout 8d. per lb. The trout angling in Lochleven continues unsatisfactory, but on the river Annan the reports are good, several baskets of yellow trout having been got, as well as many sea trout. In the Esk, Dumfriesshire, good takes of sea trout have been got, and still continue. In the Langhoem district Mr. W. Urquhart killed two salmon 13 lbs., and the smallest 12 lbs. The weather is very warm and bright, the glass registering 77 deg., with the wind south-west.—Max Wheel, Kelso, Aug. 10.

Wharfe (Yorkshire).

The river has now run down to summer level, and the fish have become exceedingly wary, very few trout have been taken during the past week, but dace have been rising pretty freely to such flies as the soldier palmer and red ant. I have seen a stray August brown or two on the water, and in another week or ten days the imitation should prove a killing fly. Weather at present excessively hot. I have spent most of my spare time during the week in perusing D. Foster's work on "Scientific Angling." It is, indeed, *sui generis*, and will do much towards adding to the fame which the late author had acquired during his well spent lifetime. As the Editor promised to review it in this week's issue, it would be a work of supererogation on my part to say more than that it is eminently practical, as might be expected, and that every angler ought to possess himself of a copy.—Francis M. Walbran.

Wye and Derwent.

Both rivers have been in first class condition for fly-fishing the whole of the past week, and I am pleased to say that a fair quantity of fish have been killed by experienced fishermen both off the Wye and Derwent. The best feeding times are early in the morning and the last thing at night, and baskets averaging from 3 to 5 brace per angler have been made of an evening. The killing flies have been the small honey dun bumble, little red, ribbed with gold twist, and black gnat flies. Last Friday 12 brace of good fish were killed off the Wye, between Tilleford Bridge and Bakewell with bumble and red flies. Last Monday, being Bank Holiday, very many anglers visited these rivers; dipping under the bushes and trees in the middle of the day, has been followed with good success, the small house flies being well taken, and several trout over a pound a piece have been landed. The bottom fishers only fish early and late, and their takes have been but very middling. Several small pike have been killed during the week between Cromford and Ambergate. Weather very bright and hot, scarcely any fish rising in the middle of the day, only what are feeding under the bushes and trees.—George James Eaton.

THAMES CONSERVANCY AND "PRIVATE RIGHTS" ON THE RIVER.

The Thames Conservancy are meditating an audacious obstruction of the public rights on the Upper Thames, and as to be forewarned is to be forearmed, we trust the public outcry will compel the Government to withhold its sanction from an impudent attempt to convert the Thames into a private stream. This attempt is to be made in the proposed new bye-laws for the regulation of the "public fishery"—bye-laws which the Queen in Council will have to sanction before they have the force of law; but once sanctioned, they will rule the river.

By one of these bye-laws, in an artfully constructed clause, the Conservancy takes power to itself to recognise "private rights" on the river by licensing persons as the owners of private rights in the Thames. This means that the persons who, on the Upper Thames, have been laying claim to the waters of the Thames, and who are, in several cases, at once conservators and "justices," are to license each other as owners. Some of these proprietors of lands adjacent to the river have supported their claims "in law" by giving as justices decisions in each other's favour; giving trespassers half-a-crown and ten shillings costs for fishing in so-called "private" parts of the river. "A Thames Rights Defence Association" was formed, and the *tria juncta in uno* (conservator, magistrate, riparian) was stopped. Last year, however, Sir Roger Palmer, who lives at Maidenhead, and held the office of president or vice-president of the local angling society, and is, moreover, as he was then, the nominee of the Board of Trade on the Thames Conservancy, summoned one of the bailiffs of the angling society for fishing in a part of the Thames which Sir Roger declared to be his own property. Sir Roger had for his advocate before the magistrates the clerk to the bench, whose clerk was his *locum tenens* in the discharge of his master's public duties. The Thames Rights Defence Association defended the bailiff, and the bench, after investigating Sir Roger's title deeds, decided that he had no claim to the waters, and he had to pay eight guineas costs. Now, under the bye-laws which the Conservancy propose to make law, his brother Conservators can license Sir Roger as the owner of the Maidenhead waters, and Sir Roger can license his neighbours and fellow-Conservators. When we state that the people who are making these claims to private ownership in the Thames declare that the sole right of fishing lies in them, and that no one has a right to linger on the river in a vessel, but to navigate as quickly as possible from point to point, it will be seen that the Government must be pressed to allow no such audacious proposals for the abstraction of public rights on a "common river" to be in the bye-laws.—*Gravesend Argus*.

Under-sized Fish.—At the Reading County Magistrates Office on Saturday last, W. Andrews, of Chelsea, pleaded guilty to taking seven perch, which were less than six inches in length, measured from the eye to the end of the tail, in the Thames at Pangbourne, on the 30th July. Mr. Henry Creed prosecuted on behalf of the Reading and District Angling Association, and stated the case against the defendant. Defendant was fined 2s. 6d. and 19s. 6d. costs.

Flies.—The annoyance from these pests will, for some time, be very great. The method given below and which is furnished by an Iowa lady is simple, cheap and worth trying, both for house and store:—"For three years I have lived in town, and during that time my sitting room has been free from flies, three only walking about my breakfast table, while all my neighbour's rooms are crowded. I often congratulate myself on my escape, but never knew the reason of it until a few days ago. I then had occasion to remove my goods to another house while I remained on for a few days longer. Among other things removed were two boxes of geraniums and calceolarias which stood in my window, being open to its full extent, top and bottom. The boxes were not gone half an hour when my room was as full of flies as those of my neighbours around me. This, to me, is a new discovery, and perhaps it may encourage others in that which is always a source of pleasure—namely, window gardening. Mignonette, planted in long shallow boxes, placed on the window sill, will be found excellent for this purpose."—*American Sea World*.

George James Eaton, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether the may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[Advt.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

"WHO IS THE FATHER?"

Sir,—There are obvious reasons which tempt me to answer the letter of onr friend, Mr. Manning, which appeared in your last week's issue, under the above heading. Before giving you those reasons, permit me to say that the mere question of "Who is the Father of the Anglers' Benevolent Society?" is, in my opinion, of such little importance that I should not have presumed to have made a demand on your space for the mere purpose of answering it. My reasons for asking you to favour me are, that Mr. Manning's letter, while it very fairly leaves the question an open one, none the less implies that there are anglers who think that I, in claiming to be the Father, have done my friend, Mr. Ghurney, an injustice. Although, Sir, this appears to be an age in which such injustices are of far too common occurrence, I hope none the less that men will have the courage to step forward and claim, as Mr. Manning has done in this instance, that "honour shall be given where honour is due."

I have known Mr. Manning, now, for a number of years, and I have my estimate of him. I once heard him say something which I would wish all those who profess to take an interest in angling to read: "I have been a member of this committee (the United London Anglers Central Committee) for seven years, and I am proud to say that I never yet missed a meeting." No wonder, Mr. Editor, that he should come forward and ask for the facts. He believes that his committee and his secretary are the persons entitled to the credit of having originated the Anglers Benevolent, and he has an undoubted right to say, stand forward and shew your title, or cease to claim that which is ours.

I have such an array of facts that my greatest difficulty is to choose a few which will best and most conclusively prove my case. The letters—many large bundles—especially those signed R. B. Marston and L. Bonvoisin, are sufficient, the Fishing Gazette for 1879 is equally sufficient, and the minute book of the West Central Association is conclusive.

On December 3rd, 1878, after many months of private talk with the members of my club, I was encouraged to say at a committee meeting, Mr. Ghurney being present, that "I thought the time had arrived when something like united action should be taken to put a stop to the unceasing and ever-increasing volume of appeals, which was proving itself a great enemy to our best interests, and a cruel tax on the regular attendant at his club." I gave a rough draft of my idea, which was much improved upon by the members of the committee, and Mr. Ghurney was asked to bring it before the members of the United London Anglers' Central Committee, and ask their co-operation. When he did so, Mr. Manning, being a never-failing attendant, heard for the first time of the Anglers' Benevolent from Mr. Ghurney, and came to the conclusion that the idea was his or theirs, not mine or ours. This will be proved if you kindly insert the following cutting from your Gazette of January 24th, 1879, which is a portion of my statement made to a general meeting of the association, held on the 17th of the same month, Mr. Ghurney again being present:—

"The Chairman, Mr. Geen, then called the attention of the meeting to the question of the numerous appeals, which are made from time to time, on behalf of distressed members of clubs. The working committee had given the question during the past two months their best consideration, and they are of opinion that the time has arrived when it should be dealt with in a comprehensive manner. The good understanding existing between the East and West End clubs has enabled them to appeal to the "Central Committee of London Anglers," to take united action with them, which they have promised to do. I shall not detain you by entering into the demerits of the present system of appeal, beyond saying that, in my opinion, if it is not the worst possible, it is certainly not the best. I should like to say before giving you the committee's plan, that they are, and I believe you will be, unanimously of opinion that an angler, being a member of a club, who through no fault of his own, but in consequence of a series of misfortunes becomes distressed, has a claim upon us for assistance.

The committee recommend that an independent society, that is, independent of either the Central Committee or this association, should be formed, having for its title The Anglers' Provident and Benevolent Society. Provident, because every angler would be invited to pay a small sum annually, that he might be entitled to appeal to this society in the event of his becoming pecuniarily distressed. Benevolent, because a number of good-hearted anglers would cheerfully give a benevolent subscription to a society, provided they had confidence in that society doing good with it. It is proposed that this association should appoint five members in whom they have confidence for such work, and that the Central Committee should also appoint another five. Having these ten representatives of the whole of the London clubs, and, further, with a secretary who has a thorough knowledge of anglers, such as Mr. Ghurney, I think we could and should be willing to give such men a fair trial, and the result would be, in the opinion of the committee, a grand success. I am pleased to inform you that Mr. Ghurney has kindly accepted the secretaryship, and that the Central Committee have appointed five capable men, who are well known and respected. With these few remarks, I will now leave the question in your hands."

Is it rational to suppose that I could stand up before the representatives of the London Anglers, our working committee being present, and assert that we had appealed to the central committee of London Anglers? Could such a statement have passed? Could it have appeared in your paper and a notice by yourself in large type calling attention to it, if my statement was the reverse of true?

Now let me ask Mr. Manning, or anyone who takes an interest in this question, if it would be possible for me to receive letters at this time, January 20, 1879, from yourself, one of which says, "I have received your letter about the proposed 'Anglers' Provident and Benevolent Society' and I think *your* idea is splendid. I send you five guineas as a contribution towards the fund, and please put my name down as an annual subscriber for one guinea."

Three days afterwards you had occasion to write to me again, and you say, "I have written a notice of *your* scheme which will appear to-morrow" (the 24th January, 1879).

Is it likely, Sir, that you were blind as to who was the originator of the scheme, and that I and the thousand and one other persons permitted you to remain blind?"

I will only give one other quotation, and that is from a letter of Mr. Bonvoison, who was sure to know the facts. He wrote, "Once let this pet scheme of yours be started on its mission of good, and I shall expect you to actively co-operate with me in my pet scheme, the protection of the Grand Junction Canal."

Can it be necessary to write another word in proof of "who is responsible for the starting of the Anglers' Benevolent?"

I must admit, Sir, that my conscience pricks me that I have done so little for my "pet scheme." I know full well that it was such men as Messrs. Bonvoison, Morgan, Beckett, Murphy, Aldridge, Field, Manning, and, last yet first, my friend Mr. Ghurney, who matured that scheme, and who has had to bear the burdon of its working. Mine has been the pleasure to stand by and see the scheme perfected, and its grand work being carried on by good and true-hearted men.

When I said at the tournament dinner that I was the father, it was intended to show that instead of thanks being due to me, the society had an indisputable claim on my services at any and all times.—I am, &c., P. Geen.

"WHO IS THE FATHER?"

Sir,—It is with considerable surprise I read Mr. Manning's letter in the Gazette on this matter. I am inclined to think that the honour of having originated the Anglers' Benevolent Society can be claimed by a great number of people, if it is due to each one who may have had some sort of an idea that such a society would be desirable. I might almost claim that honour myself, for I can distinctly recollect that when my friend, Mr. Geen, first mentioned the matter to me (which was months previous to his publicly naming the idea, and a considerable time previous to January 17, 1879, when he introduced the matter to the W. C. Association—see Gazette January 24, 1879), I was reminded that some such idea had once passed in a hazy and indistinct manner through my mind. Doubtless, the Father of the Society is the man who has successfully advanced the idea; who has, as it were, rocked the infant in its cradle, helped it in its first steps, provided it with excellent nurses and sponsors, and carefully tended it until it has become the sturdy child we now see; such a man is not only the father, but the mother also. All honour is due to those who assisted him, and who now carry on this grand work; every one of them is entitled to his full share, and no one is more ready in according that honour on every occasion, both private and public, than the gentleman to whose successful energy the anglers of London are indebted for the foundation of the Anglers' Benevolent Society.—I am, &c., R. W. Hobden.

THE ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY AND ITS ORIGINATOR.

Sir,—Will you please allow me space to say, in reference to the above and Mr. Manning's letter in your issue of last week, that Mr. Geen's statement was quite correct, viz., "that he was the Father of the above named society."

It is just like my friend Mr. Manning, when he thinks a man entitled to certain honours, he is always to the front to see that man receive his full share of what is due to him, and I admire him for it; but this time he has been misinformed, and I am sure he will not mind my setting him right in the matter.

Some long time before the Anglers' Benevolent Society was started, Mr. Geen brought the question before his club of how to put a stop to the continual appeals which were always being made to the Hammersmith Limited and other angling clubs for distressed anglers. He was deputed to bring the matter before the West Central Association, which he did, and the scheme he laid before that body was so well received that a committee was appointed to draw up a code of rules, &c.

The first thing the committee did was to invite the Co-operation of the East Central committee, which was, as usual, most readily accorded, and together the two committees drew up a Code of Rules, and started the society.

Of course, it is impossible to give you a copy of minutes, &c., for publication, in reference to the preliminary meetings, but I shall most willingly allow Mr. Manning, or anyone else who desires to do so, to examine the whole of the books, if they will call at my private address at any time when I am at home.

Mr. Geen would be the last man in the world to rob Mr. Ghurney, or any man out of any credit that was their due, and that must be the opinion of everyone, who knows anything at all about him.

It does not matter one iota who was the Father of the society, so long as it is the success it is; but it does matter to me, when my oldest friend is accused of taking credit to himself that is not his due, when I know so well how hard he worked for the formation of the society, and has worked for the London Anglers for years, several men getting the credit for what has really been his doing and he has never complained, and would not let others complain for him.

Mr. Geen has, times out of number, remarked to me that Mr. Ghurney was working as hard as any man could work for the society, and he would upon all occasions thank him for his labours to make his (Mr. Geen's) pet scheme a success.

I am sure Mr. Manning will thank me for setting him right, because I know how very fond he is of fair play. We are all willing to allow that Mr. Ghurney has worked, and does work, most laboriously for the Anglers, and is deserving of thanks from all. He is not the man to wish Mr. Geen to be robbed of his child. Thanking you in anticipation, I am, &c.,—T. Hoole.

EXTRAORDINARY CAPTURE OF A PIKE.

Sir,—Some of my brother anglers may be interested to read the following account of a capture of a pike made by me yesterday.

Whilst perch fishing from a wall in about fifteen feet of water, in a pool of, say sixty acres, I baited with worm, and, putting on a sinker, threw in and went to lunch, leaving the line clear for a run.

On returning in about half an hour, and winding up, I found a dead weight at the end of the line, and although I conjectured I had a fish, I could not for some time determine what kind it was, as it merely offered a passive resistance, and moved slowly about.

I could feel it was a good one, and as I had nothing but gut and a fine silk line, I played very carefully, and after about ten minutes' a friend got into the net a pike which scaled 4½ lbs.

Immediately on being landed the pike disgorged a perch of half a pound, and at the same time the line parted in two, and, to my astonishment, I found my perch hook imbedded in the jaws of the smaller fish; so that the greedy pike had evidently taken him whilst on my line, had swallowed him, and had held on so tenaciously that he allowed himself to be played and landed.

The circumstances are unique in my experience. I have before had smaller fish seized by a pike, but have never brought it to a successful issue until yesterday.—I am, &c., W. S. P.

Eagle Cottage, King's Norton, Aug. 5, 1882.

THE WHARFE.

SIR,—I read "Yorkshireman's" letter with pleasure, as it is a true and fair statement of the present condition of the River Wharfe. His remarks with reference to the gentleman whom "F. P. H." thinks proper to style a "pompous individual" are also very appropriate and perfectly correct.

I believe were trout a penny a pound instead of a penny an *ounce*, as I heard last week was the price in this neighbourhood, the river would swarm with them from Arthington to Buckton, some forty miles; but when so high a price can be had it is a greattemptation to poachers.—WATCHET.

THE RIVER WHARFE.

SIR,—I was exceedingly astonished to read the account which "Creel" inserted in your issue of July 1st, concerning the woeful condition into which this famous Yorkshire stream had lapsed. Had he maligned the Yore in similar manner I should have taken up the gauntlet at once; but not being an habitual fly fisher on the Wharfe (although I have had my share of good sport from it and am at present a resident on its banks) I left its defence to others who were, and who I felt certain would not allow such an extraordinary statement to pass unchallenged. As several competent judges have now "had their say," I will throw in my mite. In the issue of this paper for June 4th, 1881, I wrote an article giving a full description of this river, and as no one at the time controverted any of my statements, we will assume that they were correct; if any of your readers will take the trouble to scan over that article they will doubtless come to the concusion that one of us ("Creel," "Veteran Angler," or myself) is not remarkable for veracity, but which of us it is I leave to the judgment of those in the habit of fishing in the Wharfe almost daily—not of those who come to fish the Yorkshire streams with gut like cartrope and flies which bear a closer resemblance to bumble bees than anything else in entomology, and who after thrashing the water for a week with no perceptible result, return homewards sadder but wiser men, deluding themselves and acquaintances by the assertion that "there are no fish in the river." I am delighted with "Yorkshireman's" letter on the subject in to-day's issue of your valuable paper, and if I were to write for a week I could not give a more honest and truthful account of the present state of the Wharfe, and also of the real facts of the whole case. I could not help smiling when I read "Creel's" allusion to "fingerlings" and "5-inch grayling," as by writing this he certainly evinces a most lamentable ignorance on the subject of the size of trout and grayling in the Wharfe, or else he has been strangely misinformed. I will not adduce in counter-evidence the weight of both trout and grayling that I have in different seasons killed on the Wharfe, although I could easily do so by referring to my angling diary. But Mr. R. M. Pratt, of Otley, secretary to the Otley Angling Club, who is a thorough sportsman, and whose word is most reliable, will bear witness how many fish of ½ lb. to 1½ lb., and even larger than that, are killed in the course of a season; in fact the limit of fish to be returned to the water is something like what "Creel" would have your readers suppose to be the average size of Wharfe trout. The worst "pollution" that I have yet met with on the Wharfe is the growth of aquatic weeds, which in a droughty summer flourish most luxuriantly on some stretches of the river, and which are a great nuisance to the fly-fisher, although providing harbours for the fish.

The reservoirs belonging to the Leeds Corporation at Swinstay and Fewston are well stocked with trout, as will be seen on reference to my report on the Wharfe in last week's issue. I believe that tickets for a day's fishing may be obtained by any Leeds ratepayer on application to a member of the Town Council. As regards the question of obtaining permission to fish, surely landed proprietors can do as they like with their own without being subjected to such unsportsmanlike language as that applied to them by "F. P. H." Speaking from personal experience, I have always found Yorkshire proprietors remarkably liberal in granting permission for a few day's fishing, and in cases where it is withheld from the general public you generally discover that such a state of affairs has been brought about by the misconduct of anglers who were unworthy of the name, and who did not know the value of a privilege when they had obtained it.—I am, &c., FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

P.S.—I have read with pleasure and interest "Tarns" note on the Yore in to-day's issue. I can fully substantiate his statements, as there is no river that I am so well acquainted with. The poaching that takes place in the Bainbridge district is greatly to be deplored, as, if properly watched and preserved, the Yore would be a magnificent trout stream.

THE WHARFE.

SIR,—Now that "Creel" has closed his correspondence on this subject, you will perhaps allow me space to sum up the whole of his assertions, researches through Parliamentary papers, and salmon fisheries reports. When I first replied to "Creel," it was not merely for the sake of contradicting him; but I concluded that his remarks were very misguiding to any angler who contemplated an angling excursion to this famous stream, and would so deprive many a worthy Waltonian from enjoying the sport and pleasure to be had there.

In the first place, it has been proved to "Creel" that there are plenty of fish in Wharfe, not "fingerlings," as "Creel" calls them, but good sized, takeable fish; so we are quite clear on that point, and can dispense with the assertion, "The river is nearly denuded of all fish, and in the future must be blank."

"Creel" has gone further than this, and has prophesied "that Wharfe ere long will be nothing more than a common-sewer." Well, I am surprised at this remark after the correspondence and information "Creel" has received, and I am quite certain any information I can now bring to bear will not convince him differently; but I trust that you, Mr. Editor, and your numerous readers (some of them who have probably visited the river) know that the water is good, and sufficient in quantity and quality for all angling purposes.

In answer to the question, "Is or is not the Wharfe gradually deteriorating, and becoming of the pestiferous character of the greatly neglected Aire?" I say emphatically, No!

"Creel" asks me to state where he has accused the people of Leeds of drinking the waters of the Wharfe. If he will refer to his correspondence in your issue of July 15, he will find: "Arthing Mill Weir is nearly two miles below Pool Bridge, a short distance above which is the viaduct of the North Eastern Railway, and the pumping station, which lifts the water from the Wharfe into Eccup Reservoir to supply Leeds."

My advice to "Creel" is for him to have a fishing excursion to the Wharfe, and he will then form very different opinions to those he already possesses; and if he will give his account, then no one will read it with greater pleasure than myself. I close with "Creel," and may say in doing so that I fully endorse his description of the river Calder.

"Yorkshireman" says he has read the correspondence on this subject with indignation. I really don't know that I have written anything to cause anyone to be indignant, and I fail to notice any remarks of "Creel's" to cause that feeling. My remarks may have been a little too plain for some gentle readers.

"Yorkshireman" takes me to task on the number of trout fry turned into the Wharfe, also the number caught by an Otley gentleman in two fields' length, and he is further audacious enough to assert that myself and that gentleman are one and the same person. Well, certainly, an anonymous letter writer always enjoys the privilege of trespassing on personalities more than a *bona fide* writer. I forward you the card of that particular individual, and "Yorkshireman" can have it if he pleases. I shall admit my mistake in the number of fish he killed, if "Yorkshireman" saw them. I have for my authority a gentleman (whose name I can give) who saw the fish ten minutes after they were taken.

My report as to the number of trout fry turned into the Wharfe may be slightly incorrect, but it answered and substantiated my argument that there were plenty of fish in the river; and I think "Yorkshireman" might have found something less trifling to write about than the two slight mistakes I made, if such they be.

In "Yorkshireman's" criticism of my correspondence, he states that my remarks in reference to the owner of the sporting right of Lindley reservoir were not written in the spirit of the Complete Angler. I was not aware that correspondence had to be written and conducted after the spirit of any author, and, from what I know of the FISHING GAZETTE, I have always found it open for the free expression of opinion: hence my opinion of the proprietor in question.

I am aware that gentleman grants fishing to the Otley Club under very stringent rules and conditions, and he likewise gives permission to a few personal friends to fish in Lindley reservoir, and nothing further. (Come now, "Yorkshireman," confess that you never knew any one fish in Lindey reservoir but a strict personal friend) The reservoir is not his, but belongs to the Corporation of Leeds. He certainly has the sporting right, and no doubt "Yorkshireman" knows that the agreement between the Corporation of Leeds and that gentleman was a blunder from beginning to end, and the validity of that agreement is much doubted. He is a sportsman, but not an angling sportsman, as "Yorkshireman" would have us believe.

I will give you a grievance that anglers suffer under from the influence of Otley Club, as "Yorkshireman" has given me the opportunity, and seems to have a very high opinion of those connected with it. They have at the present time miles of water on the Wharfe, and they are continually trying to purchase small patches of ground (not that they want it to fish in), but they require it for the sole purpose of stopping anglers who have been accustomed to fish in it for half a century. I know one small piece, a distance of two miles from Otley, and they have tried over and over again to grasp it; but, thanks be to Mr. Yates, he is determined not to let them deprive outside anglers of fishing, although they have offered him an enormous price for it that I could mention.

If it were possible to gain access to this club, I should not find fault with their purchasing and preserving, but when a club is confined to thirty influential gentlemen, and you may pay what sum you like, you cannot gain admission as a member; in fact, there are gentlemen now waiting until some member dies or leaves the club before they can be enrolled as members. I ask, is it right for thirty gentlemen to monopolise a distance of six or seven miles of a river by paying fabulous sums of money for every inch they can lay their hands upon? "Yorkshireman" talks about rights and Waltonian language, let him examine and consider these actions in a conscientious point of view, and tell me, are these Waltonian actions? "Waltonian language" says he! I should like to come across a follower of the gentle craft whose indignation would not be roused when he finds, where he could once fish with pleasure and sport, the ground is snatched from him, and for neither love nor money can he fish it again. I could give you other grievances, and also convince you that I know something of that "aristocrat"; but I wish to keep from personalities as far as possible, and I am the last in the world to attack a man's private right, unless he abuses that right. I close this correspondence, duly apologising to "Yorkshireman" for having unknowingly hurt his feelings by advocating some of the rights of the angling fraternity of Leeds.

Leeds. F. P. HAMMILL.

[We have so often pointed out the absurdity of anglers grumbling at waters being closed to them by clubs, that it is hardly necessary to refer to the matter again. Mr. Hammill himself admits that he would like to get the fishing which the Otley Club has secured; but he would have to pay the same for it, and then would he give away his privileges to every enthusiastic angler who wished to enjoy them?—ED.]

THE WHARFE.

SIR,—I should be wanting in courtesy if I hesitated to thank "Yorkshireman" for the following sentence in his letter, which appeared in your last issue:—

"The worst pollution which comes into the river is above Otley, and proceeds from Burley Wood Head Bleachworks, and some mills, which destroy all the fish in that tributary beck, and certainly causes the water where it enters to be as black as ink."

Now, Sir, an exactly similar statement of mine, with the addition that I had used it as ink to write to the Home Office, became my chief offence in the eyes of F. P. H., who gave my statement the most unqualified contradiction.

I am glad to find "Yorkshireman" doing justice to Mr. Fawkes, who, instead of being the "pompous individual" and aristocratic curmudgeon F. P. H. would depict him, appears to be a liberal friend to anglers and an excellent sportsman.

I have to thank an unknown correspondent for sending me a semi-official manuscript detailed survey of the Wharfe, with all its becks and turns, from its rise to its junction with the Ouse, and thence to the sea, which I may give your readers one day; but at present, I think they must have had enough of this river. CREEL.

POLLUTION OF RIVERS.

SIR,—I have read with great pleasure "Creel's" letter anent the pollution of Yorkshire rivers, which is not only of great moment to anglers, but still greater from a sanitary point of view.

The water-closet system, the tanneries, bleacheries, dyeries, and all the rest of "ies" of pollution and contamination, whose poisonous discharges into what was formerly a clear and sparkling stream, have changed it into a vast sewer, in comparison to which the malaria of an African swamp could only claim second place.

Who is to blame for this? I must say the local sanitary boards.

Surely the engineer or the chemist might give a little of their attention to this most vital subject.

But in these days the great feats of science are in discovering means whereby unscrupulous manufacturers of oleomargerine, bosh cheese or butter, and similar nostrums, can deceive a too easily gulled public, and in offering to textile manufacturers a sizing composition which will add considerably to the weight, and deceive the unsophisticated savage (who, you cannot gainsay, is quite as honest as his bleached brother from this standpoint).

Why, in all reason, cannot these scientists give a little more attention towards rendering the manufacturers' discharges innocuous to the river?

Residents near the banks of rivers in the great manufacturing centres have the whip in their own hands; they elect representatives to their local co-operative boards, and from these they must insist on immediate remedial measures, to do away with this scandalous state of affairs.

The manufacturer, rattling his well-filled pocket, will, on being interviewed, exclaim, I cannot do with restrictions, I must be free to carry on my business; and adds, If I stop my works the operatives will earn no money. To this piece of ratiocination the reply is, You can carry on your trade, but not to the detriment of your neighbours.

What is the use of money, if you have not its most important companion, health?

The electors of these towns must call their representatives to toe the line and stand no evasive promises, giving them plainly to understand that unless they take their desires in this vital question immediately in hand they need not seek their suffrages on the termination of their present stewardship.—I am, &c ,

VIATOR.

[This Wharfe-Aire correspondence is now closed.—ED.]

ANGLING IN THE THAMES NEAR ABINGDON.

SIR,—I lately enjoyed a most pleasant week's fishing in a quiet and pretty corner of Old Father Thames at Clifton-Hampden, near Abingdon, Berks; and, as some of your readers may like such an outing these holidays, I send you the following particulars, and hope they may prove of service.

We (that is the wife and I) booked from Paddington, G.W.R. (single ticket about 5s.), to Culham, about one hour's ride, and then walked to Clifton, a small village about a mile from the station, and obtained capital apartments at Mrs. Balls', who is very reasonable in all her charges, a capital cook, very pleasant and accommodating. So far so good, and now about the fishing. I soon made the acquaintance of Fred Casey (his father keeps the toll-house on the bridge), who, the locals told me, knew where all the big fish lay and every deep hole and swim round about, and such I found to be the fact. Fred has a boat or two and a nice fishing punt to let. I went straight to business with him as to terms (which I think is the best, and saves occasionally a deal of unpleasantness after); he said he would let his punt out at 2s. 6d. per day, or go himself and find all baits, &c., at 6s. per day, which price, as he is a really good fisherman, very civil, and most obliging, starts as early as you like, daybreak if necessary (till dusk), is, I think, very moderate. And what more do you want? only the fish, and that we caught both in quantity, quality, and size. I soon settled with Fred to start next morning; but there, I am afraid I am getting too prosy, and making this too long, and will finish up by saying I had a capital week's sport with Fred amongst the barbel, chub, roach, dace, and eels. The largest barbel just under 7 lb., several 3 and 4 lb.; chub up to 4 lb., plenty 1½ lb. and 2 lb.; and, as to roach and dace, fair sized, we tired of counting them. and returned most of them to their native element. We also caught a nice lot of eels—three or four each day—1½ lb. to 2 lb. each. If this information is of use to any of your numerous readers on the look out for a quiet rustic spot, not difficult of access or expensive, I shall be very glad. I am about to have another week there, and should it be acceptable, shall be pleased to let you have an account of my experience amongst the finny tribe.—I am, &c., A. J C.

P.S.—Will you kindly—or some of your readers—tell me about the fishing at Ilfracombe; or, better still, where good sea fishing can be had off the rocks or shore nearer home.

July 26.

[There is splendid sea fishing at Ilfracombe. In the late autumn you will also get good sea fishing at Lowestoft. Many thanks for your very useful letter.—ED.]

GROUND BAITING.

SIR,—Our friend "Fairfisher" must be one of those singular and extraordinary anglers we sometimes meet about once in a century—men whose ideas respecting the gentle craft, to say the least, are most peculiar; a marvellous individual, for he appears to be one of those fortunate gentlemen who can dispense with the trouble of ground baiting, certainly "a consummation devoutly," etc.

I must say I was positively startled at the suggestions he throws out in reference to this subject in your last issue.

It is perfectly clear "Fairfisher" cannot have the slightest conception of the extreme difficulty there is now-a-days getting certain fish together in certain rivers, or he would never give vent to ideas so palpably ridiculous—

Take the Trent : I know places where the utmost care and caution are requisite in throwing in say 1000 lobs. A few yards too high, too low, too near in, or too far out, and you might just as well pitch them into the Burlington Arcade.

This is well known amongst the old hands.

There are places some of the cleverest Nottingham men would not think of fishing without throwing in two or three thousand lob worms, and when they are 6s., 7s., and even 8s. per thousand (in dry weather), the expense alone is no joke.

If "Fairfisher" has really any idea what three thousand lob worms are, and the space they would occupy, he might imagine they would bait the Thames for two miles; but allow me to inform "Fairfisher" this number is reckoned not one too many.

In these cases there is none of the disgusting compound alluded to. He may rely upon it, they are thrown in without any addition whatever.

To show you the necessity of some ground bait, I was at the Welsh Harp (this is a splendid piece of water, and the small fry literally swarm all along the shallows) last week for a breather, and I noticed two anglers, more especially at the extreme end near the cottage, kept dropping in large pellets of ground bait simply clean bread and brain, (you could have eaten it), and they pulled fish out almost every throw in.

After chatting for a little while I said, "You seem to use a pretty considerable amount of ground bait." and in reply one of them observed, with a merry twinkle in his eye, "Well sir, you might play on the Welsh Harp, or any other harp for a month, but you would get nothing to any tune without it."

Think of that, friend "Fairfisher," and be convinced.—Yours etc., MARK ANTONY.

GROUND BAITING.

SIR,—In your editorial foot-note to my letter of the 29th July respecting the above subject, you certainly quote a reason in favour by stating that our patron Saint, found ground-baiting necessary; but he was no pot fisherman. In his happy days anglers required none of those incentives to the sport—viz., "prizes," which does not redound to the credit of the angler of the nineteenth century.

Izaak Walton sought the riverside, content with moderate sport, and to enjoy the genial companionship of his fellow craftsmen, admire the beauties of nature in its three phases—spring, summer, and autumn, and in the winter to commune with his fellow fishermen on their past sport, not as is the case nowadays, anxiously looking to the termination of the year in the expectancy of having handed to him five, three, or two guineas, tin pots, copper kettles, pounds of cigars, tobacco boxes, and other such sundries, prizes which it seems are now necessary to bring our piscatorials to the waterside.

No, Mr. Editor; I am quite willing to be a lunatic and agree with "Creel" in his very pertinent remarks so long as I have my liberty, and can go a-fishing. Imagine for a moment the results of the following to a clean water. I read in a paper last year of some (not dozens) but hundreds of anglers meeting to fish a competition. Reason to yourself each of these carrying with him only two pounds of ground-bait, some of a most disgusting composition, and casting it into the water. We hear of outcries against decaying vegetation; but what can be worse than animal putrescence? How often in the year would you like a repetition of this competition in a lake of your own?

In the neighbourhood of where I live there is a reservoir; the public, on payment of a small sum, received permission to fish. The place was well frequented. The manager, passing one day, saw an angler throwing in ground bait; the stock-in-trade not being exhausted, he examined the remainder, and found it of a most disgusting nature. In consequence of this, notices were put up tabooing it; but sly Messrs. Pot were seen at their tricks again, after repeated warnings. One day one of the fraternity was practising as usual, in blissful ignorance of the vicinal companionship of one of the labourers, who, having received orders to watch the place, placards and warning not being found sufficient.

The sequel is: the fishing is stopped, the water cleared of its finny inhabitants, and the angling public deprived of their pleasure—the delinquent being "ground bait."

I hope to see some one more able than I am taking up the cudgel in favour of "Creel's" opinion.—I am, &c., FAIRFISHER.

[We are quite as much against pot-fishing as "Fairfisher." If he will refer to our back volumes he will find ample evidence of this; he will also find that "Creel" has many times, in this very paper, recommended the use of ground bait, and we could, if we were at liberty to give his name, point to well-known angling works of his in which all kinds of ground baits are recommended. "Creel" only protested against noxious compounds being thrown into water intended for drinking purposes, and of course every sensible man agrees with him. This is vastly different from decrying the use of ground bait generally. Why "Creel" himself uses bushels of it.—ED.]

GOOD SPORT IN THE OUSE.

SIR,—I fished the Ouse in Huntingdonshire on Bank Holiday. The river was in capital condition. I fished from half-past four in the morning until half-past eleven at noon. I killed fourteen dozen roach and four bream. I took all the roach with boiled wheat. Three of the bream took the worm and one the boiled wheat.—I am, &c , R. CULLEN DEWY.

Kingston-on-Thames, August 9, 1882.

DANGERS FROM EXCURSION STEAMERS ON THE YARE.

SIR,—I enclose you per book post the *Eastern Daily Press*, wherein you will find a letter referring to an accident that occurred on the Yare the other day. I was a passenger on board the *Jumbo*, and assisted in getting the unfortunates on board, and I can verify all that is written.

Being on a fortnight's fishing excursion, I thought I would just do the trip by steamer to see how the fishing boats fared, as I had heard a good deal about their being knocked about, and it is really perilous to be on the water as they are passing; and I should feel glad together with, I am sure, many of your numerous readers by your taking some notice of this in your next issue, so that the public feeling may be thrown forward to compel them to regulate this paddle traffic, and thus be the means of saving many a life and ensuring the safety of many anglers.—I am, &c., T. K. C.

August 10, 1882.

[The letters in the *Eastern Daily Press* describe how the steamboat *Jumbo* swamped a pleasure-boat with three occupants near Reedham Ferry, and how the steamboat *Meteor* swamped a sailing boat with five occupants, leaving them struggling in the deep and dangerous river. It is high time our Norwich and Yarmouth friends took steps to prevent this danger to life. These steamboats go tearing up and down the river like wild beasts, seeking whom they may devour, throwing up enormous waves. A good swimmer has little chance in the Yare, as a perfect network of long tangled weeds extends into deep water along each bank, and the swimmer who attempted to get through them would be a lunatic; his best chance would be to remain swimming in the open water till a wherry or boat came by.—ED.]

ORMESBY BROAD.

SIR,—Those of your readers spending a holiday at Yarmouth may be glad of a little information gleaned recently during a short visit. Ormesby and Filby Broads are within seven miles by road from Yarmouth, but may be readily reached by rail to Ormesby, where an omnibus meets the trains during the season for the conveyance of visitors to the Broads. At Ormesby there are two hostelries, the Eel's Foot, proprietor Mr. Moncey, and the Sportsman's Arms, kept by Mr. Richmond.

When at Ormesby, we halted at the latter. If the accommodation here is not all that could be desired, it is at least "an honest alehouse," of the old Waltonian type, and Sam Richmond, I am sure, will make anglers welcome, and give them every information in his power. There is a landing stage just at the back of the house, where suitable boats can be procured for half a crown per day—and a boat is almost an absolute necessity in fishing these Broads. Bait can also be obtained here, but I would never recommend an angler to trust entire to the local supply. Once on the water, stakes mark the *locale* of the various swims, and to any pair of these stakes the boat may be secured. The boat is simply a large rowing boat, and can be easily managed alone, but in my own case, enjoying the hospitality of a friend, we took with us Mr. White, of

82, George Street, Yarmouth, who for a small sum will readily act as fisherman, and, by his ready attention, add materially to the comfort of the holiday trip.

I do not mention these names to advertise the individuals concerned, but I know that strangers to the place, like myself, are often in want of this kind of information, and if it can be supplemented by similar "tips," so much the better for the angler. It occurs to me, however, that anglers visiting Yarmouth could not do better than call on Mr. Lark, the working secretary of the Yarmouth Piscatorial Society, which holds its meetings at St. George's Wine Vaults, King Street, Yarmouth, and he will gladly give them information as to local streams. That the Broads are teeming with fish I have no doubt, for my friend Mr. E. Bennett, who fishes Ormesby frequently, seldom fails to have a good take, and I hear the same from other quarters. On the solitary occasion when I fished with him there, he took a perch of 1½ lb., and we both took a large quantity of small fry, the whole of which, save half a dozen, retained alive for bait, were returned to the Broad. The conditions then were against us, and few (if any) anglers took large fish. So far as we were concerned, this was made up, for on the following day, when fishing private water near another of the Broads, we had an excellent day's sport; but I think any angler who has a few days to spare, and a little money to spend, would hardly find better fishing than at Ormesby or one of the other Broads. Some of the swims are very deep, and hold big fish, especially bream, perch and pike; roach and rudd are also plentiful.

When fishing on Monday last, I hooked a bream of about 2 lb., and had nearly landed him when the gut broke, and my fish disappeared. Curious to relate, Mr. Bennett took a similar fish three quarters of an hour later, which on examination proved to be the fish I had first taken, the gut still protruding from the mouth.

The practice of "liggering" for pike, which goes on largely in these waters, is much to be deplored, the abolition of which might form useful work for the local anglers to take in hand. Hundreds of these "liggers" are set during the season, and one would think it needs but a proper representation to the persons interested to secure the abolition of so injurious and unsportsmanlike a custom.—I am, &c., T. Crumplen.

SOME QUERIES ABOUT HENS, &c.

Sir,—Some years ago I saw a scale list of the weights of trout, and what were the lengths to the ounce. I adopted to a rod the inches for weight, but having missed my rule, can you or any of your numerous readers give it to me again. I think it was in the *Field* Almanack. Should any of your reader have them bound, I shall feel a great favour is conferred by looking it up, fully ten years ago—I believe twelve. I am convinced that a rigid rule on all waters should be that fish less than 6 inches should be returned. I have seen many dishes this year that it would take four or five to place one after the other to get 12 inches in length. I should be glad also to hear of the breeders of the old blue game fowls. I fear they are dying out, or getting mixed with the Spanish fowls, which make flies so much like down instead of stiff hackles. I could exchange some hens with any breeders who wish to keep up the old strain of hackles, which are only fit for fly-making. In the hopes that the old fashioned flies (none better) may be still, and in the future, known to the art. You have my address, Mr. Editor, and should any one wish to exchange or get any colour fowls, by sending a sample hackle, I shall feel proud to keep up the breed of fowls for fly tyeing. I have heard a great deal of the Alexandra Fly and have tried to get an original perhaps your readers can lend me one. I cannot close without a word of advice to gents who are about to go on a fishing trip. Don't be let in by advertisements. I know a gent who has lately come into Devon for fishing, and he has taken his house with a distance of nineteen miles to go by train, and had he first applied at the right quarters eight would have been the farthest distance without a change of trains. Another has got sea fishing instead of "fresh water" ten miles up one line and twelve another. There are many farm houses by the water any where, but the lodginghouse keepers say "fishing in the neighbourhood," but it may be twenty miles off. When you have settled to come, bring a eight or ten feet rod with you for trout, but wherever you put up, there get your flies; the many streams in any county want their own flies. If you want sea fishing, it can be got should the weather remain fine. A stiff pike or trolling rod with one hundred yards line (hemp will do) and the baby spinners, baited babies, on any sea tackle will take the pollock, bass, mackerel or whiting. Salmon fishing is a difficult thing to get in Devon—in North Devon especially—but the minnow, especially the solid one, is the bait mostly used, ten feet trolling rod and a good line and collar. The fly is not discarded here, and some fish are taken with it, but the minnow is the go.

Any information I shall be glad to give.—N. Devon.

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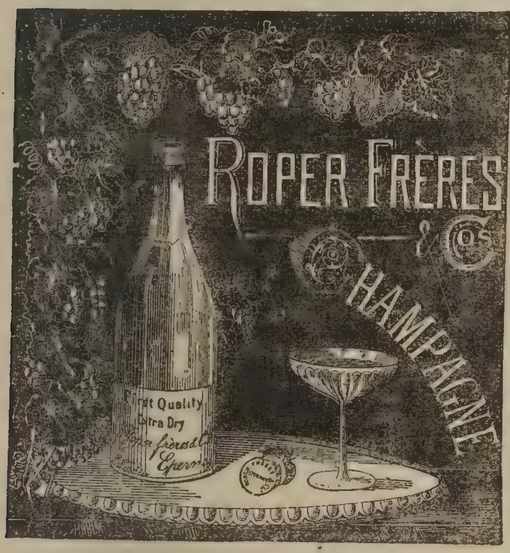

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Norwich: P. Soman, *Argus* office, and 84, Fleet Street, E.C. Also may be had of Alfred and Son, Moorgate Street; Little, 15, Fetter Lane; and Williams and Co., Great Queen Street, W.C.

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Applications for tickets will be treated according to priority, but a preference will be to applicants for " season tickets." Boats for angling and stands on the river will be allotted by the head keeper, and no angler will be permitted to use a boat or fish a stand that has not been so allotted. Superior accommodation can be had on application to Mr. T. Mullarkey, at Glendalough Hotel, Recess, Galway. Anglers are requested to take out their licences in the Ballynahinch district, as by doing so they increase the fund for the preservation of the district.

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Craven Herald

(published at Skipton-in-Craven),

which has the most extensive circulation in the neighbourhood of these rivers.

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It has an excellent Coffee-room, Drawing-room, Billiard-room, Smoke-room, &c.

Fishing on the Lakes Gwynant, Dinas and Cader.

THOMAS LEWIS, Manager.

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Good boats, bait, &c., to be had at the Sportsman Arms, Ormesby Broad.—S. Richmond, Proprietor.

Five miles from Great Yarmouth, via North Norfolk Railway.

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ANNE RAMSAY,
Proprietress.

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Live Baits provided, and any information given to visitors.

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in the TEST FREE, to visitors at the Swan Hotel, Romsey; first-class accommodation; charming scenery.

Apply to the proprietor, as above.

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JOHN STONE, Secretary.

The Fishing Gazette.

:o:

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 1882.

PROPOSED NEW BYE-LAWS FOR THE THAMES.

AN important conference of representatives from the whole of the Thames Preservation Societies, Central Associations, and London and Surburban angling clubs, took place at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, on Wednesday evening, August 15, 1882, T. Spreckley, Esq. (President of the Thames Angling Preservation Society) in the chair.

The following alterations and additions were unanimously agreed to:

Bye-law 6, sec. (4).—Instead of "Grig-weels to be used only in the river below Richmond Bridge," read "Grig-weels for eels only to be used anywhere.—"Sec. (12), to be expunged, and the following substituted: "A casting or bait-net, not exceeding 30 feet in circumference, to be used only by assistant river-keepers and licensed fishermen, in obtaining bait only to be employed in angling, the sack or purse thereof not being more than 6 inches in depth, when extended to the utmost."

Bye-law 7.—The prefatory paragraph to read as follows: "No fish of the species hereinafter mentioned shall be taken in or out of the river Thames, or having been thence taken shall be had in possession or exposed for sale on the river Thames, or on the shore thereof, or any city, town, village, or place adjacent thereto, of less than the respective sizes and dimensions following (this section shall not apply to any person who takes such fish accidentally, and forthwith returns the same to the water with the least possible injury)."—The size of trout to be altered from 14 inches to 16 inches.

Bye-law 8.—Where it is said "Eels may be taken all the year, but not with hook and line," insert "Eels may be taken in angling from the 16th of June to the 14th of March, both days inclusive."—The season when fishing is permitted for pike or jack to be altered to "From the 1st of August to the last day in February following, both days inclusive;" and the season when fishing is not permitted for pike or jack, to be "from the 1st of March in each year to the 31st July following, both days inclusive."—Expunge the concluding paragraph and substitute the following: "Nothing in this section shall apply to any person who shall during the period between the 1st day of April to the 10th day of September, both days inclusive, take or attempt to take bleak, gudgeon, or minnows for use as bait for trout."

Bye-law 9.—After the words "rod and line," at the end of the opening paragraph, add "and Grig-weels for eels only, by fishermen only."

Bye-law 10.—The commencement to read "No person shall do, aid, or assist in doing the following things, that is to say,"—Section (*b*) after words "shore thereof" add "or any city, town, village, or place adjacent thereto."—Section (*d*) to be expunged, and the following substituted: "That no person shall fish or attempt to take fish with any sort of net in the night time or before sun rising, or after sun setting, at any time of the year, in the said river of Thames." The following additional section, "(*m*) Not more than two rods to be used by an angler at one time."

Bye-law 12, the word "shall" be substituted for "may" in reference to the burning of nets.

Bye-law 14, to be altogether expunged, and the following substituted: "Nothing in these bye-laws except the provisions relative to the fence season shall take away or abridge any right of the owner or occupier of a private fishery (if any), or any person having authority in writing from any such owner or occupier (if any), to fish for, or to take, or attempt to take, fish and eels by means of nets commonly called cast-nets and cray-fish nets, or by grig or ground-weels for eels, or by means of eel bucks or stages, so far only as such eel bucks or stages can be legally used."

The following additional bye-law to be added:—

Bye-law 15.—Any water-bailiff or officer appointed by the Conservators to carry into execution any bye-laws relating to fisheries, and also any other person specially authorised in this behalf by writing under the common seal of the Conservators, may enter into any fishing boat or other vessel employed, or about to be, or having been employed in fishing, or taking fish, or endeavouring to take fish on the River Thames, and may therein search for fish unlawfully taken, and any unlawful or prohibited net or apparatus for taking or destroying fish, and may seize any such fish, net, or apparatus found therein, and may also seize on the shore of the river Thames any fish unlawfully taken, or any unlawful or prohibited net or apparatus for taking or destroying fish; and any person or persons who shall resist or obstruct the water-bailiffs, or persons specially authorised, in the execution of their duty, shall be liable to the penalties to be enforced by these bye-laws."

The following gentlemen were appointed as a Representative Committeee (with power to add to their number), to carry out the instructions of the Conference, and to select therefrom a deputation to wait upon the Thames Conservators in reference to the alterations and additions that have been made.

PRESERVATION SOCIETIES.

THAMES ANGLING.—Capt. Alfred and Messrs. Alfred Jardine, W. A. Crump, and A. J. Little.

WINDSOR.—Messrs. R, Plummer and W. Lock.

READING AND DISTRICT. Dr. Short, and Messrs. F. Brown and A. C. Butler.

MAIDENHEAD, COOKHAM, AND BRAY. Messrs. T. B. Sharpe and A. A. Wood.

HENLEY.—Messrs. M. Clare Sturgis and W. A. Simmons.

MARLOW.—Major Carson, and Messrs. R. F. Jackson and T. H. Wright.

OXFORD—Mr. W. J. Mayo.

ASSOCIATIONS OF ANGLING CLUBS.

WEST-CENTRAL.—Messrs. P. Geen and T. Hoole; CENTRAL COMMITTEE.—Messrs. S. Morgan and R. Ghurney; CENTRAL.—Messrs. F. C. Hatfield and J. C. Murray.

ANGLING CLUBS.

THE PISCATORIAL.—Messrs. T. R. Sachs and F. H. Lemann; THE GRESHAM.—Messrs. T. Crumplen and J. P. Wheeldon; RICHMOND PISCATORIAL.—Mr. F. C. Clench; THE STANLEY ANGLERS.—Messrs. C. P. Wheatsone; THE PRESS—J. White, W. B. Senior, and R. B. Marston.

Thomas Spreckley, Chairman; W. H. Brougham, Secretary.

Amongst others present at the Conference were: Mr. T. Spreckley, in the chair; Mr. W. H. Brougham, secretary; Messrs. H. J. Alfred, A. Jardine, W. A. Crump, and A. J. Little, of the Thames Angling Preservation Society; Messrs. R. Plummer and Lock, Windsor Association; Dr. Short, Messrs. Brown and Butler, Reading Association; Messrs. T. B. Sharpe and A. A. Wood, Maidenhead Association; Messrs. Clare Sturgis and W. A. Simmons, Henley; Major Carson and Messrs. R. F. Jackson and T. H. Wright, Marlow; Messrs P. Geen and T. Hoole, West Central; Messrs. S. Morgan and R. Ghurney, Central Committee; Messrs. F. C. Hatfield and J. C. Murray, Central; Mr. F. C. Clench, Richmond Piscatorial; Messrs. T. R. Sachs and F. H. Lemann, the Piscatorial; Mr. T. Crumplen, the Gresham; Mr. C. P. Wheatstone, Stanley Anglers; Messrs. W. Senior, J. White, J. P. Wheeldon, R. B. Marston, &c., &c. The following, amongst other clubs, were represented by delegates: Albert, Alliance, Alexandra, Amicable, Waltonians, Angler's Pride, Acton and Ealing, Anchor and Hope, Bostonian, Bermondsey Brothers, Beresford, Burdett, Bridgewater Brothers, Brunswick, Buckland, City of London, Cavendish, Clapham Junction, Cambridge Friendly, Cobden, Clerkenwell Piscatorial, Critchfield de Beauvoir, Dalston, Eustonian, Edmonton and Tottenham Friendly Anglers, Good Intent, Great Northern Brothers, Gresham, Hammersmith Club, Hammersmith United, Highbury, Hoxton Brothers, Izaak Walton, Junior Piscatorials, Kensingtonians, Knights of Knightsbridge, Kings Cross United, Larkhall, Little Independent, Metropolitan, Nelson, Norfolk, North Eastern, North Western, Odds and Evens, Original Clerkenwell Piscatorials, Patriotic, Piscatorials, Phœnix, Prince of Wales, Princess of Wales, Queens, Reform, Richmond Piscatorial, St. John's, Savoy Brothers, Sir Hugh Myddleton, St. Pancras, Stanley Anglers, Star, Stepney, South Belgravia, Surrey Piscatorials, St. John's Wood Piscatorial, Three Pigeons, Trafalgar, True Waltonians, United Society of Anglers, Waltonian, Walton and Cotton, Walworth Waltonians, Westbourne Park Piscatorial, Walthamstowe, West London, &c., &c.

THE CONFERENCE AND THE BYE-LAWS.

ELSEWHERE in our columns, our readers will find particulars of the proposed changes made by the conference in the proposed new Thames Conservancy Bye-Laws. The meeting was a complete success in every respect, and the president and secretary of the Thames Angling Preservation Society are to be congratulated.

The only alteration to which we object, is that which would confer on the jack a fence time extending from the 1st of March to the 1st o August, and at the preliminary committee meeting we supported an amendment to the effect that the fence time for jack should commence on March 15, and in this we were at one with such anglers as Messrs. A. Jardine, Capt. Alfred Wheatstone, and C. Hatfield. In the result it appeared thirteen of the gentlemen present were in favour of March 1, and ten in favour of March 15. If the time is extended to August. 1, according to the statements we heard, and from what we believe ourselves, we should say many thousands of jack will in future be saved each year, which now fall to the trailers; this being so, we fail to see the advantage of still further protecting such a voracious fish as the pike, by also adding a fortnight to the fence time for jack at the commencement as is now proposed. The fact is, the rage for legislation about our fish threatens to be a worse evil than the previous want of protection, and before long it will be necessary for the angler to employ a solicitor to accompany him on his excurcursions, with printed copies of the laws and bye-laws to refer to, to prevent infringements of the same. What all this grandmotherly legislation will lead to, goodness knows, except it be to an increase of poaching. For instance, the proposed amendment, that it shall be an offence in the eye of the law for an angler to use more than two rods, is surely going a little too far. We object to pot fishing as much as anybody, but this amendment is aimed at those poor men who get a meagre living out of rod-fishing, by using two or three rods at once, and who, if stopped, will turn poachers in earnest. It is all very well to talk about the spirit of true angling, but the spirit of true angling won't fill a man's belly; and as sure as you attempt to restrict and oppress that numerous class of needy individuals who do now pick up an honest living by rod and line fishing in open day, so surely will you find them turn to night poachers. That a man can do any great harm by using half-a-dozen or a dozen rods we deny, in fact, if he fishes one properly, he would probably kill more fish, and to make it a criminal offence, to use more than two rods, is a bit of proposed grandmotherly legislation which we are certain will never become law. We shall hear soon that it is contrary to the spirit of true angling to have a ledger out for jack while you are roach fishing.

Towards the close of the conference, the Richmond Club delegates came forward with a most valuable proposal, viz., that the delegates from the conference should be asked to petition the Conservators to endeavour to free the Thames from Richmond to Kew, from the netsmen, who now by charter have the river to themselves. The matter was most ably placed before the meeting by the proposer. Mr. Geen opposed on the ground that the occasion was not a favourable one, and that when the question was opened, it should not be restricted to the water between Richmond and Kew Bridges, but to the whole extent between Richmond and Greenwich. To this the Richmond delegates at once agreed, but insisted the time was not inopportune. However, on the Richmond proposal being put to the meeting, it was negatived by a majority. We should not forget to mention the very valuable suggestion made by the chairman of the Central Association, Mr. Murray, viz., that the purse or tuck of all cast nets used for bait should be limited to six inches. He said he was practically acquainted with the use of the cast-net and pointed out that it did not matter what size the cast net was in diameter, if the purse was kept down to six inches, as then the net could only capture bait; but increase the purse size and the net became a dangerous affair for the capture of larger fish in proportion as you increased it. We trust most sincerely that the Conservators will accept this amendment. We have frequently seen fish up to four pounds taken in a cast net on the Lea and the chairman of the Central's proposal will be a terrific blow to a most specious form of poaching if it is accepted.

THE SCIENTIFIC ANGLER.*

(Second Notice.)

The subject of ground baiting has recently been referred to in our columns, and an interesting letter on the subject will be found in the correspondence column this week, from "Creel." Mr. Foster has some very sensible remarks on this question. "It is," he says, "necessary to bait *moderately* the swim fixed upon the evening previous. We emphasise moderately, because it is the custom to sink so much food for the fish under the appellation of ground bait, that by the time the expectant 'rodster' turns up the whole school will have gorged themselves and dispersed to more secluded nooks to doze off the effects; hence it is the enterprising angler so frequently meets with scant sport. This is often attributed to the influence of passing electricity, whether in the earth or atmosphere, or may be in both. . . . . After baiting judiciously over night the fish will have congregated upon the baited spot at daybreak, if not before, when they are on the forage for breakfast. The object in baiting over night, it must not be forgotten, is merely to produce an appetising effect on the next morning."

Cunning Old Roach.

Mr. Foster describes what he has found a very good plan to checkmate the cunning of old roach, who frequently, without appreciably moving the float, will suck off the bait. "A plan we have found to answer in these circumstances is to hang a scrap of the finest and best gut one quarter of an inch below the hook, and upon this excessively fine gut attach a small hook; upon this one half of a gentle is attached, with a full sized one, or even two, upon the hook above; this will not fail to 'fetch' the most finiking of the finny race in question."

The next following pages are devoted to barbel, carp, tench, bream, and chub fishing, with some useful hints as to how to ascertain the presence of fish in a water. We quite endorse our author's remarks on the absurdity of using brightly-coloured floats, which undoubtedly simply act as danger signals, to warn the fish away. The only part of a float which need be of any but a dull sombre colour (the natural cork varnished to preserve it is all that is needed) is the tip, which should have "a speck of bright colour (say vermilion) on it," to aid the angler's eye.

Silk-worm Gut.

"The best and strongest gut (silk-worm gut) is round and smooth, clear as window glass, or as the limestone spring. The milky-white glaring gut, so often met with should be studiously avoided. No fair means will take out the white glare from a batch of pearly gut. Boiling dye will effect the purpose, but the strength and usefulness of the stuff will have so deteriorated as to render it practically worthless. . . . . Spanish gut is superior to that either of India or China. The most disreputable is the Sicilian.† . . . . When gut is imported it is coated with a thin brittle, yellow skin, which is easily removed. We may here observe that often too much doctoring is practised in baking, boiling, bleaching, and unbarking the raw substance. A large class are prejudiced in favour of what they term a beautiful white tint. This taste, unfortunately, the fish do not share. . . . .

In clear water the gut used should be either stained a faint sky-blue, so as to offer no lighter or darker contrast to its background, or be left a transparent tinge undistinguishable in the water. Some rivers are habitually clear; others slightly this or that shade. The hue of the gut line should in each individual case tally. Our ancestors used sorrel, brown, and white, or even black hair; but when used under similar circumstances, with gut prepared as above, the tender, hollow hair is found far behind the age."

In the next chapter, on "Pike Fishing," we find many useful hints, for which we must refer our readers to the book itself; there is also a capital story of a fight the author had with a heavy pike, which towed him and the punt he was in about for a considerable time. Among some excited spectators was a farm-labourer armed with a pitchfork, who, when the fish was nearly brought to bank, suddenly made a terrific lunge at it with the fork, causing the fish to rush off again with renewed vigour, the pressure of the line availing little beyond keeping the snout of the fish above the water's surface. The winch "whirred" loudly, notwithstanding the deeply curved sturdy rod. "Hark, how the d——l squeals!" exclaimed the crooked individual in possession of the pitchfork.

The next chapter, occupying ten pages, treats of "spinning for trout" in the Thames and Trent styles, in discoloured and clear water, minnow flights and how to use them, artificial baits, the rod, line, &c. Then follows worm fishing for trout in its various styles. While there is nothing absolutely new in these chapters, the beginner will find them very safe guides, and the old hand may get some useful hints.

Grub-fishing for Grayling

Is the title of Chapter IX. Grub-fishing covers the use of all those baits which, when placed on the hook of what is known as the "grasshopper," proves so seductive to grayling. The "grasshopper," invented, according to our author, by Stewart Wheatly, is an imitation of a caterpillar, made by covering a lead-weighted shank of a hook with green worsted, placing a bit of straw along two sides, and securing them to the body by whipping at intervals with silk. A fourteen-foot rod is used and fine strong gut line. On the point of the hook a grasshopper, or a couple of gentles, or a wasp-grub, or caddis-bait is placed. Mr. Foster's directions for fishing this deadly lure are hardly explicit enough. He says:—

> "The bait must be raised and dropped rapidly and continually, after being duly delivered in the required places, which should be the known haunts of these fish. The line should not be raised more than some four or five inches from the bottom, as the grayling, like barbel, are given to grope for food. In some parts, a small quill is used, being attached with a wire loop at each extremity, in lieu of the ordinary runner. By this arrangement a certain amount of freedom is allowed the line, which admits of the float sliding. For our own part, we have always managed to use the bait comfortably without the aid of one of these articles."

Now we venture to think that anyone attempting to take grayling by following these instructions, would not be very successful. The rivers where this style of fishing is most practised, are the Teme, Lugg, Clun and Arrow, in Herefordshire and Shropshire. Indeed, so deadly is it in the hands of local experts that on the Teme its use is restricted as much as possible. Mr. Foster says "the bait must be raised and dropped rapidly and continually," and not raised more than four of five inches from the bottom. We have often in the neighbourhood of Leintwardine, watched Teme and Clun anglers using this bait and their practice is to swing the bait out gently over a swim, drop it gently into the water and as soon as it stops on the bottom, raise it again gently, not rapidly, eight or ten inches, and after repeating this movement once or twice, lift the bait out and drop it in again a few feet away from the spot just fished. But the grand secret of success in this this fishing is not mentioned by our author, viz., the way the fish takes the bait and how to know that it has done so, and it is just this that makes the float so useful and necessary. We will suppose the angler has dropped his bait into a swim with a depth of four feet, the float having been placed at three feet from the hook previous to the cast. Being loose on the line, as soon as the latter has sunk to three feet, the float slides up until the bait stops and the angler thus gets the exact depth, because the light float hangs on the line at the point where it has ceased to be pressed up by the water. Now the grayling does not seize the bait as it ascends, but rises to meet it as it descends; therefore, if the bait in descending, stops before the float reaches the water, the angler knows that a grayling has risen a few inches to meet it and he strikes gently at once. If he waits, the fish has time to reject the lure and an angler inexperienced in this method of fishing might have bite after bite without being aware of it. If the fish rose to seize bait as it was being pulled away from him, of course matters would be simplified for the angler, as the fish in nine cases out of ten, would be pricked, if not hooked. If no float is used, the difficulty of discerning whether the stoppage is due to the bait having reached the bottom or been stopped for an instant by the grayling rising to meet it, is vastly increased; moreover, there can be little fear of the float frightening the fish, as our author suggests, for the simple reason that it is so very small, perhaps an inch in length, and in the autumn and winter months when this lure is used, the surface of the river is generally dotted over with dead leaves and twigs.

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* The Scientific Angler; being a General and Instructive Work on Artistic Angling. By the late David Foster, of Ashbourne (compiled by his sons), with illustrations. London: Bemrose and Sons. Ashbourne: D. and W. H. Foster.

† The Americans have recently introduced the silkworm most successfully into California, and we doubt not in time they will manufacture gut for fishing purposes on a large scale.—Ed.

The next chapter is entitled "Piscatorial Entomology," and its twenty odd pages are perhaps the most interesting and valuable in the book to the fly-fisher, giving as they do, a succinct description of the various kinds of land and water flies which appear during the year, their various changes, names and killing properties. Foster, as we have already mentioned, was an enthusiastic student of all insect life which has any utility to the angler, and his creed with regard to the best plan to go upon to deceive trout and grayling, is summed up in the following sentence:

"The real essence of the art lies in deceiving the fish *by a correct copy of any fly that may at any time be absorbing their attention.*" Without pretending to any such knowledge as Foster possessed in the wide domain of insect natural history, we have invariably put his rule in practice, by making use of such artificial flies as most nearly resembled the insects "on the water." On this question we entirely agree with our late correspondent, Mr. Robert Balderston, whose letters to this paper under the signature of the "Raven" on the "Theory of Flies," &c., will have been appreciated by our fly-fishing readers. We say late correspondent "because Mr. Balderston has recently started a paper of his own, which we wish may have every success, though we fail to see why our venturing to differ with him as to the relative value of gut and hair and the fact that the judges at our tournaments gave the fly-casters credit for any distances over twenty yards, should have caused him so much annoyance. That there is anything very wonderful in a twenty-three or twenty-four yard cast with a ten foot rod, we deny, seeing that casts of from twenty-seven to thirty yards have been frequently made in America. On this question of long casting, Mr. Foster has some remarks. He says:—"We never threw with a single-handed fly-rod more than twenty-nine and a half yards, but with the Acme wire-line we have been able to exceed this distance by some three yards." Mr. Balderston hints pretty strongly that though an angler may be able, by long practice, to throw a very long line, he may, nevertheless, be a very indifferent fisherman. Admitted, but who would be so foolish as to aver the contrary! All the same, most fly-fishers, we venture to think, will agree with us that the man who can command a long line will in most cases be able to use a short one properly.

A PERSONAL MATTER.

In case Mr. Balderston thinks we have not the courage of our opinions, we now state publicly, and shall send him this notice, that we will be happy to fish with the fly against him on any river he likes to name on three days next month. No fish under a certain size to count. We should prefer ten inches, but will reduce it to eight if he desires it. Eleven inches is the limit on the Derbyshire Wye. If he considers the capture of trout under the above sizes *sport*, we do not. As regards rods, lines, and flies, each angler to use his own choice. Mr. Balderston is now living not far from some celebrated Yorkshire streams, and if he likes to select one of them we shall be agreeable to journey north to meet him in a friendly contest, and shall feel no disgrace in being beaten by such a master of the art of fly-fishing as Mr. Balderston certainly is. Our experience of plaited silk casting lines, of gut casts, and hair casts is decidedly in favour of the plaited silk and gut; quite possibly Mr. Balderston's practice may convince us his views to the contrary are right. We should suggest that each angler choose a witness to be present during the fishing, Mr. Balderston's friend to accompany us and ours him. Mr. Balderston would be justified in thinking we feared to test our repeatedly stated preference for gut against his for hair if we did not make this suggestion Of course such a match is no real test of their relative values, because one man may be able to use an inferior line more successfully than a less skilful angler a superior one. To get over this difficulty, we suggest on the first day we use each our own preference in lines, on the second day, each our opponent's preference in lines, and on the third day whichever we may individually choose to use. If there is anything he may think unfair in what we have suggested, we shall gladly endeavour to meet Mr. Balderston's wishes respecting it.

We had for some time past intended to suggest this match to Mr. Balderston, and it was this very capital work of Mr. Foster's, with its remarks on flies and lines and casting which led us to introduce it here.

In taking leave of the book, the latter part of which is devoted to fly-making and fly-fishing for trout and salmon, and kindred matters, we can only repeat that it is in our opinion one of the most valuable works on angling which has ever been published, worthy of a place in every angler's library, and will, undoubtedly, prove a very great success.

FLY-FISHING NEAR SCARBOROUGH.

By R. B. MARSTON.

THERE is capital fishing of all kinds to be had near Scarborough, in the River Derwent; in the upper waters from the weir at Ayton (which is close to Forge Valley Station and only five miles from Scarborough) trout and grayling are found in abundance, as the water is well stocked and preserved by the Derwent angling clubs for some miles. The fishing is free, and very good, above the iron bridge, called Hilla Green Bridge, a mile above Hackness; but though no respectable angler is refused permission to fish, it is necessary to get permission from Lord Derwent to fish the so-called "free" waters. The Derwent Club's rules are—

1. Trout-fishing commences April 15, ends September 30.
2. Grayling-fishing begins 16th June, ends 14th March.
3. Fly-fishing *only* is allowed from Hilla Green Bridge (one mile above Hackness) to the New Cut.
4. Dead or artificial minnow-fishing below the New Cut, from 1st June to 12th August.
5. Other bait may be used below Ayton Low Mill, from 16th June to 14th March.
6. No trout or grayling to be killed under 8 inches in length.
7. No person to kill more than ten brace of trout or grayling in one day.

Day tickets can be had of Mr. Patrick, fishing-tackle maker, High Street, Scarborough. The charge is five shillings, and the ticket has to be countersigned by some member of the club. The New Cut mentioned above, is a cutting of some three or four miles in length, which carries the surplus flood water of the Derwent (at a point about a mile below Hackness) away to Scawby Beck. The river down to Ayton is the model of a trout stream, but difficult to fish in some portions below the New Cut. The scenery in Forge Valley is very fine, and every angler who goes to Ayton will be struck with the ruins of a building, once the fortified mansion of an old Yorkshire family, now extinct; the walls are of enormous strength. This ruin should receive more respectful treatment than it is getting from the farmer on whose land it stands.

The Derwent fish average about three to the pound, though larger fish are frequently met with, especially when spinning the natural minnow, a favourite method with the local experts. Above the New Cut only fly-fishing is allowed, and the fishing is not difficult; there are some long stretches of dead deep water full of fish, and if the angler is favoured with a breeze, he cannot fail to get fish from these pools if he fishes them properly. He should get down as near the level of the water as possible, and with a high bank on each side, is greatly saved from the observation of the fish. The fish in these pools, as a rule, rise right under each bank, and so of course the flies must be cast there; every little corner should be searched by the tail-fly, which should as often as possible fall on the grass and be gently pulled off into the water; if this has been carefully done and the fish are feeding near the surface, the angler will frequently get a fish in this way within two inches of the bank. The long pool above the New Cut contains fine trout and grayling and there are a few big chub. In this pool I one day got a 2¾ lb. chub. and a half-pound trout at one cast, and another day a three-quarter pound grayling and a half-pound trout; they gave capital sport. As an instance of the magnifying powers of water when looked down into from a good height, I may mention that one sunny afternoon I was standing on one of the old beams of the dam at the New Cut, when I saw what I thought was a grayling of at least three pounds, swimming over the planking in about three or four feet of water. I dropped my line from the top of the dam, so that one fly fell directly over him, and no sooner had the fly touched the water than the grayling rose, showing me his white belly as he came up, like an arrow almost. When he got to the top I saw nothing more of him, for the rise disturbed the water enough to cover his retreat, and for the next minute I played a pound grayling as gingerly as if it were the big fellow I had imagined. I had promised Mr. Bonvoisin a specimen grayling for his club, if I got one, but this was hardly a specimen as to weight, and so he plopped back and doubtless is not far from the New Cut now. The largest trout I saw was about two pounds, but such fish are very scarce, and the largest grayling was a real three-pounder, which rolled over my flies in the shallow water, close to the brink of the mill dam at Ayton. It requires a good long cast to reach the brink of this dam from the opposite side, but it is a capital grayling swim, and this grayling which rolled over my flies and would not rise again, was a veritable whacker. I was not mistaken about his size, as he put himself partly out of the water. This long, deep mill dam above Ayton Mill holds many and very fine fish; it is extremely deep in some places, in fact, the Derwent, even in its rapid upper course, has a larger proportion of really deep pools than any other Yorkshire stream I know, and deep pools invariably hold big fish and are the best protection against the poacher. The keepers on the club water look after it well, I am sure. The keeper I saw was Mr. Monkman, of Ayton, who will provide visitors with minnows at one shilling the score. I got a score from him, but never tried them, as the fly answered so well, A little glacialine placed in the bottle with them (when dead and the water poured off) kept them fresh and bright for some weeks, but they were not very tough; a little salt would have remedied this, perhaps. The Swan Inn is a comfortable little place to stay at, the hostess will get a good meal ready very nicely, in no time; for instance, I used to take the first train from Scarborough and have my breakfast at the Swan, and twice I had trout for breakfast which I had caught hardly ten minutes previously. And what trout they were! I have eaten all kinds of trout, but never fish of a better flavour than these Derwent fish.

I should mention that wading is not allowed, nor is it necessary, but it is advisable to wear short wading boots, as the banks are wet and the ground boggy in some of the best places. Below Ayton the river gets sluggish and holds few trout, fine, and I am told, fairly numerous grayling, jack, roach, chub, &c.; the club water extends some six miles below Ayton. As regards flies, for the present month and until the end of the season, the following will only be beaten by some local favourite, if at all: Sand-fly, olive-dun, Hofland's-fancy, whirling-dun, yellow-dun, small red palmer, small black palmer with silver twist, the light-dun, honey-dun bumble, and red and grey quill gnats, the last four especially for grayling; they must be dressed on small hooks, on fine gut, as the water is well thrashed and the fish are not to be caught at every throw, or by any kind of tackle.

Scawby Beck can be reached by a pleasant mile walk along the coast from Scarborough Castle. At the mouth of the Beck, there is an inn, called the Sands Hotel, and the proprietor reserves the fishing at the mouth of the Beck for his own customers; but he has only a couple of hundred yards or so, and his fishing is only valuable in the autumn, when there is a run of salmon or sea trout up the Beck. The Beck has a winding course, cut deep amongst the valleys, between the village of Scawby and the coast. It is thrashed and poached to a most unmerciful extent, and the wonder is it contains any fish at all, but it does, and very fine ones too; in fact, the local anglers reckon Scawby Beck fish better than Derwent fish. I was unfortunate in my two days on Scawby, such a gale of wind blowing each day that it was difficult to keep one's footing, and the fish did not rise. I caught a lot of very small things, which I returned. On another occasion, I walked out one evening and got three nice fish in about ten minutes, one, a plump little beauty of three-quarters of a pound was, without exception, the handsomest trout of many thousands that I have seen in my life, perfect in shape, richly spotted and covered with all the tints of the rainbow. Two anglers who were with me at the time could not sufficiently praise the beauty of the fish, it fought well and cut pink as a salmon. If Scawby Beck were preserved, it would afford most splendid sport, as the river is a good feeding river and there are many fine and deep pools and good streams. The time the big fish are taken, is just after a flood, I am told, and by spinning the minnow. The fishing is claimed by a miller who lives on the right bank above Scawby Mill, where the road crosses the stream. And above the dam at Scawby, it is certainly preserved, though of little account. What right the miller has I do not know, but it is not greatly respected from what I saw.

I have previously, in a note on striking from the winch, given an account of the sport I had on the Derwent. In the four days I fished it, I kept seventy trout well over the regulation 8 inches, and threw back at least double that number of fish, including a great many good grayling, Mr. Balderston sneers at my advocacy of striking from the winch. The above result on a well-flogged river (there were always about half-a-dozen rods in sight) is pretty fair testimony in its favour. Formerly, I invariably struck on a line held between the hand and the butt.

GERMANY AND THE GREAT INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES' EXHIBITION, LONDON, 1883.

LAST week we referred with regret to the statement in the German papers, to the effect that their Government had declined to support the exhibition, and suggested that nothing should be left undone to get this decision reversed if possible.

We have reason to believe that further steps are being taken in influential quarters, with the view of inducing the German parliament to take the matter up, and the chairman of the executive committee has intimated to Count Munster that the executive will give every facility, in order that Germany should be represented through her Government.

THE LONDON CLUBS AND THE GREAT INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES' EXHIBITION.

A REPORT is going the round of the clubs, to the effect, that the weights below which no specimen fish will be accepted for competition or exhibition are to be exceptional. For instance, we learn, on good authority, that no pike under twenty pounds will be allowed to enter the exhibition! We only mention this matter to state that we cannot believe it is at all likely that such excessive weights as the above will be finally insisted on. To place the weight of pike at twenty pounds would be extremely unfair to all, except those rich or fortunate individuals who get access to the best private waters in the country. How many London or Provincial angling clubs possess stuffed pike of twenty pounds weight? Again, this weight would exclude many of the handsomest fish, and we presume beauty of shape will count for something. If the above report is true, then, as far as we are concerned we shall lose all interest in what ought to be, as it was at Norwich and Edinburgh, a most interesting exhibition, in which the poor angler's pike of ten pounds has a place beside the rich angler's fish of twenty pounds. We feel we have a right to speak on this matter, seeing, that if it had not been for our action at the time, there would have been no London club exhibits, either at the Norwich or Edinburgh Fisheries' Exhibitions.

By the way, we may mention that during the time the exhibition is open we shall publish illustrated supplements, devoted to describing the exhibits, reporting lectures, &c.

NOTICES OF BOOKS, &c.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, showing the operations, expenditures, and condition of the institution for the year 1880. Washington Government Printing Office, 1881.

The mission of the famous Smithsonian Institution is "the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men," and as proof of the enormous amount of valuable work done during 1880 it is only necessary to glance over the bulky "report" in which that work is epitomised. In reviewing the report for 1880 we gave a brief account of the Institution, which owes its existence to the liberality of an Englishman, James Smithson, who died in 1829, and bequeathed his property (£115,000) to found the above institution. In that review (which appeared in our issue for Oct. 8, 1881) we pointed out the enormous scope of the institution and the thoroughly earnest and practical manner in which its work is carried on. In the present notice we shall confine our remarks entirely to those portions of the report which deal with matters relating to fish and fisheries.

The Secretary of the institution is Professor Spencer Baird, who at the International Fisheries Exhibition at Berlin in 1880, received the gold medal given by the Emperor of Germany as the highest prize awarded, This was given not alone as an acknowledgment that the display of the United States was the most perfect and imposing, but as a personal tribute to one who, in the words of the President of the Deutscher Fischerei Verein, is regarded in Europe as "the first fish-culturist in the world."

During 1880 the additions of specimen fish to the U.S. National Museum were very large—larger than had ever been made in one year previously. "The most important contributions were the collections made by Professor D. S. Jordan and Mr. Charles H. Gilbert, of the Fishery Census. These gentlemen devoted a number of months during the year to the systematic investigation of the food-fishes of the western coast of the United States, and traversed the whole region from San Diego to Puget Sound in their researches." Many species new to science were obtained by these and other marine explorers.

Mr. N. K. Fairbanks furnished the Museum with a specimen of California salmon, caught in Geneva Lake during the summer, weighing about ten pounds, this being undoubtedly one of the young fish introduced into that lake some years before, hatched from eggs supplied by the U.S. Fish Commission.

EXTRAORDINARY GROWTH OF CARP IN AMERICA.

Another important specimen was that of a carp, which was one of a batch of fry sent in April, 1880 by the U.S. Fish Commission to Texas. Its length in April was four inches, and weight little over an ounce. Eight months afterwards it was returned by Mr. G. B. Mobley, of Texas, to the Commissioners, and it then measured 21 inches and weighed *over four pounds!* This is simply an extraordinary instance of increase in weight, and reminds one of those Chinese vegetarian fish—probably of the carp family—which are said to grow at the rate of a pound a month.

We next come to a most interesting account of the United States Fish Commission, its general objects and results. As we have said before, we earnestly hope that one result of the great

International Fisheries Exhibition, which is to be held in London next year, will be the establishment of a British Fish Commission, to undertake just such work as is so well and successfully done by the U.S. Commission. The President of the Commission is Professor Baird, and we must give a few extracts from his account of it, just to show our readers why we ought to have a similar institution in this country.

The United States Fish Commission.

"As explained in previous reports, the Commission was first established in 1871, for the purpose of investigating the alleged decrease of the food-fishes of the country, and of enquiring as to the best methods of remedying the decrease, should this be found to exist. It was not until the second year, or 1872, that the responsible duty of increasing the supply was added to the other functions of the Commission. . . . The division of inquiry has been held to involve a complete investigation of, and report upon all the physical conditions of the waters of the United States, and the nature, numbers, and general relationship of their inhabitants, together with an account of the relationship of man to the same, in the way of methods and appliances of the fisheries, and the history and statistics of his labours.

"The second division, that of propagation, of course, includes the protection of the useful fishes and their multiplication, either by capturing the fish and transferring them from one point to another, or by the process of artificial impregnation of the eggs, and the distribution of the young.

"The work of inquiry is prosecuted, for the most part, directly under my own supervision, from stations at different points along the sea-coast, with a suitable number of assistants (volunteers for the most part), for making the investigations referred to. The specimens collected are placed in the hands of experts, by whom they are properly investigated and monographed, and the results published, with suitable illustrations, in the annual reports of the Commission. The collections made, usually in very large numbers, are worked up at the same time; the reserve collection preserved in the National Museum, and the duplicates distributed to the various educational establishments of the country, or exchanged for objects desired by the Museum.

"The propagation division is conducted either at some permanent station, such as those of the salmon, white fish, and carp, or in temporary establishments, drifting their ground with the season, as is the case in large part, with the shad stations."

At various times we have given our readers particulars of the work done by the Commission. It has renewed failing fisheries, established new ones, re-stocked rivers, and of late has even increased the stock of sea-fish by means of artificial propagation. It possesses a splendidly-equipped sea-going steamer, built expressly for the purpose of hatching fish eggs and carrying them from one part of the coast to another. The amount of work done has been on a truly gigantic scale, the number of fish hatched out successfully and transported often for thousands of miles are counted not by the thousand but by the million! When *shall* we with our sea-fisheries valued at £11,000,000, and capable of infinite extension, be able to point to such a splendid work going on around our coasts as the Americans have had in operation for years on theirs? But it is not confined to their coasts, every inland, lake and river, and every valuable food-fish comes under the beneficial influence of the American Fish Commission. We do not for a moment wish to underrate the value of the work done by the English, Scotch, and Irish fisheries inspectors; considering the ridiculously inadequate means at their disposal, their work shows great results. It is not their fault if these results are nothing as compared with what they might be. Look at Ireland, for instance, there is an untold wealth of fish life round the Irish coast, and yet the Irish Commissioners, year after year in their report have to complain of the want of a vessel to be placed at their disposal for the purpose of ascertaining and marking out the position and extent of the fisheries. The work of our fisheries inspectors is practically little more than that of police; they keep salmon rivers open, collect taxes, regulate the sizes of nets. They have neither authority nor means to do much more than this. They certainly sometimes have most weighty and important national questions to consider, such for instance as whether the practice of trawling is or is not causing decrease in the stock of fish. Opinion on this matter varies, but we cannot help thinking that by stating that this trawling does not injure the fishing, and that the fish supply is inexhaustible, they have done our fisheries incalculable injury. These trawls often weigh tons, and they are dragged over the bottom of the sea; this kind of thing cannot be done without destroying the ocean feeding-places in time, and when the food goes the fish will go too. But this is a digression.

As our readers are aware, the United States have applied for ten thousand square feet of space for their exhibit in London next year. We look to that exhibit more than to anything else to stir us up in this country to a sense of what we ought to do in the interests of our fisheries.

The Influence of the Temperature of the Water on the Movements of Fish.

For some years past, at the instance of Professor Baird, records have been taken along the coast at light-houses, light-ships, life-saving, and signal stations, &c., of the temperature of the water and the movements of fish. "This year thirty or more fishing boats are carrying thermometers to record temperatures upon the fishing grounds. One practical result of the study of these observations has been the demonstration of the cause of the failure of the menhaden fisheries on the coast of Maine in 1879—a failure on account of which nearly 2,000 persons were thrown out of employment." We should much like to touch upon other matters of great interest in this invaluable American report, but space forbids. It does not require much prescience to foretell which nation will carry off first honours at our exhibition next year.

THE FRIENDLY ANGLERS' SUMMER OUTING.

Closely following the summer dinner of the venerable Society of Friendly Anglers, who hold their weekly meetings at the Albion Tavern, Albion Street, Hyde Park, is what is termed the summer outing, for which a sum of money is contributed by members, to be given in prizes for the greatest weight of fish from public waters on one particular day in August. This annual event took place at the end of last week. There were ten prizes offered, in amounts varying from ten shillings to thirty-four shillings. Seven of the prizes were won by members showing fish from the Thames, and three from the Colne. The prizes were awarded as follows: First, Mr. R. L. Pugh, with 24 lb. 13 oz. of barbel from the Thames, the three largest weighing respectively 8 lb. 2 oz., 7 lb. 2 oz., and 7 lb. 1 oz.; second, Mr. Batson, with 21 lb. of bream from the Colne; third, Mr. Howard, with 12 lb. 14 oz. of barbel, and 2 lb. 8 oz. of chub from the Thames; fourth, Mr. Mitchell, with 7 lb. 4 oz. of barbel from the Thames; fifth, Mr. C. Calcut, with 7 lb. 2 oz. of chub from the Thames; sixth, Mr. T. Barbel, with 8 lb. 2 oz. of barbel from the Thames; seventh, Mr. C. M. Le Good, with 4 lb. 11 oz. of roach from the Colne; eighth, Mr. Marsh, with a trout of 4 lb. 1 oz. from the Thames: 9th, Mr. Hunt, with 3 lb. 3 oz. of roach from the Colne; tenth, Mr. Berry, with 3 lb. 2 oz. of barbel from the Thames. Mr. Grant weighed-in 2 lb. 1[illegible] oz. of roach from the Colne, altogether representing a grand total of 109 lb. 8 oz. of fish. The day is thus set apart as one of pleasure and enjoyment, and not for any special competition for one particular kind of fish. It is therefore annually looked forward to by some of the members as a day out in the country, and to make their favourite sport the one great feature of the occasion. The barbel have been well represented this year, and the three large ones taken by Mr. R. L. Pugh are really specimen fish, for which this young member of the club has occasion to be justly proud. The Friendly Anglers, is one of the oldest angling clubs in London, and by no means wanting in energy and usefulness in keeping pace with the spirit of the age, in the advancement and promotion of all that relates to the best interests of the angling art.

B.

POISONING THE LEA.

Great Destruction of Fish.

A wholesale destruction of fish by poisoning is giving rise to great indignation in East and North-east London, occasioned by the discharge of a large volume of sewage matter or chemical refuse from one or more colourworks between Tottenham and Lea Bridge a night or two since. Thousands of fish are floating dead upon the water, including barbel, perch, roach, bream, dab, dace, carp, pike, eels, and other fish, great and small. Many persons have carried away baskets full of these poisoned fish, and as it is feared they have sold or otherwise disposed of them, dangerous consequences are expected. As a great many anglers and angling clubs fish in the Lea their anger knows no limit at this occurrence. They point out that they are obliged to take out a licence to fish, or otherwise pay a fee for the privilege of fishing in certain reaches of the river, while in this instance of wholesale destruction the offenders are likely to escape free. The general opinion is that the fish have been poisoned by a discharge from the sewage works at Tottenham, and as a similar discharge took place a few years ago with like results, the Lea Conservancy is accused of a neglect of its duties, and the Hackney Board of Works, through whose district the water runs, and where the greatest pollution and damage have taken place, is loudly denounced by the riverside inhabitants and the anglers. The water on Friday and Saturday was in a highly polluted state, and the stench in the immediate vicinity of the East London Waterworks was overpowering and sickening. Although the water company make use of a portion of the water of the river for the purpose of driving waterwheels for pumping, their supplies for public purposes are obtained through special channels of their own, their intake being a long distance up the river Lea, and far beyond the point of pollution.

[We trust every possible means will be employed to bring the offenders to justice.—Ed.]

Gregory's Spinning Baits. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[Advt.]

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

> " My business in this state
> Made me a looker-on."
>
> —Shakespeare.

My looking on angling matters during the past week has resulted in business of such a meague description that I am almost inclined to take my hook and cast my lines in more productive, if not pleasanter places. The river Thames at the present moment is as clear as "Old Tom," and the fish having consequently located in the weeds (from whence no floculent bran or enticing minced lobs will entice them), sport has during the last few days been of the poorest. At Pangbourne, a gentleman fishing alone has had about 11 lb. of chub per day for several goes in succession, the best fish, being had with a black palmer, 4lb. From Caversham and Sonning I glean that chub have been the only presentable fish, roach, perch, and even gudgeon being exceptionally shy, presumably in consequence of the brightness of the water. At Hurley, on Tuesday, Mr. George Hobbs gave a water party, which was attended by the *elite* of the neighbourhood, amid the distinguished company being recognised General Jackson, Colonel Matthews, Sir H. Gyngel, and Mr. Thomas Aldridge, the attendant sprites being Tom Street and "The Boy." I need not say that under the attendant state of the water the spirits of the party got down rapidly, until dull care was swamped effectually in the evening by an administration of "bitters," fried "eels and soles," roast ducks, and boiled fowls, after which came sundry toasts and potatoes (potations I mean), and the evening passed away obliviously; but that I for one must say the entertainment bore the morning's reflection. Thursday, 6 o'clock.—River as bright as possibly can be. Gudgeon are the only obtairable fish. Roach, perch, and jack are well in the weeds, from whence it is most difficult to entice them.—Marlow Buzz.

Ancholme District.

Owing to the continuance of fine dry weather, the water remains very clear. A large quantity of fine bream have been taken during the past week. A lighterman, fishing from a barge, hooked a roach of about 2 lb., and lifted it on to his vessel, but, lo and behold, the old adage, "There's many a slip, &c.," was verified. The fish, not liking its new quarters, took a final and successful struggle for liberty, broke the hook, and fell again into its native element. The water is too low for much execution on the trout streams. The angler's only chance during the bright sunny weather is dibbing behind the bushes with house-fly, &c.—Thomas Ford, Caistor.

Ballynahinch.

Since last report weather has been very changeable. From the 8th to the 13th we had strong sunshine, and little or no wind, but on the 14th the sky was overcast all day; and yesterday we had some very heavy showers, accompanied by a gale of wind. To-day it seems quite settled again. Takes of trout have been very small, not averaging a dozen a day for each rod.—Walter Blackadder.

Chichester.

With weather, wind, and water favourable, rodsters have this week had no reason to grumble. Fish have been well on the feed, with every prospect of continuing. Those well known Cicestrian knights of the angle, "Dad" and "Old Joe," have, as usual been successful. Mr. Young weighing-in 17 lb. of good bream and roach, while Mr. Summers had 18 lb.; Mr. Moses had a good show, and Mr. Cooke followed in his wake. Gentles are now the lure, paste fishing not proving satisfactory. Both mornings and evenings good takes have been made.—George F. Salter.

Dove.

This river has been in capital condition for either fly, minnow, or worm fishing all this week. The rains have brought on the rise that was so much needed, and the fresh has stirred up the fish wonderfully. Besides the fly, minnows, and worm, the wasp grub has been killing in first-rate style. Many large baskets of roach, dace, bream, chub, barbel, and eels have been captured, and as I write to-day (Thursday) sport continues better among coarse fish than it has been at any previous period of the present season. Now that the rushes are beginning to decay roach are frequenting the places where they grow, and I should advise the rodster to try these for them, in preference to any other spots. I hear of 7½ brace of trout being taken above Dove Dale, and another of six brace near Hartington. The former were caught on Monday, and the latter on Tuesday. I hear that the late Mr. David Foster's new book, which the editor of the Fishing Gazette, so kindly reviewed last week, is going off well. With favourable weather in the present condition of the Dove, we are bound to have any quantity of anglers out next week.—The Splodger.

Exe (Exeter).

The splendid weather we have been favoured with lately has induced an immense number of roach anglers to visit the precincts of the Quay. Bank holiday saw a motley crew, from the primitive "osier" to the more stately 16-foot bamboo roach rod fishing as close as possible to each other, making it almost inconvenient to cast a line at all; but with all these incumbrances these desciples of Old Izaak had very good sport taking it all round. The river had fallen considerably, consequently the fish were well on the feed, biting fairly well at gentles and paste, the latter preferred, and the largest takes have been early in the morning or last thing in the evening. Very few salmon have been grassed lately owing to the lowness of the river, and most of the anglers have retired until later on in the season, and as a rule they all seem to have done well with the early-run fish, Mr. Pearson having killed eighteen splendid fellows, the majority being taken with the sea lice upon them, showing their stay in the flesh had not been of long duration. Messrs. Lee, Baker, Prickman, &c., have been equally successful, but Mr. Pearson is the only one that I have heard as having taken a salmon with a fly this season at the Salmon Pool. Trout-fishing has been on the improve very much of late, and Mr. Dobles, of the Clifton Inn here, as per usual, has been very successful, which, for his perseverance and tact in manipulating flies to suit the seasons and water, deserves every fish he takes, which, as a rule, are all good sized ones, weighing from half a pound to two pounds each. The flies most taking are the "coch a vonddu," "soldier palmer," "red ant," and "yaller sally." The August "brown" has been seen, and should take in a few days. The net fishermen have done exceedingly well, and a quantity of peel have been taken; but I do not think the numbers are equal to last year, and I have noticed a quantity of north country peel for sale in various places in the country. Eels are very scarce, and perch small and shy. We have had a nice shower to day, which may add much to sport.—Frank Gosden, Exeter.

Exe (Tiverton).

The river is still low, having risen very little with the rains of the past few days. In the earlier part of the week a fair number of trout were taken with the red spinner, black ant, coachman, and red palmer. There is a fair number of salmon in the river, but will not sport until a rise of water. Five have been killed with the fly during the past week, weighing from 6 lb. to 9 lb. each. A good many large trout have been taken with wasp grub in the Lowman (a tributary of the Exe), some weighing over 2 lb. each.—Wm. Mudford.

Leicester.

The weather from Friday, up to and including Monday, was unusually hot, and the waters too bright for angling. On Tuesday it rained most persistently the whole of the day, but this most materially benefitted the waters, especially where the streams run sluggish. A considerable number of anglers have been out, and have met with good success during the latter part of the week. Amongst the takes which were most noticeable was that of Mr. Friend on Monday, who secured about 7 lb. of good roach from the local society's waters, the pick of his basket being a handsome fish weighing 1 lb. 5 oz. Mr. Shephard on Tuesday had a nice lot of roach and perch, one of the latter weighing 1 lb. 4 oz. Mr. Potter also showed a capital take of roach, the largest brace weighing 1 lb. 13 oz. Wednesday and Thursday found a good many anglers out and the majority had good takes of roach with wheat. Pike fishing has been quiet. From the Aylestone waters both roach and perch continue to bite fairly well. Since the holidays the Barrow waters have not received quite so much support, but those who have visited this locality have been rewarded with some fair sized bream, although not in any quantities. At the newly-preserved waters at Lyston there has been some good sport lately; Mr. North took a fine bream weighing 5 lb. from Miles' Mills; Mr. Lowe this week caught 20 lb. of roach Mr. R. Hartshorn 10 lb., Mr. T. Hurst 10 lb., whilst other fishermen have been proportionately fortunate. Some bream have also been taken. The number of anglers in these waters is steadily on the increase, and in time these preserves should furnish some of the best fishing in the neighbourhood. Almost daily a number of anglers visit the Wreake, and generally manage to bring back a good number of perch, roach, and dace. The first prize in the annual angling contest of Leicester British Workmen's Society was won by Mr. Bird, Mr. I. Hardy being second, and Mr. G. Ingram third. There were thirty-nine competitors, and the contest took place last Saturday at Wreake. At the time of writing the waters are very fine and clear.—Alert.

Medway (Tonbridge).

The cold of the last two days has not improved the fishing, but the water still remains as clear as possible, which makes angling somewhat difficult. Since last writing Mr. R. H Dallas Beeching has been trying for bream after baiting with greaves, and has been very successful. There have been several good jack taken below the town as well as bags of roach and bream above. The chub rise well to a fly, and some good ones have been lured with wasp grub just under water. What we want is for the water to become a little clouded and then we shall be busy.—Ye Medway Water Rat.

Suir and its Tributaries.

The river is literally swarming with both salmon and peel. The late floods brought up enormous quantities of them. Up to last week there was very little fishing, owing to the unsuitable nature of the weather. Good sport has been had on the upper waters, especially on Lord Donoughmore's preserves at Newcastle and Knochlofty. When on last week, Thomas Phelan Kilmanahan got eleven fish between salmon and peel; Messrs. Spencer Wilde and Arthur Tabor got, on the same waters, four on Friday, weighing respectively 13 lb., 9 lb., 4½ lb., and 4 lb.; on Saturday, one of 4 lb.; and on Monday, one of 7 lb. Mr. M. Hutchings was also successful at Math-o'-Gally, getting on one, a fine salmon of 20 lb., and the next day, another of 11 lb. and a peel of 5 lb. The net-fishing being now over, there ought to be good sport on the lower waters for the rods. The season will be over in four weeks more, just when the fishing on the lower waters is at its best. The trout-fishing is not at all good at present —Dora.

Thames (Eynsham).

The water is improved considerably from the showers we have had, and jack are biting freely at almost any dead bait. There were two trout, of 4½ and 5½ lb. respectively, caught at Pinkhill on Saturday last, with line. Gudgeon and several others have been seen to rise. Roach and perch are feeding well, but I have not heard of many chub or barbel being taken since my last report.—W. B. Howe.

Thames (Goring).

Water in good order for jack, perch, and chub, perch biting very well. On Friday and Saturday, 10 lb. of good perch and eight jack, largest jack 4 lb. On Sunday and Monday, some very good perch and jack, and ten dozen of gudgeon, fishing with E. R. Stanhane, of 3, Edwardes Terrace, Kensington, London, W.—John Rush.

Thames (Hampton).

J. Wheeler, fishing with Mr. Wild on Sunday, 13 dozen and 10 gudgeon, and 7 perch, largest 1¼ lb. Wednesday, J. Wheeler, fishing with another gentleman, 4 dozen roach. Thursday, with Mr. Wild, 4 dozen roach and dace, and at the weir had the good fortune to secure two fine trout, one weighing

7 lb. and the other 4 lb. (weighed at the Island Hotel). Water bright; rain wanted. An incident worthy of record is that another angler caught 32 pope (August 17th, bank fishing) and no other fish whatever.—E. Swan.

Thames (Twickenham).

Wind, N.E.; river in good condition. I am pleased to say we are now getting some good fish; several barbel have been taken this week, and a good sample of roach was brought in. I cannot be responsible for any person using my name upon the arrival of the trains at the railway station; all orders must be sent or given in at my house, the Two Sawyers.

N.B.—My patrons will kindly notice that any reports in the *Referee* do not come from my house. The correspondent does not know carrion from liver gentles, which my customers well know we have always a good supply.—Alfred Perrin, Two Sawyers.

Trent (Newark).

We have had a nice gentle rain, but nothing as yet to materially alter the water, which at present is very low and clear. Fish have not been biting well, as a rule, during the past week, although some odd piscators have done fairly well; I cannot as yet hear of any good catches of barbel being had, a few odd fish being about the extent of the catches; one fish I saw this week turned the scale at $4\frac{1}{4}$ lb., a good conditioned little fish. Barbel should come now, if the angler will bait for them properly. I understand Mr. T. Lee had a good catch of roach yesterday, 40 lb. of fish, several of them going 1 lb. each, malt being his most successful lure. One of our local anglers had a splendid roach from the Trent this week, going $1\frac{3}{4}$ lb., it is now in the hands of Cooper for preservation. Odd chub have been taken with wasp grub, and a few bream with worm, while gentles have also killed roach and dace. If no more rain falls, the water will be low and clear on Saturday, and most barbel swims fishable from the bank. Worms should now be plentiful; so barbel fishers, look out for a little sport.—The Trent Otter.

Trent (Nottingham).

The river here continues low but fine, and as a few heavy showers have descended worms have been slightly cheaper. Barbel, somehow or other, don't appear inclined to feed with any degree of freedom. The best takes have come from Shardlow and Collingham, one of the fish scaling $7\frac{1}{4}$ lb. From the upper reaches I hear of excellent sport having been met with in Mr. Smith's water near Burton-on-Trent. Several large takes of roach have been made at Weston and Shardlow with wheat, which has also proved highly satisfactory at Beeston and Sawley. Some big lots of chub have been killed with the wasp grub, one gentleman getting three fish over 4 lb. each. Fly-fishing has been moderately good and some nice lots of dace and roach have been forthcoming from Honeringham and Hazleford. Apart from the river grand sport has been obtained amongst the trout.—The Man at the Clubs.

Tweed and Teviot.

Owing to a continuance of fine and dry weather throughout the Tweed basin during the last fortnight, the basin and its tributaries are still very low, and consequently angling operations are virtually at a standstill. At the netting stations in the Coldstream district the takes have been considerably below the average catches. On Monday and Tuesday last the Cornhill water yielded eight salmon, twelve grilse, and three trout, one of the salmon weighing 17 lb. The other waters have nearly all been fished blank. All kinds of fish are scarce, and the current prices are—salmon and grilse 1s. 3d., and trout 1s. 1d. per lb. A flood in the river is anxiously looked for by anglers, and the beclouded aspect of the sky and the occasional showers that are now falling from day to day are regarded as affording indications of a coming heavy rainfall. Should this take place, a rise in the rivers will occur as a natural consequence, and the chances of the angler will thereby be greatly improved.—Maxwheel, Kelso.

Wharfe (Yorkshire).

The only opportunity for fly-fishing during the past week has been an hour or two in the evening, and even then the very finest tackle and the smallest of flies are a sine qua non. I killed a splendid grayling on Monday evening (the first since they again came into season); it was in first-rate condition and gave me some good sport before I succeeded in netting him. The fly that I have found kill the best this week is the pale evening dun; on one occasion the water was completely in a boil with fish rising at it, and while the fun lasted I had good sport. The majority of sportsmen, however, are off to the moors, and have for a time relinquished the rod for the gun.—Francis M. Walbran.

Wye and Derwent.

Both the above rivers are in first-class condition for fly-fishing, and very fair sport has been had the whole of the week, chiefly by the local fishermen, as most of the gentlemen that visit Derbyshire have gone on to the Moors grouse shooting, and, from what I can learn, they have had first-class sport amongst the grouse. The killing flies have been the small honey dun, bumble (red, ribbed with gold finish), and dotteril flies. Dibbing under the bush and trees has been followed with good success. Several large baskets of good-sized trout have been killed with the natural blue bottle flies. The bottom fishers on the Derwent only fish the last thing at night, chiefly with wasp grubs, and some heavy trout have been landed, also a few barbel.—George James Eaton.

CLUB REPORTS.

ALEXANDRA SOCIETY OF ANGLERS.

The members of the above society on Tuesday evening last, had a most excellent show of fish from Pulborough, Amberley, and the Lea. Messrs. Wicks, Miles, Gripton, Chipchase, and James Thompson being most successful. The members will fish a peg-down match at Windsor, Sunday, August 27th. A silver watch, three prizes of 10s, and several others to be given.—F. Wagner.

August 17th.

AMICABLE BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Medcalf, 10 lb. roach and bream from the Arun; Mr. Hutchins' roach from the same river; Mr. Larkman, 11 lb. roach and bream; Mr. Moir, 3 lb, both weights of fish from the Dagenham Lake; Mr. Squire, 1 jack, and some roach from the River Lea.—J. Worledge.

Aug. 13.

ANCHOR AND HOPE.

Fifteen of our members fished a peg-down match at Amberley on Sunday the 13th inst., with the following result: Mr. James Bowling, first, bream, 2 lb. $15\frac{3}{4}$ oz.; Mr. Thomas Bowling, second, bream, 2 lb. 6 oz.; Mr. R. Smith, third, bream, 1 lb. $1\frac{1}{4}$ oz.; Mr. H. Scott, fourth, bream, 14 lb. $\frac{3}{4}$ oz.; Mr. D. Liston, fifth, bream, 11 lb. $\frac{3}{4}$ oz. Mr. A. Glass and Mr. A. Shakel also had fish.

Aug. 16, 1882.

ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Since my last report I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of £1 1s. donation from H. A. Little (Richmond Piscatorials), £1 from E. Clark, Portsmouth Waltonians; 10s. from Mr. Pratt, Treeswick Buckland Angling Society; and 5s. from J. C. Murray, chairman Central Association.—R. Ghurney, Secretary.

BERMONDSEY BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

There was a good show of fish at this club on Sunday last, the principal takes being by Mr. Benningfield, jack and bream; Mr. Frost, jack and bream; Mr. Goodred, jack; and Gafney, roach and dace.—A. S. Croker, sec.

BOSTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our trays were well filled on Monday, August 7th. The most successful of our members were Messrs. Brothers and Goodge with roach from the Thames, plenty of them, but rather small. Mr. Jennings with a handsome show of roach, the two largest weighing 1 lb. $4\frac{1}{2}$ oz. and 1 lb. $2\frac{3}{4}$ oz. Mr. Constable, perch from the Wey. Other members with small takes, August 13th, Mr. Goodge, roach and bream, 7 lbs.; Mr. Jennings, roach and bream, 10 lb. from Amberley.—J. J., hon. sec.

August 15th.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 6th we had but a poor show of fish, most of our members staying an extra day at Amberley. The best was that of Mr. Chambers, 3 lb. $6\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of bream and roach; Mr. Mortimer, roach; and Mr. Warden, bream; all from Amberley. On Bank Holiday Messrs. Nitz, Pratt, and Mortimer had bream from the Welsh Harp; Messrs. Castell and Cottis had a variety of fish from Pulborough. On the 8th the former had some good roach from the canal at Brentford. On the 13th Messrs. Chambers and Hyde weighed bream from Amberley, Mr. Castell bream from Dagenham, and Mr. Nitz bream from the Harp.—Cas.

CLAPHAM JUNCTION ANGLING SOCIETY.

Since my last report several of our members have been out and met with the following success:—Mr. B. Wellman, weighed in $9\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of bream and roach; Mr. Maslin. 5 lb. $13\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of bream; Mr. E. Wakeford, 15 lb. of jack; Mr. E. Brewer, 2 lb. $3\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of roach; Mr. Valentine, a nice chub of 2 lb. 2 oz.; Mr. E. Withers, chub, roach, and barbel, 5 lb. 3 oz.; Messrs. G. Walkley, E. Wilson, C. Speed, G. Innes, roach, bream, perch, and barbel. Members are requested to attend on Thursday next for important business, at 8 p.m. sharp.—E. Wilson, hon. sec.

CROWN PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Several members of the above society were out on August 6th, Mr. Willcockson having about 12 lb. of rudd, perch, carp, and tench, two of the latter weighing 4 lb.; and Mr. Neagus a nice show of bream and roach. On August 13 Mr. Neagus had 10 lb. of handsome roach from the Thames. Next Sunday, August 20, the members fish at Amberley for three valuable prizes.—W. H. Burwash, jun., sec.

August 16.

FRIENDLY ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

Friendly Anglers' Summer Competition, August, 1882, for prizes value ten guineas, subscribed by the members. 34s., Mr. Pugh, barbel, Thames, 24 lbs. 13 oz.; 1 fish, 8 lb. 2 oz., 7 lb. 2 oz., and 7 lb. 1 oz. respectively; 30s., Batson, bream, Colne, 21 lb.; 27s. Howard, barbel, 12 lb. 14 oz., chub, 2 lb. 8 oz., Thames, 15 lb. 6oz.; 24s,, Mitchell, barbel, Thames, 11 lb. 4 oz.; 21s., C, Calcut, chub, Thames, 11 lb. 2 oz.; 20s. J. Barwell, barbel, Thames, 8 lb. 2 oz.; 18s., Le Good, roach, Colne, 4 lb. 11 oz.; 14s., Marsh, trout, Thames, 4lb. 1 oz.; 12s., Hunt, roach, Colne, 3 lbs. 2 oz.; 10s., Berry, barbel, Thames, 3 lb. 2oz; Grant, roach, Colne, 2 lb. 12 oz.; total weight of fish, 109 lb. 8 oz. I send the above report, having witnessed this splendid show of fish, Mr. Pugh's three barbel, Mr. Batson's bream, and Mr. Marsh's Thames trout being very fine specimens.—T. R. Sachs.

GREAT YARMOUTH PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The society held their weekly meeting at the St. George's Wine Vaults, 162, King Street, on Monday. Present: A. Mitchell, Esq., M.D., president; P. Courtnay, Esq., vice; J. Heewtson, chair. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the following gentlemen were unanimously elected:—L. Bonvoisin, Esq., honorary, Mr. Budds, Mr. Willshak, Mr. Francis, and W. Hammersley, Esq., of Islington also. Several gentlemen of other societies, chiefly London, were present. Dr. Mitchell, angling with Mr. Hewetson, caught some fine rudd and pike at Potter Heigham, which were much admired; Mr. Pond also about 30 lb. of rudd and bream, also Potter Heigham; Messrs. Chapman and Warnes about $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. of bream and rudd on the Bure, but not sent in to the society, only two as specimen good clean fish, about 6 lb. the two, in fact, all the fish were in splendid condition. Mr. Lark, the secretary, also one good rudd, 11 inches long, caught that day in a stream leading from the Bure.—James Lark, secretary.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

At the weekly meeting held on Thursday last, D. Cartwright, Esq, occupied the chair. After reading the minutes, the reports from the Thames, &c., were given, Mr. King, of Windsor, reporting river very clear, several jack and chub being taken during the last few days. Bartholomew, of Goring, reports water very clear, a few good perch taken. Mr. White telegraphs from Scarborough an enormous take of gurnard, and his holiday toast was fully reciprocated. Mr. Crumplen stated that himself and Mr. George Austin attended the meeting at Cannon Street Hotel as delegates from the society, in reference to the new Thames bye.laws, and were very strongly in favour of the resolutions passed at that meeting, which would certainly be endorsed by every angling association; and the thanks of the Gresham were certainly due to the Thames Angling Preservation Society for the spirited manner in which (under the presidency of Mr. Spreckley) they had taken the matter up. Mr. Crumplen's name was added to the committee appointed. Mr. Crumplen mentioned that he had been very warmly welcomed by the Silver Trout anglers at their last meeting, had received a very hearty invitation to meet the Stanley Anglers, whose fame was more than Metropolitan, and also a request to dine with the Good Intents at the Rye House, on Monday next. These invitations, which were a few out of those frequently occurring, were to be regarded as marks of respect shown to the society of which he happened to be secretary, and clearly indicated the common spirit pervading true angling societies, which had all a common object in view. The usual discussion on angling topics followed, and the meeting concluded (after a little harmony) with hearty thanks to Mr. Cartwright for his able conduct in the chair.

HEARTS OF OAK ANGLING SOCIETY.

Good show of fish this evening. Mr. B. Cox having about 8 lb. roach and about 3 lb. bream; Mr. J. Holt, about 6 lb. roach and about 4 lb. bream; Mr. Fish had bream, and Mr. Layton had jack.—C. J. Millie, sec.

Aug. 13, 1882.

HIGHBURY ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 13th inst. the trays of this society were abundantly furnished with jack, perch, roach, bream, and tench, contributed by Messrs. Higley, Payne, Howell, Anthony, Arnold, Charles, Ballard, Edward Wheatley, the Secretary, ane others. The tench produced by Mr. Higley were greatly admired, the largest scaling nearly 4 lb., which had been forwarded to Mr. Sanders for preservation. A spirited competition took place at the Welsh Harp for four valuable prizes, the first for the heaviest weight of all fish, and the remaining three for the best specimen bream. A capital day's sport was enjoyed, the honours being respectively awarded to Mr. Ballard, who secured two of the prizes, the other two being shared between Mr. Arnold and yours obediently—Jas. Edwd. Wheatley, sec.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

A most splendid show of fish was put on our trays this week, which was highly appreciated by all members and friends. Mr. C. Brown had ten nice bream, which weighed 27½ lb. Mr. Harwood had a nice show of roach from the Colne. Mr. Castle also had jack and roach from the Colne, Mr. T. Thompson also had some nice roach from King's Langley; Mr. H. Moore had bream, dace and gudgeon; Mr. Scott, roach and perch, and there were also several other members who weighed-in fish which, when all on the trays together, made a choice selection.—H. Moore, sec.

Aug. 17.

ORIGINAL ALEXANDRA SOCIETY OF ANGLERS.

Mr. Brockett had a fine show of bream; Mr. Blackledge had roach, dace, and perch from Broxbourne; Mr. Atkinson, roach and dace; and a great many of our members returned with blanks.—E. Dymond, sec.

August 17.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The return visit of angling clubs enrolled on the Central Committee was paid to the above society on Tuesday last, Mr. Obbard in the chair, Mr. Clark, of the Reform Angling Society, vice. Upon the roll being called the following clubs were represented: Amicable Brothers' Alliance, Amicable Waltonians, Reform, Great Northern Brothers, Odds and Evens, Convivial, North Eastern, the Star, Alexandra, Eustonians, Hoxton Brothers, Canonbury, City of London, Burdett, Bridgewater Brothers, Original Alexandra. The following also had representatives: Patriotic, Clerkenwell Piscatorials, Buckland, Crown, Second Surrey, Metropolitan, and St. John's. Several members were out on Sunday last and met with fair sport, Messrs. Crafford, Longman and Laundy weighing in. A special meeting will take place on Monday next, August 21st, at 9 o'clock to transact important business, I hope that all members will be present.—Thos. W. Lucy.

August 17.

PECKHAM BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

The second match for the President's Cup was fished on the 13th at Weybridge, Mr. Stidolph scoring a win with 4 lb. 8 oz. Messrs. Page, Otjan, Lang, Garrad, Branches, also had fish. The next match will be fished on the 27th for three prizes given by Messrs. Reed, Garrad, and Begnall; open match, all fish to weigh.—W. H. Page, hon. sec.

QUEEN'S ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our members have met with very fair sport this last week. Mr. Pearce, 18 lb. 15 oz. of bream; Mr. Walford, 15 lb. 3½ oz. of bream; Mr. Morgan, 8 lb. 8 oz. of jack; Mr. Chick, 10 lb. of bream; Mr. Koopman, 2 lb. 5½ oz. one bream; Mr. Clayton, 2 lb. 5½ oz. bream. Several other members had small weights of fish.—S. Walford, secretary.

STANLEY ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

The following are the weights of fish captured during the week by our members:—Mr. Pistrucci, four nice roach scaling 2 lb. 6 oz., one of which was 1 lb.; Mr. T. Parsons showed 2 lb. 7 oz. of roach and rudd; Mr. Scull, forty-four roach for 13 lb. 7 oz., and twenty-one roach for 7 lb. 3 oz., also bream; Mr. C. P. Wheatstone, a very nice show of jack, chub, and perch, of the latter kind he had fifteen fish weighing 9 lb. 5 oz., and a chub of 3 lb. 6 oz., total, 18 lb. 15 oz.; Mr. H. Rose, perch and roach; Mr. W. R. Humby, perch and roach.

August 17.

STOKE NEWINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The second annual dinner of the above took place on the 13th inst., at the Pied Bull Inn, St. Margaret's, Herts, a good muster of members and friends partaking of the good cheer provided by host Lyndsell, who, always liberal in his catering on this occasion, fairly excelled himself. Mr. J. M. Brookman, presided; Mr. F. Berry, occupying the vice-chair. On the removal of the cloth, the chairman, on behalf of the club, having thanked Mr. Lyndsell, the company dispersed to enjoy themselves, nothing occurring during the day to mar what was admitted to be a thoroughly enjoyable day's outing.—Thomas Gretton, sec.

Aug. 14.

UNITED LONDON ANGLERS' CENTRAL CLUB COMMITTEE.

At the Cheshunt Petty Sessions Court on Wednesday, August 16, John Bennett was summoned for taking from the River Lea at Hoddesdon, seven perch of less size than allowed by the River Lea Fishery bye-laws. Mr. G. Corbbe, clerk to the Conservancy Board, attended to prosecute. The case was proved by Mr. High, fishery bailiff, and Thomas Radfield, lock-keeper. Defendant was fined 10s.—R. Ghurney, sec.

UNITED BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

This society is progressing satisfactorily, still increasing its numbers. The best good feeling and harmony prevails at all its meetings, each member studying its interest. Angling has not been of much account this last few weeks, owing to the want of rain. The water is too fine for any kind of angling. Mr. B. James has captured a splendid trout from the river Stour, weighing 2 lb. 6 oz., in fine condition, the largest captured for some years. Mr. A. G. Tilley and Mr. Lawrence, fishing in private water, caught 28 lb. of fine roach with the gentle in four hours, as well as two tench, weighing respectively 5 lb. and 4 lb. Also at the same water on Wednesday, August 9, with three rods, captured over 800 roach in splendid condition, averaging 6½ oz., in 13 hours with the gentle.—Edwin Laurence, sec.

UNITED BROTHERS.

Several of our members were out on Sunday, the 13th, but only the following were successful in doing anything:—W. Tyler, roach and bream; J. Eller, roach and bream from the Medway; and J. Currans with roach and bream from Pulboro'. On Sunday next, the 20th, the members of the above society will fish a pegged down match at Pulboro'.

Aug. 16.

MORE FISH FOR THE THAMES.

The netting of another reservoir is, in other words, another liberal gift of fish to the Thames. In this instance, the directors of the West Middlesex Water Works, through their courteous engineer Mr. Thomas Hack, gave permission to net another of their reservoirs at Barnes, contiguous to the one netted by the Thames Angling Preservation Society about three years ago, and selected Friday last, under very short notice, as available for the operation, the permission to net having been given some time previously. The energies of Mr. Thomas Spreckley and Mr. Geen, with the assistance of the secretary, were soon in active exercise, and a valuable division of labour was kindly undertaken by Mr. Geen, who resides close to the reservoirs, and who had been unable to attend the two previous nettings on account of the days chosen by the water companies interfering with engagements he could not relinquish, and whose absence was much regretted by all. All the arrangements were successfully carried out and the attendance had to be limited to those who could assist in the netting. Mr. Thomas Hack, the engineer, and Mr. Hughes, the superintendent of the works, gave every facility for the complete migration of the fish. The water was lowered to about three feet; three platforms were erected from the bank to the river. Mr. Thomas Spreckley occupied his post as general, in which he was most ably assisted in the punt duties by Mr. P. Geen, who was most energetic in the work, and by Mr. Robert L. Pugh in the despatch of the fish from the nets to the boats on the river. Amongst other assistants there were Messrs. H. J. Alfred, A. Allison, J. Mountstephen, J. Walters, Thomas Hoole, John Knechtli, Crewe, C. R. Stock, H. G. Penney, &c., &c. The checking of the pails of fish was kept as usual by Mr. W. H. Brougham, the secretary. The netting commenced about nine o'clock and the first three hauls, owing to the shortness of the net, were of very small result, and it was deemed advisable to send for an additional net to join to the other one. When this was done, the result improved, and when one haul at the end of the reservoir produced eleven large pails full of fish, great excitement prevailed. At one o'clock it was deemed necessary to give the water a little rest, and the interval was most agreeably filled up by accepting Mr. Geen's kind invitation to a nice cold collation at Lowther Lodge, his residence close by, and his kind attention on that occasion will not easily be forgotten. There was, however, no waste of time occupied in this pleasant and sociable gathering, and by two o'clock the net was at work again in the waters. There were several nice hauls of fish, and a remarkable one consisting principally of very fine silver bream. By five o'clock a very pleasant day, as far as the netting was concerned, was brought to a close; and shortly after that time the three peter-boats, laden with the fish, piloted by one of the Thames Conservancy steamers, were afloat on the river and bound direct for Kingston. There were on board Messrs. T. Spreckley, P. Geen, John Knechtli, W. H. Brougham, R. L. Pugh, Walters, T. Hoole, and Crewe. Owing to the heavy cargo of fish and a very heavy stream, the progress up the river was a necessarily slow one; it was nearly seven o'clock before Eel Pie Island was reached, and here for a brief interval the company landed for a slight lubrication. A telegram was sent to Mr. Alfred Nuthall, at Kingston, who had been unavoidably detained there on important business, notifying that the cargo of fish was on its way thitherward. It was eight o'clock before it arrived, and Mr. Alfred Nuthall was taken on board near to Kingston Bridge. The journey was then extended to Kingston Deep, known as the Town's End Hole, and there, in the presence of Mr. H. Dickinson and a large crowd on the banks, the entire contents of the three peter-boats were consigned to the river by Messrs. T. Spreckley, Alfred Nuthall, H. Dickinson, and P. Geen. And now as to the result. It was fairly estimated at about 1,000 lb. weight of roach (up to 1¼ lb.), perch, and dace; 24 large silver bream, up to 4 lb. each; 6 chub, of 2 lb. and 3 lb. each; 2 barbel, of 5 lb. each; one jack, of 7 lb., and some large eels. The result, though not so large as was anticipated, will prove a valuable addition to the Kingston waters, and the thanks of the Thames anglers are none the less due to the engineer and directors of the West Middlesex Waterworks for their liberal gift, and to the Thames Angling Preservation Society in its praiseworthy efforts of increasing the quantity of stock fish in the river. Major Boileau, the chairman of the directors, was present during the greater portion of the day, and repeatedly expressed himself anxious for a good result.

B.

"The Fern World," by Mr. Francis George Heath, author of "Autumnal Leaves," has just reached its seventh edition.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Angler.—There is very fair sea fishing to be had off Eastbourne in a boat, and you may get a few fish from the pier if you care for fishing with a crowd round you. At Brighton many fine fish are caught by putting down baited lines just when the tide is coming in, and taking them up when it recedes again. Take fifty or a hundred yards of strong water cord, fasten hooks with foot lengths of finer line on them at intervals of a yard or so along the main line; bait with lugworms (found by digging in wet sand well below high-water mark), mussels, &c.; fasten each end of the main line to a heavy weight, place it along the shore near low water mark, and you will probably find some good fish on it when the tide leaves it again. Of course you must mind no bathers or shrimpers get caught! We do not recommend this style of fishing, but have seen fine sea trout and other fish taken in this way at Brighton.

CORRESPONDENCE.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

WHO IS THE FATHER?

Sir,—I did not intend to have entered into the controversy under the above heading, as I have no wish to see my name at the end of a long letter claiming credit for what should be due to others; but in justice to my friend, Mr. G. Manning, I am bound to make a few remarks that ought to set this question at rest. I am willing to let any gentleman take credit to himself if it will benefit a good cause. I beg to state emphatically that months before the West Central Association was formed, or even thought of, I introduced the question (of forming a benevolent or provident society among the angling members of societies) to the Central Committee, but at that time it was not carried out, as there was a certain amount of dissent amongst the clubs. Some two years or more after, Mr. Geen and myself had a conversation on the same subject, when we agreed to bring the question before our respective associations. The West Central Meeting coming on first, the matter was laid before it, at which meeting I was present. It is from this that Mr. Geen must take his claim as the father. Mr. Manning was perfectly familiar with all the above facts, as he has been a member of the United London Anglers' Central Committee from its formation, nearly eleven years ago, and a constant attendant at all their meetings. Mr. Editor, I do not care who has the credit of being the father; my duty is to attend to the child, which I am pleased to say is beginning to assume some fair proportions, and I hope will continue to thrive by the assistance of my brother anglers and their friends.—I am, &c.,

R. Ghurney,
Secretary Anglers' Benevolent Society.

August 17.

[Mr. Geen last week quoted letters of ours to him, which show that in 1879 we considered he was the father of the Anglers' Benevolent Society. As our friend Mr. Geen will admit, this statement from Mr. Ghurney throws a new light on the origin of the society.—Ed.]

A NORTH-COUNTRY FLY.

Sir,—I enclose a fly which I caught on a paling adjacent to a large pond near the Tees on the 2nd inst. I have noticed that it appears every year about the middle of July and continues about a month. Could you inform me through your valuable paper what its name is? as I have made an imitation of it, which is not yet christened.—I am, &c.,

Richd. Alison.

Stockton-on-Tees, Aug. 3.

[Not recognising the fly very definitely, we sent it to Mr. Sang, of Barnard Castle, author of "The Dictionary of Trout-fly Synonyms," and he very kindly replies as follows:—

[Copy.]

"Barnard Castle, August 15, 1882.

"Dear Sir,—I am sorry to have been so long in answering yours of the 7th inst., but the fact was that, other than knowing the fly sent as one *Phryganea*, I could not give you the information required.

"Having a brother an entomologist, I forwarded the fly to him to name, but his line is in butterflies, moths, and beetles, so he sent it on to Mr. B. Cooke, of Southport, entomologist, collector, and general naturalist, from whom I have just received its remains. He writes, 'The Caddis-fly sent is the *Phryganea striata*, Lin., and has no English name.'

"I know the fly well myself, but it is not out here before the latter end of August and through September. Though this is an early season, I have not seen it yet. In some seasons it is rather common, yet for all that the anglers here never seem to have noticed it before I called their attention to it, unless the fly called in the 'Teesdale Angler' the 'grey grannam' is the fly, of which the following is the dressing there given:—'Dark feather, from night hawk or brown owl; red squirrel's fur, and fawn-coloured silk for body, ginger hackle for legs.' *P. striata* is much sought after and enjoyed by trout, and is generally about during cloudy, showery weather, with occasional gleams of sun.

"Salmon-fishing in the Greta, on the 24th of July, a house swallow settled on my rod as I worked the fly; also a white-throat settled on my knee and nestled under my waterproof, whilst I made four casts with my salmon flies. The day was very windy, with heavy showers of rain, which fully accounts for the tameness of the birds, which might also have been young ones (?), though they were able to fly well.

"Angling is very quiet here, the river being dead low.

"I am, yours very truly,

"R. B. Marston, Esq." "William Sang.

[The barm fly is the nearest imitation to the fly we know. Jackson's book will describe that fly, or in Francis Francis's "Book of Angling" it will be found. The barm fly is also *Phryganea*. These land flies kill best in windy weather.—Ed.]

A TROUT OVER NINE POUNDS IN WEIGHT FROM THE NEW RIVER.

Sir,—It may interest some of your readers to hear that last Monday a magnificent trout was caught in the New River at Ware by some angler whose name is unknown to me. It weighed 9¼ lb. and was 25¾ inches in length and 16 inches in girth. As possibly some anglers who see this may take it into their heads to go and do likewise, I conclude by saying that this water is not open to the public, but is rented by the Amwell Magna Club of the New River Company.—I am, &c,

C. E. Holford.

Springfield, Ware.

THE THAMES AND THE SEWAGE OF READING.

Sir,—I write for the purpose of getting a little information from some of your Reading readers. Perhaps the courteous secretary of the Reading Angling Society can help me.

In the recent report of the Thames Conservators, they state the sewage of Reading has been diverted from the Thames. Is it a fact that it is carried to a sewage farm, and that the managers of that farm, whenever they like, can turn the sewage into the Kennet and thus into the Thames? And is it a fact when they get, as they often do, an *embarras des riches*, they simply pull up the flood gates and send them into the rivers?—I am, &c.

Diogenes.

Greenwich, Aug. 12, 1882.

THE BIGGEST TAKE ON BANK HOLIDAY.—THE VALUE OF GROUND BAIT.

Sir,—About this time last year you kindly inserted a short account of a good take of roach made by me in a private pool in Herefordshire. Through the kindness of the owner's steward, I have again enjoyed the privilege of a day in the same pool, and the result has exceeded my most sanguine expectations.

I ground-baited plentifully with gentles and wasp grubs on the Saturday before Bank Holiday, about 5 p.m., and again on Sunday, at 3 p.m., and was on the water, with the punt moored and the tackle in order as the clock struck 4 a.m. It was only just light enough to see, as the pool lies in a valley, and is sheltered by trees; but I soon saw well enough that the roach were on ravenously, and I commenced at once to land them as fast as I could bait and cast a line.

I baited with wasp grub, and fished about one inch from the bottom in five feet of water, and was at it fast and furiously until 12 (noon), when the sun came out in full force and the fish entirely ceased biting.

On counting up I found a total of 241 roach, or 20 dozen and one, and one eel 1¼ lb., taken on the finest drawn gut, the capture of the eel I consider a good performance. The largest roach was ¾ lb., and the average, on being weighed the following morning, was just a little over four to the pound, so that the catch must have been about 60 lb.

About 6 a.m., when the fish were biting very fast, I took out my watch, and in one quarter of an hour I landed eleven fish and missed two; and later on, about 11 a.m., in half an hour I took fifteen; the average, therefore, was one fish every two minutes, about as fast, allowing for breakages, &c., as they can be hooked, played, and landed.

I have seen in your last issue some correspondence on the efficacy of ground bait. It may interest some of your correspondents to know that I fished the spot where these roach were taken for four hours on the Saturday evening, and got twelve fish only. I have detailed above the result after a judicious ground baiting, and if any one says he could have made the catch without ground bait, I should not believe him until I saw it done.

All my fish were taken with one rod, and I think the performance must rank high in the records of big takes. It is probable the quantity has been exceeded in a day's angling, but I should feel interested to hear if any of your readers have ever taken, or heard, of such a number being landed in the time given.—I am, &c.,

W. S. P.

King's Norton, August 14.

[At Slapton Lea, enormous takes are often had; the anglers get so tired of catching the fish that they pull them out on one side the boat and shake them off into the water on the other.—Ed.]

NET AND TRIMMERS CAPTURED.

Sir,—I hear that Captain Etheridge was at Oxford on Bank Holiday, and that while upon the University barge he was gratified by learning that Police-constable No. 23 (Edmund Butler) of the city force, being one of those to whom the conservators had granted the deputation, had taken a 12 yard flue net, of only ½ inch mesh, capable of catching a bleak, which net Alderman Carr asked the worthy salt to call at the police office and see; this the captain did. The charge in the police book ran as under:—Police-constable No. 23 (Edmund Butler) had taken from Joseph Beauchamp, No. 23, Fisher-row, Oxford, a single walled flue net, 12 yards in length, ½ inch mesh, on Sunday morning, at 4.20 a.m., July 30th. When questioned, Beauchamp stated he had not used the net, but that the police-constable was welcome to it, as he did not want to get himself into trouble, and that he would not do it again.

It would seem that the foresight of the conservancy in granting the sixteen deputations has completely crushed the systematic gangs of poachers in Oxford, who, however, are driven up the Cherwell, Windrush, and other tributaries of the Thames, which ere long, it is to be hoped, will find efficient protection from this class of marauders.

The captain also, on Tuesday, the 8th inst., secured two fine trimmers in the portion of the river supposed to belong to Mr. Kent, the ex-mayor of Abingdon, and railway carrier; and as this gentleman will not permit fishing in his supposed waters at Sutton Courtney—the old river Thames before the Culham cut was made, consequently the main river now—the query is, Who put them in the water? On the same evening the captain laid them before Mr. Simonds, the magistrate, of Caversham, who condemned them, and they were burnt at the Reading Police Office on Wednesday morning.—I am, &c.,

Creel.

GROUND BAITING.

Sir,—I am much indebted to you for your kind attempt to remove the charge that I am antagonistic to the practice of ground baiting. So far from this being the fact, the truth is quite the reverse. What I denounce, and still must denounce, as inimical to sport and in the highest degree wasteful, is the inordinate quantities of a composition of bread, bran, and clay which is sometimes thrown into the water, under the impression that, as it attracts the fish, the take will be in correspondence with the amount of the attraction. This is a fallacy. You do not gorge a man with a heavy luncheon before his dinner and expect him to come to the board with an appetite; but this is exactly what is done with the fish. I have seen quarts of carrion gentles thrown in, and yet the baited hook with the better lure has sailed amongst the shoals of fish unheeded, but not unsuspected. And if a single fish has been taken, these carrion gentles have riggled out of its vent and escaped alive from its mouth. Is it likely, with such a living cargo, the fish can have any desire for a bait, however tempting, which does not obey the laws of gravity, or comply with the natural movements caused by the varying eddies and currents of the stream.

I have known three quartern loaves, a peck of bran or pollard, and half a hundredweight of clay thrown into a single swim at Teddington. Is not this wilful waste? I have known a cart load of clay at a time to be pitched for the use of the fishermen close to the shore from which the ferry boat leaves for the opposite side. Now, what is the consequence? By trituration the bread and bran is washed out of the clay and the clay remains, for no one will venture to say that fish are clay eaters. The cart-loads of clay thus used between Teddington and Isleworth gradually paves the bottom of the river, and coats the hitherto bright and shining pebbles with an earthy covering of a slippery, if not a slimy, character, which not only destroys it as a spawning ground—all interstices between the gravel having been filled up, in which the spawn would have found safe anchorage—but prevents the fish, after their domestic duties have been performed upon the artificial smooth pavement of the bed of the river, from cleansing themselves, the spawn of several sorts of fish being washed away from the absence of the interstices which otherwise would secure it.

Mr. Francis Francis is obviously of my opinion that over-baiting defeats the object in view. His "Book on Angling" is an expensive work, and I am therefore glad of his permission to quote it whenever I may consider it may be of service to the fraternity. He writes: "The ground-baits for roach are as various as the hook-baits, but in using ground bait the angler should be careful not to overbait the swim. There is no plan so absurd, so literally destructive of sport as that pursued by the majority of Thames fishermen, with their huge piles of puddings of clay, bran, gentles, greaves, bread, and what not. When once the place has been baited, an occasional ball or two mixed up with clay, of about the size of an apple, is useful to keep the ground baited; but this is a very different thing to casting in five or ten balls at a time, as big as large oranges. For casting loose in eddies, either gentles, scalded greaves, or chopped worms may be used; but these baits are likely to attract barbel, for which roach tackle is not prepared, to the swim also; pearl barley and rice may be also thrown in loose.

"This is my plan"—I am still quoting Francis—"for mixing ground bait in a swim not too swift: I first get a three-quart basin, put into it refuse crust, broken up—it goes against my grain to cut up new loaves. The basin should be somewhat more than half full, to allow for swelling; pour hot water in it sufficient to soak the whole thoroughly, cover it up with a plate to keep the steam in; let it soak for two hours or more, then break it up so that there be no lumps nor hard bits in it, as, if these be not broken thoroughly, they come away and float up to the top of the water and are wasted. Then put the mass into a strainer and squeeze out as much water as you can. Then boil about two-thirds of a pint of common broken rice, and let the water drain from that too; put both into half a peck of fresh bran and scatter over it about a large breakfast cup and a half of flour or meal to make it more adherent; work it all up together thoroughly. Then take a number of small stones, each about the size of grape shot, or say an inch in diameter, and on to each stone press and squeeze a good big handful or more of the compost, working and squeezing it until the ball is quite tight and hard. The stone serves to sink the ball and to keep it on the bottom, and the ball breaks up gradually and disperses down the swim, a portion still remaining behind to keep the fish in the swim. If the bait is too moist, the balls will break in halves, and, leaving the stone at the bottom, come up to the surface and float away, or will break up and disperse too soon; and therefore the drier the bait is consistently with proper adherence the better. There is no ground bait I have ever tried that equals this; it is some trouble to make, but for bank fishing, more particularly in a regular roach swim, it is not easy to beat. In addition, when I am using pearl barley, I throw in a score or two of the corns now and then loose, so that they may ground in the swim, and, being scattered about it, they keep the roach on the move and searching about the swim. I have made takes of very fine roach with this bait. The quantities I have given will make about twenty balls about the size of oranges, which is enough for any moderate day's fishing in the winter time, which is the best time for good roach fishing. If, however, the angler prefers to use clay instead of stones, he can do so, as it is less trouble to use, and holds in the swim longer, but it is a much dirtier operation [and by its admixture spoils the better ingredients]. In this case, too, the flour or meal can be left out. Never keep your ground bait on from one day to another, for although you may not always succeed in spoiling your own sport, you will very often, as bran, &c., ferments when once wet and turns sour, and after that musty, and I do assure you a ball or two of such bait will drive every roach out of your swim. I once told my man to mix me some bait, he mixed it with some bran that stood under a drip from a tap for a time, and it was musty. I never found it out until the day was utterly spoiled; I had been having first-rate sport the day before, and could not understand why the fish would not bite, till accident gave me a whiff of the ground bait, and then I went in and talked kindly to my wicked servant, who dodged me round corners and kept out of my sight for the rest of the day. . . Never mind what any of your household promises, says, or does, always see to it yourself."—I am, &c., CREEL.

[We are glad "Creel" has spoken out on this subject, and also quotes Mr. Francis Francis's views on the matter. We have often pointed out the folly of over-baiting a swim.—ED.]

THE CARP BREAM AND THE SILVER BREAM.

SIR,—I shall feel obliged if you will inform me how I can always readily distinguish between the ordinary carp bream and the silver bream when they are very small.—I am, &c., HENRY GREENWAY.

The Firs, Cricklewood.

[The common bream, or carp bream (*Abramis brama*), is of a yellowish colour, and its throat teeth are placed in *one row* on each side, five in number. The silver, or white bream (*Abramis blicca*), is of a much whiter and more silvery colour, and its throat teeth are in *two rows* on each side, numbering two and five respectively. The common bream grows to a great weight, the silver bream rarely exceeds 1 lb. The two species exist in the Trent near Newark, and in many other English waters.—Ed.]

FISHING NEAR FOLKESTONE.

SIR,—If any of your numerous correspondents could tell me of any fishing (coarse) to be obtained in the neighbourhood of Folkestone, they would greatly oblige.—I am, &c., W.

CAPTURE OF POACHERS NEAR UXBRIDGE.

SIR,—On Sunday morning, at 4 a.m., I was on the canal side at Cowley Peachey, when three men, named Walter Tarrant, Job Tarrant, and James Holley, all of Yiewsley, came on to the top of the dock bridge, carrying a sack; they also had a fishing net and about 12 lb. of fish. They were valued at 5s. I took them into custody. They were charged and taken before the magistrates on Monday at Uxbridge, and fined 10s. each. The net was 12 yards long. Bail was refused.—I am, &c., C. H. CROOK, P.C. 103 X.

Yiewsley, near Uxbridge.

[We think Colne anglers should encourage Mr. Crook by a small reward for his services.—ED.]

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

PRESIDENT: THE RIGHT HON. LORD GEORGE HAMILTON, M.P.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

NEW RULES.—The committee having completed their revision of the society's rules, will submit them to the society, for confirmation or otherwise, at a special meeting to be held at 11, Bishopsgate Street Within, E.C., on Thursday, August 31, the chair being taken at 7 o'clock precisely. A copy of the revised rules will be suspended in the meeting room a fortnight previous to the meeting, and may be seen by members at any time during that interval.

The committee are unanimous in recommending the revised rules for permanent adoption, and trust to see a large meeting on the 31st inst., when the rules will be formally submitted for approval.

ESSAYS AND DISCUSSIONS.—The Society will have a series of papers read regularly during the season, on the first Thursday in each month, commencing in September next.

SUMMER EXCURSIONS.—Members wishing for tickets are requested to make immediate application. Ladies may also take part in the excursion, and the committee will be glad to see a large attendance of members and friends. Arrangements will be finally completed as soon as a sufficient number of names have been handed in.—T. CRUMPLEN, hon. sec.

CITY OF BRISTOL ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

A CONTEST of the members of the above association was held in the River Avon, at the Long Reach, Saltford, on Monday, August 7, (Bank Holiday), when about forty members contested for prizes to the value of £10, given from the fund of association, and from tradesmen and private gentlemen. The catches were not so good as on former contests, but still they were fair, considering the very hot weather and the hour of the contest, namely, from 12 a.m. to 5 p.m.; however, only twelve succeeded in getting fish. A great many of the members returned to the clubhouse, the Morton Arms, Barton Hill. But, on account of the non-arrival of the president, the meeting was adjourned until Wednesday evening, for the prizes to be given to the successful competitors.

On Wednesday, August 9, the adjourned meeting was held; the president commenced the proceedings with expressing his regret at not being earlier on Monday night—said it was the trains that was late, and not him. He then proceeded to give the prizes; the first prize was a very handsome eight-day clock, given by the association, supplied by Messrs. H. Parry and Co., Castle Street; the second prize was a very nice pair of gentleman's boots, given by a member; the third prize was a black ebony inkstand, mounted with silver, complete, supplied by Mr. Thatcher, of College Green, and so on, until the twelve competitors had received their prizes. A vote of thanks was then proposed to those gentleman and members who had given them the prizes. Some six or eight prizes were handed back to the treasurer for the next contes , which will come off during the season. A vote of thanks to the president, vice-president, secretary, and committee closed the meeting, after which the members spent an enjoyable evening until eleven, with some really good singing.—J. H. STANTIAL, hon. sec.

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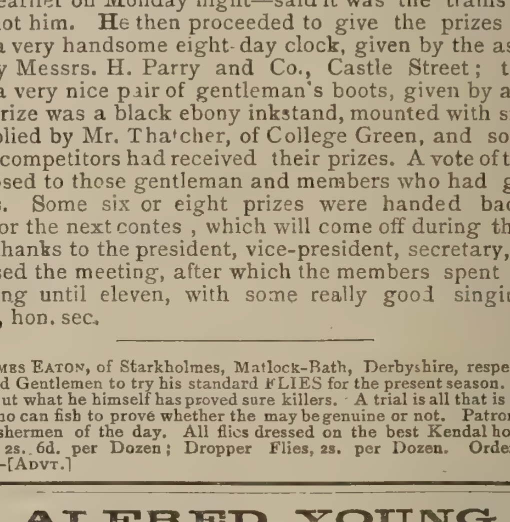

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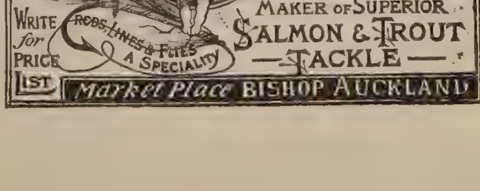

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 1882.

ROACH FISHING.

By R. B. Marston.

In my opinion the *best* bait for roach all the season through is paste, and the best paste I have ever used is that made by grating on a bread grater a piece of the crumb of a two days' old milk loaf, then adding about as much of the powder sold by Mr. King, under the name "Natural Bait," and with a little water working the whole into a smooth stiff paste, with a clean wooden spoon. The addition of Mr. King's powder, which is now kept by most tackle dealers, is that it makes a beautifully white paste, with a sweet flavour, and which has the very great advantage of resisting the action of the water for a much longer time than paste made from bread alone. Another great advantage is that though it sticks on the hook swim after swim, in a most persistent fashion, it is not tough, and does not prevent the hook from catching in the fish's mouth when striking. Paste made from new bread is extremely tough, and frequently prevents the point entering; indeed, with this paste I have seen a roach take it in its mouth, and on striking have simply pulled it out again, without touching the fish.

The objection to using stale bread paste alone, is that the water soon dissolves it, and one has to be continually re-baiting the hook. Mr. King's bait has great advantages and no disadvantages that I know of, except that when used alone it makes too sticky a paste, and in wet weather it is very difficult to roll it into a pill with the fingers, as it sticks to them like glue; this difficulty is got over entirely by using a little bread with it in the way I have suggested.

In a deep river with rapid stream, paste of any kind is too delicate bait, hence on the Thames, Trent, and similar waters, the gentle is used, not because it is a more killing bait, but because it keeps on the hook. The practice of colouring paste with vermilion powder is often resorted to, and especially by the Norfolk roach and rudd anglers. I never found it any better than the white paste myself, except on one or two occasions, when fishing in the Yare. By the way, if any of my readers are wondering where they can get some really good roach and rudd fishing, let me advise them to go to Brundall Station, just the other side of Norwich. Close to Brundall Station is a comfortable inn called Coldham Hall. Host Browne's charges are very reasonable, he provides ground bait, "no noxious compound," simply bran, rice, and barley meal. He has several steady boats, which he lets out at one shilling per day, and the angler has miles of water open to him, all of it teeming with fine roach and rudd. The rudd run large, and fight with much more spirit than roach. A "Crystal" roach hook on fine drawn gut and drawn gut line, with a float which will carry four swan shot (about fifteen inches from the hook) and a light stiff, roach rod, are the tackle I prefer. The boat is moored by means of two long poles, parallel with the current—not across it as in the Thames style—and care must be taken not to moor it in the way of the numerous wherries which come silently sailing by. Their passing is hardly noticed by the angler, and never affects the fish, for I have frequently struck them when my float was gently rising and falling on the gentle undulating motion of the water they cause; very different from the angry wave thrown up by a steamer or yacht, which will occasionally set the angler adrift or upset his craft. At Buckenham and Cantley, the next villages on the Yare below Brundall, there are also comfortable inns, and the whole of this part of the river abounds with heavy bream, roach, rudd, pike and perch.

Another splendid river for roach is the Ouse, and the angler who can get a day or two's fishing at Littleport in the autumn need not look for a better place. Our excellent correspondent there, Mr. Charlie South, will provide ground bait, and take the angler to the best swims, which are in this case fished from the bank.

I forgot to remind the angler who visits the Yare for the first time that it is a tidal river at the places mentioned, and it is absolutely necessary to plumb the depth pretty frequently, so as always to have the bait within an inch or two of the bottom. I always use two hooks, one six or eight inches above the other, as roach often swim some distance from the bottom, especially at this time of year. Doubtless many roach anglers are unacquainted with a very killing way of angling for this fish at this time of the year, and as long as the common house and blue-bottle flies are about in any quantity. It is a curious fact that this method, although described by Walton, is generally overlooked by later writers, or else not correctly described. Walton says:—"In many of the hot months, roaches may also be caught thus, take a May-fly or ant-fly, sink him with a little lead to the bottom near to the piles or posts of a bridge, or near to any posts of a weir. I mean any deep place where roaches lie quietly, and then pull your fly up very leisurely, and usually a roach will follow your bait to the very top of the water and gaze on it there, and run at it and take it, lest the fly should fly away from him."

I have usually found that when the roach seem uneasy in their movements—swimming at mid-water or near the top, along the edges of a pond or river—that they will not take a float bait well. This is the time to rove for them with the fly. The plan is an extremely simple one, and only requires a very little practice for any roach angler to become an adept at it. Like many another angler, I had read Walton's description without trying it, until one very hot August day more than twenty years ago, when fishing what was then known as Noakes's Water, on the old Lea at Tottenham, I noticed a young disciple of "Papa" Walton—as Fitzgibbon irreverently calls him—leaning against the trunk of an old willow which hung over the water. His clothes were in rags and tatters and his rod was two hazel sticks, with a ferrule between them. Not thinking he had had better sport than most of the "crack" Lea roach fishers who were fishing and had not a half-dozen decent fish between them, I took little notice of my young friend, except to wonder how he had evaded the keeper, for he evidently could not afford the shilling old Noakes demanded for the privilege of angling in his waters. Fortunately for me a half-pound roach, which had been hidden under some grass, gave a kick and revealed himself and a half-dozen other of his species to my view. I then questioned the youth, a sharp lad of about fourteen, how he had managed to secure such a fine lot of fish with such primitive tackle, when no one else could touch a fish. "I copps 'em with a fly," was his laconic answer; but seeing I did not move on as he expected, he added, "T'aint no good if yer a going to stick there." I apologised, and told him if he would go on fishing I would keep out of sight and give him a couple of roach hooks. This quite appeased him, and he showed me how he "copped 'em." Attached to his rod was a good hair line with a small roach hook at the end, on the end of the shank was a single small shot. Screwed up in a bit of paper he had some house-flies alive. One of these was carefully impaled on the hook, the angler then crept back to his tree, stretched his rod out slowly over the water, and then let his bait sink slowly to the bottom, then as slowly drew it up to the surface. I could see the fly when it got near the surface, and it was not long before it was followed by a fine roach, which followed it up and at the last moment with a rush seized it, and after a careful bit of play was landed in a shallow bay just below. The way that roach came up and swallowed the fly I have never forgotten, and often since, when I have watched them take my own fly in the same way, I have thought of my first lesson in this pretty and at times most deadly method of roach-fishing. The great secret is not to frighten the fish as it comes up, by letting him see you or any movement you make, and the rod should only be moved by the wrist, in a perpendicular direction over the bait. Roach are extremely fond of the small house-fly, a blue, bottle is not nearly so good a bait; the fish will follow it to the surface, "gaze" at it, as Walton says, then dart away and return again, repeating this process two or three times and then often refuse it. I like to find them, as they will, taking it before it reaches the surface. You just catch sight of your fly coming up, then of a dark shadow following it, and the next instant a hearty tug—for your fish hooks itself—the line being tight and moving away from it. You will not get every fish you rise, by any means, and the way the fish criticise the bait will give you a high opinion of the roach's intelligence. A light, stiff, long cane rod is best suited for this fishing, because the fish swim near the edge, and you must stand as far from it as you can. I have often caught perch in this way, they will, like the roach, follow the fly to the top but generally leave it there; if they mean business they seize before it has got a foot from the bottom. Chub and dace I have also taken in this way, but rarely. I mentioned the Yare and Ouse as fine roach rivers, this fly-sinking for roach reminds me of another place I can most strongly recommend. When trout and grayling fishing in the Derwent some years ago, chiefly on the Rowsley and Darley Dale waters, I went once or twice to Whatstandwell Bridge (a station on the Midland), and when fly-fishing I occasionally caught some very large roach, the water seemed alive with them. There is an inn at the Bridge, the "Bull," if I remember rightly, and all the long stretch of deep, dead water below the iron railway bridge would well repay our "crack" Lea or Thames roach fishers. The "locals" seem to care very little about anything but trout or grayling, and when I picked my roach out from the trout and grayling in my creel to give to some poor body or other I did not get much in the way of thanks. I caught some fish which were fully two pounds. If I went there again I should certainly bait a place and fish with paste and gentles. The fishing is free, and there are some good jack in this water.

[It will be well for intending visitors to Littleport to ascertain from Mr. South if the water is preserved or not. I fancy only the 500 members of the Cambridge and Ely Angling Association can fish there, but am not sure.—R.B.M.]

See article, "Important to Anglers," which touches this matter, and will appear next week.

A CORRECTION.

In the article "Fly-fishing near Scarborough," last week, the Inn Mr. Marston mentions that he stayed at, at Ayton, near Forge Valley Station is named the Star Inn and not the Swan. Mrs. Penrose, the landlady, will make anglers comfortable, as all will dmit who put up at the Star.

THE GREAT LONDON FISHERIES EXHIBITION AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

It is with much pleasure we learn that in addition to the large foreign exhibits already promised, other countries have recently forwarded extensive lists of the goods they intend to send, among them Italy, Morocco, Hungary, some parts of Germany, and it is very probable that the great fishery port, Boulogne-sur-mer, will also be well represented at our exhibition.

TRADE EXHIBITS AND THE 1883 GREAT INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION.

Having heard some complaints from fishing tackle manufacturers to the effect that the proposed compulsory marking of prices on goods was unfair and undesirable, and would tend to exclude good workmanship and material, and only benefit cheap goods, we informed them we did not understand that the marking was compulsory. However, to settle the question we wrote to the Secretary, and print his reply:

Sir,—I was careful to call the attention of the Executive Committee at their meeting this morning to your letter of the 11th, and to your remarks with reference to Regulation 32, and the Committee desire me to write and explain to you that the statement of prices is not compulsory, but that exhibitors are only requested to fix the prices on to their goods.—I am, etc.,

J. W. Mollet,
Secretary Great International Fisheries Exhibition.
24, Haymarket, London, S.W., 18 August, 1882.

HOOKS WHICH DO NOT RUST—A VALUABLE INVENTION.

Mr. CHARLES COURT, hook-maker, of Plymouth Works, Redditch, has sent us some samples of his make of all the various kinds of hooks. The hooks are of good temper and well made, and have an immense advantage over the ordinary hook claimed for them by Mr. Court, inasmuch, as he says, they do not rust. Some weeks ago we made the following experiment to test this matter; we took some ordinary triangle hooks and some of Mr. Court's, and placed them in a rusty garden watering can with a little water. The ordinary hooks became covered with rust in a few days, but Mr. Court's hooks a fortnight after were as bright as when they were put in. He claims even if you try them in salt water they do not rust. They are not japanned, but seem to us to be just the colour of Mr. Hall's eyed hooks—a kind of neutral olive-brown tint. As we said before, the temper of the samples sent is very good, and we intend trying some flies made on these hooks. The fly fisher often gets an unexpected ducking when wading, and then his flies are spoiled from getting wet and rusting in the fly hook; also for artificial baits these hooks will be most valuable, as the angler very rarely takes the trouble to dry each hook, when tired and putting up his tackle, to catch a train, and the consequence is, the hooks get rust eaten and unreliable. But rust is an enemy to all kinds of hooks, and also to swivels, and we hope Mr. Court may have great success in his valuable effort to give us a hook that will not rust, and that is of a capital colour and first-rate strength and temper. If he keeps these points in view, anglers will support him, unquestionably.

THE THAMES FISHERMEN AND THE NEW BYE-LAWS.

Some of the privileges which at present belong to the regularly brought-up fishermen of the river Thames will be altogether abolished under the proposed new bye-laws, and there are many good reasons why this should be so, although certain restrictions might hereafter become necessary or desirable. The first of these privileges is, "That no person shall follow the trade or business of a fisherman on the river Thames or waters of Medway unless he hath been, or shall be, brought up to the said business, or shall have served an apprenticeship to, or with, some person of the trade or business of a fisherman." In the present large increase of anglers, if this bye-law was carried out in its integrity, how very limited would be the number of fishermen to attend to the punts, and what great number of persons following the trade or business of a fisherman at the present time would be altogether thrown out of work. Under the new bye-laws any person will possess the right to set up the trade of fisherman, and will be on the same footing as those who now possessing the only right to become fishermen have not for many years been recognised as the sole occupiers of the river. Unless it become desirable at some future time in the interests of the anglers, in addition to the registration of punts, to compel such fishermen to take out a licence at a merely nominal fee, is at present an open question; but I cannot help thinking that a rule to prohibit fishermen angling by themselves or for themselves should not be deemed arbitrary. It has always been considered most objectionable to witness fishermen doing this, and I know many anglers have been driven from the river in consequence. It has not, however, been practised so much of late. The next privilege to be abolished is this: "That no person except those who have been brought up to the trade or business of a fisherman shall catch fish for sale, or sell them." Now this rule has frequently been enforced, and it is not many years since some of the "brought-up" fishermen in the tidal waters took action against one of the other fishermen who had not been "brought up" for selling some live dace as bait to an angler, and the magistrate had no other alternative than to levy a fine. There can be no doubt that both these privileges are of an arbitrary character and require either repealing altogether or to be greatly modified. These "brought up" fishermen are so few that any opposition from them in retaining their old privileges would be very feeble, and would have very little weight. There are, however, privileges belonging to a general body of fishermen that are entitled to respect, and I have been surprised at their remaining silent in the matter, and one of these is the proposed new bye-laws in reference to the taking of eels, "grig weels to be only used in the river below Richmond Bridge," thereby depriving all the fishermen above Richmond from catching eels altogether. The Thames Angling Preservation Society, supported by the recent Conference at the Cannon Street Hotel, has determined upon seeking from the Thames Conservators an alteration, and to ask them to allow the fishermen only to lay their grig weels anywhere, even in what is known as the preserves; but whether they will be able to attain this remains to be seen. The fishermen above Richmond Bridge all signed the memorial in 1860 to give up their right of netting, on condition that the Thames Angling Preservation Society sought to obtain the privilege of laying their grig weels in the preserves, but this the Conservators have hitherto refused. About three years ago, the Thames Angling Preservation Society very wisely took up the question of abolishing the laying of night lines, as it was proved beyond any question of doubt they were most destructive to the best fish in the river, and especially Thames trout. In this movement, and with opposition from some of the fishermen, the society succeeded in prohibiting the use of night lines, and a bye-law, approved by Her Majesty in Council, was passed to abolish the practice. The Thames fishermen will be able to recognise the action of the Thames Angling Preservation Society in endeavouring to secure for them a privilege they have long sought, and in seeking to obtain the alteration in the bye-law which would prevent grig weels from being laid above Richmond Bridge.

B.

ANGLING CONTEST AT LEICESTER

The third annual angling competition, promoted by the Leicester Angling Society, took place in the preserved waters on Saturday, when the large number of 128 anglers took part in the proceedings. Among those present were anglers from Barrow-on-Soar, Quorndon, Mountsorrel, Hathern, Nottingham, Syston, and other places. The weather was very unfavourable, but this did not deter a large number of spectators being present along the banks of the river Soar and canal. The swims were about twelve yards apart, and occupied a distance of about two miles. This year's competition is the most successful held by the Society. The first year there were 110 competitors, the second 117, and this year there was a further increase of eleven rodsters. The following is a list of takes and prizes:—Greasley, 1 lb. 6½ oz., first prize of £5, and the President's Prize of a watch, for the largest perch; Brown, 15½ oz., second prize, 30s.; Weatherhead, 9 oz., third prize, 15s.; J. Shelton, 7¼ oz.; fourth, 10s. The other prizes were as follows:—H. Brown, 6¾ oz., half dozen knives and forks, and a carver and fork; C. Clarke, 6¾ oz., a fishing basket; Dakins, 6½ oz., fishing rod; Mee, 6 oz., fishing rod; Bee, 5¾ oz., clock; F. Towe, 5¾ oz., cruet stand; A. Rudkin, 5½ oz, "The Complete Angler;" J. Fisher, 5¼ oz., "The Anglers' Souvenir;" R. Blount, 5 oz., pair of leggings; G. Hartshorn, 4¾ oz., silver mounted pipe; Hubbard, 4½ oz., reel; Burgess, 4½ oz., copper kettle; G. Fisher, 4½ oz., reel; Breedon, 4¼ oz., reel; Taylor, 4¼ oz., fisherman's knife; G. Lugdam, 4 oz., camp stool; Atherstone, 3¾ oz., hat; Roberts, 3¾ oz., case of fishing tackle; G. Sanderson, 3½ oz., fishing bag; Rudkin, 3½ oz., case of fishing tackle; J. Foreman, 3½ oz, 5s.; Freer, 3¼ oz., pike line; Fowler, 3¼ oz., walking stick; Braker, 2¾ oz, pike line; Tollington, 2¾ oz., roach line; G. Smith, 2¾ oz., roach line. Blurton, J. Kirby, Ridgway, Staples, and T. Blockley, each having caught the same weight, viz., 2½ oz., balloted for the prize, a roach line, which fell to Ridgway. The arrangements for the competition were satisfactory. The distribution of the prizes took place at the Old Town Hall Buildings on Monday evening, when Alderman Barfoot handed the rewards to the various anglers.

NORWICH CENTRAL FISHING CLUB.

The members of this club held their annual fishing match on Monday, the Rockland Reach of the river Yare being the place of contest. The competitors were supplied with boats from the yachting and boating stations of Messrs. Flowers and Co., at Brundall, and the weather being fine a very enjoyable time was passed. The wind, however, blew strongly throughout the day, and it was with difficulty that the craft could be kept at their moorings. Heavy tackle only was used, and the catches were consequently not large, for at times it was next to impossible to discern the float. It is worthy of note that the large pleasure steamers now running between Yarmouth and Norwich play sad havoc with the fishing, and we are informed that on Monday hardly a capture was recorded after the passing of one of these vessels. The match commenced at 10.30 a.m., and terminated at 4.30, and on returning to Brundall the members weighed in, and the winners stood in the following order:—1st, C. Mackie; 2nd, W. Hinds; 3rd J. Lincoln; 4th, J. J. Rice; 5th, W. F. Rackham; 6th, Burton; 7th, J. Barnes; 8th, J. Young; 9th, J. W. Whorton; 10th, E. Crisp, 11th, —. Wilson; 12th, W. Green; 13th, J. Sinclaire; and 14th, G; Chettleburgh. In the evening a substantial supper was partaken o. at the club house, the Oak Shades, Lower Goat Lane, when there was large attendance of members and visitors. The president, Mr. Alderman S. Newman, presided, and was faced in the vice-chair by the chairman of the association, Mr. Councillor Thirkettle. The tables having been cleared, the loyal toasts were drunk, and the prizes were then presented to the successful competitors. Mr. C. Mackie, who took the first prize, was also awarded the president's silver challenge cup, which now becomes his property, it having been won by him two years in succession. A presentation was made to Mr. Whorton, the hon. sec., in recognition of the valuable services he had rendered the society, and which, as the president observed, he richly deserved. Mr. Whorton responded, and thanked the members for this unexpected mark of their esteem. Numerous toasts were given and responded to, and Mr. T. Oldfield (of Chesterfield), in acknowledging "The Visitors," made some very comical remarks on the difference of fly and bottom fishing. Vocal contributions were given by Messrs. P Carman, J. Lincoln, J. Barnes, G. W. Whorton, &c., and the proceedings were brought to a close at midnight.

THE RIVER WENSUM PRESERVATION SOCIETY.

A public meeting of persons desirous of carrying out this object, agreeably with the resolutions of a public meeting held in the Corn Hall on the 20th ult., was held also in the Corn Hall on Wednesday forenoon, when Captain Robert N. Hamond, R.N., presided. This movement, which contemplates the preservation and proper cultivation of the fish abounding in the river, has secured the patronage of the Earl of Leicester, K.G., the Marquis Townshend, Lord Hastings, Sir W. Jones, Bart., E. Birkbeck, Esq., M.P., Captain Robert N. Hamond, R.N., Anthony Hamond, Esq., H. J. Lee Warner, Esq., H. J. Dugmore, Esq., J.P., C. A. Hamond, Esq. Mr. C. Horsley, jun., the hon. secretary, read a report of the proceedings of the committee appointed at the previous meeting to the following effect:—

In presenting the report according to the resolution proposed by the Rev. R. Rackham, and seconded by Mr. Southwood, at a meeting held July 20th, your committee are pleased to state that up to the present date the society has met with good success. The society has had verbal promises of the water from the back of Ryburgh mill to Sculthorpe mill, a distance exceeding six miles, but owing to a little difficulty in the appointment of a solicitor, these gifts have not yet been transferred by deed. Your committee are, however, glad to say that a solicitor has now been appointed, and these rights of fishing will be transferred to the society as soon as practicable. The work of the committee, since the last public meeting held in the hall, has consisted chiefly in arranging the rules and bye-laws of the society, which will be read to this meeting. The society now consists of twenty members, not including the officers or the committee. It has been thought advisable not to press for the addition of members until after this meeting. As no subscriptions have yet been received nor accepted by the society, there is at present no financial statement to submit to the meeting. The following gentlemen have been selected as officers of the society, viz.:—Capt. R. N. Hamond, R.N., president; C. A. Hamond, Esq., vice-president; Mr. W. B. Cowles, treasurer; Mr. C. H. Horsley, hon. secretary; M. B. Bircham, Esq., hon. solicitor. Committee—The Revs. E. W. Dowell and R. Rackham, A. Digby, Esq., F. Coomber, Esq., F. Atkinson, Esq., Messrs. E. W. Southwold, T. Charlton, M. W. Hodgett, W. Tuthill, and J. Tilson.

The rules prepared by the committee were read to the meeting by the Hon. Secretary, and approved, and the name of T. Goggs, Esq., was, by kind permission, added to the committee. A list of members was also presented by the secretary, which included several gentlemen residing at a distance, and several gentlemen present gave in their names in addition. Several persons spoke freely on various topics connected with the movement, and the chairman stated that gentlemen paying their subscriptions at once will be entitled to fish until January, 1884, when all subscriptions will be again due; and he hoped all the members would assist in clearing the river of weeds, &c., an operation which would shortly be commenced. The Hon. Secretary said he intends, at his own expense, to hatch from 10,000 to 50,000 eggs, if possible, to assist in stocking the river; and the meeting separated with the prospect of good fishing in course of time, and with the understanding that the society is now legally established.—*Norwich Mercury*.

CAMBRIDGE FRIENDLY ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Wednesday, the 23rd inst., Mr. Carvell had a very nice tray of roach and perch, weighing 13 lb. 10 oz., the largest perch 1 lb. 15¼ oz.. the largest roach 1 lb. 13¼ oz. Mr. C. very kindly presented the latter to the society, and it has been sent to Mr. Cooper for preservation, and will be a welcome addition to our already numerous collection of specimen fish.—W. Sutton, sec.

Aug. 24.

George James Eaton, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether the may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[Advt.]

SHREWSBURY ANGLERS.

We are glad to see from a long report in the *Shropshire Guardian* of August 19, that the Shrewsbury anglers are making great efforts to get the river Severn out of the hands of the poachers. The fishing in the Severn near Shrewsbury will under proper protection, improve incredibly, and in a very short time become amongst the very best in England. We may point out to the corporation that if the river were protected, it would soon be worth some thousands a year to Shrewsbury, in increased visitors, in the shape of anglers.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS

By L. B.

Though the clubs are increasing in numbers almost every week it is a remark frequently made, and the truth of which is admitted on all hands, that the attendance at return visits on almost every occasion show a decided decrease upon what it used to be in years gone by, and the causes of this are not far to seek. The visits are far too numerous; we have first the "West Central Association of London and Provincial Angling Societies," who count three distinct sets of district visits, taking in such societies as those situated at Acton and Ealing, Penge, Richmond, etc. Next, the "East Central United London Anglers' Committee" have two distinct sets; first, the local visits, next, the general visits, including all clubs enrolled with the said association, while the Central Association have a district visiting list of their own.

Add to this the complimentary—quite independent of the organised visits—and the benefits which are still held from time to time, and have not a little on common with visits, and it will be readily understood that with such an arrangement it is not at all unfrequent for two, three, or even more such meetings to take place on the same evening, while one is held in some part of London almost every night in the year, Saturdays and Sundays excepted. It must not be thought that I am running down the system of clubs visiting one another. On the contrary, I believe that at a time when we did not possess the amount of organisation we do at present it gave us splendid opportunities of exchanging opinions and very often led to some good practical decision being arrived at, but what we want is the present arrangement revised. The three associations are now working harmoniously on several important matters, why not unitedly grasp this question. I do not wish to be charged with being grandmotherly, but I do not hesitate to say the question is a far more serious one than at first glance appears. The associations organise these visits, and in several cases undertake the entire management of them, even to issuing the notices, calling the roll to ascertain clubs present, and making reports in the press of such meetings; and there is no doubt they, through their accredited officers, use their best endeavours to induce anglers to be present, so that if the present system has grown to be, or is likely to become, an evil, the associations for their own sake must look to it, lest they be charged by Mrs. Piscator—often a pale-faced, hard little body, who, as she truly says, has all her "work cut out to keep the little ones respectable, the home tidy, and make ends meet"—with ——. But no, I won't go on; I have touched upon this subject good-humouredly, though from the sincerest of motives, and I hope it will not be deemed unworthy of the serious consideration of the powers that be.

The West Central Association are to be congratulated upon their handsome donation of £5 5s. to the Thames Angling Preservation Society towards defraying the expenses of the recent meeting at the Cannon Street Hotel. If the Upper Thames Preservation Societies, and the East and Central Associations, all funded bodies, stump up in equal proportion, there ought, unless the expenses were unusually heavy, to be something over for the general fund.

Some good roach and dace, together with a few chub and a trout or two, have recently been taken at Ware, in Hertfordshire.

I was away on a fortnight's fishing trip, and was not able to be present at the conference at the Cannon Street Hotel, but right glad was I to see it was such a splendid success. One or two things, however, there were which somewhat astonishsd me, and to my certain knowledge have caused no little comment in club circles. Mr. P. Geen's opposing the Richmond Piscatorial delegate's proposition "that the Conservators be petitioned to free the Thames from Richmond to Kew Bridge from the chartered netsmen," for instance, is most inexplicable. Probably my able colleague can give some very good grounds for his opposition other than "that the present time was not opportune." I have the greatest reliance on Mr. Geen's judgment and discretion, but hope that in justice to thousands who were not able to be present at the meeting, yet take the deepest interest in this question, Mr. Geen will explain the course he adopted. At present I must confess to sharing a very generally expressed sympathy with the delegates from the Richmond Piscatorials.

I quite agree with our Editor that the restriction upon the number of rods is ridiculous in the extreme, though, as a fact, the angler who uses more than one rod practically handicaps himself.

Extending the close time for jack until the first day of August is a great mistake, and is practically extending protection to one kind of fish, and that a ravenous cannibal, at the expense of others. Moreover, and this is the strongest argument, it is opposed to the resolution passed at a recent meeting at the Society of Arts, where the necessary amendments to "The Freshwater Fisheries Act" were considered and agreed to. I cannot, however, go the whole length with Mr. Editor, and do not think many true anglers would care to see jack in the spawning beds or nearly so taken during the first fortnight in March—when an extended close time for jack on the Thames is proposed. We always have the trailers brought up. Would not a better way be to prohibit trailing altogether, as is done on several waters near London. At all events such an attempt would be better worthy of support than the would be restriction on the use of rods.

The following amusing paragraph occurs in the current number of "Chambers' Journal."

"The electric light has found a novel employment in the hands of some ingenious Frenchmen, who have lately by permission of their government been experimenting with it as a lure for fish. The lamp was contained in an air-tight globe, and was lowered at night into the sea, with the result that thousands of fish of all sizes were attracted to its brilliant light. Boats furnished with nets gradually closed in upon the living mass and made a great haul of fish. We hardly know whether this mode of enticing the finny tribes will be considered quite legitimate by the angling and fishing fraternities."

Haslett, of Chertsey, has been doing well among the gudgeon, averaging from 10 to 13 dozens per day, with here and there a bream and barbel or two. His report for this week has not yet come to hand, but I saw Mr. J. P. Wheatstone, on Monday evening, who had that day, fishing with Haslett, succeeded in taking 13 bream, weighing 33 lb. odd ounces.

The following notice has been posted by the Fisheries Society, and a number of smaller handbills containing the same matter are to be printed and distributed among members of angling societies and others.

NOTICE.

The whole of this river from Weybridge to Purford Lock having been rented as a fishery by the United London Angling Associations Fishery Society, this is to give notice, that all netting, night lines, or any other mode of taking fish other than by fair rod and line angling, will be dealt with as the law directs. The close time (during which no fish can be taken) as laid down by the Freshwater Fisheries Act, 1878, 41 and 42 Vic. ch. 39, section 11, and sub-sections 1 and 2; and observed on the River Thames, viz., from 15th March to 15th June, both days inclusive, will be strictly enforced.

Undersized Fish.—No fish under the following sizes can be retained: jack, 18 inches; chub, 10 inches; bream, 9 inches; carp, 8 inches; tench, 8 inches; perch, 7 inches; roach, 7 inches; dace, 6 inches; rudd, 6 inches; gudgeon, 4 inches. All to measure extreme length.

A reward of not less than one guinea will be paid to any person giving such information as shall lead to the conviction for any offence of the above nature. All communications to be addressed to the hon. sec., T. Hoole, 7, King's Road, Mortlake, S.W.

N.B.—The society's authorised agents have directions to prohibit the fishery to any person damaging the banks, using foul language, or otherwise misbehaving.

CLUB REPORTS.

AMICABLE BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Medcalf, 6 lb. 2 oz. roach and bream; Mr. Sherry, 2 lb. 3 oz.; Mr. Howlett, 4 lb. 14 oz.; Mr. Moir, 8 lb. 2 oz.; Mr. Hunt, 1 lb.; Mr. Pealey, 10 oz.; Mr. Larkman, 12 lb. 2½ oz.; Mr. Partrick, roach, chub, and perch, 8 lb. 12 oz.; Mr. Brearley, and Mr. Carrington, bream. A pegged down match will take place on Sunday, September 3rd, at Weybridge, for seven prizes, to start from the Waterloo Station at 8.45 a.m.—Worledge.

August 20.

ANCHOR AND HOPE.

Several of our members were out on Sunday, the 20th inst., and succeeded in filling our trays with some very good fish. Mr. J. Bowling, bream, 5 lb. 4¾ oz.; Mr. H. Scott, bream and roach, 5 lb. 7¾ oz. (one roach scaling 1 lb 7¾ oz.); Mr. R. Smith, bream, 11 lb. 7 oz., two bream scaling 7 lb., and sent to Mr. Miller, East Street, Walworth, to be preserved.—D. Davis, sec.

BRISTOL GOLDEN CARP ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

Our annual general meeting took place at the White Hart Hotel, on Monday, August 14, 1882, for the purpose of auditing the accounts, electing officers, &c. The minutes having been read up and passed, the auditors (Messrs. Inch and Cornish) gave their report as to finance, &c.; they were pleased to say that the accounts were very satisfactory, and that a handsome balance was left in the treasurer's hands. The next business was the election of officers, which were as follows: J. Hadden, president; H. Inch, vice-president; W. G. Leigh, treasurer; Lewis Wride, secretary; Messrs. Cornish and Barber, auditors. Committee of management: Messrs. F. C. Morris, F. H. Julion, J. F. Parsons, J. A. Everett, H. Powell, G. Pain, J. Inch, F. David, W. J. Harrison and W. Sparks. A slight alteration having been made in the rules, the members then proposed a vote of thanks to the presiding officers, and some of the members expressed regret that Mr. Morris, our late president, could not be with us that evening; they, however, elected him on the committee in his absence. The whole of the business having been gone through, the members retired at a reasonable hour.—Lewis Wride, sec.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed in on the 20th: Messrs. Chambers and Warden, a good show of bream, roach, and perch from Amberley; Mr. Castell, bream from the canal at Brentford; and Messrs. Nitz, Pratt, and Mortimer, bream from the Welsh Harp.—Cas.

CRITCHFIELD ANGLING SOCIETY.

The president of the above society, Mr. A. C. Critchfield, got amongst the finny tribe last week, sending up from his fishing quarters on Tuesday, the 8th inst., a basket of roach and dace, weighing 17½ lb., viz.; 19 roach, weighing 15 lb. (heaviest fish, 1¼ lb.); and 6 dace, weighing 2½ lb. (heaviest fish, ½ lb.); and on Thursday evening, the 10th inst., appearing in person with another take of 16 lb. 10 oz., viz., 19 roach, weighing 15 lb. 5 oz. (the heaviest fish, 1¼ lb.) 4 others, weighing 1 lb. 1 oz., and 1 lb. 2 oz., 1 lb. 3 oz., and 1 lb. 3½ oz. respectively, several more turning the scale at 1 lb.; also 3 dace, weighing 1 lb. 5 oz. (heaviest ½ lb.); altogether making as pretty a show of really good fish, as the most ambitious angler could desire. Mr. C. Hayward also secured 6 good perch, weighing nearly 6 lb.—J. F.

Aug. 12.

CROWN PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The members of the above society fished at Amberley last Sunday for three valuable prizes, and were won by the following gentlemen:—Mr. Wright first, with bream, largest fish weighing 2 lb. 2 oz.; Mr. T. Welsh second, with roach and dace; Mr. L. Gorsuch third, with roach; and Mr. Parker close up with perch; Mr. Harris dace. Mr. Neagus had a nice show of roach from the Stort, largest fish weighing 1 lb. A special general meeting will take place on Thursday, August 31st, and the members are particularly requested to attend by 9 o'clock sharp.—W. H. Burwash, jun., sec.

August 22.

EDMONTON AND TOTTENHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. W. M. Jones, a member of the above, on Wednesday last had a fine show of roach, dace, and bream.—W. G. Gardner, sec.

August 14, 1882.

GOOD INTENT SOCIETY.

There was a fair show of fish brought in on Sunday evening last: Messrs. Maybury, roach; Haines, roach, dace, and perch; Philpott, jack; Murphy, trout and dace, and many other members had fish. Our annual dinner took place last Monday at the Rye House. About seventy sat down to a most excellent dinner served in Mr. Teale's best style, and a hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Teale for the way in which it was carried out. We had for our guests, Mr. Ghurney, Mr. Morgan, Mr. T. Crumplen, whose healths were most enthusiastically drunk and most ably responded to, and an enjoyable afternoon was spent. Our distribution of prizes will take place on Tuesday, September 12. There will be a special meeting on Tuesday next, 29th inst., when business of importance will be brought on, hoping all members will attend. —R. Murphy.

August 24, 1882.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The weekly meeting of this society was held, as usual, on Thursday last; C. S. Bentley, Esq., in the chair. Mr. Crumplen (secretary) read the minutes and correspondence, including a report from Goring—"water very clear, and few fish taken during the past week." The magnificent perch recently caught and presented to the society by their valued member Mr. Brett were now shown for the first time, and on the motion of Dr. Lloyd, seconded by Captain Alfred, a unanimous vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Brett for this very valuable addition to the society's museum. Mr. Jardine expressed his admiration of this case, one of the finest, if not the finest, he had ever seen, but it is unfortunate that one of the fish is under the minimum weight laid down by the exhibition authorities, so that, unless common sense prevails, they cannot be admitted into the 1883 exhibition; and, in addition, what is said to be the finest case of pike in the world, possessed by the society, would also have been excluded had the minimum weight of 20 lb., as first proposed, been adhered to. Dr. Brunton produced a very interesting line, with which he expressed his intention of taking a trout or two very quickly. It was made by Fiji Islanders entirely from human hair, and had been tested very favourably against the ordinary eight-plait line. This specimen was believed to be fifty years old, and was understood to be the work of several generations, one member of a family commencing and others completing. The memorial to the Thames Conservancy having been duly signed by the chairman and secretary, strong hopes were expressed that the new Thames bye-laws might be made to harmonise with the unanimous wishes of the entire angling world. Mr. George Austin and Mr. McDowall had weighed in bream and tench, and Dr. Brunton trout during the week. Mr. Crumplen mentioned that he had been in correspondence with the Rev. Hayman Cummings, and that gentleman had kindly undertaken to give a paper on "Trout Culture" at the Society's present rooms on Thursday, September 7, when a large attendance is anticipated. The proceedings closed with a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Bentley for his able occupancy of the chair.

HEARTS OF OAK ANGLING SOCIETY.

Good trays of fish last Sunday, among the best being:—Mr. A. Fish, 8 lb. bream; Mr. B. Cox, 6 lb. roach; Mr. T. Carrington, 5 lb. roach; Messrs. J. Holt. C. Walford, and H. Cook showed in roach and bream; and Mr. C. Cuthbert had a nice jack.—C. J. Millie, sec.

Aug. 23.

HIGHBURY ANGLING SOCIETY.

We were again favoured on the 20th inst. with a good show of bream, roach, perch, dace, and tench, the heaviest of the latter fish scaling a little over 3 lb. Members are earnestly requested to attend a special meeting of the society on Wednesday evening next, the 30th inst., at nine o'clock, in order to complete arrangements for the annual dinner at Mr. Lyndsell's, the Pied Bull, St. Margarets, on Saturday, September 2, on which occasion Mr. Sampson will preside, supported in the vice-chair by Mr. E. Wheatley.—Jas. Edward Wheatley, sec.

IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

There was a fair show on last Sunday evening. Mr. G. Bliss had a tray of very fine roach, which weighed close upon 7 lb. Mr. W. Mecham had roach and dace. Mr. E. W. Turner had a tray of very nice bream.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our trays were well filled on Sunday with a most splendid assortment of fish of all kinds, which highly delighted all our members and friends. Mr. G. Townsend headed the list with a first-class lot of bream. Mr. R. Hopton came next, also with bream; Mr. Scott followed with some fine roach, dace, chub, and perch; Mr. Hurwood had roach, dace, and gudgeon; Mr. Humphreys had dace, perch, and gudgeon; H. Moore, bream and a nice jack; Mr. Letch, bream; W. H. Evans, chub, roach, and perch; and A. Evans, roach, which made one of the best shows of fish in the club ever seen.—H. Moore, sec.

August 24.

NORTH WESTERN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. North weighed-in 10 lb. of nice roach one day in the week—this is the only take worth noticing that we have had. On Sunday, September 3, we fish for eight prizes at Boxmoor, All members wishing to go by road are requested to attend the club on Thursday next, the 31st inst.—H.

August 23.

ORIGINAL ALEXANDRA SOCIETY OF ANGLERS.

We fished a pegged-down match at Ponder's End on Sunday last, Mr. Blackledge taking the prize with a fine show of roach. The weather being so unfavourable, several of our members returned with blanks. The next eastern district visit will be paid to this club on Tuesday, August 29th, 1882.—E. Dymond, sec.

Aug. 21.

PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The annual bream competition came off on Monday last. There was an attendance of about thirty members in the evening at Ashley's Hotel, Covent Garden, to witness the return of the competitors. Mr. J. Foreman ably presided on the occasion, and awarded the prizes as follows:—The first prize of two guineas to Mr. C. P. Wheatstone, with thirteen bream weighing 33½ lb, from Chertsey; and the second prize of one guinea to Mr. M. H. Blarney, with thirteen bream weighing 22 lb. 15 oz., from Shepperton. Mr. Blarney also weighed in two barbel of 3 lb. each, and Mr. James Lander one bream of 4 lb. 5 oz. from the Ouse. The roach competition is fixed for September 4, from public waters.—B.

QUEEN'S ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our members found a few fish although the water was so lumpy. Messrs. Pearce, 19 lb. 15 oz., bream; L. Walford, 9 lb. 10 oz.; F. Barrett, 5 lb. 14 oz.; Morgan, 2 lb. 5½ oz.; Koopman, 3 lb. 13½ oz.; Barrett, 15 oz. All the above were bream.—L. Walford, sec.

August 21.

STANLEY ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

Notwithstanding the fact that many of our members have, this last week, been far and near in quest of sport, we regret our inability to record any great successes, as one and all complain of the excessive brightness of the rivers. The best fish shown in was undoubtedly a roach taken by Mr. H. Rose, scaling 1 lb. 7½ oz., the fish having come a long journey had lost weight. Our indefatigable president had a nice little show of fish, 5 lb. 9 oz., and Mr. Pistrucci roach.—G. E. Walker.

THE STOKE NEWINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Very little doing, although the members have been very active during the past few days. Messrs. Davis, Wilkinson, Watkyns and Gretton fishing the river Medway, took a variety of fish, consisting of jack, perch, roach, bream, flounders and eels, but all small. On the 20th inst., some nice roach were exhibited, Mr. J. Gretton having five fish weighing 3 lb. 2 oz.; Mr. W. Read, a fish, weighing 1 lb. 1¾ oz.; Mr. Whitmore also had 2 lb. 6 oz. roach; Mr. Charles Martin, 15 oz. dace. Messrs. Tomkins and Lewis have been trying the Thames, but without success.—T. Gretton.

Aug. 21.

UNITED BROTHERS, DEPTFORD.

Our trays were well filled on Sunday, the 20th inst. W. Tyler had 32 lb. 14½ oz. of splendid bream; J. Eller, 17 lb. of bream from the Tunbridge Association waters (below the town); F. Belton, roach from the Medway. Several of our members went to Pulborough on Sunday, the 20th, to fish for a series of prizes. The winners were as follows.—H. Tyler first, G. Belton second, F. Watts third, J. Currans fourth. Others also weighed in fish.—W. Belton.

August 23.

WALTONIANS.

On the 20th Mr. Thos. Watkins had a fine barbel of 6 lb. 4¼ oz. and 4 lb. 4 oz. of roach and dace; Mr. Giles, 3 lb. 3¼ oz., of roach; Messrs. Togwell and Horsford also weighed in fish.—A. J. Marriott.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

On the 18th, Messrs. Delehaye, pere et fils, visited Feltham. They managed to get among some roach and dace. On the 19th, Mr. Weatherhead, returned from Heigham Sound, bringing home with him some very good specimens of Heigham rudd, roach, and bream, several of which, Mr. J. Lancaster, of Camden Town, has received for preservation. The result of the competition that took place on the 21st is as follows:—Mr. C. Bansback, roach, from Ponder's End, won the first prize, a dressing case given by Mr. Raynor; M. Piolaine took second, a musical instrument, and Mr. R. Cain, the third, 10s. 6d. Members are requested to attend on Thursday next, to discuss as to where and how, the prizes given for competition for Sept. 10, 1882 shall be competed for.—Pixie.

AMERICA AND THE FISHERIES EXHIBITION.

The United States Government is building at Wilmington, Del., a splendid iron steam-ship, which will cost nearly 200,000 dollars, and especially constructed for the Fish Commission to gather and preserve sea fish. The vessel (says an American journal) will be sent to London with millions of specimens of small fish and sea bugs, to be exhibited at the great fish exposition to be held there in May. She is to be christened the Albatross. She is 200 feet long, 27 feet 6 inches beam, 15 feet 9 inches depth of hold, and of 800 tons burthen. She will be supplied with a deep sea dredge with eight or ten miles of wire rope, for the purpose of dredging up specimens of animal life which may be found miles below the surface of the ocean. Past Assistant Engineer G. W. Baird, is superintending the construction of the ship, which is being built at Pusey, Jones, and Company's yards, and will be launched in about four months. The Albatross will be under the direction of United States Fish Commissioner Baird, who will go with her to the London Exposition, which will be the greatest fish show ever seen in the world. There will be on exhibition there every kind of animal known to exist in the seas and rivers of the world, from a whale to a tadpole. All the leading fish culturists and dealers in the United States will send exhibits, which, in addition to the millions of preserved exhibits sent by the Government, will probably make our display the most complete of any on exhibition. The largest number of the Government exhibits will be microscopic specimens, but thousands of curious and valuable specimens preserved in liquor, and now at the Smithsonian Institution, will be put on board the Albatross and sent over.

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RIVER REPORTS

MID-THAMES.

"Amongst the views of many, mine."
—Shakespeare.

Very little has been attempted, and still less done, in the angling line on the Thames during the past week. This has been in consequence of the extreme clearness of the water, gudgeon being easily discernible when the sun shone, at a depth of eight feet. Roach of any size have been most difficult to obtain, three or four possibly coming to hook in a swim, and then the angler might watch and pray for an hour without so much as a nibble, a state of things enough to make any roachist wet his gut in *pongelo* and shed a tear in despair. The fact is, the big roach, and indeed some other fish, are in the weeds—and are indulging in a *dolce far niente*, and smoking the calumet of peace in their greenhouse. Heavy rain visited the valley of the Thames on Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning, and I opine this influx of juice will play the deuce with the present repose of the fish, and make them inclined to appreciate the wrigly tail of a lob, or the gentle twirl of a maggot. Between Pangbourne and Caversham on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday a gentleman landed 27 chub, all over 1 lb., best fish being 2 lb. 3 oz., the smaller fish by the dozens being returned. At Medmenham Tom Street, with three patrons, has been getting some 6 dozen roach and perch on two or three occasions, and at Hurley Messrs. Bryan and Brooksbank have been paying their attentions to roach, gudgeon, and perch, and been accepted by many dozens, the best catch being a beauty in the perch family of 1½ lb. Mr. Hughes, an artistic angler, also in the Hurley waters, has been executing some "pictures" of chub, the best fish, done by scale yesterday, going 3 lb. Marlow, Cookham, and Maidenhead news is very meagre, but from Windsor comes an item of interest, Mr. G. H. Stevens, of Barnes, whilst fishing for barbel with worms, having captured a splendid trout weighing 11½ lb. The fish was taken in Old Windsor weir, and I understand Mr. S. has recently taken four other trout of some 3 lb. each. Thursday Evening.—Heavy showers have been falling all the day, which will materially assist in taking the brightness from the river, and fair all-round sport may confidently be anticipated during the ensuing week. Wind, a strong south-west.—Marlow Buzz.

Ancholme District.

Bream-fishing has been very successful during the past week. One man had ten fish weighing between 3 and 4 lb. each. Another specimen was caught which was nearly 5 lb. The waters are still very fine and clear. But little has been done on the trout streams, which are very low. I hope to try some southern waters this week.—Thomas Ford.

Ballynahinch.

For this last week angling has improved well, as will be seen by the undermentioned report:—On the 16th, Mr. Deverell, 24 trout; same date, Colonel Hay, 1 salmon, 6 lb., and 7 trout; Messrs. Moore and Osborne, 1 salmon, 8 lb., and 15 trout; Mr, Waddle, 12 trout; Mr. Bury, 1 salmon and 5 trout. On the 17th, Mr. Deverell, 24 trout; Colonel Hay, 16 trout; Messrs. Moore and Osborne, 13 trout; Mr. Waddle, 18 trout; Mr. Bury, 16 trout. On the 18th, Colonel Hay, 13 trout; same date, Messrs. Moore and Osborne, 30 trout; Mr. Waddle, 18 trout; Mr. Bury, 21 trout. On the 19th, Mr. Deverell, 36 trout; same date, Colonal Hay, 7 trout; Messrs. Moore and Osborne, 1 salmon, 8 lb., and 13 trout; Mr. Waddle, 12 trout; Mr. Bury, 20 trout. On the 21st, Mr. Deverell, 2 salmon, 7 and 8½ lb.; same date, Colonel Hay, 6 trout; Mr. Parkinson, 1 trout; Mr. Waddle, 6 trout; Messrs. Nevill and Grissel, 16 trout; Mr. Bury, 9 trout. On the 22nd, Mr. Deverell, 7 trout; Colonel Hay, 12 trout; Mr. Parkinson, 30 trout; Mr. Waddle, 1 salmon, 6 lb., and 4 trout; Messrs. Nevill and Grissel, 18 trout; Mr. Bury, 17 trout.—Walter Blackadder.

Coquet (Welden Bridge).

I have had nothing to report up to the 22nd. Then the Rev. Mr. Oliver killed 2 doz., Mr. Abbit 1½ doz. last night, and there was a change of weather, the rain came on at night and went on for 16 hours. The river was down this morning, which will make a slight improvement in the fishing.—A. Glass.

Dove.

Rough winds have prevailed all this week, and anglers have had all their work cut out to keep a line in the water. Fishing has, in fact, been miserable work in consequence, though our river is in first-rate order, and all kinds of fish have been biting freely. Trout and grayling have risen best in the middle of the day when the sea has been out. The nights have now turned much colder, and there is very little rise on in the evening. There have been several nice baskets of trout and grayling taken, running from five to seven brace. The wasp-graub has been "fetching" roach, dace and chub best, while I think barbel, bream and perch have preferred the worm. Large quantities of coarse fish were captured last Saturday and Monday with the baits named. Eels are running well, and some nice pike have fallen victims with spinning baits. Weather still very showery and unsettled.—The Splodger.

Exe (Exeter).

Angling is now in full fling, both in the river and canal, amongst the perch, dace, and roach, principally the latter, with the addition of a few tench. On the whole many were very successful in their catches, although very many of these anglers understand very little of the art of angling and only succeed when the fish are well on the feed, or are inclined to be voracious. To catch them, or even attempt to do so, on Tuesday or Wednesday last, when it was blowing nearly a gale, was evidently not their *forte*, and practically speaking it was as well the sport was suspended. But in spite of the boisterous elements many anglers caught fish, and some a good many. I saw one who had a fine roach trying to land it, at the same time holding like grim death to the quay-chains to save being himself blown into the river. Salmon are falling off in numbers, but peel are plentiful and giving good sport upwards. Trout are really numerous. In fact, I was told this morning by an old resident and thorough angler, that there are more trout in the tidal portion of the river than there has been during the past ten years, and from the numbers grassed during the past season fully endorses his views. Eels, as a rule, are remarkably small, but strange to say several have been taken in various parts of the river and canal during the week weighing from 2 lb. upwards; these are worth taking, but the small ones are very provoking to the bottom fisherman. The flies most taking are the coch-y-bonddhu, red palmer. The lion and autumn brown mackerel are not plentiful, but they are larger than usual. "Shad" have come in goodly quantities, and very fine herrings scarce. Lobsters, crabs, and prawn very plentiful, the latter fetching three shillings per hundred. Whitebait plentiful, but rather large.—Frank Gosden.

Exe (Tiverton).

The water is just clearing from the recent storms, which raised it only a little. There has been very little sport during the past week. A few trout have been taken with the blue upright, half stone, black ant, and red palmer. Three salmon have fallen victims to the fly since my last report.—Wm. Mudford.

Ilfracombe.

The weather for the past fortnight has been very changeable. Friday 11th, several boats out with their fishing parties, their catches of fish averaged about 40 lb. each boat, of bream, whiting pout, and tamlin cod. Saturday, weather very oppressive, with strong lightning. Sunday, very showery, about 20 crabs was taken from the holes at Beacon's Point, weighing from 2 to 3 lb. each. Monday and Tuesday, blowing a gale from the West, accompanied with heavy showers, no boats out. Wednesday, W.N.W., with heavy sea. Thursday, moderating a little, a porpoise and badger washed ashore at Woolacomb sands, and large shoals of bass are seen play in shore at Morthoe Bay. The wind has been blowing from W. to W.N.W., with too much sea for parties to attempt the Bay. Some fine prawns have been taken from the pools between Woolacomb and Mort Stone. Also some large lob sters and crabs. Some good strings of fish have been caught from the jetty with rod and hand lines. Yesterday a few boats with their fishing parties ventured off the harbour and caught from 20 to 30 lb. each boat of whiting pout and pollack. Weather still squally.—E. Comer.

Lea (Ware).

Since my last report, excellent sport has been had in this district, principally among the roach and dace, although some number of jack have been obtained, not of any great weight, unless I except a fine fellow of 22 lb., taken at Stanstead, by Mr. Taylor. This fish had been frequently seen during the season, and Mr. T. deserves credit for his persistency in his many attempts to lure this fine fish, and has triumphantly been rewarded, as it seldom happens to the luck of an angler in getting a jack of this weight in the Lea. On Sunday last, Mr. Chart, of the Reform, had a nice show of roach, while several other gentlemen were equally successful; the takes, with few exceptions, varying from 6 to 10 lb. The rain we have had and still are having are bringing the fish on the feed. I saw a good take of dace by Mr. Hall, while a number of small jack are being taken daily. I myself have secured several during the week, varying in weight, but none have exceeded 5 lb. The water is now nothing like so bright as last week, but we still want a great deal of rain to make it in really good condition. —Lion and Wheatsheaf.

Leicester.

The past few days have not been favourable for angling operations, as since Friday we have been treated to plenty of cold east winds and some heavy storms which seemed to have-kept the kept the fish from biting. On Friday a few good takes of roach were had from the Leicester Society water with the wheat; but during Saturday, most of the cracks being engaged fishing in the match, very little else was done. During the earlier part of the week a fair number of anglers were trying for roach, but the wind was evidently in the wrong quarter, so very little was done, and inquiries only elicited the answer, "only a few;" in many cases "nothing doing" was the reply. At Aylestone matters are a little quiet, and but few fish have been caught. The Aylestone anglers seem to feel with deep regret the sudden death of A J. Hamel, Esq., on the 20th inst., as he was not only an ardent fisherman himself, but always ready to assist in helping to preserve waters that were likely to be of any benefit to the town. From Barrow-on-Soar, although a fair number have been trying the deep for bream, the cold winds and rain seem to have affected them in this locality, as with the exception of a few bream and roach and a few pike, but little has been done. The annual contest of Barrow-on-Soar Society will be held on Saturday, September 2. Anglers still continue to visit the Wreake, and several appear to have met with success during the past few days, as some returned home with good takes of perch and fair-sized pike. The waters are not too high, and being coloured a little, some good fish would be taken, providing the wind would only shift out of the east.—Alert.

Suir and its Tributaries.

Although the weather is so cold and changeable, we hear of some salmon being caught on Lord Donoughmore's preserves at New-Castle and Knocklofty, by Messrs. Arthur Tabor and Spencer Wilde, where on Tuesday they got one peel of 6 lb. On Wednesday they trout-fished the Comeragh Lakes, getting several dozen trout. On Thursday, at New-Castle, they landed a salmon of 16 lb. and a peal weighing 6 lb. On Saturday, a salmon of 10 lb. Notwithstanding a great deal of poaching going on, still the river continues to be full of fish. Trout-fishing continues bad, we hear of only one good basket got by Master Hart and party. The killing flies are yellow rails and wrens.—Drea.

Thames (Goring).

Water low and clear. Four days' fishing with Mr. Hue, of 231, Camden Road, Holloway, London. Best day—two dozen of good perch, four jack, and about four dozen of gudgeon; are biting well. One rod can take twenty dozen a day.—John Rush.

Thames (Hampton).

Water clear, weather stormy, and Thursday gale of wind. Barbel commencing to feed. T. Wheeler, fishing with different gentlemen, averaged six barbel and a few dozen roach and dace per day. Best bait for barbel, worms; they do not seem to take clay ball at all kindly. Bank fishermen have done fairly with the roach, paste fishing. Below the weir (Moulsey) Davis and J. Smith have had average catches of barbel, and some large roach, 1½ to 2 lb. each, with cheese paste.—E. Swan.

Thames (Monkey Island Hotel).

Gudgeon are feeding well, getting twenty and twenty-five dozen a day and a few good perch. The barbel are feeding very badly; what one do get are very small. Out with Mr. J. Knechtli to-day, (Wednesday), got a few small barbel, one jack, 8 lb., one 2 lb., and lost a very fine fish in the weeds. We want a little rain now, and we should get some good all-round fishing.—R. Plummer.

Thames (Shepperton).

Mr. M. H. Blarney, whose piscatorial exploits in this portion of the Thames have become proverbial, has this week been again distinguishing himself. On Monday and Tuesday last, attended by Herbert Kerr, he caught something like 120 lb. weight of barbel and bream, the result being achieved from two causes—first in having the swim well baited and then by first-rate skill and perseverance—in both of these Mr. Blarney possess undoubted pre-eminence.—H.

Thames (Staines).

There was a time when Staines was the most popular fishing ground in the Lower Thames, and from the recent returns of angling in that locality it would appear its former prestige is being again developed. During the last week Mr. Currie Banfield, of the Swan Hotel, has had two days' fishing; on the first day he got seventeen good fish, the largest 4 lb. 3 oz.; and the second day nine nice fish, the largest 4 lb., with a supplement of one perch and four dozen of roach; another day amongst the barbel, when he got ten fish weighing 40 lb., the largest 6 lb. 3 oz.; and another day amongst the lively gudgeon, who gave him some excellent sport as a reminder of former glorious days, with one rod he took thirty-six dozen of gudgeon and eight perch. Mr. Banfield was attended by John Keene senior, whose address is at the hostelry, of which Mr. Banfield has become the piscatorial proprietor.—H.

Thames (Twickenham).

Wind, N.W.; river in good condition, and the strong winds have passed over which caused us an amount of trouble on Thursday, it being almost impossible to fix a punt. I have had twenty-one punts out during the week and every night as the takes are brought in they improve both in size and quantity. Spong, one day with Col. Adcock, of Putney, took 11 doz. good fish; one day with Mr. Wiggans, of Hounslow, 6 doz. and two barbel; one day with Mr. Walker, Old Kent Road, 7 doz. in four hours. Our Joe, with Mr. Dawson, 8 doz and 2 barbel, one day; and with Mr. Walker 6 doz. and 2 barbel, one day. Captain Wilson, 5 doz. of good fish. Dick Moffat and Farmer have both had good takes. My customers will find it a great advantage by wiring or writing in advance, as the punt is ready fixed when they arrive, the swim well baited and the rods ready to be used at once.

N.B.—Pert. Hammerton and George Coxen are not in my employ now.—Alfred Perrin, Two Sawyers.

Trent (Newark).

The water has been in fairish condition most of the week, but the weather has been against successful and comfortable angling, heavy winds and frequent showers having been the order of the day. Some fairish catches of roach have been had during the latter part of last week, malt and creed wheat having been the most successful lure. Mr. T. Lee caught on one day with malt 66 roach, averaging 11 oz. each, and on the next day 45, showing an average of over ¾ lb. each fish. Mr. J. Chatterton had also a good bag of roach with malt, and several other catches of those fish have also come under my notice. One of our local anglers had a splendid roach, taken with wasp grub, weighing 1 lb. 9½ oz. I saw a bream taken on Tuesday with worm that weighed nearly 5 lb., a splendidly-shaped fish. A few barbel have also come under my notice, but a good catch of those fish I have not seen as yet. Chub are still taking the wasp grub; one bag I saw contained a nice fish. We have had some frequent and heavy showers most of this week, but the water has not altered much as yet; but probably we shall have a few inches extra water, but it is still in capital condition for general angling.—The Trent Otter.

P.S.—A few odd pike have also been taken, but nothing of any great weights.

Tweed and Teviot.

Salmon angling in the river and its tributaries is at present destitute of the excitement which gives it its charm, the captures being few and far between. This state of affairs is owing chiefly, if not exclusively, to the foul and low state of the streams, and unless a flood speedily takes place the end of the present season will prove a complete blank. On the Sprouston water on Monday, Mr. Charles Kerss captured one salmon, and on Tuesday he was again successful in securing a grilse to his rod. The few fish that are being caught are for the most part light weights. Trout fishing in the evening may now be regarded as being over for the season, and day fishing will prove very uneventful until a flood occurs. The reports from the netting stations in the tidal parts of the river continue to be very discouraging. These fishings have now less than a month to run, and the improvement which should take place in the takes of salmon and grilse at this season has not yet been experienced. The scarcity of the latter fish has been the remarkable feature of the season, just as their abundance was the principal characteristic last year. This circumstance does not augur well for the prosperity of the fishings during the ensuing year, because it is feared that the existing scarcity of grilse will have the effect of causing a dearth of salmon next year. In contrast with the state of matters on the Tweed, some extraordinary catches of salmon have been obtained on the Tyne, it being reported that fishers on that river have had a golden harvest of late, a number of old veterans having no recollection of salmon having been so plentiful in their experience.—Max Wheel.

Wharfe (Yorkshire).

There has been several flushes of peat-coloured water during the week but the fish have risen very badly at fly, and although a great number of bottom fishers have been out with both maggot and wasp grub their takes have been far from satisfactory. I heard that a perch was taken in a mill dam near Rawdon weighing 3½ lb., but did not see it myself; if the report is correct it is a heavy weight for this district. Weather cold, stormy, and inclined for rain.—Francis M. Walbran.

Wye and Derwent.

The past week has been a very bad one for angling. Very few fish have been killed with either top or bottom, owing to continual flushes coming down the river, and the wind being so very boisterous at times. Last Tuesday night we had a very great deal of heavy rain fall all over Derbyshire, which caused both rivers to have nice little flushes on them. To-day (Thursday) a very fair quantity of both trout and grayling have been killed, chiefly off the Darley Dale Club waters, with wasp grubs and gentles. Last Saturday I went down to Whatstandwell to wait on one of the London leading gunmakers for a day's bottom fishing amongst coarse fish, on strictly preserved water, where there is any quantity of fish. We fished for something like seven hours, and only got three bites the whole of the time, and killed two fish—one roach and one grayling. We had any quantity of baits, viz. wasp grubs, gentles, and worms; besides, the places had been ground baited the night before, so it was quite evident that the fish were decidedly off the feed. I don't know that I ever knew such a thing to occur before in my whole experience. The river was in good condition till about six o'clock in the evening, when a nasty porter-coloured water came down the Derwent from the heavy rain which had fallen in the woodlands. No doubt the fish were waiting for this water coming down before they began to feed. Eels have been running well lately. There has been several killed by anglers bottom fishing with wasp grubs—one of 3 lb. 6 oz., and a number of smaller ones. Both the Wye and Derwent ought to be in first-class condition for fly-fishing by Monday, if no more rain falls. Bumbles and little red, ribbed with gold twist, and black gnat, are killers for either rivers.—George James Eaton.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

H. Beatley, Queen's Park.—In our article on roach fishing you will find some places near Norwich mentioned that will just suit you, and for bream you should try the Yare at Cantly and Reedham (good inns at both places); or else go to Ormesby Broad, nine miles from Yarmouth by rail and a walk of a mile or so.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

REPLY TO R. B. MARSTON, ESQ., EDITOR OF THE "FISHING GAZETTE."

Sir,—The editor of the Fishing Gazette, desirous of cutting the Gordian knot, has practically accepted a challenge such as "Herne the Hunter" defiantly threw at him, though he takes no notice of that challenge, and evidently claims the honour of the initiative. It happens that I am the person named as the individual challenged, so that it is now incumbent upon me to reply. In the first place, I must state that about nineteen months ago I invited Mr. Marston to fish with me for a week in the rivers over which I was once conservator; that twice at least this year I have expressed the wish by letter to this gentleman that he would or could fish with me, in order that I might show him what could be done with the tackle he considers good for nothing. Of none of these letters and invitations has Mr. Marston taken any notice. In the next place, the editor of the Fishing Gazette was challenged by "Herne the Hunter" to mortal combat, and the editor took no notice of the challenge, and refused to publish it in his columns, though I am aware it was sent to him as a registered letter, as have my letters for the last eight months or more. These refusals I take as definite; and, on this account, if I now accept any engagement of the kind, I consider that, as all my overtures have been ignored, it is my place to stipulate conditions, and that, if no agreement be effected, Mr. Marston's previous refusal throws the onus of failure on himself.

In the first place, then, we have to picture Walton and Cotton having a fishing match. Gracious shades of old anglers! In the next, we must consider the work Mr. Marston has set before him: all is pleasant if he be beaten by me; he is, so he says, beaten by a "master of the art," and can account for defeat in this manner, whilst adding, in relation to hair and silk lines, &c., hair and gut, "of course, such a match is no test of their real value." This being the case, I for my part have nothing to gain, but all to lose, if defeated; for there is no doubt, in that case, the matter would be considered settled. This is the case as taken from a plain, ordinary point of view; but, from my own, I may tell Mr. Marston that I will not fish him on even terms; that, if I have to fish, the the work I set down is much more formidable. I will engage in nothing less than a week's flood fishing, and a similar term for dead low water in streams of different descriptions; that, in this case, for every two fish he shall catch in flood, I must take three, and for every two at dead low water, I must get four, giving on both descriptions of water a proportion of four to seven; but, considering that perhaps Mr. Marston may be superior to his brother fishermen, I would make it a condition that during the fourteen days' fishing I must get three for every two trout caught by him (6—4), all fish to count, and the average weight of each of my fish must exceed that of his also; the flood-fishing to be next Easter, and the low-water fishing in the following July, as for such as unequal contest I would have to make some preparation in several respects. But how even in the time named a verdict on rods, lines, gut, hair, hooks, striking, and personal craftsmanship is to be made, I am at a loss to understand, for every one of these is a debateable point. I omit long casting—it is worthless. The general conditions I have named; there will be plenty of time for the special. Finally, I must advance one preliminary condition—That, as Mr. Marston has ignored my previous challenges, he is now bound to refute the general points which bear on this matter, and which I shall forward to him in printed form. In this statement no difference in personal craftsmanship can affect the question so long as it is granted that the tackle advocated by both partisans can be used. If Mr. Marston cannot overthrow the facts which I shall put into his hands, and which can be tested by anyone, I am certainly no longer bound to engage in what in that case would be a useless and empty contest; but if Mr. Marston can disprove the truth of my position, then I suppose it will remain for me to beat him, if I can, by the aid of superior craftsmanship alone on the battle-field.—I am, &c,

Robert R. Balderston.

[On receipt of the above letter we wrote to Mr. Balderston apologising for not having inserted the letter of his which follows this (in a footnote to that letter we have given the reason for its non appearance before). We also agreed to give him the honour of being the first to challenge, as that is a point we care nothing about. We declined absolutely to meet him on any other than a perfectly equal footing as regards the fish to be caught by each angler. Finally we said all we could to get him to arrange a trial on the river *now*; and not put it off to next year. We print his reply, received within a few minutes of going to press, and will only say that if we can possibly arrange it we will accept his own conditions, so that there may be no reason for putting off the match. Any fly fishing reader of Mr. Balderston's letter must agree with us that the chance of fishing in his company and seeing a display of the skill he mentions will be worth giving almost anything for. If we can arrange to get away from town a fortnight earlier than we intended we will have much pleasure in fishing a private match with Mr. Balderston. Perhaps a personal acquaintance may convince Mr. B. we do not intentionally act "unfairly."—Ed.]

Armorial Cottage,
Skell Bank,
Ripon, Aug. 24, 1882.

R. B. Marston, Esq.

Dear Sir,—In reply to your questions, I must answer to the following effect:

(1) That I have not time for arranging a match in my present vacation, and that as there is no trout fishing at Christmas, I could not meet you before Easter, as stated in my last reply.

(2) That I cannot agree to any restrictions as to size, which do not admit the capture of trout, 6 inches long, the first size admitted assizeable in my own notes.

(3) That as in most burns the majority of the fish fall below the measurement you name, and that as in many of these the trout are more wary than fish of the southern and larger streams—thirty times the size; and since in this case it is as great a feat to hook a trout 1½ oz. as one of your 3 lb. trout, you desire to handicap the finest hair tackle to the extent of about 80 to 90 per. cent. in the case of the usual class of mountain streams.

(4) That as the question relative to the merits of hair concerned all streams in which the fish did not exceed 1½ lb., and averaged less than 1 lb., I could not allow that the ordinary mountain burn should be excluded altogether from the test—a day or two would be needed in such waters.

(5) That the contest be limited to open hard fished waters, where the fish are wary, and not very numerous, or at least reach only to such preserved streams as owing to the low subscription are practically open to all comers; for heavy baskets in well protected waters are no tests of tackle; waters which elicit a display of little that emanates from a master of the art.

(6) That you name the 20th September to October 1st as a time when we could meet, but I must state that if we were to meet now, I could not do so after September 9th, and in this case the engagement would have to take the form of a private expedition and not a public contest, for which, as I have already shown, I cannot make arrangements before next Easter.

(7) That the fishing shall always be in each other's presence.

(8) That under the foregoing conditions I can meet you privately at once, and, according to the terms of the previous statement, at the time mentioned therein.—I am, &c., Robert Balderston.

P.S.—(9) That the total result of the whole fishing of both opponents, with one kind of tackle be compared with that taken by the other, and that this shall decide the issue if both use hair and gut.

SILK AND HAIR LINES, HAIR CASTS, &c.

(See foot-note before reading this letter.)

Sir,—I am afraid the lure which I threw to "The Logger-headed Chub" has proved to that fish a decidedly fell deception; for he certainly has quite misunderstood, either designedly or owing to some other mental caprice, my meaning. I must, however, make a passing comment relating to the insinuation, that the defence which I have advanced to protect anglers from error or imposture relating to piscatory facts, is "diabolical" in nature. "The Logger-headed Chub" appears to view Herne as simply an incarnation of the foul fiend; but I would advise that sceptical fish—for whom A.R.I.E.L. should throw a palatable frog or toad—to read the legend of my hunterself, that he may become aware of the causes which formerly, as now, conduce to my assumption of the antlered helm. Ho! ho! ho! Will you throw a line to catch a fish with Herne? Take a shot at my antlered brow and listen to the rattle of the rebounding bullets. Ha! ha! ha! Ho! ho! ho!

But to the letter. My fishy opponent evidently desires to make the readers of the Fishing Gazette believe that I took up a position, which I never for a moment attempted to maintain. I wrote very favourably in relation to the finest drawn gut, insomuch that I said this substance is at times nearly, if not quite, as good as hair; and that remark had a general and not a special signification. Throughout the world the bulk of trout average far less than 1 lb.; I was not simply alluding to seven southern waters, I was writing of ninety-nine out of a hundred; the facts I stated are true, hair casts are, when the sun is bright and the water low, incomparably superior to the finest drawn gut, provided they have sufficient strength for the fish that have to be caught, and are not too greasy. When I have fished for trout in the Kennett, Thames, Lakes and other waters where the fish are large, or when the wind has had too much pressure on the rod, I have constantly employed the finest drawn gut; not because of its being nearly as good for hooking the fish, but merely in order to avail myself of a stronger material. In waters where few fish are caught above 1½ lb., and of such does the bulk of the streams throughout the world consist, I frequently, though by no means generally, use the finest drawn gut casts that are to be obtained for money, provided the fish are not shy whilst the water is fairly full and the sky overcast; but with conditions the reverse, hair is the "dernier ressort," is absolutely essential for my demands. You, Mr. Editor, and Mr. Francis both visited the Dove last year; and owing, some authorities say, to improper flies, others to improper tackle, your joint takes were not as large as they might have been, as were those of other anglers. You, Mr. Editor, frankly and like a true follower of Cotton, acknowledged the fact, but Mr. Francis is merciless on gut casts; it would be no use advising him to employ hair, in fact its adoption on his part would be downright folly; but here again I must give Mr. Francis his due, for like an honest man he owns to his fault in this respect, as a true fly-fisher of great experience, who also is an advocate of the hair and silk line.

"The Logger-headed Chub" is not satisfied with two examples of what may be done with hair tackle, though I could write a volume full of actual facts for his benefit. I did not wish to encroach too much on your space, Mr. Editor; but I must say that it would be a profitable enterprise on the part of Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston, Searle and Rivington, were they to publish "The Logbook and Diary of Herne the Hunter" verbatim, for the perusal of such sceptical individuals as my opponent of fishy personality. It is needless to add that though I do not advocate hair for trout above 1½ lb., it is unnecessary for me to fill your columns with facts from my diaries when some northern fly-fishers have had skill sufficient to fish for salmon with hair casts. Where are your southern anglers with their gut and 3 lb. or 4 lb. trout, for a description of whom I refer the readers of The Fishing Gazette to a late number of the *Sportsman?* There is no doubt that for large trout hair would surpass gut, had the angler skill sufficient for landing his fish.

The only other remarks of your correspondent, Mr. Editor, which are aimed at me, have to do with assertions relating to the possibility of catching an abundance of large trout with drawn gut. Now, it happens that I never breathed a doubt as to such a feat being impossible; my remarks were only comparative. I merely demonstrated that, where hair is sufficiently strong for its work, it will catch more fish. No allusion was made by me to any special department of fly-fishing, such as dry fly casting. The facts brought forward were general as applied to a master of the art, and not to the advocate of a single style, who has not even proved his case, except in relation to strength, a point that had already been granted. I certainly would not advise an angler, who, in playing his fish, breaks five drawn gut casts in two days, to use hair. If such a wielder of a flail be "second to none," I had rather be styled a pretender than be designated such a king of the art, whilst adding—

"Who that pretender is, and who that king;
God bless us all is quite another thing."

And now, sir, in relation to your own editorial remark, I would most sincerely like to tackle some of your big trout in your company with drawn gut, and even if I were limited to hair—though I then should have to use somewhat stouter material than I now do for fish of the size named—I fear you would have to lower your laurels to the son of the most redoubtable fly-fisher in the world. I will not lower mine to any man's *ipse dixit*, I will only lower my antlers to rebut, until such time as my assailant shall prove by the water's side who is, in a piscatory way, of the line royal. Can you bring to the earth my royals? But you mention hair and gut, and in relation to this matter I must remark that your allusion to the tackle I use is, in my opinion, exceedingly unfair. As you have never seen my rods and tackle, as you have only had sent to you a dozen casts of gut and hair to show the kinds of flies I employed, the mode of attaching droppers, and the way in which I was in the habit of making up casts of different material, colour, and thickness; and as these casts were sent to you at your special request about two years and four months ago, when it was not the fly-fishing season, when I was amongst the mountains, where exquisitely fine tackle was not required, when I reduce my own gut by means of a gut drawer if necessary, and when one might naturally be expected to be sparingly supplied with the finest casts both of hair and gut, which generally are worn out during a busy season. I think you should not have so strongly expressed your opinion in relation to the thickness of the material which I use, which, had it been in the case mentioned only one half thicker than your own, would even then have killed more fish than gut. I can simply say there was only one fine hair cast in the number, and that if you could fish with it on a Derbyshire stream, you would have loved the Dove much more dearly, whilst at the same time I have just obtained from a friend a sample of Cummin's finest-of-all fine drawn gut, and compared it with my own obtained from Hutchinson's, and I find that some of the latter is much thinner, and what is more, rounder than the former. Thinner drawn gut is not practicable, for mine is so fine that it will not stand more than one, or at the most, two days' of good fishing. Besides this, I have compared the hair I use for very untoward conditions of water, and I find that the thickest hairs of the tail are just of the same thickness as the foregoing gut, whilst the rest are much finer, and consequently less heavy both in specific gravity and bulk.

Lastly, there is the insinuation as to selfishness; can I believe my eyes? Mr. Editor, what! Is it you, my friend, who are writing? Et tu, Brute! One feels goaded to down with the antlered helm and gore the offender. but this time the assassin blow glances away and leaves him scatheless, who has yet to meet the man that can claim a better right, as heir to his father's matchless cunning.

Will you meet, my wizard might,
Will you prove to all who's right,
By mountain beck and bustling burn,
Yourself, fair sir, or Hunter Herne?
Ha! ha! ha! ho! ho! ho!

Yours, &c., Herne the Hunter.

[This letter had, on account of its length, from want of space, been held over so long that we thought it had appeared. "Herne the Hunter" must surely see that we did not insinuate selfishness on his part. Mr. Francis Francis averaged over eight brace a day, and no fish under 11 inches, on the Wye, a fortnight later than we fished the Dove. In fact, we stated that we were just too late for the best of the trouting, and too soon for the best of the grayling fishing, and we are convinced we should have done much less than we did if we had used hair. "Herne the Hunter" must acknowledge that we have never put the question of whether gut or hair is best on the footing he suggests. We do not say that one angler using hair may not kill ten times as many fish as one using gut, but that if the more expert angler also used the fine drawn gut we recommend he would kill a still larger proportion of fish. However, in a few days' time we hope to meet him for a friendly match, gut against hair.—Ed.]

HAIR AND GUT AND STRIKING FROM THE WINCH.

Sir,—I see you are holding a controversy anent the relative merits of hair *v.* gut, the length of a cast, and also in striking from the reel. Now, I reckon to know a little about most of those questions, and I am certainly with you in your opinions. Hair, perhaps, might have been better than gut in those days of yore when gut was only made thick or thin enough to kill the heaviest salmon that ever leapt the weirs; but lately gut has been introduced to the public that is much finer than hair. I have some fine drawn gut, 18 inches in length, and nearly as fine as the human hair, and much finer than the finest hair in my possession. Hair is hollow and elastic. When a few fish have been landed the hair becomes stretched to its utmost tension, and the next heavy fish you hook breaks the hair. On reference to my note-book, I find that when I used hair I could not do any better than I do now in using the very fine drawn gut under precisely similar circumstances—I allude to roach fishing. About a fortnight ago I killed in two days ninety-two roach, many of them very good ones, and I landed the whole of them with one of these very fine gut tackles and one hook, without a single breakage. Careful practice tells me that gut is the best, if you get it very fine drawn. I have tried my light, single-handed dace rod (fly), and I find that on the grass I can and have thrown 25 yards, measured from reel to fly, and we have a fly fisherman here who can beat me easily.

Have you ever seen a Nottingham centre pin reel, with a strong double action ratchet check in it? Now it is the correct tip to strike a fish from these reels without holding the line tight to the rod. One of our best fly-fishers found this dodge out by accident about two years ago. He found that the check in the reel was plenty strong enough to hook a chub in fly-fishing with double-handed rod and 4½-inch reel, as described. He says he very rarely misses a chub with that plan. I have with mine struck at a chub, and the force of the stroke only allowed the reel to revolve some 2 inches. I have, when picking up my line off the water in order to make a fresh cast, made it without the reel revolving at all. And, now, in using these reels we very seldom take hold of the line, but strike from them. There is a little brass pin at the side of these reels, and after the fish is hooked we just shift it a quarter of an inch and the check is taken off, and the reel revolves very rapidly. One thing is certain with these reels, we can hook a chub neater and cleaner, and not miss so many as when we used to strike from point of rod with line held tight. It does seem very singular, but such is the fact. Perhaps the strong ratchet check in the reel will partly account for this. These reels cost 15s. 6d. each—rather expensive.

If you like, and you can spare me half a column in your correspondence, I will write a letter on these very vexed questions, and give you my opinion from actual careful experience on the matter, and perhaps that will strengthen your argument a little, for I am decidedly of opinion you are in the right and Mr. Balderston is wrong this time.—I am, &c., THE TRENT OTTER.

"WHO IS THE FATHER?"

SIR,—Permit me to say that I had no conversation or agreement with Mr. Ghurney, or any member of his committee, previous to bringing the subject of an Anglers' Benevolent before the committee of the West Central Association. When I had explained my idea, and it had been discussed by our committee, Mr. Ghurney was invited to bring it before his committee, with a view of its being open to East and West End clubs alike. This invitation he accepted.

I now invite Mr. Ghurney to produce a single line or word from among the numerous letters which I have written him on this subject, or witness to any conversation or agreement in justification of such a statement, as, "Mr. Geen and myself had a conversation on the subject when we agreed to bring the question before our respective associations."

I have since learnt that an attempt was made by Mr. Ghurney to start a benevolent in 1875. I also know that the Good Intent and the North Western Angling Societies have Benevolent Funds, but that is not the question that concerns me here. I care not a rush "Who is the Father," but I do care to clear myself from the charge of an attempt to filch credit from Mr. Ghurney.

That I, and I alone, was responsible for the starting of the present Anglers' Benevolent Society cannot truthfully be denied.—I am, &c.,

PHILIP GEEN.

Lowther Lodge, Barnes.

AN INVOCATION TO A.R.I.E.L.

SIR,—Many months ago your graceful correspondent, A.R.I.E.L., promised particulars of his fly-fishing spinning tackle, and his mode of using it after a little further experience of its merits. I hope he will think its merits sufficiently tested by the 6 lb. 7 oz. trout, and the six weighing 20 lbs. killed by him with it recently. If so, Mr. Editor, would you "bid your faithful Ariel fly" a little for us in your next number, and he "will discourse" to our great delight.—I am, &c. A CONSTANT SUBSCRIBER.

Bradford, August 18.

[Come, A.R.I.E.L., you are fairly challenged again.—ED.]

A TWELVE POUND TROUT.

SIR,—In perusing the correspondence in the FISHING GAZETTE I notice that C. E. Holford notifies that a large trout (over 9 lb.) has been caught in the New River at Ware. On the 11th August G. H. Stevens, Esq., of Barnes, caught and landed, after an hour and a half's play, a trout going over 12 lb. This was taken ledgering with a lob-worm at Wraysbury.—I am, &c.,

TROUT.

WILL TROUT SWALLOW FROGS?

SIR,—A friend has just seen a trout swallowing a frog? Is this unusual? I have asked him to send me a note of the circumstance for you.—I am, &c.,

F. G. HEATH.

[We think it is rather unusual, as frogs are never used in trout fishing, at least as far as we know. Chub will take a young frog with as much relish as an alderman will an oyster. When hungry, trout will dash at anything that looks like a possible bit of dinner.—ED.]

FISHING NEAR WHITBY AND SCARBOROUGH.

SIR,—Would you or your correspondents kindly give me some information as to the fly-fishing in the neighbourhood of Whitby and Scarborough, and also whether the sea-fishing is good. Any information as to flies, tackle, &c., would be exceedingly welcome,—I am, &c., J. A. HUTTON.

[We have, in last week's number, described the fishing near Scarborough for trout, &c. There is good sea fishing in late autumn. The fishing in the Esk, above Whitby, is fairly good, trout and salmon.—ED.]

DE OMNIBUS REBUS.

SIR; —Your exhaustive review of the "Scientific Angler" does not say one word too much in its favour, for, although I have read almost every angling work of note that has been issued during the past twenty years (and they are not a few), I do not know anyone that has given me so much pleasure as the one in question. The portion of the book that I am most delighted with is the chapter on "Piscatorial Entomology" and the "Notes on the Months." Anyone after carefully reading them cannot fail but be impressed with the immense amount of knowledge that the author had acquired by his minute observations and keen research into the insect world. Mr. Francis is the only author that I am aware of who previously has drawn attention to the great importance of having a good supply of all the shades of the various duns and their imagos the spinners, and by similar experiments to those of Mr. Foster, although not so complete as his have been. I have long since come to the conclusion that many flies which other writers have called by distinct names are really only different shades of the same fly, and Mr. Francis gives proof of this on page 198, 4th edition of his valuable work in which he points out that "ephemera" in his list of flies for March, reproduces the "blue dun" under four different names. It is a great pity that Mr. Foster did not publish the result of his labours during his lifetime, so as to have received the congratulations of anglers, and especially fly fishers, of every class; but it is a source of gratification to know that his family are reaping the benefit of it.

I should agree with you that the fly mentioned by Mr. Alison in last week's FISHING GAZETTE is the "barm fly." Mr. Francis speaks very highly of it as an evening fly. Jackson gives the following dressing for it: Wings, feather from outside of a brown owl's wing; body, orange and ginger-coloured silk; legs, ginger hackle. He also gives as the dressing for the grey grannom that is quoted by Mr. Sang. Mr. Francis adds that on the Colne it is known under the local name of the "nobbler," which is at least a very suggestive title.

My friend, Mr. T. Ford, a few weeks ago drew attention to the fact that it is almost impossible to get a bright yellow silk for tying flies which will retain its colour for any length of time after being wet. I have repeatedly noticed this, and as that colour enters into the composition of a great many useful flies, anyone who can invent a new dye to meet the difficulty would confer a great benefit on the craft.

Lastly, reverting once more to the vexed question of single hair versus gut; since my letter on the subject some weeks ago I have given the latter a fair trial. I procured a really splendid sample from Mr. Cummins, of Bishop Auckland, each length sixteen inches, and exceedingly fine. I followed Mr. Marston's advice with regard to the striking from the winch, and must admit that for trouting it is certainly superior to hair. I tried them one against the other for the sake of comparison, and found that the fish did rise more freely to the drawn gut cast; I still adhere, however, to my own opinion that hair is the best for grayling fishing, as one grayling weighing nearly 1¼ lb., which I caught late one evening, so ravelled and twisted my gut cast as to render it wholly unfit for further use, although I had previously killed eight trout on it without the least damage. I sincerely hope that Mr. Balderston will accept Mr. Marston's friendly challenge, as I consider that the result would be of great interest to all fly fishers. For my own part I am always open to conviction, and consequently I have made the above statement. I may add that Mr. Cummins declares in favour of drawn gut, where the fish are of any size, but I do not know what his opinion is respecting grayling fishing, perhaps he will be glad enough to tell us; the opinion of such a practical man as he undoubtedly is ought to be worth something. Trusting that you will pardon me for occupying so much of your valuable space,—I am, etc. FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

Pool, Wharfedale.

ANGLING PILLS.

SIR,—I see in your last issue a quotation from Mr. Francis' "Book on Angling," which runs thus: "There is no plan so absurd, so literally destructive of sport, as that pursued by the majority of Thames fishermen, with their huge piles of clay, bran, gentles, greaves, &c., &c." My belief is in many cases they know the absurdity of it just as well as Mr. Francis, if they do not, the persistent manner in which they follow this absurd custom shows a degree of ignorance truly deplorable. As usual, there are two sides to the question: there are some "customers" who insist upon excessive ground baiting, and whilst the gent, who may be a "casual" customer, thinks he is doing a very clever thing, the fisherman knows perfectly well the casual is only preparing the swim very nicely for a "regular," who is coming down in two or three days time.

I have no wish to say one word against Thames fishermen as a body, they have a good deal to put up with of which the general public are not aware; but still it is a most extraordinary fact that on one occasion more especially I recollect perfectly well going out with two friends with a Mr. C.

Mr. C. was evidently a knowing customer. He had three zinc pails (I like to be particular) full of the celebrated mixture. If you have ever seen a countryman mix up boiled potatoes and bran for his pigs, it will give you some idea of the process necessary to be gone through to get the bait to the proper consistency.

After mixing up about twenty or thirty balls, about as large as a cricket ball, he took us to a splendid hole; it was in November. Now every angler must know, and if he does not, it is about time he did, that as winter gradually approaches, the fish require less and less ground bait, until in the very cold weather they require very little indeed, and this applies more especially to all mixtures, therefore in the winter months I should say never mix. If you fish with paste, throw in a little bread; if you fish with liver gentles, throw in a few carrion ditto; if you fish with pith, throw in a little brains; if with barley, throw in a little rice, and so on.

This hole had been well baited overnight, at least so he said; in spite of this, directly he had fixed the punt he began dropping in the balls, or, as he called them, "C———'s pills." In less than three hours he emptied two of the pails, and the result was two little roach. I ventured to observe, "Your pills don't seem to have the desired effect," and the answer was ready in a moment. "Oh, this hole is not deep enough for the time of year; we must remove into deeper water."

Now, Mr. Editor, if a well-known place called the deeps, in contradistinction to all the rest of the water for miles and miles, is not deep, then I should like to know what is.

However, we removed to another hole, and quite two-thirds of the remaining mixture was dropped into it, with nearly the same result as before. "Now," said this artful gentleman, "I will take you to a place where I am sure we shall catch some. I was waiting for this." We had just got about two hours more to fish, and we struck across the river into a very still place under some willow trees. I had got the needle, and said, "We will not have any pills thrown into this place." "Eh! what," observed Mr. C., thunderstruck. I said, "No pills here, if you please." "Excuse me, sir, you will get no fish here without my pills." "Then," I said, "we will keep up the charter and go without."

I never saw a man more miserable in all my life. They generally are when you won't let them have their own little way. After a little judicious baiting with some carrion gentles he had in an old pan, they began to bite beautifully, and the result was we took between two and three dozen really good roach in prime condition, and a few good dace, all with gentles.

What I went to know is, supposing he had persisted in pitching in his pills would our success have been as good? I have no hesitation in saying it would not. In conclusion, perhaps our good friend Mr. C., if he sees this, will say we know nothing about it; in reply, I can only say—that is a matter of opinion.—I am, &c., MARK ANTONY.

[It is the abuse, and not the use of ground bait that is wrong.—ED.]

ARE EELS TO "WEIGH IN?"

SIR,—There has been a competition on the Medway for three prizes, the first for largest weight of all fish, excepting pike, second for largest weight of pike, third for the heaviest specimen fish other than pike.

Now, one member claims the first and third prizes, the third prize he claims to have won with an eel. The first prize he wins anyhow, independently of the eel, but the eel was the largest fish weighed in other than pike.

Some of our members contend that an eel is not allowed to be weighed in, but we have no rule to that effect; on the other hand, in the schedule of our measurements the eel is not mentioned at all.

The society has determined to decide this by vote, but, before voting, would like to have the opinion of your journal upon the subject, and be guided by that opinion in all future competitions.—I am, &c.,

DAVID W. PINE, Hon. Sec.

[As far as we aware, although fully appreciated as a dainty table fish, the eel never figures amongst the fish which are allowed to be weighed in at angling clubs; doubtless the fact that it may be so easily "caught" alive in any fishmonger's shop has something to do with its exclusion from taking prizes. In the case of the above club it was evidently never intended by the gentlemen who drew up the rules that the eel should "weigh in" with other fish for prizes, or they would have included it in the list; and we think they have the general body of anglers with them in excluding this fish from the scales (not because it is scaleless itself, as that is not the case, though nine anglers out of ten think so. For our own part, we have considerable respect for *anguilla*, whether at the end of a fine line or in a pie —ED]

WASP GRUBS.

SIR,—Can any of your numerous readers inform me if the above are a killing bait used during winter months for roach, perch, &c.? It so, how are they best preserved?—I am, &c.,

W. J. M.

[It is curious that in our issue for October 15 last year, Mr. J. H Keene gave a recipe for preserving wasp grubs as being better than whiskey, recommended by another correspondent signing himself J. W. M. Mr. Keene said: "Take the fullest grown and whitest from the comb, and, putting them on a colander, pour boiling water gently over from a kettle. Then drop them in a basin of bran and toss them about till quite dry. Now make a syrup of sugar, or treacle will do quite as well, and drop them into it. They will keep almost as long as you like, and come out hard and as sweet as candy." Wasp grubs are a splendid bait for almost all fish.—ED]

A DOVE PIKE.

SIR,—A young hand fishing for roach in the River Dove hooked one about ¼ lb., he was just going to land it when a sudden swirl and snap, and behold a monster from the depths, seizes his fish and goes below with the complete line. After ten minutes' interval he rigs up another line and catches another roach, which he, hastily changing his hook, &c, puts on a gimp one, and sinks the bait as before, where the monster came from. Soon after the bait is seized, and, after a struggle, the fisherman is left minus another float, &c., and six yards of line. He tries now again for roach, but none are biting, so he leaves the spot for two hours, and after catching some chub and perch, an idea seizes him of putting up two gimp hooks tied together with a strong piece of twine he has with him. Succeeding in doing this, he goes to the spot, pops on a bait, and after an interval the pike takes it, and is fairly hooked He calls for assistance, and some people being near they try to haul it in. After about ten minutes' trial off goes the pike again, with landing net, hooks, and part of line So he left for the night, estimating the fish to weigh from 12 lb. to 15 lb. The next night he returns with more experienced hand, armed with stouter tackle, &c., and shows him the place where the monster was. After a little while the bait is collared and the hooks driven home safe; and after great excitement for fully twenty minutes, the prize is landed on the grass. When it was weighed it scaled 17½ lb., and was in splendid condition. When cleaned it was found to have three hooks in its mouth and two rats and several fish in its inside.—I am, &c.,

Oxford. M.

THE KEMPTON ESTATE FISHERY.

SIR,—While at Kempton Estate Fishery, on Wednesday last, I heard with surprise and regret, on very good authority, that the keeper in the service of the Race Course Company is in the habit of shooting pike, &c., in that portion of water that flows through their estate. By publication this may come to the knowledge of some one who has a voice or influence to suppress such a mean, despicable way of killing fish, for as long as it continues the owners of the water at first referred to cannot expect to have many fish in their portion.—I am, &c.,

THOS. POOLE.

Covent Garden Market, W C., 21st August.

FISHING NEAR CHICHESTER.

SIR,—Will you or some of your correspondents kindly answer the following questions for me?

(1) Is there any fishing of any account on the Chichester Canal nearer Littlehampton than Chichester? If the answer is in the affirmative, I should like to know the stations and likely spots.

(2) What is the distance from Chichester Station to the canal, and is the fishing free?

(3) Is there any bank fishing to be had on the *rivers* near Yarmouth or Lowestoft? If there is, what rivers and parts are the best? I can understand that boats are a necessity on the broads, but I should like to know whether they are also a necessity on the rivers I have looked through Mr. Dane's book, and also the reprints from the *Norwich Argus*, but do not find any reference to the point.—I am. &c., LEX.

[There is fair coarse fishing near Chichester, we believe; but, doubtless, our river reporter there will answer this query. There is *very little* bank fishing to be had on the Norfolk rivers and broads, the reason being that, except at the landing places and near them, the sides are fringed with tall reeds; but even if the reeds were not there, as a rule, there is a belt of reeds between the edge and the channel, and the angler can rarely get at a swim from the bank But on the Yare the charge for boats is only one shilling per day. Lex will find if he rows through Oulton Broad, and up the dyke, that on the right bank there are often many bank anglers; but, as a rule, they are pic-nic parties, who do not care much what they catch.—ED]

FISHING NEAR BEDDINGTON.

SIR,—Could you inform me whether any jack, perch, or trout, &c., fishing is to be had within the vicinity of Beddington (Surrey)?—I am, &c.,

Maida Vale. A. P.

[The only fishing we know is for trout, and that is strictly preserved. At Mr. McRae's place at Mitcham there is some jack, perch, and roach fishing in the millhead above the flour mill and near the tanyard, but we are not sure that leave is given to strangers—we think not. There is fishing to be had in the lake at Cavan Villa, Whitehorse Road, Croydon, we understand, but have not tried it personally. Perhaps some reader who is acquainted with these parts will kindly give information.—ED.]

COARSE FISH CULTURE.

SIR,—Having a good place for breeding fish, I have looked very anxiously in your GAZETTE for your article on "The Propagation of Coarse Fish." Please inform me where I can obtain the article—I am, &c.,

Middleton, near Manchester, Aug. 5, 1882. B. F. CROMPTON.

[It appeared in our Tourist Number on Aug. 5.—ED.]

ROD LOST AT DATCHET.

SIR,—On Sunday, August 6th, waiting for the quarter to nine train to London, I left my rod on the platform, or may have dropped it in getting into the train. As some one may have found it, would they kindly write to the address below.—I am, &c.,

H. S. HAYES.

13, Malvern Terrace, Carlton Road, Kilburn, N.W.

CATCHING A COLT.

SIR,—Thinking the following might amuse some of your readers versed in matters piscatorial, especially those fond of the comic, I send you the following, for the truth of which I can vouch:—A friend of mine the other day, while trying for trout in one of the moor streams, between Launceston and Bodmin, with a fly—a man who is considered a good hand at the sport—unexpectedly hooked a colt by the mane. The colt had walked up behind him without his observation, and my friend, never having had any previous practice at playing so extraordinary a fish, failed to bring him to creel; but instead thereof had the poor consolation of walking home some five or six miles with a broken rod and minus his cast and the greater part of his line, which, from his description of the affair, was more galling to him than the being unable to basket and carry home so weighty a capture.—I am, &c.,

C. B.

DESTRUCTION OF FISH IN THE LEA.

SIR,—I read in the *Morning Standard* of the 18th inst., a letter from Mr. Pope, engineer of the Tottenham Sewage Works, in reply to a statement attributing the quantity of dead fish found in the River Lea, near Tottenham, to the influence of the outfall from the Sewage Works into the river, and in which letter Mr. Pope argued that it could not arise from their works, as at the outfall into the river fish abounded, and there were always from twenty to fifty anglers there stationed. Will you allow me to point out to Mr. Pope, through your columns, that it does not follow, because from the attraction of an extra amount of impure food at a given place fish there preponderate, that therefore these fish are in a natural healthy condition, but rather the contrary; fish will live and thrive in a certain way, apparently, both on proper and improper food, but in the one case they will live a natural life, in the other a forced and unnatural one; and, in the latter case, where the amount of the impure and unnatural food at any time superabounds, the fish will die; this I have no doubt whatever has been so in the River Lea. The impurity of the food arises from the sewage matter, which flows into the river from the Sewage Works this matter produces what are by anglers called "blood worms," a minute red worm, scarcely thicker than a thread, and about half-an-inch in length. When pressed, this worm exudes blood, but not *pure* blood. On this worm fish feed ravenously, but nevertheless, arising from impurity, it is an impure food, and the fish gorging on this delicate morsel in the black mud at the bottom of the river, take in with it a certain amount of sewage matter, and I have been well assured that the fish both roach and dace, which certainly assemble in large numbers in the vicinity of this delicious spot are utterly unfit for human food, as they are found to turn perfectly rotten in the course of a few hours, and contain a large amount of black stinking matter. In my school days, now some twenty five years ago, we used to get "blood worms" from the stagnant ditches, near Tottenham, and fish with them for gudgeon on the gravelly bottom of what was then a clear and pleasant stream all the way from Tottenham to beyond Lea Bridge, but, sir, mark the difference. We then got blood worms to take fish in *pure* water. *Now* the fish feed on them as the food of the river itself in the contaminated mud. Surely, some means could be adopted to prevent the sewage water, which settles and leaves sewage matter, being carried into the river at all; until this is done a great part of one of our finest streams will still remain little better than a sewer.—I am, &c., AN OLD ANGLER.

Canonbury, Aug. 22, 1882.

THE DESTRUCTION ARMY ON THE THAMES.

WITH the exception of the last paragraph the following account from the *City Press* will be read with anything but pleasure by Thames anglers:—"The annual 'swan upping' of the Vintners' Company took place last week, when the young cygnets, our royal birds, which form so grand an addition to the charms of the Thames, claimed the attention of Her Majesty's swan marker and the swan markers of the Vintners and Dyers' companies. As showing the importance attached to the operation of swan marking, it is a curious fact that the law regards the theft of a marked swan as a felony, whilst stealing an unmarked swan is simply treated as a misdemeanour. The process of swan marking has in recent years been considerably modified, and little, if any, pain attends the operation. Starting from London Bridge on the Monday, the swan uppers (or markers) completed their first day's marking at Ditton, having travelled over twenty miles, but finding in all only thirty-one birds. Between Ditton and Staines (a distance of about sixteen miles) ninety-five birds were caught, forty-two of them being young ones, thirty-four, however, of which fell to the Queen's marker. The third day enabled Bray to be reached, eighty-seven birds being marked *en route*, thirty-six of which were young ones. The distance traversed was about twelve miles. Between Bray and Henley, the last day's field of operation, and which covers an area of seventeen miles, 204 birds were caught, 150 of which also fell to the Queen's marker. The result of this year's marking was that over a distance of sixty-five miles, 417 swans were actually taken, the numbers being made up as follows:—The Queen's, 207 old birds and ninety-two young ones; the Vintners', forty-four old birds and sixteen young ones; the Dyers', forty old birds and eighteen young ones. Considerable losses were sustained during the past winter, owing to the floods and otherwise, and a large number of birds are to be found below bridge, particularly in some of the dock basins."

THE UNITED STATES AND THE LONDON INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION.

CONGRESS having accepted the invitation of the Government of Great Britain to participate in the great International Fisheries Exhibition, to be held at London, in May, 1883, the Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries has been instructed to prepare, under the auspices of the Department of State, a complete and systematic exhibit representative of the fisheries of the United States.

Preparations for the exhibition are already in progress, and there is no reason why it will not be possible during the nine mouths which remain before the opening of the exhibition to provide for a display which shall do great credit to the extensive fishery industries of this country. In order to accomplish this result it will be necessary to secure the co-operation and aid of all persons interested in fishing, fish-culture, the fisheries, and the related industries. I cordially invite correspondence, therefore, from any persons having articles suitable for exhibition, or willing to suggest plans by which the display of the United States may be rendered more effective.

Two classes of articles will be carried to London for exhibition, viz.:

First—Those which make up the "collective exhibit of the United States;" and

Second—Those which are entered for competition.

In the collective exhibit will be shown, in a systematic and synoptical manner, illustrations of our marine and fresh-water animals of economic value, together with the apparatus and methods of their capture and utilisation, and the commercial, scientific, social, historical, and legislative aspect of the fisheries. It will include the most striking features of similar exhibits made by the Fish Commission in the Philadelphia Exhibition of 1876, and the International Fishery Exhibition at Berlin in 1880, together with many additional ones never previously attempted. The major part of this display will be borrowed from the collections of the National Museum in Washington, but it will be necessary to secure a considerable number of new objects. I wish to reserve the right of placing in this department such of the private exhibits as can there be shown to the best advantage, it being understood that these are not to be excluded from competition, When objects are purchased to fill gaps in this exhibit, it will be with the definite understanding that they cannot enter into competition, and the name of the person from whom they were obtained will not be mentioned on the labels or in the catalogue.

It is considered especially desirable that the department of competitive exhibits shall contain a very complete representation of the various food preparations of fish—canned, dried, pickled, smoked, etc.—there being a constantly increasing demand in England for goods of this description, shipments to that country amounting, in 1881, to more than 2,000,000 dollars, in addition to the very large exports to other parts of Europe and to the European colonies in the East. Manufacturers of boats and boat-fittings, angling apparatus and costumes, and other similar articles, are also urged to contribute. Medals in gold, silver, bronze, and diplomas of honour will be awarded by a jury of experts.

I am prepared to act, both in this country and London, as the representative of individual exhibitors, and to attend to correspondence relating to applications for space, etc. Goods to be exhibited, if delivered in Washington, Philadelphia, or New York, will be carried to London and installed at the expense of the government; special arrangements may be made for the return of articles at the close of the exhibition.

Prospectuses, blank application forms, blank "lists of exhibits proposed to be shown," and any information desired will be furnished on application. Applications for space for competitive displays should be made before the 1st of September, 1882.

The exhibition, which is under the patronage of the Queen of England and the presidency of the Prince of Wales, will be opened on the 1st May, 1883, in buildings now being erected in the Horticultural Gardens at South Kensington, and will continue for a period of six months

SPENCER F. BAIRD,
U. S. Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries.

U.S. Commission Fish and Fisheries, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, July 20, 1882.

IMPORTANT ALTERATION IN THE CHARGES FOR THE CONVEYANCE OF SMALL PARCELS BY PASSENGER TRAIN.—The London and North Western and the Midland Railway Companies have sent us prospectuses of their new scale of charges for parcels. This arrangement will be an immense boon to the public, as it is now possible to send a 1 lb. parcel up to 50 miles for 4d., and up to 400 miles for 6d. and at reduced rates per lb. for heavier parcels.

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

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PRACTICAL ANGLER, FLY DRESSER, AND MANUFACTURER OF EVERY DESCRIPTION OF FISHING TACKLE,
Solicits a trial of his
WORLD-RENOWNED TROUT AND GRAYLING FLIES,
Also his
CELEBRATED FLOATING MAY FLIES, GREEN AND GREY DRAKES,
Which are still being dressed by the same experienced hands as for many years past, and can only be obtained at the old sho
28, WINCHCOMB STREET.
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MULTUM IN PARVO FLY RODS,
PRICE 21S
The enormous and increasing demand for which is a sufficient guarentee for the high estimation in which they are held by the leading Anglers of the day.
JAMES OGDEN'S NEWLY INVENTED
NE PLUS ULTRA RODS,
For particulars of which see Article in FISHING GAZETTE of March 18.
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Testimonial from J. Harrington Keene, Esq.
My dear Sir,—I have tested your "Natural" Bait with admirable results amongst roach, bream, and chub. I cannot speak too highly of its attractiveness as a bait, and its tenacity on the hook.—Yours, truly, J. H. Keene.
WM. KING, 1, New Road, Commercial Road London, E. Please order early.

ROYAL AQUARIUM.—THIS DAY, open at 12.0; close at 11.30. Tanks stocked with fresh and sea water fish. In the Picture Gallery, Exhibition of Pictures illustrating British Field Sports and the Old Coaching Days.
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Mr. and Mrs. Toby, Performing Seals in Annexe, 5 30 and 9.45.
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Good boats, bait, &c., to be had at the Sportsman Arms, Ormesby Broad.—S. RICHMOND, Proprietor.

Five miles from Great Yarmouth, via North Norfolk Railway.

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TO BE LET for the Season, or on Lease for a Term of Years, the Salmon and White Trout Fishery of Gowla, which comprises both Lake and River Fishing. Also Lodge and Shooting attached. Is situated about two miles from the sea, where there is splendid Anchorage and Shelter for a Yacht; also some good Sea Shooting in the neighbourhood, Seal being numerous in the season.—Application to be made to GEORGE J. ROBINSON, Esq., Roundstone, co. Galway.

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BALLYNAHINCH FISHERY

The fishing extends from Lough Inagh to the sea, a distance of fifteen miles, and comprises the rivers and lakes of Inagh, Derryclare, Ballynahinch; Ballynafar, Glendalough, Attery and Orrid, The season commences on the 1st February, and closes on the 31st October. The stock of fish, which has been largely increased, is now most abundant.

Tickets will be issued at the following rates by G. J. Robinson, Esq., Roundstone, via Galway. Tickets for the whole season £50, tickets for the lunar month, £8; ticket for the week, £2 10s.; ticket for the day, 10s. Tickets are to be paid for when taken out, and are not transferable. The price of a ticket includes the use of a boat, but not the wages of boatmen, which are not to exceed 2s. per day each.

Applications for tickets will be treated according to priority, but a preference will be to applicants for " season tickets." Boats for angling and stands on the river will be allotted by the head keeper, and no angler will be permitted to use a boat or fish a stand that has not been so allotted. Superior accommodation can be had on application to Mr. T. MULLARKEY, at Glendalough Hotel, Recess, Galway. Anglers are requested to take out their licences in the Ballynahinch district, as by doing so they increase the fund for the preservation of the district.

No men can be employed as boatmen except the Water Bailiffs as arranged by head keeper.

Application to be made to

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Craven Herald

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which has the most extensive circulation in the neighbourhood of these rivers.

Views of the Wharfe, Bolton Abbey, &c., may be obtained at the office of this paper.

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WILLIAM BIRT, General Manager.

London, August, 1882.

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The writer has aimed at giving practical advice to Anglers, Yachtsmen, and lovers of Nature, Science, and Art; pointing out where and how each may find splendid resorts for the pursuit of their several pleasures. The writer records his own experience as far as it has gone, and in all cases the information given can be relied upon. Such a guide has long been wanted, and this issue, it is hoped, will supply the want.

Norwich: P. Soman, *Argus* office, and 84, Fleet Street, E.C. Lowestoft: *Standard* Office. Also may be had of Alfred and Son, Moorgate Street; Little, 15, Fetter Lane; Williams and Co., Great Queen Street, W.C.; Young, 402, Oxford Street, W.; Carter and Sons, 137, St. John's Street Road, E.C.; Allcock, Redditch, and all Bookstalls on the Great Eastern Railway.

NOTICE.

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., must be addressed to the Editor of THE FISHING GAZETTE, *No.* 12, *Fetter Lane, London, E.C.* and should reach the office not later than Tuesday morning.

Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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ADVERTISEMENTS.

All communications respecting advertisements must be addressed to the Manager of THE FISHING GAZETTE, *No.* 12, *Fetter Lane, London, E.C.*

N.B.—All Remittances must be sent, and all Cheques and Money Orders must be made payable to Messrs. SAMPSON LOW, MARSTON AND CO., the Proprietors.

The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1882.

SEA FISHING AT WEYMOUTH.

In obedience to a mandate from the *Mater*, who insisted that the children required a change, I made arrangements to spend a week during the month of June last at this pleasant watering place. Although I thoroughly enjoy a sojourn by the seaside,, promenading up and down an esplanade, listening to the band, &c., is not my form ; so I had no sooner got my belongings settled in comfortable quarters than I was on the beach making enquiry as to the fishing to be obtained in the neighbourhood. I had, during my journey by rail, taken note of the pretty trout streams which we crossed in the neighbourhood of Dorchester, but I was informed that the fishing was strictly preserved, and that there was no chance of a stranger getting a day, so I made up my mind to go in for sea fishing only, for which I had come prepared with the requisite tackle. I had a chat with various boatmen as to the probabilities of sport, and from all I received the same discouraging reply "that the weather was too squally," but as I came with the determination to have fishing I engaged a boat, and the next morning at 10 o'clock we (that is my wife, eldest boy and self) were afloat. I had heard from a friend who had spent a month there during the preceding summer of wonderful sport with bass in the Fleet, which is a piece of water running up some miles between the Chisel Beach and the main land. Thither we decided to make our first attempt. The wife and boy quickly got our whiffling lines baited with ragworms, of which and live shrimps we had a plentiful supply. I also trailed a long line astern mine attached to a short jack rod. There was a stiffish breeze off shore, and we scudded along merrily across the bay until a squall struck the boat and nearly capsized her. The boatman assured us it was nothing to be alarmed about, as he knew what sail she would carry to a pound ; but that was cutting it a bit too fine for me as a landsman, and I insisted on his hauling down the mainsail. We ran on quite fast enough for fishing under the foresail and jib. When off the Nothe Fort we dropped anchor and tried ground fishing, but with no result. It is true I hooked a fish of some sort, apparently a heavy one, as, after playing it some time, when I was unable to bring it to the surface it fouled me round a rock, and our connection was immediately severed. It was probably a rock fish. We then weighed anchor and sailed slowly along the shore by Sandsfoot Castle to the railway bridge, a noted locality for both pollack and bass. We took four small pollack only. We then rowed up the Fleet, I substituting a small spoon for the ragworm. I hooked a fine bass, but it broke away when within a short distance of the boat. As it was getting on for four o'clock, and the sea air had created in each of us a longing for our dinner, we proceeded homewards. I was afterwards told by a resident of Weymouth, who makes bass fishing his particular hobby, that capital sport may be obtained in the Fleet during the months of July, August, and September, but that it was very fluky earlier in the season. The next evening we angled for sand smelts off the Backwater Bridge, and caught a rare lot of these toothsome little fish. There, too, in the months above-mentioned, at the flow of the tide good bass fishing may be had either with the fly, or spinning the india-rubber bait; and all the way up the harbour I was informed small flat fish and eels may be taken ground fishing. I did not go in for this, not caring much for it, but I saw some men returning from there with a lot of fine eels in their boat. Off the pier, too, small pollack and smelts may be caught. I noticed that each day three or four boats belonging to fishermen were anchored off the Nothe Fort ; assuming that the occupants must be getting something, thither I next proceeded. We did not anchor, but kept on rowing gently over the ground, the boys whiffling, whilst I, as usual, fished with a rod. The sea was very rough, nevertheless, in a short time, we caught half a dozen pollack, the largest upwards of 3 lb., and as I took it on fine tackle, it showed some sport before it was got aboard. One of the youngsters then succumbed to sea sickness, and we were compelled to return. The weather continued cold and squally during the remainder of our visit, and we had to give up all thought of fishing until the last day, when I determined, in spite of the weather, to make one more venture. I had been given to understand that at Portland Breakwater, sport of some sort could always be had ; if nothing else, you could make sure of plenty of pout, so with a good supply of bait we made an early start. We had a rough time getting there, but, when the lee-side of the Breakwater, the sea was fairly smooth and we anticipated making up for our former ill-luck ; but after fishing from 10 a.m. until four in the afternoon, when we did not get so much as a nibble, we gave it up. On putting in at Portland to refresh the inner man, before starting for our long, hard pull home, we were informed that early that morning the bay was visited by a shoal of porpoises, which accounted for our lack of sport. On our way back, by Sandsfoot Castle, I took two pollack with the india-rubber bait. In fact, all the fish I caught during the time I was there (except smelts) were with it. They are made by Messrs. Hearder of Plymouth, and can be obtained at all the tackle shops ; they are killing baits for both bass and pollack.

Although during my stay at Weymouth, sport was almost *nil*, I believe that with better weather and later in the season, good sport may be obtained at the places I have mentioned.

The charge for boat and man is 2s. an hour, or 10s. a day ; but if you are out two or three times a week with one man you can engage him on easier terms.

RED ANT.

FISHING NEAR CAMBRIDGE.

IT is with much pleasure we ask our roach and pike-angling readers to take careful note of the letter which appears in our columns this week from Dr. Cooper, the President of the Cambridge and Ely Angling Society. Dr. Cooper cordially invites anglers to join the society, which has twenty or thirty miles of splendid water under its control. The annual subscription being only 2s 6d. and 5s., which also confers railway privileges. We can personally endorse Dr. Cooper's remarks respecting Charlie South and the Littleport water. Littleport can be reached in two hours from Liverpool Street Station,

THE PRESIDENT OF THE CAMBRIDGE AND ELY ANGLING SOCIETY.

MR. JOHN WILLIAM COOPER, LL.D., Barrister-at-Law, the President of the Cambridge and Ely Angling Society, has been appointed a Magistrate for the Borough of Cambridge. The Rev. Dr. Porter, Master of St. Peter's College and the predecessor of Dr. Cooper as president of the same society, has also been placed in the Commission of the Peace. Dr. Cooper is an enthusiastic angler, and gets away roach or pike fishing whenever he can spare time, which is not often

AMERICAN OPINION OF THE BLACK BASS.

MR. MATHER, Editor of the New York *Forest and Stream*, kindly sends us the following letter :—

"DEAR MR. MARSTON,—I have yours of the 29th of July. Yes, I see that you are struggling with the bass question, and hope that you will succeed in getting them. If you could come over and go out with me, and take a few you would say as I do, 'Let them eat up all the fish except salmon, trout, and grayling if they will, for why should not a first-class fish replace inferior ones ?'

"I do not value the black bass as a table fish, but many do,—a mere question of individual taste ; but if you could have seen one of ¾ lb. fight me on a 10 oz. trout rod for ten minutes last week, you would have a high opinion of their staying powers. At one time it sulked, like a salmon, and as this is uncommon for them, I imagined it had taken a turn around the anchor line, and ordered my boatman to lift the anchor to see. Before he got it up, however, I had the fish started, and he then came up and waltzed around on his tail on the surface, and shook his head like a terrier when he has a rat. The black bass often leap from the water when hooked. If this fish should replace your pike even, it would be a gain, but the pike exist with them here, although the bass are most plentiful when the two are in the same waters. They eat fish, but do not confine themselves strictly to them as a diet, taking worms, insects, Mr. Silk should not come before September, as the bass are difficult to keep alive now ; a lot that I brought to the city last week and placed in an aquarium at Mr. Blackford's, Fulton Market, are mostly dead from heat. These fish would probably do well in the Thames, and after they became plentiful, your anglers for barbel, dace, and other cyprinoids would have a new revelation when a black bass struck their hook. They take the fly at seasons, and I would recommend them for all waters not inhabited by trout or grayling.—Cordially yours,

"FRED MATHER."

THE MUMMY OF AN EGYPTIAN KING TAXED AS DRIED FISH.

"PROFESSOR MARSPERRO is at present engaged in a systematic examination of all the Egyptian pyramids, and recently found in a pyramid near Sakhara, the mummy of King Merenera, which had already ages ago been pulled out of its coffin and plundered by robbers. Robbed of every bit of covering, the body lay on the floor like a log of dry wood. The valuable "find" was despatched by the Professor to Cairo, in order to be deposited in the museum there. On the arrival of the cart with the body at the bridge leading into Cairo, the driver was stopped by the custom's officer. When the royal body was "declared" as a mummy, the uneducated officer said he knew nothing about such things. Nor did the statement that the object was for the Cairo Museum have any better effect on him. In this difficult situation, it fortunately occurred to one of the men accompanying the body, that a large fish caught in Upper Egypt is often dried in the sun and then (much like a mummy in appearance) sent to various parts of the country. 'Do you not see,' said he to the custom officer, 'it is a dried fish from the Upper Nile ?' The officer looked up 'dried fish' in his Custom's book, weighed the royal mummy, and charged accordingly. Thus did the once powerful King Merenera, weighed and taxed as dried fish, make his entry into Cairo. – From the *Deutsche Fischerei Zeitung.*

PRESERVATIVE FOR FISH-HATCHING BOXES AND TRAYS.

HERR MULLER, of Tschischdorf, Germany, gives the following recipe for waterproofing zinc, wood, &c., used in hatching apparatus and fish carriers : "To two parts of pitch add three parts of spirits of turpentine, and warm them until they mix well together. The mixture can be applied cold, but it is better to put it on warm. It is cheap, especially as anyone can make and use it." Mr. Silk, of Burleigh Park, Stamford, uses a similar preparation on his zinc troughs, and finds it answer admirably ; the water he has to use is so hard, that unprotected zinc soon gets a thick coating of lime on it. Mr. Silk is, perhaps, the most practical pisciculturist in this country, having had many years experience in America with some of the first American pisciculturists. Mr. Silk has at the present time, a magnificent lot of yearling trout and also trout fry for sale.

THE PROPOSED NEW THAMES BYE-LAWS.

THE amalgamated committee of Thames Angling Preservation Societies, the Central Associations, and the London and Surburban Angling Clubs, appointed at a large and important conference at the Cannon Street Hotel, on Tuesday evening, the 15th of August, met again at the Cannon Street Hotel, August 18, and settled when the memorial should be delivered to the Conservancy Board and appointed a deputation to wait on the Conservators. The memorial has been delivered by Mr. Brougham, and there this matter rests at present.

THE PROPOSED THAMES CONSERVANCY BYE-LAWS.

A MEETING of the committee appointed at the recent conference of the representatives of the Thames Preservation Societies and various angling clubs was held last night, at the Cannon Street Hotel, for the purpose of deciding upon the memorial to be sent to the Board of Thames Conservators on the subject of the proposed new bye-laws for the Thames. The chair was taken by Mr. Thomas Spreckly (Thames Angling Preservation Society), and the following gentlemen were present:—Mr. W. H. Brougham, of the same association; Mr. F. Clench, President Richmond Piscatorial Society; Captain Alfred, Gresham Angling Society; Mr. R. B. Marston, Editor FISHING GAZETTE; Mr. C. Hatfield, of the Central Association ; Messrs. R. Plummer and Lock, Windsor ; Mr. T. Hoole, Secretary West Central Association ; Mr. A. J. Little, of the T.A.P.S. ; Mr. Wheeldon ; Mr. T. Crumplen, Secretary Gresham Angling Society ; Messrs. Sharpe and Wood, Maidenhead, Cookham, and Bray. On the motion of Mr. Clench, seconded by Captain Alfred, it was resolved that a letter be sent to the Board of Conservators of the Thames, enclosing the proposed alterations in the bye-laws, and requesting that the Board would appoint a day for receiving a deputation on the subject. A deputation of gentlemen was then appointed to wait upon the Board of Conservators when called upon.

IMPORTANT TO ANGLERS.

At the Ely Petty Sessions, on the 17th inst., before the Rev. H. Pigot, J. Martin, T. Vipan, M. Pate, and H. T. Luddington, Esq., a charge was preferred against James Adkin, a sergeant in the Ely militia, for unlawfully fishing in private water on the 3rd instant. The prosecution was instituted by the Cambridge and Ely Angling Society, who are the lessees of the fishery.

Mr. Rogers, solicitor, of Ely, who appeared for the society, explained the law to the Bench, and cited the case of Pearce *v.* Scotcher, heard on 31st of March last, which decided the question of angling by the public in non-tidal rivers. The case came before the magistrates for the County of Denbigh on the 3rd December last, and they declined to convict the defendant who set up a right to fish, the public generally having hitherto during the whole period of the memory of living witnesses exercised the assumed right of fishing in the river in question. From this decision Pearce appealed, and the appeal was heard by Mr. Justice Grove and Baron Huddlestone, on 31st March last as before stated. Scotcher, as one of the public, claimed to fish in the river Dee, at a place many miles above the tide, but which was a public navigable river. Scotcher had no property near the river, and both banks belonged to Arthur M. Owen and others, who let the fishery to a tenant. Held that the Justices were wrong in dismissing the summonses, on the ground of there being a bona-fide claim of right, for it was impossible that the public could acquire such a right. Mr. Justice Grove, in giving judgment, said: I think that this case is determined by authority, and that the Justices were wrong in their decision. The decisions of the Courts hitherto have been uniform and consistent on the subject, and in favour of the appellant. The cases quoted by Mr. Matthews, Q.C., all show that the public right set up in rivers like this has been negatived. No doubt the public may have *prima facie* a right of fishery in all navigable rivers, where these are tidal, for we know that the soil of tidal navigable rivers is said to be vested in the crown for the benefit of the public. But where the river is not tidal the property in the soil belongs not to the Crown but to the owners of the banks on either side. There may be a right of the public to navigate parts of rivers above the flow of the tide just as there is a right of passage in a highway, but the right of navigation is no evidence of any property in the soil of the river in which the navigation is exercised The step from navigability of waters to a right of fishery in these waters is great. The mere fact of a person sailing over the water gives no right of ownership to such person in the water or to the fruits of such ownership. No case has been cited which shows that a right of fishery is an incident of the right of navigability, or that people lawfully passing over the surface of navigable non-tidal rivers can fish in those rivers. The cases are all the other way. If we take the cases of Race v. Ward; Murphy v. Ryan; Hudson v. MacRae; they raise all these points. Hargraves v. Deddams is a case still stronger than the present, for there the river was made navigable by Act of Parliament, and yet the Court held that that did not confer a right to the fishery in the waters made navigable. Then there is the case of Mussett v. Burch, in which my brother Cleasby and myself held that though the public had fished for forty years without interruption in a navigable non-tidal river, yet they had not acquired any legal right of fishery therein. And that any such public rights could not exist in the private parts of a river. All these cases go in one way. Then against these cases Mr. McIntyre (Q.C.) cites the dictum of Cockburn, C. J., in Reg v. Burrows; that was at most a mere dictum, and has not since been carried further, and in that case it is to be observed that the person claiming was not a mere member of the public, for he had a cottage and land on the banks of the lake, and so might have relied on some riparian right. Again, another dictum of Whiteside, C. J., is referred to, but that learned Judge seems to have given reasons why he thought the law ought not to be as it had been decided to be, rather than to be disputing that the law had been settled. We are not here to say what the law ought to be, but merely to say what the law is. There may be dicta therefore against the appellant, but they are nothing more, and the substantial current of authority is all in favour of the appellant, namely, that in the non-tidal parts of rivers the public never can establish any right of fishery such as was here claimed. Therefore our judgment will be for the appellant. Baron Huddleston concurred. Mr. McIntyre asked for leave to appeal.—Mr. Justice Grove: We have no power I believe to give leave, and we have no doubt at all about the matter.—Judgment for appellant with costs, and the case was therefore transmitted back to the magistrates for conviction of the defendant.

Mr. Cooke (clerk to Messrs. Archer) proved the letting the water in question to the Cambridge and Ely Angling Society, for £5 a-year on lease, the water belonging to the South Level Commissioners.—Wm. Benton, of Ely, watcher of the society, proved seeing the defendant fishing on the 3rd of August; asked him if he were a member of the Angling Society; he replied, "No; but it will be all right; I'll see Mr. Allen," the Ely hon. sec. Mr. Purchase, the secretary at Cambridge, also gave evidence, and produced a letter of apology written by defendant to him.

The defendant said: I have been a member of the Angling Society for about ten years. Hitherto, I have been asked for my subscription, and I have paid it; presuming that I should be asked this season I went to fish, intending to pay. This paying at once is new, and I was not aware of it, otherwise I should not have infringed the rules of the society. Rather than to have prosecuted me, an old member, it would have been far better for the watcher to have pounced upon poachers. However, I admit that I am inadvertently wrong, and adhere to the apology I sent to Mr. Purchas.

Mr. Rogers: That apology we accept. Our case is made out; the desire of the society is to show that persons who do not belong to the society have no right of fishing.

THE GREAT ALL-ENGLAND ANGLING SWEEPSTAKES.

Last week Mr. James Wragg, host of the Queen's Inn, Scotland Street, Sheffield, decided his great angling sweepstakes, for which he gave the sum of £100. These events have proved a great success in past years, and this being his sixteenth venture, it proved a wonderful success, trains from all parts journeying to the scene of action, which is situated on the river Witham, a well-known resort, noted for nearly all kinds of fish, and is under the superintendence of the Boston Association. During the past four years 515 is the smallest number that have taken part in the contest. On August 26, 1878, at Dogdyke, out of 588 fishermen, F. Bardsley, of Attercliffe, won with 10 lb. 1½ oz. In the following year, on August 25, at the same place, 515 competed, when H. Taylor, of Sheffield, took the first prize with 7 lb. 4 oz In 1880, on August 30, 597 competed, when R. Gregory, of Sheffield, took the first prize, with 9 lb. 6 oz., and last year, in the same waters, on August 29, there were 580 fished, and this time the first prize fell to Hydes Graham, of Horncastle, with 8 lb. 5 oz. During the past week the weather has been very unfavourable, rain falling nearly every day, and it looked anything but promising. On Saturday afternoon by the train which leaves the Victoria Station shortly after four, several hundreds went down, the weather being splendid, and to all appearances looked like continuing. The prizes were on exhibition on Saturday night, and some hundreds visited Mr. Wragg's to see them, and they will be on view until Thursday next. The money is divided into twelve prizes, as under:—First prize, £30; second, £20; third, £12; fourth, £9; fifth, £7; sixth, £5; seventh, £4 10s.; eighth, £3 10s.; ninth, £3; tenth, £2 10s.; eleventh, £2; twelfth, £1 10s. The principal ornament on the stand was a large frame bearing the words "J. Wragg, £100," surrounded by a line of half-sovereigns, and this was the centre of attraction. Early yesterday morning two heavy trains left Victoria Station, the first containing thirty and the other twenty-two carriages. Nottingham was also fairly represented, 300 coming by specials, and these were headed by their celebrated brass band to the station, and some hundreds witnessed their departure, all being gaily dressed. On arriving at Dogdyke shortly after eleven o'clock the weather was anything but promising. Some at once went to refresh the inner man, and others went on each side of the water to try the different drains. Their appearance was something novel, as the fishermen hailed from Oldham, Staleybridge, Ashton-under-Lyne, Manchester, Bolton, Stockport, Wigan, York, Leeds, Derby, Nottingham, Bradford, Ilkeston, Thorne, Doncaster, Wakefield, Grantham, Lincoln, and Sheffield, but the countrymen came to the fore in droves and far outnumbered the Sheffielders, and the success was the greatest we have ever seen. Shortly after one o'clock the draw commenced, and it was not until nearly three before time was called, when 514 fishermen cast in. Rain fell heavily at this time, but fortunately a strong breeze got up and continued the whole of the time. At 5.30 time was called, the men having been fishing two hours and a half. The weighing in at once commenced, and it was nearly nine o'clock before it was finished. The following were the principal prize-takers:—1st., J. Lee, Sheffield, 9 lb. 11¼ oz.; 2nd, H. Noble, Sheffield, 6 lb. 8½ oz.; 3rd, W. Wilson, Leeds, 5 lb. 12¾ oz.; 4th, A. Woodhead, Mosborough 4 lb. 14 oz.; 5th, R. Shilleto, Eccles, 4 lb. 10½ oz.; 6th, Nicholson, Nottingham, 4 lb. 10 oz.; 7th, J. Lee. Sheffield, 4 lb. 6 oz.; 8th, W. Lumley, Sheffield, 4 lb. 1½ oz.; 9th, W. Darley, Sheffield, 4 lb 1 oz.; 10th, W. Darwin, Sheffield, 3 lb. 14¾ oz.; 11th, C. Langley, Sheffield, 3 lb. 14 oz.; 12th, G. Wilson, York, 3 lb. 11 oz. The officials were Messrs. Wragg, Spell, and others, whilst a large staff of men attended at the other posts.

The angling club held at the house of Mr. J. Marsh, Rising Sun Hotel, Matthew Street, fished their annual match on Monday, at Keadby. Twenty-six took part in the contest, thirteen of whom caught fish, the following being the first eight—S. Marshall, 14 oz.; A. Rudiforth, 10½ oz.; T. Tomlinson, 9 oz.; A. Hoole, 7½ oz.; G. Deakin, 5½ oz.; W. Marsh, 5¼ oz.; J. Marsh, 3¾ oz.; F. Atkinson, 3 oz.

GREAT YARMOUTH PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

This society continues to prosper and will eventually become one of the best in the Eastern counties, especially when it is known to have the support and assistance of such anglers as A. Nuthall, L. Bonvoisin, Mr. Crumplen, and a host of others who have honoured this newly-formed society by becoming not only members in form, but in reality, as regards advice and assistance, which is very much required in all new societies. The eel sets in the rivers are now occupying the attention of the society in conjunction with the Preservation Society; as regards the legality of placing a net across a river from shore to shore, some different opinions exists. Of course, it is absurd to think that the nets stop any other fish except eels, but your humble servant and Miles's Boy says they catch all that come; if the owner puts them back again, so much the better. All fish that come to the net is the rule, not the exception; some may say, prove it; well, not ten in all your subscribers, which number hundreds in this county, ever saw them make a draught. Why? Since our last report some good catches have been registered by A. Mitchell, Esq., the president, Mr. Hewetson, chairman, Mr. Pond, Mr. Bennett of the Gresham. Last Monday brought in 46lb. of good bream from Messrs. Warnes and Chapman, and a good catch from A. Nuthall and Mr. Hewetson. On Thursday next the society angle for prizes: 1st, a splendid combination rod, given by Mr. Hannant; 2nd, angler's waterproof coat, given by Mr. Green of King Street; 3rd, line and reel, complete, given by Mr. Budds of Howard Street; the spot chosen is Potter Heigham. Speaking of Potter Heigham, I am exceedingly sorry to say that the conduct of visiting anglers to Heigham Sounds, in breaking down reeds, &c., whilst angling, has caused the gentleman who rents the fishing and shooting to give public notice that the sole right of fishing is in his hands, and it is now forbidden to fish there. The wild-fowl would soon be driven entirely away, by the liberty taken by some London anglers, who seem, some of them at least, to think they have only to get a boat from some place or another and do exactly as they like. The reeds here make money, as well as affording a cover to the birds; and as the land is rented, it is not right to destroy without caring who it may injure; elsewhere, it is generally the rule to ask permission to fish in water that is leased or rented. No doubt many a London angler who reads this will be very sorry to know he is forbidden in future to fish where rudd of 13 inches in length can be caught, but whose fault is it?—J. Lark, Secretary.

ANGLING CONTEST AT OAKHAM.

The annual competition of the Oakham Angling Society took place last Saturday in the society's waters at that place, under rather favourable circumstances. Forty-two members entered for the competition, which commenced at two o'clock with the drawing for places, and shorly afterwards the anglers commenced the task of endeavouring to make the fish bite. Some amusement was caused when on three separate occasions large fish were hooked and, owing to the too great anxiety of the fisherman, broke loose again. Mr. Barfield managed to land a very fine roach, which turned the scale at 1 lb. 10 oz., and another weighing 1 lb. 2 oz.; these placed him at the head of affairs. The next to him was a youth named George Welch. Everything connected with the match passed off exceedingly well. Appended is a list of the prize-takers: T. Barfield, first prize, with 2 lb. 12 oz.; G. Welch, second prize, with 2 lb. 3½ oz.; A. Stapleton, with 1 lb 13 oz., third prize; W. Sewell, with 1 lb. 11 oz., fourth; T. Gilby, 1 lb. 2 oz., fifth; and G. Jones, 15 oz., sixth. The other prize-takers were: E. Smith, H. Dugley, W. Burton, J. Allaway, J. Welch, H. Hardwick, H. Crook, T. Smith, J. Healey, S. Beaver, A. Warne, J. Palmer, T. Dobney, J. Bryan, A. Keely, A. Crook, and E. Carter.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS

By L. B.

In my notes last week, *re* club visits for "hard little woman," read "hard working little woman."

I met my good friend, Mr. Imey Da Costa, the other day, who gave me a graphic and immensely amusing account of his recent capture, from the bank at Reading of a very fine barbel, illustrating the same with suitable and most energetic pantomimic action. The whole battle was fought over again from baiting the hook with a carefully-selected bit of greaves to the triumphant landing on the finest of tackle of a handsome 7-pounder.

I hear that the Great International Fisheries Exhibition, 1883, will probably contain a portrait of this well-known worthy, either in the act of casting the fly, or, if roach-fishing, just "tapping a growser," while Mrs. Da C. will be represented looking on in the dual capacity of judge and referee, for which offices her piscatorial knowledge so well fit her.

The jack are moving somewhat at Elstree reservoir, and some decent fish have been taken.

From Maldon, in Essex, a friend writes:—"I have been having some fair takes of roach and bream lately, but the present unsettled weather is all against us, particularly in angling for bream, in fishing for which I do not so much mind bright low water or sunny days' provided the nights are warm."

The usual monthly meeting of the United London Anglers' Central Committee will take place on Monday evening next at the Bald Faced Stag, Worship Square, Finsbury, Mr. T. Morgan in the chair, when it is hoped, seeing the number of important piscatorial matters just now agitating, all delegates who can possibly do so will attend.

I hear on the best authority that a well-known piscatorial writer, and an A 1 all-round angler, has taken the Bridge Hotel at Chertsey. Brother rodsters will unanimously agree in wishing him success, and few will be in the neighbourhood without dropping in and having a look at their old friend, J. P. W., as mine host Wheeldon.

A meeting of the West Central Association working committee will be held on this Friday evening, when a new society will be proposed for enrolment, and other business brought forward for discussion and settlement.

A West Central, No. 3 district, visit was paid to the Peckham Perseverance on Tuesday, the 29th inst., when the following clubs were represented:—Anglers' Pride, City of London, Anchor and Hope, Peckham Perseverance, Peckham Brothers, Excelsior, Clapham Junction, and Kenningtonians. Mr. Tapenden took the chair punctually at 9 p.m., Mr. Jewell the vice. Some capital songs were rendered by the following members and friends:—Mr. Jewell, "John Barleycorn;" Mr. Fernival, "Shouldn't advise you to do it," and "It's a mistake, John Bull," encore; Mr. R. Smith, "Paris Exhibition" and "Our Christmas Ball"; Mr. Bignall, "The Æsthetic Young Man," and encore "Poor Jane"; Mr. Davis, "Our Great Statesmen"; Mr. Bonn, "Its a Rum World"; Mr. Duke, "Jack's Come Home from Sea To-day"; Mr. Tapenden, "The Good-bye at the door"; Mr. Davis, "My village home"; Mr. Parkins, "Speak of a Man as You find Him"; Mr. Haines, "Welcome, ever Welcome"; Mr. Page, "Going Bathing"; Mr. Matthews, "Shall England Rule the Waves?" Several other songs were equally well rendered, and the company appeared to thoroughly enjoy themselves. The next visit goes to the Peckham Brothers, Tuesday, September 12.

In the event of the fly-fishing match coming off between Mr. R. B. M—— and the "Raven," I hear that those of the angling community who are of a sporting turn of mind are offering to lay long odds on the former, who is well known to be a capital and essentially practical all-round angler, and an A 1 hand with the fly-rod to boot.

The question of coarse fish culture, or rather the making of a practical experiment of some, so promptly taken up by the United Associations Fisheries Society, at a recent public meeting, when other funded and old-established associations came not forward as it was hoped they would, is not being lost sight of, and the committee are in treaty with the proprietors of two or three waters, a portion of any of which would be admirably suited for the purpose in view.

CLUB REPORTS.

AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Shury, 3 lb. 8 oz. roach and bream; Mr. Howlett, 3 lb. roach; Mr. Moir, 7 lb. 14 oz. roach and bream; Mr. Larkman, 11 lb. 8 oz.; Mr. Medcalf, 1 lb. 12 oz. A pegged-down match will take place at Weybridge for eight prizes on Sunday, September 3. Mr. Larkman won Mr. Mee's prize of £1 1s. for the heaviest weight of fish during the month; weight of fish 35 lb.—J. Worledge.

ANCHOR AND ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday, the 27th inst., we had a fair show of fish, the following members weighing in:—Mr. H. Scott, bream and roach, 8 lb. $5\frac{1}{4}$ oz.; Mr. R.-Smith, bream and roach, 4 lb. $8\frac{1}{4}$ oz.; Mr. D. Davis, bream and roach, 5 lb. $0\frac{3}{4}$ oz.; Mr. A. Shakel, bream and roach, 1 lb. $6\frac{1}{4}$ oz.; Mr. T. Bowling, bream and roach, 1 lb. $9\frac{1}{4}$ oz.; Mr. A. Glass, bream and roach, 2 lb. $3\frac{3}{4}$ oz. Several members returned with blanks.—D. Davis sec.

August 30.

BOSTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had some good fish on Sunday last. Mr. Brothers had a nice show of roach from the Thames; Mr. Jennings roach and dace, one dace in fine condition, weighing 11 oz.; Mr. Marshall and Mr. Garner a nice show of roach from the river Yare.—J. J., hon. sec.

BROTHERS WELL MET.

About forty members of this old established society held their annual dinner at the Rye House, on the 27th, under the able presidency of Mr. W. Newton, faced by Mr. W. Hanson, and Mr. Secretary Hunt strove with might and main to promote the comforts of those present, and a vote of thanks was accorded these gentlemen. The members were at their swims true to the time appointed and eager for the contest. After dinner was concluded the company quickly dispersed to enjoy the beauties of the grounds and gardens.

CRITCHFIELD ANGLING SOCIETY.

The president of the above society, Mr. A. C. Critchfield, has been successful in making another good show of fish, by taking, on Friday last, in addition to a variety of roach, rudd, perch, &c., ten tench weighing 25 lb., the heaviest being a little over 3 lb. Messrs. Featherstone and Hayward have also had fish, being moderately successful. The latter gentleman, on Saturday last, fishing in the Wey, hooked a roach which he believes would have scaled at least 3 lb., but he, unfortunately, failed to land it. Mr. H. also believes this fish to be the last of his race in that river, as he had not a single touch before nor after hooking this one. The next general meeting will be held on Thursday, the 14th September, at 8·30 p.m., and the general meetings, in future, will be held on the second Thursday in each month. Members are requested to kindly make a note of this.—J. F.

Aug, 29th.

GOLDEN BARBEL.

On Aug. 28, Messrs. Mitchell, Whitehead, G. Hall, and J. Green had a nice show of roach, dace, and bream, from the Arun and Rother. Mr. Chapman had some jack and bream. On the 30th, the Brothers Entwistle had some sport among the jack on the Midland. A general meeting was to have been called, but, owing to an unavoidable accident made on the part of the secretary *pro tem.*, it has been postponed until the 12th September.—Pixie.

Aug. 31.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The special meeting of the society to consider the proposals of the committee in reference to a revision of rules was held on Thursday evening, Dr. Brunton being voted to the chair. The attendance was larger than on ordinary occasions. It may be noted that the chairman (Dr. Brunton), following up his promise of last week, weighed in a nice brace of trout, which were caught with the identical line shown last week to the society, made by Fiji islanders entirely from human hair. The interest of the evening centred in the discussion of sundry alterations in the rules suggested by the committee, which, with trifling exceptions, were carried, Mr. Jardine and others vigorously debating them, one by one. Mr. Crumplen said that his experience of the angling world, or rather a few individuals who posed in it, was certainly unsatisfatory, and the more he knew of them the more he disagreed with the selfish objects they seemed to have in view. Mr. Frost, Dr. Lloyd, Mr. A. W. Parker, Mr. J. F. Clarke, and other gentlemen took part in what proved to be a very exciting debate, but in the end the recommendations of the committee were virtually carried, and a somewhat stormy meeting closed very amicably with a cordial vote of thanks unanimously tendered to Dr. Brunton for his able occupancy of the chair. It should also be mentioned that, by the kindness of Mr. Hatfield, of St. Martin's Lane, a number of copies of the "Guide to the Broads of Norfolk" were presented and distributed by the secretary among the members present. On Thursday next the society will have an important gathering, the Rev. H. Cummings having promised his long expected paper on trout culture. All members of angling societies, or any gentlemen interested, will be welcomed to this meeting, and it is hoped that a large attendance will be secured. Captain Alfred, Mr. A. W. Parker, Dr. Theodore Cash, and Dr. Brunton will follow with sundry papers of interest to anglers at the moment.

NORTHAMPTON WORKING MEN'S ANGLING CLUB.

On Sunday last the members of the Northamyton Working Mens Angling Club held their first series of prize fishing in the river Nen, on the Upton Estate, when about sixty members of the above competed for the following prizes:—£2 – First, 15s, Mr. White; second, 10s., Mr. Page; third, 5s., F. Chambers; fourth, Mr. Garlick, 4s.; fifth, 3s., Mr. Billingham; sixth, Mr. Garrett, 2s.; seventh, 1s, Professor Sadd. Messrs. Brown, Ball, and Darby superintended the fishing, and T. Jones at the scales, at W. Rugby's, the club house, Bridge Street. Our little demon, Billy Ball had a nice basket of bream on Tuesday morning, weighing 47 lb., making a total of 150 lb. in three mornings, besides some very fine roach in the lower water of the Nen Angling Club.—T. F.

ORIGINAL ALEXANDRIA SOCIETY OF ANGLERS.

Mr. Brockett, a fine show of bream from Dagenham; Mr. W. High, roach, from the Chalmer; Mr. Blackledge, roach and dace, and Mr. Tiffin, chub, from Cheshunt. Our country member, Mr. Stanton, had a fine show of barbel, from the Thames. There will be a pegged-down match at Dagenham Lake on Sunday next, for six valuable prizes.—E. Dymond, sec.

Aug. 31.

PRINCESS OF WALES ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this society paid a visit to the Royal Aquarium, Westminster (by the kind invitation of Mr. F. Robson, their secretary), on Monday, the 28th inst. They were first conducted to the various tanks of freshwater fish, and great was the admiration of the fine specimens of carp, tench, chub, barbel, perch, roach, dace, and especially of the handsome Thames trout presented by Mr. C. Hatfield (a well-known Brother Knight of the Rod). They were then taken to the picture gallery, where a much longer time might be most enjoyably spent than they had to spare; and after viewing the various silk spinning moths (bred in the Aquarium from larvæ and cocoons), they adjourned to the central stage, where a capital variety entertainment was provided. At the interval, which takes place at 9 45, they were conducted to the seal tank (in the annexe), where an extraordinary and most pleasing performance was gone through by the seals. Various other objects of interest having been viewed, they returned home highly pleased with the evening's amusement.—E. Percy, Chairman.

QUEEN'S ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our members fished for two prizes on Sunday, Mr. Pearce being the most successful with 7 lb. of bream; Mr. Walford second with 6 lb of bream; Mr. Koopman, 3 lb. of bream; Mr. Pratt, 3 lb. of roach,; Mr. Morgan, $2\frac{3}{4}$ lb. of roach.—L. Walford, sec.

RODNEY PISCATORIALS.

In consequence of the removal of the Royal Piscatorials to Brixton, several gentlemen in the neighbourhood have resolved to form a society of the above title at the Albion, Rodney Road, Walworth. As the secretary, pro. tem., I beg to inform my brother anglers desirous of joining a society that the accommodation is everything that can be desired for an angling society. The proprietor, Mr. T. Hughes (who is a great lover of the sport, as the decorations on the walls of the Albion and also those of the Foxley Tavern can verify) will give the society his support in the shape of some valuable prizes. I shall attend on Wednesday and Sunday evening to take the name of any gentlemen who might wish to join, and also to give information as to the rules and regulations of the society.—Pixie.

ROYAL PISCATORIALS.

This society has removed from the Albion, Rodney Road, Walworth, to the Foxley Tavern, Elliott Road, Brixton, where all communications for this society are to be sent.—Pixie.

Aug. 31.

ST. JOHN'S.

If Walton got takes of fish like we are having lately, I am thinking he would have written a very different work to what he did, as one tray is enough to hold the fish now on meeting nights. On Sunday last, out of a number of members, the following had fish:—Messrs. C. Fudge, Bray, Reynolds, Hebben, Stevens, and Rushton, the lot being a very small one of roach, dace, and jack, from the Lea. Members will please take notice that at the last committee meeting it was resolved that the club dinner shall take place on the last Sunday in September, also that Mr. Thorling's prize and Mr. Rushton's prize will be fished for on Sunday, August 27; notice of the same to be seen in the club room. Our show of fish on Sunday last was very good, Mr. Reynolds winning Mr. Rushton's prize with a very fine show of roach from Rickmansworth, several going over 1 lb. each; Mr. Fudge winning Mr. Thorling's prize with roach and jack from the Lea; Mr. Hebben had some fine roach from the Lea, one fish going 1 lb. 3 oz. Mr. Bray, perch from the Lea; Mr. Hunt, roach and bream from Pulborough, all small fish. I beg to remind secretaries that our West Central No. 2 district visit will take place on Wednesday, September 20, when we shall be glad to see as many of our friends as can make it convenient to attend.—F.T.

Aug. 29.

SURREY PISCATORIALS.

On the 23rd several prizes were given for competition among the honorary members of this society. As none of those gentlemen showed up at the head-quarters in the evening, it is supposed they have all got blown away in the gale that prevailed during the day. Messrs. Beckett and Boalch were out with C. Brown, of Richmond, and managed to get about 7 lb. of nice dace, which, considering how the wind blew, was not bad. Speaking of the wind, these gentlemen assured me that the wind blew a large Windsor chair clean out of the punt and Mr. B. nearly after it.—At the meeting held on the 30th ult. it was decided that for the next competition members be allowed to fish where and how they like. Mr. Boalch gave in his report of the meeting he attended at Cannon Street Station, which caused a great deal of comment. The size of the fish spoken of at the meeting was considered by a member as a deteriorato the "Eye and York" time, and endeavouring to preserve trout and jack at the expense of all other fish by extending the fence months for trout and jack and allowing the other fish to be taken at such a small size.—Pixie.

Aug. 30.

THE LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

Most of our members were out again this week, and worked hard to produce as good a show of fish as the last, and in which they were almost as successful. Mr. G. Letch had some first-class bream, Mr. Hurwood had dace and perch, Mr. Welch had a pretty show of roach, dace, and gudgeon; H. Moore also had roach, dace, and gudgeon; Mr. Petrie roach, dace, and perch; Mr. Raine one nice jack. Mr. Scott was out on Wednesday, 30th inst., and brought home some very nice roach, and one jack. Several other members weighed in, which made a good show of fish in the club again this week.—H. Moore, sec.

P.S.—A most laughable coincidence occurred on Sunday last while out fishing with two club members, Mr. Welch and Mr Gibbs, and a member of the Marylebone Angling Club. Mr. Gibbs, intently watching his float, did not perceive a bullock behind him watching his tackle, who politely walked up to his box and took his rod case off the top and ran away with it, eating it as he went along. Calling Mr. Gibbs' attention to it, he bolted after him, and after a long chase managed to get it. About an hour after, a gentleman fishing lower down took out his bag to have some food, which he laid down by his side, and which all of a sudden he lost, Mr. Bullock taking it and going on the feed himself. Later on in the afternoon another gentleman also had his rod case taken by the bullock, who completely gnawed it to pieces.

August 31.

THE STOKE NEWINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 26th inst. Mr. E. Machin had a jack from Pulborough, weighing 6 lb.; a large fish, but in very poor condition, also a few roach. Mr. C. F. Robinson, bream and roach from Amberley; Mr. W. Robinson, roach; Mr. S. Wilkinson fishing at Broxbourne last week, had a very good day's sport, 13 perch and 3 roach, on an average 6 oz. each, falling to his rod. The annual excursion of members and friends, by road to Dagenham Lake, will take place on September 10th; to leave the Middleton Arms, Mansfield Street, Kingsland Road, 6 o'clock sharp. Eight prizes will be competed for. The distribution to the winners taking place on Wednesday, September 20th.—T. Gretton.

TRAFALGAR ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above society had a nice show of fish on Sunday. Mr. Wilson, bream from the Mole, the largest 3 lb. Mr. Humphries, roach from Amberley, one weighing 1 lb. 4 oz. J. Gaze, roach and dace, and one jack of 5 lb. from Pulboro'. Messrs. Lord, Dewem, Goldstine and Richardson, roach and bream from the Wey.—J. Gaze, sec.

August 28.

UNITED BROTHERS, DEPTFORD.

Our trays were not quite so full on Sunday last, the 27th, as on the previous Sunday. but still there was a very decent show. The following members weighed in fish:—W. Tyler, roach and bream; G. Belton, roach and bream from Pulborough; F. Watts, bream, J. Eller, roach and bream from the Medway; J. Currans, bream from the Wey.—W. Belton.

UNITED LONDON ANGLERS.

The monthly meeting of the Central Committee will take place on Monday evening next, September 4, at 9 o'clock, Mr. S. Morgan presiding. Angling societies enrolled are invited to send two delegates to the meetings in future. Secretaries will greatly oblige by sending particulars of any alteration as to change of club-house, secretary, or nights of meeting, to enable me to get out correct new lists.—R. Ghurney, sec.

August 31.

WALTONIANS.

Mr. Waltham, roach, 3 lb. 1¼ oz.; Mr. Crabb, roach, 14¼ oz.; Mr. Watson, roach, 1 lb. 13½ oz.; Mr. Malcom, roach, 1 lb. 1¼ oz.; Mr. Rushbrook, roach, 14 oz.; Mr. Good, jun., roach, 2 lb. 12½ oz.; Mr. Phillips, roach, 6 lb. 12¼ oz. —A. J. Marriott.

August 27.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

At a meeting held at the society's head-quarters on the 25th of August, Mr. Russell in the chair, it was decided that the pegged-down competition for the 10th of September shall take place at Paddock Wood. Messrs. Cain and Bedford were appointed to go down and mark out swims. Gentlemen desirous of going will please communicate with Mr. Boalch, who has made special arrangements with the railway company for that occasion. On the 30th, Mr. Green and gentlemen belonging to the Larkhall exhibited some nice perch and jack, the largest perch turned the scale 1 lb. 12½ oz.; Mr. Green's largest fish weighed 1 lb. 5¼ oz.; they came from Tring. Conditions for Paddock Wood competition, tight line fishing only, all fish to weigh, according to club rules.—Pixie.

Aug. 30.

TROUT FLIES DICTATED BY RELIGION AND MUSIC.

The construction of trout flies has long been a subject of argument and discussion between fly-fishermen, one side reasoning, with a good show of being right, that an exact imitation of nature was the most likely to take trout (of course with the same amount of skill in using them), the other side claiming that any monstrous combination of fur and feather, the like of which never was seen in the water or out of it, was the most killing. There are few rules without an exception, and both sides make a good showing when arguing from an experience with single fish, and not on a general average. There is no accounting for what an individual trout may do, any more than there is what an individual woman may do. Trout sometimes take the fly under very strange and incomprehensible circumstances.

But I am wandering from the idea I had in view when I commenced writing, which was that with the exception of a few standard makes, like, for instance, the May-fly, Coachman, etc., the style and colouring of flies as made and sold, is governed, not by what the trout like, but by national music, and national religion, the last being the most powerful, governing the former. In this country we have no national music nor national religion. Neither, as a rule, have we native fly-makers. They are either Scotch or Irish. The fish, waters and climate are not materially different in the two countries in which they learn the art of fly making, but the men and their habits of thought are as different as possible. They leave the impression of their thoughts on their work.

The Scotchman has the most depressing of all religions; has very little expectation, or hope of his final salvation. If he sings at all at his work, which is doubtful, he chooses the saddest of all songs—

"When Jamie had been gone a twelvemonth and a day,
My Fether brak his arm and our cow was stole away,
My Mither taken sick and Jamie on the sea,
And old Robin Gray he came courting me—

My Fether argued, sair, my Mither dinna speak,
But she looked in my face 'til I thought my heart would break,
She gie him my hand, my heart was on the sea,
And old Robin Gray he came a gudeman to me."

Who with such sad thoughts and sad music could make a bright gay fly (unless working from a model) that would skip over the rippling waters like a thing of life.

The Irish fly maker, on the contrary, takes no thought of the morrow. His religion sits lightly upon him and is not depressing. If he sins, he confesses the same, and is forgiven. He has then no responsibility of the past or fear of the future. He goes to his work with cheerfulness, combines the bright colours with an imagination not weighted by the doubt of his "election." In every bright feather he sees a possible trout he expects to take next Sunday after an early mass. He sometimes takes a little whisky with a slight aroma of peat smoke in it. If he sings, it is—

"I've a wife to wed, and shure I am willing to take her,
But there she lies in the bed and the devil himself can't wake her,
Don't say nay, charming Judy Flanigan,
Don't say nay, you love Barney Brannigan."

In the two songs, if you know the music, you can see the two schools of fly making. Try the former, they are proper, conventional, each adapted to the various months of the year, and with them you will take a few small trout. When your arm aches with fruitless casting, if you are beside some deep pool where there should be large trout and you would have a great joy the memory of which would last you even to the time when you can fish no more, sit down, light your pipe, smoke it most out, then look over your book until you find a perfect nightmare of colours combined on one hook made by the man who cracked with his buckthorn stick at the bulge in the tent, and when told that that was his father's head, said he "couldn't help it, the chance was too good to be lost." Put it on, drop it lightly on the water and you will not wait long to have a "Donnybrook Fair" all to yourself.—L.S.—*In the American "Forest and Stream."*

Gregory's Spinning Baits. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Tedding on; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[Advt.]

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RIVER REPORTS

MID-THAMES.

"Amongst the views of many, mine."
—SHAKESPEARE.

Since my last note the angling condition of the river has gradually improved, but even after the continuous rainstorms is still as bright as unbroken gin, and the fish consequently decline to be enticed from their pleasant and aromatic weeds. These said weeds are at present as green as grass and lively as snakes, and until a little "rot" sets in the fish will decline to leave such pleasant and gastronamic quarters. Roach are still feeding extraordinarily shyly; perch, however, are bolder, and are being had up to a decent weight after "the rake's progress" in gudgeon swims. Barbel are still most difficult to obtain except in mill-tails, and then much of the infant stamp about them, the parents evidently putting their fins into their nose at the enticing baits offered and at the sweet cherub of an angler sitting up aloft in a punt. Chub are certainly affording the best sport just now with a fly; and as to jack, I would advise them to be left alone for at least another month, when the weeds will have begun to decay, and Mr. John Pike will perforce have to seek more open and salubrious waters, if less, to him, happy hunting grounds. From Windsor and district I hear of the Rev. A. C. Pearson capturing 48 lb. of barbel and a jack of 4½ lb., and Messrs. Hannis and Mitchell on one occasion 9 barbel and 2 chub, together scaling 20 lb. Messrs. M'Kirrell, Jerrome, and Brooke, have also had some good barbling in the Windsor district and Mr. Runieles and Paine of Eton, have had a trout each of takeable size. At Marlow, Mr. Wright has taken two jack, going respectively 4½ lb. and 5lb, and the Hurley Waters Messrs. Bryan and Brooksbank, out daily with "The Boy," have had 6 dozen gudgeon daily, besides roach, dace, perch, and a pretty takeable trout, all being had by fishing between the beds of weeds with brandling or lobworm. At Medmenham, Tom Street has been out with varying success amid roach, perch and gudgeon, and tells me that a good game just now is to run a minnow or small gudgeon down, live bait fashion, in the clear channels amid the weeds when if an observant and hungry jack or perch espies the same he is likely to be tempted by the struggles of the finny prisoner.

Thursday Evening.—The Thames is still so clear that anything like good sport can hardly be expected. The rain that has fallen has evidently not found its way into the river, but been mopped up by the thirsty earth. Weather unsettled and gloomy, with wind chopping from south to west, with an occasional dash of north.—Marlow Buzz.

Ancholme District.

Owing to heavy rains, the fishing was spoilt for a day or two during the past week, but on Monday the waters had cleared again and some good sport was had amongst the roach and perch. My son has caught a nice lot of pike during the week, but they were rather small in size, running from 2 to 4 lb. Fishing in the trout streams has, owing to fresh, much improved, and the second hatchings of the spring flies are putting in an appearance. I am taking holiday on Southern and Midland waters, and on Saturday caught twenty carp before breakfast. There were plenty in the pond up to 10 or 15 lb. in weight, but these wiseacres were not to be caught, so I had to be content with fish up to 2 lb. in weight. I finished the day with a nice trout of 2 lb., caught in a mill just below the water-wheel, under circumstances of the greatest difficulty. I hope to try the Great Ouse next week in the neighbourhood of Bedford, but am truly sorry that, owing to previous engagement, I have been obliged to decline a courteous permit for a day on the Wycombe waters.—Thomas Ford, Caistor.

Ballynahinch.

Since last report angling has somewhat improved, trout being a good deal larger since the nets were taken off. The following is the number of fish killed. On the 23rd, Mr. Deverell 15 trout; same date, Mr. Parkinson 1 salmon 5¾ lb., Messrs. Nevill and Grissel 5 trout, and Mr. Bury 9 trout; on the 24th, Colonel Hay 5 trout; same date, Mr. Parkinson 1 salmon, 7¾ lb., and 2 trout, Mr. Grissel 19 trout, Messrs. Nevill and Grissel 9 trout, Mr. Bury 21 trout; on the 25th, Mr. Deverell 3 salmon, 7, 8½, and 10½ lb., also 9 trout, Mr. Grissel 12 trout, Mr. Waddle 10 trout, Messrs. Nevill and Grissel 18 trout, Mr. Winthorpe 1 salmon, 6½ lb., and 17 trout, Mr. Bury 11 trout; on the 27th, Mr. Parkinson 19 trout, Mr. Grissel 16 trout, Messrs. Nevill and Grissel 40 trout, Mr. Parkinson one salmon, 8 lb., Mr. Grissel 25 trout, Mr. Winthrope 4 trout, Mr. Bury 24 trout; on the 29th, Mr. Deverell 1 salmon, 7¾ lb., Master Deverell, jun., 9 trout, also two days previous about a dozen of trout each day. Mr. Parkinson 10 trout, Mr Grissel 16 trout, Mr. Winthrope 9 trout, Mr. Bury 1 salmon, 13 lb, and 6 trout.—Walter Blackadder.

Coquet (Welden Bridge).

On the 24th, Mr. Wood Linden killed a good salmon 9¼ lb.; on the 25th, the Rev. Mr. Oliver killed a good basket trout 6½ lb.; on the 30th, Mr. Baker Stanton nice dish. The river is very small and bright, but the trout are taking the fly again since the flood.—A. Glass.

Dove.

This river is in splendid order for all kinds of fishing. Many rodsters were out on Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday last, and succeeded well amongst not only trout and grayling, but chub, roach, dace, bream and barbel. The last-named fish are now feeding better than at any previous period of the season, though I don't think it can be fairly represented that sport is proving as successful as last year. The wasp-grub and worm continue to kill best of the bottom baits. The spinners have lured the largest trout, and a few pike have fallen victims to the live minnow at the Dove's Junction with the Trent Weather has much improved since I last wrote, and I fancy the Autumn wind-up amongst trout will be more satisfactory than the opening.—The Splowger.

Exe (Dulverton).

The Rev. Mr. Jellicoe took two salmon yesterday with the fly, about 5 and 8 lb. each, in the Exe, about two miles from Dulverton station.—C.W.

Exe (Tiverton).

The river is now in very good order for salmon-fishing, and a good many fish have been taken, ranging from 5 to 16 lb. Three and four a day have fallen to the lot of some rods. The trout season ends to-day. Very little has been done during the past week. At the Petty Sessions to-day, before the ex-Mayor, E. M. Winton, J. D. Frazer, and H. S Gill, Esqrs, Frank Miller was charged with, on the 10th inst, of killing a salmon otherwise than with rod and line in the Exe, at Tiverton The case was proved by Maria Davey, wife of Henry Davey, who deposed seeing Miller in the river under her house take the fish with his hands (the water being very low) and carry it to the opposite bank and kill it by treading on it with his heel and afterwards wrap it in his jacket and carry it away. Prisoner asked to be dealt with leniently. The Bench said that fish, in running up, must be protected, and they must inflict such a penalty as would deter parties from committing a like offence. Fined 25s. for killing the fish, and 20s. for the fish, or one month's imprisonment with hard labour. Prisoner took the latter.—Wm. Mudford.

Lea (Ware).

Owing to the river being let low for the purpose of cleaning out Steam Mill ditch on Sunday last, very little sport was obtained among the roach, but several anglers out on Monday were fairly successful, and during the week takes have been moderately good. I obtained two fine jack on Thursday afternoon, while a friend fishing near me secured one. The water is in fine condition now, especially that part lying between the Town Bridge and first lock down.—Lion and Wheatsheaf.

Leicester.

Angling notes since my last have been rather quiet. This may be attributed in a great measure to the weather, as we have been treated to both cold easterly winds and rain. Saturday last being an exception, with better prospects for fishing, induced a considerable number of anglers to visit both the Soar and canal, and some fair takes of both roach and perch were had; roach being taken principally with wheat and cad bait, and the perch with the tail end of a lobworm. At Aylestone some good roach have been had, and several have been trying for the large chub, of which there are a good number in these waters, but they do not appear to be on the feed. From Barrow-on-Soar the takes are not in proportion to the number of anglers that have visited these waters, and the catches of bream have been but small. Some fair-sized roach have been had, and a gentleman spinning on Monday, took a brace of good pike weighing about 14lbs. At the Wreake very little has been done during the last few days. Thursday morning opened with good prospects, and a fair number of anglers were out, but towards the afternoon the weather changed again, and we are having a lot of rain. The waters are fairly high and slightly coloured.

Medway (Tonbridge).

The water is still in splendid condition, and during last week some good bags of all kinds of fish were made. On Sunday, J. Eller and W. Tyler, fishing at High Bridge Hole, caught 50 lb. of bream, but it would be a little more graceful of London anglers when they come down and have the benefit of the work of the local society, if they contributed a small sum to the funds and took out tickets, like the majority of the local anglers. The same day, some other Londoners had bream from the same Hole. Above the town, Mr. Holloway has taken some decent bags of bream and some good perch and several jack. Mr. Buley has been amusing himself amongst the chub, which take a wasp grub with avidity. On Tuesday and Wednesday, Mr. E. Greenwood and G. Payne fished the High Bridge Hole after a liberal baiting. On the first day they captured 74 lb. of bream, some of them weighing 4 lb, and on the second day 50 lb., notwithstanding the wind was blowing great guns all day. Other anglers have been out with various successes. If people will only arrange to bait a good stream, excellent sport may be had.

P.S.—The cold weather of the past week has not been productive of good sport amongst the bottom fishers, though the water still continues in excellent condition. Now that September has arrived we shall have to record some sport amongst the pike, who, in the upper reaches of the river, have been enjoying a good rest. With a little few warmer nights than we have had lately bream and roach ought to be seen on the feed again well.—Ye Medway Water Rat.

Ouse (Littleport).

Plenty of roach &c., plenty of weeds, bed of river carpeted with flannel weed and the fishing, in consequence, is something awful, and looks like being so for two or three weeks longer. Mr. Allpress, of Ely, caught a nice pike live baiting the other morning, going a trifle over 10 lb.; this is the only item worth mentioning. Shall have grand doings when the weeds clear off.—C. South.

Thames (Goring).

Water low and clear. Not much doing in fishing; gudgeon are biting well. Sunday, two dozen of perch; Tuesday, a few very good chub and perch.—John Rush.

Thames (Halliford).

The river is still very low and bright. Since my last report different gentlemen were fishing with me, and their takes have been as follows, viz.: 1st day, Mr. M. Palmer, 7 dozen roach and dace. 2nd day, Messrs. M and C. Palmer, 6 dozen roach and dace; most part of them returned to the river again. 3rd day, Mr. Geo. Palmer 5 bream, 2 jack and 1 perch, altogether weighing 16½ lb. 4th day, Mr. Draper, one dozen and a half roach and dace, and one perch. 5th day, Mr. Geo. Palmer, 5 barbel, 1 jack, 5 bream, 1 chub and 1 roach, altogether weighing 21 lb.½ 6th day, Mr. Geo. Palmer, 4 bream, 3 jack, 5 barbel, 2 chub and some roach, altogether weighing 24 lb. 7th day, Mr. and Mrs.

Blake, 15 dozen gudgeon and 2 dozen roach and dace. 8th day, Mr. Geo. Palmer, 3 jack, 1 barbel, 1 bream $2\frac{1}{2}$ lb., and two dozen roach and dace.—GEORGE ROSEWELL.

Thames (Hampton).

Wheeler this week, fishing above weir with different gentlemen, averaged eight barbel per day, and to-day with Mr. Chandler, of Epsom, landed a very fine one, weighing $7\frac{1}{4}$ lb., with a live bait. I took a jack, 31 inches in length, bad condition, weight $7\frac{3}{4}$ lb., from the bank of the island. J. Smith, below the weir, had a wonderful take fishing with Mr. John Ive, viz., forty-four barbel weighing 73 lb., last Monday On Tuesday, with me, twenty barbel and on Wednesday twenty-one barbel. On Sunday, 100 roach, some over $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Bank fishing no good. Worms, barbel; gentles, roach and dace.—E. SWAN.

Thames (Twickenham).

Wind S.W., with light showers nearly the whole of the day. I am pleased to say the fish are now making their way towards us, in good condition and very plentiful, and it is predicted by those who are most competent to judge that the autumn fishing will be most excellent. I might state that it is a source of great satisfaction to me to see so many of my old customers availing themselves of my oft repeated advice by wiring or writing in advance. Spong in one day, with Mr. Long, of Kensington, took eleven dozen of roach and dace and two barbel, another day eight dozen, also six dozen. Our "Joe," with Mr. Butler, of Hanwell, took four good barbel, weighing from 2 to 4 lb., and six dozen of roach and dace. Captain Smith took five dozen of roach and dace; Mr. Stevens in one day four dozen and two barbel; Dick Moffett, with Mr. Cook, of Wandsworth, seven dozen roach and dace; with Mr. Evans, four dozen; and each of the other punts averaging fair takes.—ALFRED PERRIN.

Torridge.

It has been raining hard all the morning, which will rise the river and good sport may be expected next week. Since last Thursday there have been 24 peel and 116 trout taken, most of the peel with the improved bright Devon minnow as the water has been thickish after Tuesday's flood; the coch-y-bonddhu has been the favourite trout fly, but many trout have been taken in the small streams with the worm.—PRACTICAL ANGLER.

Torridge (Woodford Bridge).

On Monday, Captain Briscoe, from Truro, killed, in the Upper Torridge, three dozen very fine trout and seven dace. Since then, the water has been in a very indifferent state, owing to thunderstorms raising the water, and so many small streams running into it soon gets foul water. There is still very little prospect of better weather. The flies used by the above were the blue upright red palmer, with the maggot.—JOHN BLAKE.

Trent (Alrewas).

I have not heard of a respectable basket of fish being taken the whole of the week, and very few anglers out owing to the unsettled state of the water and the weather. I intended giving the barbel a trial the latter end of last week, but on account of a rise in the river and heavy rainfall, I had to put it off until the water fined down. I am glad to report there are a few still to be had in this portion of the Trent. Mr Adams Parker, the vice-president of the Birmingham and Midland Piscatorial Association, nobbled a nice brace nearly 12 lb. a fortnight ago ledgering, and unfortunately lost a much larger one, who broke his tackle and got away. Mr. W. Reynolds to date, has taken the best basket of roach and dace, weight 21 lb., the small cockspur worm doing the principal execution. River reported to night (Thursday) above the usual summer height and discoloured. Rain has fallen, but not heavily, since noon, which will not improve matters. While the water remains discoloured worms will be found the best bait for all-round fishing; ground baiting with chopped up lobs.—JAMES GREGORY.

Trent (Newark).

Since sending off my last report, we have had an extra foot or so of water in the river; but not much colour with it; but at the time of writing, the water is in capital condition for general angling, and some fair catches of fish have been had by various anglers. I noticed one very nice bag of roach taken with malt this week. A nice bream, weighing nearly 5 lb has been "weighed in" this week, and also two very good roach weighing 1 lb. $9\frac{1}{2}$ oz. and 1 lb. $5\frac{1}{2}$ oz. respectively. Weather has been wet and generally uncomfortable for angling this week; but when the weather was anything like, sport was pretty good. Roach may now be taken with creed wheat and malt; chub will take the wasp grub, while worms will be found successful in luring barbel and bream to destruction; and jack are rather inclined to run at a spinning bait, the wind and the slight frosts of the last morning or two having woke them up a bit. Thursday night prospects pretty fair. Water in fairish condition. Wind in a good quarter, and fish waiting for the hook.—THE TRENT OTTER.

Upper Wye.

Floods for the last week; the water rises and falls very much in the upper waters. Saturday, few salmon were taken, and four this day. The waters are now supposed to be very full of salmon. Some few baskets of trout have been taken this last week about 4 lb. baskets to 6 lb baskets. Visitors staying at this hotel (Lion) can have very good salmon and trout fishing early in the season, we often have 10 lb. to 14 lb. baskets of trout. Next week I will give you fuller particulars.—W. W.

Wye and Derwent.

Both rivers have had nice flushes on them since my last report, especially the Derwent, which has now at the present time a most beautiful woodland water on it, and I am pleased to say that some first-class baskets of both trout, grayling, and coarse fish have been killed with fly and bottom. Yesterday (Wednesday) a good many fishermen were out on the Derwent between Darley Bridge and Whatstandwell, trying their hands with wasp grubs, gentles, and cockspur worms, and baskets from 6 to 15 brace per angler were made, chiefly with wasp grubs. To-day (Thursday) some large baskets of both trout and grayling have been killed with the fly, chiefly with the honey dun, bumble, little red, and dotteril flies. Both rivers are now in first-class condition for all kinds of angling; fish well on the feed.—GEORGE JAMES EATON.

The Chatsworth fishery last three days water swollen; but previous there has been good baskets killed with the blue and yellow fly and bumble. Water will be in fine condition to-morrow (Friday) if weather fine.—J. EADES.

Wharfe (Yorkshire).

Up to Saturday last only very indifferent sport was experienced, both by bottom and fly fishers, even though such favourite flies as the little pale blue dun, the August brown, and red ant were at times strongly on the water. On Monday, however, a grand water came down, and some good sport ensued. J. Bland, an enthusiastic bottom fisher at Pool, killed three trout in less than an hour's fishing on Tuesday evening, one a real beauty, scaling 1 lb. 5 oz. This fish once again exemplified the fact that the finny tribe feel little or no pain when hooked, as the tackle in question was broken, and in the very next swim landed this trout with the broken tackle hanging from its mouth. Several undigested minnows also came out of its throat, showing that it had been thoroughly "on the feed." Trout are now beginning to show signs of decline, and in another week or so grayling fishing will be in full swing.—FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

ORIGIN OF UP-STREAM WORM-FISHING.

"LET me here record a statement often made by Charlie Ebdy, a statement which I believe to be perfectly true.

He declared that worm fishing up-stream, in clear water, was as a high branch of the piscatorial art first practised by the Witton-le Wear schoolboys, from whom Charlie himself learned it about 1826. The earliest really successful angler in this way of whom I ever heard, was Mr. John Chaytor, son of Sir William Chaytor, first Baronet of Witton Castle, and he informs me that he learnt it from his uncle's gamekeeper, Dick Pattison, who again brought it from Northumberland, but from what particular district is unknown.

Mr. Chaytor, after practising the art in many Yorkshire streams, did thus fish in the Wear, near Witton-le-Wear, in the year 1823 and subsequently, and it is easy to understand how a style of fishing so profitable, and at that time so unusual, should be narrowly watched, and ere long adopted by many. It is certain, however, that during my early visits with Charlie to the Coquet, Glen, Till, Tweed, and Whiteadder, commencing in 1831 and spreading over several weeks of each year, we never met with or heard of any one who fished with worm up stream, and hence our wonderful success, in the months of June and July, caused us to be closely observed by some who were desirous to find out our secret, and denounced by others as in fact no better than cunning poachers.

I am not prepared to assert that no really good anglers with worm existed previous to Dick Pattison's arrival from Northumberland, but certain it is that, if such there were, the number must have been extremely small. Dick fished in this way as early as 1820, and all my researches fail to establish an evidence of any one else doing so at an earlier date. At the present time there is not a border river which has not numerous worm fishers so expert as to call forth the praise of every really good judge of the matter."—From "My Life as an Angler," by Wm. Henderson.

[We consider Charles Cotton is the Father of this system.—ED.]

EDITING A NEWSPAPER.

THERE is one editor who has achieved the feat of running a newspaper to suit everybody. Occasionally, to be sure, he has complaints, but he never fails to satisfy the complainers that they are in the wrong. It wasn't always so with him. He only adopted the system after he got desperate. It was one day after he received seven complaints that he tried it. A man came in and said: "Why in tophet didn't you print the whole of the proceedings of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Hogs, instead of a brief abstract?" The editor replied: "Oh, you made a speech that wasn't in the report, eh?" Then he went around the counter. The dust flew for a few minutes, and then he became more quiet. The editor relaxed his grip on the man's throat sufficiently to let him speak, and he said that he guessed the article was all right, and he had only come in to renew his subscription. He was let up, paid the money, and left, and as he went out he collided with a man who had an ugly glare in his eyes, and dancing up to the editor, said: "What d'ye mean, sir; I pay for a sensible newspaper, and here I got a lot of stuff about cruelty to hogs. You ought to be put in jail for printing such rot." The editor went around the counter again, and again the dust flew, and cries of "Take your teeth from my ear!" "Let go o' my hair!" &c., were heard. It was full five minutes before the editor could get the man's coat torn off and put him on the floor with his head in the coal scuttle. But he did at last. Then he jumped high in the air and sat upon the man's stomach, and the yell that man gave, echoing in the coal-scuttle, sounded awful. The editor was about to repeat the operations, but the man said: "We needn't prolong this agony. Your paper is the best in the world. It is all right. I'll take it for ten years in advance." Eight more visitors had the same experience. Then came one that the editor couldn't thrash. It was a woman. "What d'ye mean by publishing fashion articles from a three-year-old magazine?" she asked. "I made a bonnet according to your directions, and its three years behind the style. Oh, you wretch! you mean, horrid, insignificant—oh-h!" "My dear madam," he said, "you are right. I'm not fit to run a paper. I'll stop at once." (To a reporter.) "John, don't send up any more copy. Kill that article saying this lady was belle of the ball last night." "Stop!" she cried. "Your paper is a household treasure. I don't care about the bonnet, and came to ask you to our house to tea to-night." The editor says he wouldn't drop the rule for anything. Everybody leaves satisfied with his paper.—*Boston Post.*

AT Lake Anna, near Fort Bidwell, Henry Woodson has a fishery. He commenced operations three years ago with 2000 common brook trout. Now he has realised so handsomely from them that he has sold 30,000, and 12,000 spawn have been sent to Germany The trout attained a weight of 7 lbs. in thirty-one months, which is remarkably rapid growing. He supplies the whole of Bidwell county with fresh fish. The lake is forty-five acres in extent. He has also a small lake of six acres stocked with catfish. Mr. Woodson has made it a profitable business, and every year adds to his wealth.—*Reno* (*Cal.*) *Journal.*

THE GREAT INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION.

AT the large and influential meeting held at Norwich to support the above undertaking, Mr. E. Birkbeck, M.P., made a most interesting speech, from which we shall next week quote certain passages, giving much information about the prospects of the Exhibition, which are most encouraging. We must thank Mr. Soman for sending us an early copy of his 'Argus' Report.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

[Pressure on our space prevents our inserting several letters this week.—ED.]

AMONGST THE CHALLENGES.

SIR,—Amongst the challenges published in your last week's paper, I see that I am made the subject of *two*, one of them being by "A Constant Subscriber," to perform my long-pending promise by writing those articles on fly-fishing-spinning for trout; and the other from no less an angler than "Herne the Hunter," to chuck "a palatable frog or toad" to "The Logger-headed Chub." Whether

> "Each gives each a double charm,
> Like pearls upon an Ethiop's arm,"

I don't know. And where is there a palatable toad? and who "The Logger-headed Chub" may be? are esoteric questions, into which I am not careful too curiously to inquire.

Touching my promise—it has not been forgotten. And if it has not yet been performed, that is not because the merits of fly-fishing-spinning have not yet been sufficiently tested. For long before the capture of those trout to which "A Constant Subscriber" so flatteringly refers, the test was quite complete. What I have been waiting for these "many months" is "more light," greater experience, not of the merits of so high an art, but in the practice of all its arcana.

That "invocation" is very, very *fetching*. Natheless, I must not let it call up my contribution, like

> ". . . . . the moon
> Rising unto some sorcerer's tune
> *An hour too soon.*"

One part of the preliminary experience I had set myself has just ended; but another has now to begin. Ere your next issue is out I shall, I hope, be off for my annual holiday to one of the very best trout and salmon rivers in England or Wales. And by the time "A Constant Subscriber" reads these lines, haply my first holiday trout or troutlet may have found its trust betrayed. But when sweet September will have given place to "chill October," and our trouting rods and tackle are all stowed away till next spring, I shall have returned to Town; and before the freshness of the recollections of the past season of the angle has faded away into dimness, I will jot down my views of the new art, and hand them to you for the benefit of "A Constant Subscriber" and any others of your readers who may take an interest in the matter.

In those articles, I may have a word to say on the issues of Hair *v.* Gut, and Hair *v* Silk, and Hair *v.* Silk and Hair, and Silk and Hair *v.* Silk, which are exciting so much sensation. And, in the meantime, you need not doubt that I shall not fail to watch most eagerly for the bulletin announcing the first encounter between the Editor and the Professor. And whoever in that contest may be the victor, I pray to Mars the other will "live to fight another day," and not be "in battle slain" outright.

One of your correspondents asks whether it is unusual for a trout to take a frog. The following anecdote was told me this summer by a gentleman, a millowner on the Gade. It shows that a frog at least is not always unpalatable even to a trout. My informant was walking with a friend by the waterside, when they observed a fair-sized trout feeding. They caught a small frog and tossed it to him. He had it in an instant. They then threw ten more, one after another, to him. He snapped them all up or ever they could swim a stroke. A twelfth he let go a yard or so before he made a dash at it, evidently "This way and that dividing the swift mind" as to whether 'twas good enough. And No. 13, not an unlucky number that time— went untouched away. It was clearly a case of *quantum suff.* But he might have made up a baker's dozen whilst he was about it. What do you think? That the wise trout moderates and enjoys? Or that they ought to have tickled his jaded palate more toothsomely still with a tempting toadling?—I am, &c., A.R.I.E.L.

GROUND BAITING.

(*Continued from page* 402.)

SIR,—Mr. Greville Fennell relates the following incident in his "Book of the Roach":—"Old Corbett, a Peninsular veteran, used to bring heavy baskets of roach from the Lea, and finding him upon one occasion at Ware, in Hertfordshire, we watched him closely from a respectful distance. He was seated upon a cane box, made by himself, to hold his tackle in the one-half, and his fish were dropped through a slit in the other, without his having to quit his seat. This box he moved from swim to swim. 'Why,' we enquired, 'do you shift your swim? You have just taken a good-sized roach at the last, and yet you leave it.' 'Yes, your honour, I have five pitches here within thirty yards, and I always make it a rule to move to another swim after taking a fish.' As this was somewhat new to us we asked the reason. 'Why you see, your honour, I have ground-baited each of these five swims, and I have found by experience that the noise and bustle made in landing a fish at one place drives the lot off, and they go to the others, where, if I throw a little fresh ground bait in, I get them about me again.' Upon this the veteran cast in a piece of ground bait not bigger than a hazel nut, and shortly landed another plumper. There was something, we thought, odd about the ground bait, and we therefore picked up a small piece he let fall and asked him bluntly what it was composed of. He frankly told us it was nothing but oatmeal—that pollard would do—browned over the fire in a frying-pan, and then mixed into a paste with treacle or molasses. He had learned this from his Colonel (Williamson), a very expert and successful roach fisher, and he found it the most attractive ground bait he had ever used."

This Colonel Williamson wrote "The Complete Anglers' Vade Mecum," 1808, and was the Captain T. Williamson.

In ground fishing in gently flowing waters the aim should be to distribute and disperse the bait as much and as soon as possible, that all may get a taste, but few a surfeit, which latter they easily do by prodigal and senseless baiting.

Mr. W. Baily, of Nottingham, whom I believe to rank amongst the first of observant anglers, and whose writings will one day be more appreciated than even now, speaking in one of those paragraphs which he favoured the Press with during the angling season, says: "The latter fish (roach) have begun to take white wheat, and I understand lower down the river this bait has taken roach much better than anything else, with stewed crushed malt for ground bait. This sinks more quickly than grains, and keeps the fish all in one spot, but only a small quantity must be thrown in at a time. In fact, when roach are fairly on at malt, they are so fond of it that if a lot is thrown in they gorge themselves in a few minutes, so that the safest plan is to give them only a small quantity at a time, and that only when the fish begin to slacken biting."

The ground bait generally used in the Suffolk and Norfolk rivers is brewers' grains thrown broadcast in the stream, which seems particularly attractive for bream. But, when Mr. Greville Fennell went down to Cantly on the Yare, with his fisherman, Harry Crystall, and cheekily announced in the *Field*, to the Norfolk anglers, that he was coming down to show them that they might add at least six weeks or two months to their roach season; and that they left off when they ought to begin. He adopted the Thames style, by both mooring the boat athwart the stream, and using adhesive ground bait, such as is described by Mr. Francis Francis. Crowe, the landlord of the inn, told them that they were welcome to a boat, but that they would be throwing their time away; they might, perhaps, catch two or three roach, but the probability was that they didn't get a bite. Instead of this being the case, they got upwards of 84 lb. of good roach, greatly to Crowe's astonishment, who had known the Norfolk waters from boyhood, and never in his life saw such a thing for the time of year. The fact is, no one had tried.

That fish may be gorged and surfeited even naturally, we have proof in regard to trout, in the May-fly season, as D. Foster, in his "Scientific Angler," truthfully remarks, after feeding on the ephemera. "By the time the season of the drake terminates, the fish have so regaled themselves upon this lusty ephemeral, that for a week or so they find it incumbent upon them to retire to the deep still water, to doze off the effect of the excess, after which they again resort to their accustomed posts, which are not forsaken until the spawning season again comes round, except when forced to retreat in the face of what in Highland phraseology is called a heavy "spate."—I am, &c., CREEL.

"DON'T BE LET IN BY ADVERTISEMENTS."

SIR,—Your correspondent, "N. Devon," in your issue of Aug. 12, writing under the heading of "Some queries about hens," &c., advises gents who are about to go on a fishing trip, "Not to be let in by advertisements." With this I quite agree, and only wish all those seeking fishing quarters would first consult the rivers report columns of the FISHING GAZETTE, and read for themselves the various reports, which are mostly signed in full, and would communicate with the writer before venturing upon their trip, or even writing you (Mr. Editor), who, I am sure, would give the requisite information, beside giving the names of correspondents, who, from practical experience upon the waters selected would only be too willing to do the same, which would save many extra miles of travel, and, of course, unnecessary expense. I have had during the past and present seasons numbers of gentleman here from London, Wiltshire, Berkshire, Gloucester, and various other counties, who have written me through reading the FISHING GAZETTE, and who have returned, heartily pleased with the splendid sport they have all had. One gentleman has just left here, after a three weeks' sojourn, for London, having had to return rather earlier than anticipated, much to his displeasure; his average takes being about a score of trout per diem. One or two salmon peel a week, and during the time one fine salmon. This is but one case in point. Your correspondent also states: "I know a gent who has lately come into Devon for fishing, and he has taken his house with a distance of nineteen miles to go by train, and had he first applied at the right quarters, eight would have been the farthest distance, without a change of trains." With this, my words are verified, and I consider all those who so willingly give this information, and saving of expense, entitled to some small remuneration for such, as a good puntsman mostly gets for placing a customer on a good swim; even a dish oftrout would be acceptable, which might be easily picked out from the day's sport. The smallest are as sweet as the large, to those who willingly and often foolishly part with their knowledge so cheap. I am not speaking on my own account, there are many needy but good anglers here, who have been in the habit of giving the best of advice to visitors, who seem to take it for granted, that as strangers, the advice and whereabouts should be freely given; so with thanks for your kindness they depart.

Excuse me for trespassing so far upon your valuble space, but should those through THE FISHING GAZETTE, or any other medium, read this, it may remind them that there is such an institution as the Anglers' Benevolent Society, who would thankfully receive any donation, however small, with this note attached: On account of the successful day or days or weeks fishing from such and such a part from advice freely given when in Devon, York, Berks, &c —FRANK GOSDEN, Exeter.

[If anglers would take the trouble, even to merely consult the ordnance map, they would see in a moment how far their lodgings will be from the river. The further from a railway-station the better the fishing, is our view of the matter. We insert no misleading advertisements, as far as we know.—ED.]

LARGE BREAM.

SIR,—My bream of 7 lb., the capture of which was recorded in your journal, is well preserved by Cooper, and can now be seen at Hatfield's, the Star and Garter, St. Martin's Lane, where it will remain for a short time.—I am, &c., THOS POOLE.

August 29.

THE WHARFE AT POOL.

SIR,—Would you or any of your numerous readers kindly give me any information respecting fishing in the Wharfe at Pool, as I am about having a day or two there?

What kind of baits, tackle, &c.; and if there is any fly fishing to be had there, and best kind of flies? Any information respecting the above would greatly oblige.—I am, &c., YORKSHIREMAN.

[We believe there is good trout and grayling fishing there. Tickets can be obtained for a short length of water.—ED.]

THE CAMBRIDGE AND ELY ANGLING SOCIETY.

SIR,—In your excellent article on "Roach Fishing" in last week's GAZETTE you seem to be in doubt as to whether the water at Littleport is preserved or not.

As president of the Cambridge and Ely Angling Society, I should like to state through the medium of your columns that the right of fishing in the society's waters is confined to members. The various fisheries hired by the society are as follows:—The Corporation Fishery, from Sheep's Green, Cambridge, to Barnwell Pool, from Barnwell Pool to Ditton Dock, from Ditton Dock to the Jolly Anglers, near Upware, from the Jolly Anglers to First Horse Jump. The Wicken Fishery, from the last mentioned place to Dimmock's Cote, is not at present in the society's hands, but from Dimmock's Cote to Pope's Corner is in the society's possession, and so to Ely Bridge. The fishery of the South Level Commissioners, extending from the old Fantail mill, just below Ely Common, Muckhill Bridge down to Littleport Bridge, including about a mile and a half of the river Lark from the branch cut, is also hired by the society. In all, the extent of the society's water in the Cam and Ouse is considerably over twenty miles.

It is all preserved for the use of the members, and the committee have recently appointed a keeper, who is very vigilant in inquiring of anglers whether they are members of the society. The subscription is only 2s. 6d. a year, and the payment of this sum entitles the person to fish in all the society's waters for roach, &c.; but to enable an angler to fish for pike in the South Level Cut—that is the Littleport Fishery—a minimum subscription of 5s. is required. I may also add that 5s. subscribers are supplied with a ticket which, on production at the offices of the Great Eastern Railway, entitles the holders to travel to and from Littleport from Cambridge, Ely, or Newmarket at single fares, a concession not granted to 2s. 6d. subscribers.

Our committee have also passed a bye-law, enabling members to introduce a friend for the purpose of angling, except for pike, on giving their names to the secretary, Mr. Purchas, of Cambridge, or Mr. Allen, of the Club Inn, Ely; but this privilege only extends to persons not resident within the county.

There is every prospect next month of excellent roach fishing, and, as our subscription is not prohibitive, I hope many anglers at a distance will join. From experience I feel sure they will not regret it, for the roach fishing in September and October in the South Level Cut is certainly the best in this part of the country. I have frequently secured a bag of 12 and 14 lb. in a few hours' fishing. Charlie South knows every inch of the water; he supplies anglers with every requisite, while the extremely moderate douceur he expects is but a poor recompense for the attention he displays and for the geniality with which he renders anglers such essential service.—I am, &c.,

J. W. COOPER, President C. and E. Angling Society.

Cambridge, August 26.

"GRANDMOTHERLY LEGISLATION."

SIR,—I thank you for those words. they ought to have been printed in gold; you are quite right, sir, we have had far too much of that grandmotherly legislation of late years. Fancy, Mr. Editor, the legitimate roacher, who is down at his fishing quarters and naturally anxious to drop his line in at the first streak of dawn, having to wait till sunrise. Fancy that, Mr. Editor. Why, he frequently would have to wait a whole week in this uncertain climate. How about the lads that stop out all night to get a favourite swim, will they keep their rods in the case till the sun rises, well knowing the first hour of dawn is the best? Will it suit your bream fisher, who well knows the moment the sun rises bream leave off feeding. What will this grandmotherly legislation bring us anglers to if we stand it much longer.—I am, &c., A. J. PORTER,

4, Hampton Street, Walworth, August 26.

[It is curious that, although we meet great numbers of anglers who agree with us that this craze for legislation is to be deplored, they do not care to express their views publicly, and go against those highly moral anglers who jump with delight when they have got some fresh rod made for their backs. We presume they feel their own inability to go straight in angling matters without laws, bye-laws, and without grandmotherly assistance from fussy individuals proud of a little brief authority. We should like to know why a man should be prevented from fishing all night if he cares to. The answer that it encourages poaching is absurd. It encourages poachers to find that their enemy the angler is out of the way. Again, prohibiting eel fishing during the fence months is simply allowing this ravenous fish to destroy millions of fish eggs and fry, which the fence months are supposed to secure.—ED.]

TROUT TAKING FROGS.

SIR,—I see in the FISHING GAZETTE of last week an inquiry is made by Mr. G. F. Heath whether a trout taking a frog is unusual. I beg to venture to say it is not, as I have known of three cases, and have never tried it over half a dozen times. Once, spinning with artificial minnows at a piece of water, Lamberhurst, Kent, I hooked and landed a trout of about 2 lb. with a large frog in the gullet and its two hind legs protruding out from the sides of the trout's mouth; digestion had not begun, as we pulled the frog out and examined it, and it appeared not to have been long taken Yet it took the spinning minnow; I presume it was pretty hungry to do this.

On another occasion, in the Darenth, Kent, my son saw a young frog jumping, and called to me on opposite bank, asking if he should try it as a bait. I told him yes, and he hooked it in the back and dropped it in the running current. No sooner had it got under some overhanging boughs than a trout seized it and pulled it clean off the hook, and darted under the boughs. Therefore I think it conclusive that trout like frogs, but as a sportsman I now use fly only.—I am, &c., COLIN TERRILL.

Maidstone.

THE WATFORD ANGLERS.

SIR,—I enclose copy of the rules of the United Angling Society (Watford). This society has been started by some old anglers who, anxious to protect their rights in waters once public in the neighbourhood, have joined themselves together, and I have no doubt will receive support from the London clubs.

I regret to say there are rich men in this neighbourhood who have succeeded, in a fair or foul way, to drive the poor angler away from the waterside. Lately a so-called society has started, who have stopped us using our nets and laying night lines in a piece of the Colne which runs through the town. This they pretended to have thrown open to the public. Certainly anybody can fish, but they put the standard of sizeable fish as under:—Trout, 12 inches; jack, 18 inches; dace, 6 inches; roach, 7 inches; chub, 10 inches; barbel, 12 inches. I am sure all fair anglers will agree with me that to put fish at these sizes is just the same as closing the water altogether.

The new society's will be as under:—Dace, 5 inches; carp, 5 inches; chub, 9 inches; jack and barbel, 12 inches; perch, tench, and roach, 7 inches; trout, 12 inches. I trust the Watford United Anglers Society ere long will prove a great success.—I am, &c. G. V.

[The only length we think too long is that for roach, which might be 6 inches fairly enough.—ED.]

PRESERVING MINNOWS, &C.

SIR,—I should be obliged if you, or some of your correspondents, would kindly inform me if they know of any more satisfactory way of preserving natural spinning baits than by putting them in a bottle of methylated spirits. I always find the brilliancy of scale to be impaired by this method.

I should also be glad to know whether there is good roach or chub fishing to be had at Boroughbridge (near Ripon).—I am, &c.,

RUS IN URBIS.

[The "Angler's Diary" says: Pike, perch, and a few trout and grayling are to be had at Boroughbridge. We should advise "Rus in Urbis" to write to the Postmaster and ask him—if he does not know himself—to ask some angling friend. We have never known this plan fail; of course, stamped envelope for reply must be enclosed. To preserve minnows bright we should suggest trying the following plan (which we referred to in "Fly fishing near Scarborough"): Put a teaspoonful of water into a soda-water bottle, then drop in 20 or 25 minnows, and shake them about a little, then put in a tablespoonful of glacialine powder; shake up and cork up, and the minnows will be found quite bright weeks after. They must be washed when taken out of the bottle, the powder soon melts off. A little salt added might make the fish tougher.—ED.]

A VISIT TO KESTON PONDS.

SIR,—London anglers who are continually complaining of the scarcity of fish, and more especially of fish worth capturing, can hear plenty of plunges and splashes from good fish by visiting Keston Ponds.

But they must stay all night to hear this sweet music. I performed this feat one night last week, being told, if I wished to be successful, this was the proper course to adopt; and never in my life did I hear so many proofs of good fish being present, or made more sure of a terrific catch.

Anglers who are continually pluming themselves on their extreme cleverness and cunning in capturing the finny tribe will here find ample opportunity to bring those two angling virtues into play.

The place is perfectly free to all.

There are trains from Loughborough Junction to Bromley. It is a lovely and pleasant walk through old English country lanes from Bromley to Keston, and if you are fond of ferns you can get a cart-load on Hayes Common. You can get tea near the Fox and Dog, within half a mile of the ponds; and in case of rain there is splendid shelter under some fine fir trees, and in natural shanties amidst the magnificent fern and furze.

Fish with honey paste and worms, using the ledger, and throw out well into the middle. The meadow crake will cheer you with its singular note all night long, and early in the morning the loving coo-coo-coo of the stock dove falls sweetly and soothingly on the ear.

Given a fine night, two or three jolly companions, and you cannot help being happy. But don't expect any fish.

"Oh," you say, "how is that?"

I will tell you how it is. They have become so highly intelligent and so marvellously deep from being so long and constantly practised upon by anglers of every kind, that they treat all your baits with supreme contempt. There are the fish (principally carp)—of this there can be no earthly doubt—and if you can succeed in catching three or four you must be very clever indeed. If you do not believe it go and try.—I am, &c., MARK ANTONY.

N.B.—I forgot one thing. You can have a capital bath and swim if you go in before eight in the morning.

LEEDS MARQUIS OF GRANBY ANGLING SOCIETY.

SIR,—A club has been formed under the above title since the 3rd July, 1882, with the sole object of stocking and preserving private waters for the use of its members, who, up to the present time, number over 70. I enclose a report of this week's weighing in, and shall be glad to forward you a weekly report, as your paper has a large circulation in this town. The following are the names and weights of some of the members takes:—Mr. Green, 17 roach weighing 14 lb.; Mr. J. Mitchell, roach, chub, and dace weighing 25 lb.; Mr. F. P. Hammill, roach and dace, 2¾ lb., among them one roach which weighed 25 oz, which is being preserved for the club; Mr. A. Haddock, also a splendid catch of roach, one weighing 21½ oz.; Mr. Ward, 2 pike which scaled 19 lb., the best fish weighing 12 lb.—T. H. SETTLE, hon. sec.

[Shall be very glad to have the reports.—ED.]

FISHING IN GERMANY.

SIR,—I enclose you a letter just received from a friend of mine (W.C.B.H.), who is on a fishing excursion in Germany. If you would like to publish the same in your valuable paper, you can do so.—I am, &c.,

South Gate Chichester, August 21. ARTHUR PURCHASE.

"MY DEAR SIR,—According to promise before leaving England, I give you a brief account of the fishing here. I have just come back from two hours' barbel fishing with seven fish, the largest not much over a pound. I caught three this morning, weighing 2, 1½, and 1lb. You will say that is very small, and so it is. I have only taken one of 3 lb. here this year. Last year I caught several that weight. The reason there are none larger is that netting is allowed from 1st September to 1st May, the peasantry looking upon the river Lahn as a means of subsistence during the winter and spring, when there are no visitors. I have taken a few small perch and heard much of pike, but have not caught any as yet. Am going to have a day to-morrow, but I believe that fish is more plentiful Nassau way. Last year I was generally successful with a float, but this year have had to catch my fish—barbel and large roach—ledger fishing, and trying work it is to one's temper and patience. The bed of the river is all large stones, in which you are constantly finding your line hard and fast. I have lost three and four of a morning. My theory is that the barbel sink your bait (Gruyere cheese) under the stones. I have had a ring made which goes over the winch and rod, and I find it answer very well in saving my hooks. The best fishing gear for this place is a light and not too long bamboo rod, fitted with winch and light silk (dressed) running line, landing-net, and a good supply of leads and hooks, perch size. I tried a Nottingham travelling float, but I did not find it answer. Current was too strong, owing to the quantity of rain we have had. It comes down in earnest here when it does rain. We had two such showers yesterday, the like of which we don't see twice in a year in old England; consequently, the water has been rather thick, and the barbel bite very gingerly; so you have to strike sharply and quickly, as I could do once, before years had made my right hand lose its cunning. One characteristic of the fish in the Lahn is that they do not go in shoals as with us, neither barbel nor roach; and ground bait will not bring them together. Please understand I am only speaking of fishing here as a pastime and amusement. The river is alive with fish, and were it not for the netting before mentioned, would be worth coming here for sport alone. We are surrounded with lovely hills, wooded down to the water's edge, making the place a lovely spot, and the waters I found very beneficial last year for my cough. I must now conclude this long yarn. —I remain, dear Sir, yours very truly,

"Darmstadt, Ems Germany, August 18. W. C. B H."

[Many thanks.—Ed.]

DISASTERS AT SEA.

Sir,—How terrible to hear that 800 lives are lost upon our coasts every year, or fifteen each week, and that this is an average of the last six-and-twenty years; making a total during that time of 20,800. If a quarter of this great number of lives were sacrificed in any other way the nation would not hesitate in mitigating such a calamity; but since it is principally in the ordinary occupation of fishing that the loss is incurred, it is erroneously regarded by most people as absolutely inevitable.

A society has at last been formed for the promotion of increased places of safety on our coasts for fishermen and mariners, and if the work is carried out it cannot fail to attain its object. It is proposed that convict labour be used in the construction of these harbours—a point already alluded to in the House of Commons, by the President of the Board of Trade—so that many who have injured their country in the past, and who are being supported by it in the present, may render some service in the future. The country is now aware of the vast and influential support which this society has already received, but surely it cannot know that the work is almost at a standstill for lack of funds. Our nation has the well-earned reputation of suppovting worthy institutions and coming to the relief of immediate necessity in a most generous way, but are we not too eager to relieve suffering abroad before we have rendered assistance at home? Let this not be the case now. All may help in this national enterprise; even the smallest contributions will be thankfully received by the hon. sec., Mr. F. Johnson, Norman Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea. Knowing this society from its formation, I heartily commend it to your readers, trusting that small subscriptions, as well as large, will flow in, that so great a work as it is pledged to undertake may not suffer from lack of help.—I am, &c.,

(Rev.) James Weller.

Hastings, August 14, 1882.

[This is a good work, and deserves hearty support.—Ed.]

A NIGHT IN SCOTLAND WITH THE SEA-TROUT.

THE anglers are few that have no stories to tell of big baskets made in wondrously exceptional circumstances, and they are fewer still that are not deeply sceptical about the whole of the angling folk-lore. I am well aware, therefore, that I am taking upon myself an ungracious task. Still, you know, one must run some risk in this world. So here goes, and, "to put myself in order," as they say in Parliament, "I will conclude with a motion."

Last week my Inverness-shire friend, Patricius Rose, Willie Rhodes and myself set out for Nydie, on the Fifeshire Eden. Nydie is about five miles from St. Andrew's Bay, into which the Eden flows, and when there is a flood sea-trout and salmon, in their season, come up into the stream. At Nydie there is a weir so high that, save when the flood is very strong, the visitors from the sea are unable to get further up the river. The reaches immediately below are thus very populous with "big fish," as they are locally called, and the first "spate" of the season having just come down, we found ourselves at Nydie with fairly high expectations.

But, gentle reader, here come the angling excuses already; wait a bit, though—the sun was clear, there was no breeze to ripple the water, the fish would not rise. In short, as night was falling we had met with very meagre success. Patricius had four yellow-trout of about a quarter of a pound each; Rhodes, who had been using a more attractive midge, had six similar fish, and I myself had two. A standing dispute I had with Patricius as to the relative merits of the Highland and the Lowland streams seemed, therefore, to be resolving itself adversely, and although, naturally enough, his joy was of a mixed kind, Patricius was correspondingly exultant.

But—this, gentle reader, is a "but" of another kind—good things come to him who waits. "They'll tak' the nicht, or my name's no Jock Scott." Somewhat disgustedly, we were taking a farewell look at the water as that remark sounded from the recesses of the shrubbery behind. Looking round we found that the speaker was an old man resting from his work of pruning down the thicket bordering the stream. "Aye, they'll tak' the nicht, ye may be sure, if ye try the mauchs," he repeated, with an odd, solemn eagerness.

"The mauchs!" ejaculated Patricius, whose Inverness-shire vocabulary contains few of the broadsounding words of the Lowland dialect. "What are mauchs?"

"Mauchs, ye English deevil!" replied the man, irritated a little at the thought that an "Englisher" was looking at him as at a curiosity. "Mauchs are just mauchs!"

"Maggots," I suggested, for the sake of conciliation.

"Aye, maggots, if ye maun ha'e it sae. Are ye no' for tryin' them the nicht? They've been gettin' fine baskets o' sea-trout since the spate."

After all, there seemed still a chance that the reputation of the Lowland streams might be vindicated, so I asked Scott if he could give us some maggots. He could, and did. With good-natured cynicism, Patricius agreed to stay a little longer and try the maggots.

The moon had now risen from behind the hill, and, gleaming through the foliage skirting the stream, was casting fantastic shadows on the calm water. Not the most favourable night for maggot-fishing, I reflected, as the rods were being put up again, for the wily trout can rarely be persuaded to look at this bait save in the darker shades of night. Yet the moon was low in the heavens, and, in the shadows of the trees, there was here and there a patch of water gloomy enough, probably, for the purpose in hand. A coble belonging to the lessee of the net fishings was resting by the banks of the stream. Immediately down from it was a likely pool, and at Scott's suggestion—Scott evidently was waiting the revenge of events—Patricius took up his quarters in the boat. In maggot-fishing, you see, you do not need to move about much; if you think there are fish at the place, you cast your line slowly over the same water many times. Rhodes and I took up positions by the edge of the waterfall from "The Pooch" immediately above.

Then our endeavours were renewed. How pleasant it is to be fishing in a midsummer night! How calm is everything; how "eerie" the flight, swiftly, buzzing through the still air, of the moths and the bats; and in the words of the beautiful glee,

> "Listen, listen, listen, listen,
> To the waterfall!"

Musing after this fashion, though—just think what a funny conjunction poetry and the bait we are using make?—musing thus is not compatible with angling even in the best of circumstances; and in the shades of night it is ridiculous. The nibbles then are usually in keeping with the subdued activity of visible nature, and you are certain to miss capital opportunities if you are not watching, or rather feeling out.

And here, I declare, is a dubious sensation by the line between my forefinger and the rod! Just the ghost of a bite, as it were, but it is quite enough. The "strike," as hesitating almost as the nibble, certainly hooks something. There is a stubborn wriggling in the water six yards off, and hope reasserts itself. Alas! it is only a wretched line-tangling eel!

"Never heed, sir," said the sympathising Scott. "Ye're sure tae ha'e fine sport when the sea-trout come up wi' the tide, and I see the water's risin' already."

Looking up from the vexing mess into which the eel has put my cast, I notice that Patricius's boat gives a rapid lurch. His rod is bending nearly double. Then the glinting moonbeams flash suddenly athwart the silvery sides of a fine fish leaping a few yards off from the bow of the boat. No eel this time; a splendid sea-trout rather. Off rushes Scott to the neighbouring cottage to get a landing net, an implement with which, expecting nothing big enough for the honour of its function, we had not provided ourselves. He is back in a few minutes, and after some lively play the fish, a beautiful two-pounder, is safely basketed."

"Just a chance, though," said Patricius, who is still sceptical.

"A chance! Ma conscience! Ye re an ungratefu' loon!" ejaculates the saturnine Scott. "Ye dinna deserve tae catch anither!"

An all-round application to Patricius's flask—the customary and proper proceeding at the drawing of "first blood"—soothes down Scott's wrath at our friend's jocular way of treating Lowland sport, and the fishing is begun again with heightened hopes. It is now half-past eleven o'clock, there is no time to spare, so my ravelled cast is cut off and replaced by a fresh one.

Scarcely has the new cast touched the water than a quick swirl, the eccentric heaving of the surface water which to the experienced angler indicates the rise of a heavy fish, elicits from Scott an energetic exclamation of "Strike man!"

I do strike, and swish goes the fish straight towards the opposite corner of the pool.

"That's a topper!" observes Scott admiringly.

"And here's another!" says the cheery voice of Rhodes from the near neighbourhood, and the rattling music of the reels grow fast and furious.

"Keep him tight!" cautions Scott. Scott is still a little cantankerous, but expert fishers like him do abhor anything unsportsmanlike in the playing of a fish, and it is true that neither of us is the neatest of anglers.

After much ejaculation, suggestion, and general excitement, however, both fish—fine ones they are, too—are landed.

"I tell't ye ye would get them the nicht," says Scott, his temper mellowed a bit by the encouragement we have had. "Ye'll be for wettin' the een o' these beasts tae—will ye no?"

Well, yes. We will "wet the beasts' een," but if it continues, and if it is at each turn to be thus celebrated, success will ere long be "turning our heads" in a very literal sense.

"The net! the net!" It is Patricius again; and a big one surely he has hooked that he calls for help so wildly. We are soon at the coble with the net.

"I can't get his head up stream," complained Patricius. His line was slowly but surely being run off the reel.

"Oot o' the boat, then, ye doited deevil!" cries Scott, seizing the rod from the rightful owner.

"Oot o' the boat" Patricius gets accordingly. Then he resumes his rod, grudgingly given up by Scott. "A five pounder at the least, I should say," he ventures to remark.

Scott is strangely silent.

"A dour brute, too," continues Patricius, evidently astonished at the fish's sullen perseverance down stream.

"Gey daft, I maun say, tae droon himsel' o' his ain free will," philosophises Scott, who is also perplexed at the unusual direction the fish is taking; "but keep ye a grip o' him, and he'll gi'e ye a spree yet."

Then, just at the tail of a shallow rush, there is a sudden stoppage.

"Let's feel his mouth," says Scott.

Patricius hands over the rod, and our cicerone "feels the fish's mouth."

"D——d queer!" he remarks, in dubious tones. "Gang and get the coble."

The boat is brought, and, having given back the rod, Scott paddles back towards the place where the fish has rested.

"Is he moving yet?" he asks.

"As steady as a rock," replies Patricius.

"Pu' yer line hard."

Patricius does as he is bid, but still there is no movement of life. Something, however, comes away; and, as Scott had apparent been surmising, it turns out to be a bit of fence wood?

The fiasco, however, has taken much less time to develop than I have taken to narrate it, and the flask soon sets matters to rights again.

Back to the fishing ground, we find that Rhodes has landed two other sea-trout in our absence. Patricius and I begin again, and just as the new day is dawning—how rapidly and pleasantly the time has passed!—all the three of us have made very excellent baskets indeed. Then the flask is finished off—as the reader will have been thinking, it is a big one—Patricius and Scott become "as thick as thieves," and, in the fine cool air, we set out for home.

Now, gentle reader, I conclude as promised. I move a resolution that fishing for sea-trout at the time and in the manner I have endeavoured to describe, is a highly agreeable variation of holiday sport. I assure you I have not exaggerated the fun of it. So, all ye statesmen and politicians of Great Britain, if it be that your master this summer is to let you have any holiday at all, fill up your fishing-books with casts of good stout gut and biggish fly-hooks. A tussle with a sea-trout in the stilly eve is pleasanter far than a tussle with the Land Leaguers in the thicker air of St. Stephen's. May you have sufficient of the former to compensate for what you have had of the latter!—W. E. Hodgson, in *Life*.

PROTECTION ON SEA AND LAND.

The alarm concerning the possibility of the entire fleet of 100 menhaden steamers being drawn off and sent mackerel fishing on account of the scarcity of menhaden has somewhat subsided, from the fact that the last experiment, according to late reports, says *Boston Herald*, has been pretty thoroughly tried without success which will warrant its continuance at present, at least. It appears that one of Joseph Church's steamers, the *A. M. Hathaway*, after being out in pursuit of mackerel three weeks, landed 700 lb. fresh stock in three weeks' time, only a trifle over 2000 dols. Such success would hardly pay a sailing vessel, to say nothing of a large steamer, which expects to secure, under a favourable catch, about 1,000 barrels of menhaden a day. This steamer has been drawn off and ordered south for menhaden. Some pretty good hauls of these fish are reported to have been made the past week in the vicinity of Long Island sound.

Still, the theory that the taking of mackerel by steamers would soon exhaust these fish, just as it has done the menhaden, is no doubt the correct one, the opinion of Mr. Church and Professor Baird to the contrary, notwithstanding. The whole fleet of 100 menhaden steamers, each carrying enormous purse seines capable of surrounding an acre of water and pursing up 1000 barrels of fish at every draw, will exhaust in a short time any class of fish which swim the ocean and collect in schools on the surface of the water. It is useless to argue that sharks, dogfish, bluefish, whales, and all the enemies of the moss bunker and the mackerel, destroy daily more of these fish than are caught by all the arts of men. The destruction by these natural enemies of the fish is always going on, and the addition of the engines of men, with all the swiftest implements of death which can be invented, will make pretty sure work with any species of fish or game inhabiting our waters or forests. It is the business of government to prevent such wholesale slaughter. There is no more sense in permitting the destruction of such a valuable food fish as the mackerel by such wholesale catching as the menhaden exterminators propose than there would be in farmers slaughtering all their cattle because they can get a good price for beef. The stock of breeders must be kept good. . . . . . Public fish and game must be protected by government, or it will soon disappear from the abundant feeding grounds of the ocean, the lake, the stream, and the forest. Soon, at the present rate of destruction, millions of acres of land and water, capable of producing food for the million, will be barren of game and sterile of fish, simply because selfish hunters and fishers have been suffered to destroy even the seed.

[The above interesting article is from the American *Sea World* (August 3), and we would earnestly commend it to the notice of all who are interested in our sea fisheries—probably nine-tenths of the whole nation. In our notice of the annual report of the Smithsonian Institution for 1880 we referred to this question.—Ed.]

FACEACHE, TOOTHACHE, PAINS IN THE GUMS, NEURALGIA. —Adam Smith's Neuralgine is a Certain Cure. Bottles, 1s. 1½d., 2s. 9d. Post free from Proprietor, Chemist, Wednesbury. London Agent, W. Edwards, 157, Queen Victoria Street.

A TERRIFIC COMBAT.

The following account of a fight between a snake and a rat is extracted from a Californian paper, the *Stockton Mail*, near which city the encounter is said to have been witnessed, and has a rather less impossible air about it than most newspaper yarns in which the "Ophidia" play a part. I transcribe it *verbatim*, in the hope that it may prove of passing interest to your readers, not in illustration of any principle:—

"The snake was of unusual size, and of a different appearance from those commonly found in water. The rat was of the ordinary brown variety, and was running along the shore when the fight began. The snake was coiled upon a little point of mud just above the water, sunning itself, and probably asleep. The rat, apparently without noticing the snake, jumped directly upon the folds of the serpent's body.

"The snake struck instantly, fastening its fangs between the rat's shoulders. Then began a contest that, in its small way, was truly thrilling. The rat, struggling violently, endeavoured to shake itself free, while the snake as persistently endeavoured to drag the head of its victim into its own mouth.

"This feat it was at first unable to accomplish. The rat writhed in its convulsive efforts to escape, bit the big snake severely in the neck, just at the back of the head, until the blood flowed and mixed with its own.

"These counter attacks became at last so savagely painful, that the snake loosened its grip, remaining, however, in half-coil. But the respite was too brief to afford the rat an opportunity to escape, for again the snake's fierce jaws descended and closed, this time around the rat's head.

"The heavy body of the rat swayed violently, but dragged with it the head of the snake, until the latter was completely out of eoil. By this time, however, the rat's struggle had become comparatively faint, and the snake was apparently the victor.

"But the next moment the snake in its turn began to struggle violently, as if to release its adversary's head, but ineffectually, and the reason was soon apparent.

"The rat had bitten quite through the snake's throat, and its sharp teeth could be distinctly seen in the narrow slit they made.

"The writhings of the snake were now intense. It lashed the ground with its tail, and raised its thick folds to almost half its length from the ground.

"The spectator stood hesitating, scarcely knowing whether he ought or not to interfere. The next moment, the snake, with one last convulsive effort, threw half its length into the muddy water, and the doughty twain sank together to a common death."

Capture of a Sturgeon in the Lune.—The Messrs. Bagot, fishermen, Sunderland, last week captured alive in the Lune below Laucaster, a fine sturgeon, of over 2 cwt. It was disposed of to two officials at the Blackpool Aquarium, where it is to be hoped it will prove an attraction to the visitors. I am certain it would to those who attend the Westminster Aquarium, but the difficulty of taking so enormous a fish so long a journey by rail would be very great.—Sprout.

George James Eaton, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether the may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[Advt.]

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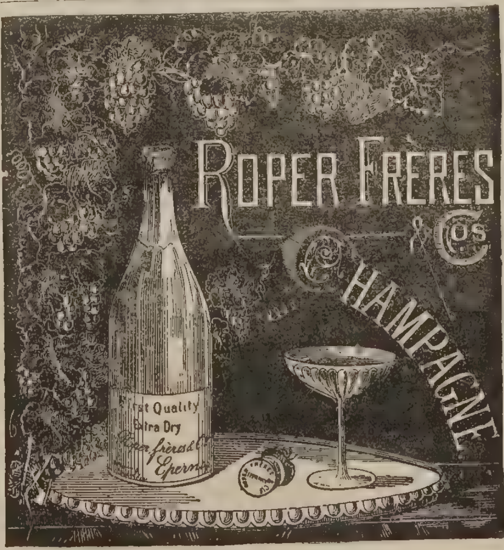

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Applications for tickets will be treated according to priority, but a preference will be to applicants for "season tickets." Boats for angling and stands on the river will be allotted by the head keeper, and no angler will be permitted to use a boat or fish a stand that has not been so allotted. Superior accommodation can be had on application to Mr. T. Mullarkey, at Glendalough Hotel, Recess, Galway. Anglers are requested to take out their licences in the Ballynahinch district, as by doing so they increase the fund for the preservation of the district.

No men can be employed as boatmen except the Water Bailiffs as arranged by head keeper.

Application to be made to

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FISHING IN THE NORTH AND WEST RIDINGS.—Anglers contemplating a visit to the Aire, Wharfe, Ribble, Greta, Wenning, Yore, Weusley, or other rivers in the North and West Ridings of Yorkshire, and desirous of obtaining information as to Fishing, Lodgings, &c., should make their wants known through the medium of the

Craven Herald
(published at Skipton-in-Craven),

which has the most extensive circulation in the neighbourhood of these rivers.

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Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1882.

R. BALDERSTON *v.* R. B. MARSTON.

Gut *v.* Hair.

THE readers of the Gazette having taken considerable interest in the fly-fishing match which was announced to take place between Mr. R. B. Marston and Mr. Robert Balderston (who also calls himself the "Raven" and "Herne the Hunter," &c.), we will now give them a short account of the affair, the absolute truth of which we guarantee.

Mr. Marston reached Ripon on the evening of the 31st August, and immediately called upon Mr. Balderston, whom he found to be a man of about his own age. After a long and pleasant chat it was arranged at Mr. Balderston's suggestion, that on the following day (Friday) the two anglers should have, not a regular match, but a sort of ramble together on the Laver, a small trout stream which flows into the Yore at Ripon, after joining another small stream called the Skell. However, the "ramble" soon changed itself into a competition, Mr. Marston using Bullmer's "gossamer" drawn gut as "cast," Mr. Balderston using fine hair, and having omitted to bring his net, had to land his fish without. Mr. Marston laboured under the disadvantage of feeling so unwell the first part of the day as to be hardly able to hold the rod, a new one, which he had never used before. At Mr. Balderston's suggestion, he took one pool or stream, and Mr. Marston the one above it, then Mr. B. took the next above Mr. M., and Mr. M. the one above that again, and so on. Mr. Marston used a short, stiff ten-foot rod, Mr. Balderston a longer and much more whippy rod. The water was in capital order for the fly, having nearly cleared off after the fresh. Both anglers used, of course, nothing but the artificial fly. The fish were not well on the rise, and both anglers had to work hard for what they got.

The result of this day's fishing was that Mr. Balderston got twelve trout, Mr. Marston got eleven, but threw back three at the commencement of the fishing, not supposing that they would prove only too fair a sample of the small fish in this stream. Mr. Balderston weighed the two lots, and Mr. Marston's eight weighed more than Mr. Balderston's twelve, so most anglers would say Mr. M. had won.

On the Saturday, both anglers fished on the Yore below Ripon, but the water was high and coloured, and the result was almost *nil*, Mr. Marston getting a fair roach and dace, and Mr. Balderston a dace; both used fly.

On Monday, at Mr. Balderston's suggestion, the Laver at Laverton was agreed on as the scene of operations, considerably against Mr. Marston's wishes, as the fish to be got were such small things. The fishing was in the same style as the first day, one rod taking one stream and the other the one above, in rotation. Mr. B. began with hair. At lunch time, on comparing baskets, Mr. Marston had eighteen trout, and Mr. Balderston only ten or eleven; Mr. M.'s fish were also a better average size. The day was very bright and hot for the most part. In fishing back after lunch, Mr. M. got four more to Mr. B.'s one. On reaching Laverton Mr. B. seemed to have had enough of it, but after a little refreshment both anglers started off down stream, Mr. M. going ahead, and finding another angler fishing the stream he had intended to fish, walked a mile or more down stream to get to the end of the dead water. In the streams below the mill, Mr. M. got three more fish, one a trout of half-a-pound. During this day's fishing, Mr. M. having broken his landing net, landed most of his fish without it, the small size of the fish making it an easy matter to do so. It should also be mentioned that after lunch Mr. B. had changed from hair to gut. A trap had been ordered at Laverton to be ready between six and seven, and Mr. M. left off fishing about six and walked back; on the way he met Mr. B., who said he was feeling cold, and intended to walk to Ripon. Mr. M. tried to dissuade him, but without avail; in fact, Mr. B. seemed in a very sad mood. He said he had caught two or three more. Mr. M. saw nothing more of Mr. B. until next morning, when Mr. B. called at the hotel with the following extraordinary epistle for Mr. M.

> R. B. Marston, Esq.
>
> Dear Sir,—I enclose my ticket for Hackfall, which you can use yourself. I shall not be able to accompany you to-day, as the skin is off my feet and I have some business to do. I have not yet got an answer about the Cover stream, but if this be satisfactory, I can meet you on Wednesday or Thursday on that river; but after the fiasco of yesterday, and the fish which could not bear inspection, but needed apology, I must insist on the conditions I laid down, and which you have so transgressed, that the fish be sizeable at six inches, and that we fish alternately in each other's presence, as I cannot waste my time leaving my own fishing, as I have had up to the present to do, running after you to see what you were about. Wishing you honest sport to-day.
>
> I remain, dear sir,
> Yours truly,
> Robert Balderston.

In answer to this letter, Mr. Marston at once replied as follows:—

> Sir,—Your letter proves you to be no gentleman, and I will have nothing more to do with you. I can imagine nothing meaner than your base insinuations. I return your permit to fish at Hackfall, having no desire to be under any obligation whatever to such a mean-spirited man. I will, as I said before, have nothing more to do with you.
>
> R. B. Marston.
>
> To Robert Balderston, Esq.
>
> P.S.—You are at liberty to publish this letter if you like.

Mr. Marston feels it quite unnecessary to defend himself against such mean and absurd charges. As he never dreamed of watching Mr. B.—trusting to his honour as a gentleman to fish fairly—he cannot say how Mr. B. fished, but he can most emphatically say that he caught more trout and larger trout than Mr. B., and that every fish was caught "honestly," with the artificial fly only. Mr. Marston treated Mr. Balderston as a gentleman, and now considers he was mistaken in doing so. Most of the readers of this paper will remember that one of the conditions Mr. B. laid down at first was, that "considering Mr. M. might be a little better fisherman than the average, he, Mr. B., would undertake to kill six fish to Mr. M.'s four, and also kill a greater weight." This was a rather bumptious statement for one angler to make with regard to another whom he had never seen; and seeing that Mr. M. killed more and heavier fish than Mr. B.; perhaps that accounts for Mr. B.'s mean suggestions. However, Mr. Marston has had quite enough of Mr. Balderston, and will leave that gentleman to his own devices. Mr. M. went on to Tanfield-on-the-Yore next day, and in three hours and a half caught, with the fly, seven dace weighing three pounds, two grayling weighing one pound, and two trout weighing together two pounds one ounce. Fishing again the same evening he got two brace more of good half-pound grayling and two good dace.

Whether *gut* or *hair* is best may still be an open question: the foregoing account, however, is triumphantly in favour of *gut*.

DOES THE WATER-OUSEL EAT FISH ?

This is a question which is causing quite an embittered dispute between the bird protectors and the fish protectors in Germany. The German "Bird Protection Society," and certain "scientific ornithologists" affirm that the water-ousel does not destroy fish; and, according to Professor Dr. Metzger, in the German *Fishing Gazette*, these gentlemen attack with truly fanatical zeal all who do not accept their views on the matter. It appears Dr. Metzger has, for a considerable time, devoted himself to solving the problem, and that, too, in the only practical way, viz., by a careful microscopic examination of the contents of the stomachs of the birds themselves. Here are some results of his investigations, which would appear to answer the question conclusively. He says:—"At the end of January this year, I examined three water-ousels which were killed on the River Solz, near Hersfeld. The stomachs of these birds, which for brevity I will call Nos. 1, 2, and 3, contained in addition to the remains of insects (principally the larvæ of the May-fly) also the remains of small fish. Thus I found:—

In No. 1. The right and left throat bones of a cyprinoid, apparently the perfect remains of a minnow's teeth; also some vertebræ and parts of skull bones.

In No. 2. Some vertebræ and other bone fragments.

In No. 3. Four throat bones, all with the thin ends broken off, the part armed with teeth (of minnow) remaining; also the hook-shaped bent thorn or spike from the gill-cover of a bull-head, and sundry remains of bones, and an ear-bone (*otolith.*)

This bird must thus have had at least three small fish at its last meal.

On the 25th of April this year I received from the Upper Kinzig River, near Voltmerz, two old birds and five unfledged young ones, taken from a nest. The two old ones had besides some scanty remains of water insects, a number of skull bones of the bull-head. The contents of the stomachs of the young birds, consisted, besides remains of larvæ, of:

In No. 1. Eleven ear-bones (*atoliths*).
2. Twelve ditto.
3. Four ditto.
4. Fourteen ditto and two spikes from gill-cover of bull-head.
5. Eight ditto and one spike from gill-cover of bull-head.

These ear-bones appeared from comparison to belong to the bull-head, and trout. Now, inasmuch as a fish has but two of these ear-bones, it follows that the old birds must have fed the five young ones very shortly before they were killed, with at least five and twenty fish."

Dr. Metzger then quotes from an article entitled "The Water-Ousel as an Angler," from the pen of a well-known ornithologist, the Rev. Karl Muller, of Alsfeld, published in the German "Zoological Garden," in 1880.

Herr Muller says:—"As long ago as the year 1865, I was fortunate enough to observe, one fine summer's day at a waterfall on our trout stream, the Schwalm, how a water-ousel with the greatest ease, by diving into the water, caught and swallowed a small fish." Here follows a description of the observation, concluding with the words "it was a wee trout that was captured, and after being carried to a rock, was despatched with four strong blows from the bird's bill and then swallowed whole."

"From this observation," writes Herr Muller, "I not only learned that the water-ousel fishes, but also that in the summer, spite of his great liking for water insects, which abound in the Schwalm, he evinces great partiality for fish diet." "Since then," says Herr Muller, "I have devoted much time and trouble to investigate the angling propensities of our favourite little river-bird." And he gives a long account of these investigations. "On one occasion I found amongst the stones near a water-ousel's nest in a mill dam, remains of vertebræ and other bones of small fish, with which the old birds had fed their young. To-day, I entertain no further doubts on the matter." He also mentions having seen a water-ousel kill a fish half as long as his hand, "the bird dropped it off the stone into the water and took no further notice of it. The small spinous fishes seem to be preferred, these he devours in immense quantities."

We have only translated a small part of Dr. Metzger's interesting paper, those of our readers who may like to see the original, will will find it in the *Deutsche Fischerei Zeitung*, for August 8.

The water-ousel has always been a great favourite of ours. Hundreds of times on trout streams have we met the pretty dark plumaged, white-throated, plump, little fellow, either flitting swiftly along the turns of the stream, or sitting on some moss-covered rock in the water, bobbing up and down and keeping time with head and tail jerks. That observant naturalist, Mr. John Colquhoun, in his charming work "The Moor and the Loch," refers to the water-ousel as a great devourer of fish-spawn and water insects, and mentions having seen the bird a foot under water hunting for insects; he appears to think that its feet being webless, would prevent its catching fish, but the testimony we have quoted above proves this is a mistake. On some trout streams these birds are seen in large numbers. They generally go in pairs. It is quite evident that a bird which goes hunting along the bottom of a river devouring fish eggs, snapping up young trout and other fish from beneath the stones, is one which the trout preserver should keep both his eye and his gun on, We should be very sorry to see them exterminated, but in the interests of the fishery, their numbers should be kept down.

THE GREAT INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION.

A Meeting of the General Committee of the Great International Fisheries Exhibition was held yesterday at their offices, 24, Haymarket, at noon. The meeting was well attended, and the Earl of Ducie having taken the chair, called upon the secretary (J. W. Mollett, Esq.) to read the minutes of the last meeting, which being done, his lordship called upon Mr. Birkbeck, M.P., to read the report from the Executive Committee. The Earl of Ducie stated that since the last meeting the work of the exhibition had been well pushed forward, and an estimate for the erection of the additional buildings required to accommodate the large amount of exhibits had been received from Messrs. Peto Brothers, of Pimlico, at the same time drawing attention to the necessity of increasing the amount of the guarantee and general prize funds. His lordship then called upon Mr. R. K. Causton, M.P., to move the adoption of the report. Mr. Causton, in doing so, referred to the indebtedness which this committee felt towards the executive committee for the arduous labours which they have so successfully carried out in arranging the details of the coming exhibition. In seconding this motion, Professor Leoni Levi expressed his pleasure in endorsing Mr. Causton's remarks, and added that he was most anxious that all parts of the world should send representative exhibits to the exhibition. In reference to the prize for £600, offered by the committee for the best lifeboat, Professor Leoni Levi stated that he thought the offering of such a prize, as tending to diminish the loss of life at sea, was one of the most important objects of the exhibition. The report was carried unanimously. Sir Saul Samuel, C.M.G. (Agent-General for New South Wales), moved the second resolution on adopting the tender of Messrs. Peto Brothers for the erection of the buildings, and informed the committee that his colony was preparing an exhibit, the Government having already granted the sum of £500 to carry the same into effect. This resolution was seconded by the Marquis of Exeter, who stated that he last night had been authorised to state that the Japanese Government would be exhibitors, and give every assistance to the exhibition. His lordship added that he would give a prize value £25 for the best system of life insurance for fishermen, and of insuring boats, gear, nets, &c., expressing the hope that other persons would come forward and take up some of the special prizes in the list now published by the committee. The resolution was then carried unanimously. Professor Leoni Levi inquired what arrangements had been made to procure a lecture hall suitable for the holding of conferences. Mr. Birkbeck, in reply, stated that the Royal Albert Hall had been unanimously placed at the disposal of the exhibition by the Albert Hall Council for conferences, public meetings, or any ceremony connected with the opening, and that there was also the council-room at the Royal Horticultural Gardens, which would be available for smaller meetings. Mr. Birkbeck added that the arrangements for flooring and the erection of aquaria tanks would be undertaken by, and receive the special attention of, the committee. Mr. Chamberlain moved, and Mr. E. Jex, C.C., seconded, a vote of thanks to the Earl of Ducie for his kindness in taking the chair. The same being carried unanimously, the committee then separated.

THE FORTHCOMING INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION.

AN influential meeting of county gentlemen and citizens of Norwich, was held at the Guildhall, in this city, on the 26th ult., for the purpose of affording support to the International Fisheries Exhibition which is to be held in London next year. The Mayor occupied the chair, and there were present—the Sheriff of Norwich (J. J. Winter, Esq.), E. Birkbeck, Esq, M.P., Sir R. J. Buxton, Bart., M.P., R. T. Gurdon, Esq., M.P., J. H. Tillett, Esq., M.P., Sir Reginald Beauchamp, Bart., the Deputy Mayor (S. Grimmer, Esq.), C. S. Read, Esq., A. Hamond, Esq., A. W. Upcher, Esq., S. L. Buxton, Esq,, J. H. Gurney, Esq., jun., I. O. H. Taylor, Esq., H. Stevenson, Esq., J. D. Smith, Esq., W. O. Chambers, Esq. (Lowestoft), Messrs. H. Woods, R. N. Bacon, H. Barwell, J. Stanley, A. J. N. Chamberlin, E. A. Field, Lovewell Blake, E. S. Steward, G. C. Davies, H. W. Stafford, F. Sutton, C. J. Greene, T. E. Gunn, W. Chettleburgh, and others.

On taking the chair, the Mayor said a few words explaining the object of the meeting, and his worship then called upon Mr. Birkbeck, M.P., (chairman of the executive committee), to address the meeting, and the hon. member said—The executive committee of the International Fisheries Exhibition have done their very utmost to follow up, and if it is possible develop, the great success of the National Fisheries Exhibition of last year to which you, Mr. Mayor, have just alluded. The prospectus will be placed on the table, so that those present may see what the committee have done towards making the forthcoming exhibition one that will meet the requirements, not only of the great fishing industries of the United Kingdom, but also those of the entire world. Being an international exhibition, they have had that point always before them. Thanks to H.M. Government the prospectus has been distributed—through the Foreign, the Colonial, and the Indian Offices—throughout the whole length and breadth of the world, and that action has been followed up by despatches which have been sent by Lord Granville to all our foreign ambassadors and consuls. All praise is due to Lord Granville for the part he has taken in helping us, for it has not been one despatch that has been sent, but there have been a number forwarded from the Foreign Office, and this week a very important one has been sent to all quarters (hear, hear). The result of these despatches has been highly satisfactory, for America, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, China, and even some portions of Africa, have not only promised to send large exhibits, but they have also voted money in support of the exhibition (applause). And in many instances our colonies have done the same. Canada has taken a very prominent part in the movement by voting money direct for the purposes of the exhibition, and also by making grants in support of the exhibitors (hear, hear). Newfoundland has done the same, and I had a letter only this morning from the Governor-General still further pointing out what they are going to do. Jamaica, New South Wales, and New Zealand have also promised to take part, and have voted money, and this is all independent of private action that is being taken in the colonies. I mention these facts as being of great interest and importance (hear, hear). This meeting will naturally ask what can be done to further develop, and make this exhibition known in a county like Norfolk. I am not at all sure that the exhibition is not better known abroad and in our colonies than it is in England, but it is by the operation of meetings of this sort that we hope to make it more known and well supported among our own countrymen. In March last the Lord Mayor of London sent letters to every Mayor throughout the kingdom, and meetings have consequently been held in various quarters; and I might especially mention a meeting that took place in Cornwall, the result of which has been an action which may well be followed by other countries. A strong general committee including the county members was formed at that meeting, with the Lord-Lieutenant of the county at their head, and they are raising funds for three purposes. One is to encourage the fishing interest to send exhibits; another, which I think is a grand idea, is to give cheap tickets to fishermen on the coast to attend the exhibition; and the third is to hand over any surplus that may remain to the executive committee. That action has been followed by other counties, and meetings are about to be held in Worcestershire and Gloucestershire for the same purpose, while a large meeting has taken place in Cheshire with the Duke of Westminster as president. In the large towns, too, meetings have been or are about to be held; and by the papers that will be laid upon the table, it will be seen that the executive committee have recommended special prizes which, if not subscribed for by public bodies or from private sources, they will find the money for. There is one prize of special interest. Originally £100 was recommended by the committee for the best lifeboat that could be produced, adapted not for steamers or for sailing vessels, but for putting off to a stranded vessel through the surf. I am happy to say that prize has been supplemented from a certain quarter by £500, making £600 (applause), and I am sure it will give the greatest possible satisfaction and excite the keenest competition all round our coasts (hear, hear). Another matter I would refer to, and that is that the site we have obtained, the Horticultural Gardens, covering 22 acres, is the best site in London; and we are now in treaty with the best builders in London to erect such buildings as will be necessary in addition to those at present existing. Every possible convenience and arrangement are being made to constitute the exhibition in every way as interesting as it possibly can be; and from an agricultural point of view there is one matter introduced from abroad which will be of great interest. At the annual meeting of the International Meteorological Conference held at Copenhagen in the first week of August, it was decided by the delegates of every foreign power represented to have their weather-forecast system shown at the exhibition, and I have reason to believe that what is known as the "storm warning" from America will be exhibited for the first time, I believe, in Europe (hear, hear), so that we shall see the most perfect known system of weather-forecasts (hear, hear). During the Session a memorial has been signed in Parliament asking her Majesty's Government to give State recognition and a grant in aid of the exhibition, and this has been handed in by a small deputation which I had the honour of introducing, and I hope the Cabinet will see their way to assent to the proposition (hear, hear). It may be of interest to know that 316 Members of Parliament have signed the memorial, and I think the Prime Minister, to use his own words, cannot help "seeing it is the evident sense of the House" (laughter) that this help should be given (hear, hear). I might add that three hon. members were so eager that their names should not be omitted that they signed the memorial twice over (laughter). One other matter in which the Government have rendered assistance is that they have given us free postage (hear, hear), so that everything that goes from our office or that is sent to the secretary goes post free. The sum of £12 or £15 a-day is saved in postage alone; therefore, I hope that any gentlemen who may have any communication to make with the secretary will not stamp their letters, as it is unnecessary to do so (hear, hear). I have only to add that I hope this meeting will feel the importance of supporting this exhibition, especially after the great interest that was shown in the success of the one held last year; and any help they see it in their way to give, whether by assisting fishermen to visit the exhibition, or by voting a sum to one of the special prizes, or by supporting the guarantee fund, which we hope and believe, as was the case in Norwich, will never be called on, will be most gratefully received; and I am sure the result of this meeting will be hailed with great delight by the executive committee, who wish me to express their warm thanks to the Mayor for having called this meeting for the purpose (applause).

The Mayor said all present were obliged to Mr. Birkbeck for his clear statement.

Several other interesting speeches were made, which will be found in the *Norwich Argus* for September 3.

IMPORTANT THAMES FISHERY PROSECUTION.

THE INTERFERENCE OF THE POLICE.

THE importance of the conviction for snatching fish which was obtained at Kingston last week by the Thames Angling Preservation Society, cannot be over estimated, as it was made a test point whether the police can interfere in those cases where men are found practising the unmanly and unsportsmanlike system of snatching fish from the banks, and in this the action of the society was successful. The police at Kingston have always been ready to assist in protecting the fishery, and Mr. Alfred Nuthall, who resides there, is a member of the committee of the T.A.P.S., and holds a deputation, has all along used his valuable inflnence in that direction. In the present case it appears that one of the police on duty near to Kingston railway bridge, reported to Inspector Bond that he had detected a man in the act of snatching fish, and in taking hold of his rod the offender broke away the hooks and threw them into the river. Inspector Bond, acting on this information, reported the case to Mr. Alfred Nuthall, who happened to be at that time on a visit to Bloaterland, but the report was forwarded to him. Mr. Nuthall, without any loss of time, sent the report to the secretary of the T.A.P.S. to act for him, who immediately consulted Mr. Thomas Spreckley, the chairman of the committee, in reference thereto. Mr. Spreckley at once saw the importance of the case and the great value that would be attached to the interference of the police in connection with it, directed the secretary to pay a personal visit to Mr. Hickson Briggs of Isleworth, the society's solicitor, and if action could be taken on such evidence to give immediate instructions to proceed. The result of this interview was that Mr. Briggs decided steps could be taken if one of the river keepers laid the information with the attendance of the police officer to prove the charge. This was accordingly done, and on Wednesday in last week the case came before the Borough Bench at Kingston, Mr. Briggs appeared on behalf of the T.A.P.S. The defendant pleaded "not guilty," but the evidence of the policeman fully established the charge, and a fine of seventeen shillings including costs, was imposed. The value of this case in the neighbourhood of Kingston, where snatching is so disgracefully and persistently carried on, will be realized from the position which is held there by Mr. Alfred Nuthall, in holding a deputation as a honorary river keeper, and who is always at hand to lay information on the evidence of the police. The society's solicitor, Mr. Briggs, is prepared to conduct the case, and there is no one more ready to act in the great interests of the fishery, than Mr. Nuthall himself. The action of the policeman and the inspector is highly to be commended, and there can be no doubt as to the West Central Association, through Mr. Thomas Hoole, recognising the services of the former by the reward of one guinea, which it offers in all cases of convictions. The river keepers are always watched by the men who practise this system of snatching, and their efforts up to the present time have not been attended by any marked degree of success; but now that the delinquents will find the police, who are always on duty, can assist in suppressing the evil, the system will be influentially checked. The influence of Mr. Alfred Nuthall in getting the Surbiton commissioners to prohibit angling on the parade was a glorious work, and now that the police at Kingston can continue in an important degree to connect the link of usefulness lower down, we may soon expect to hear that the death blow has been struck in suppressing the cruel slaughter of fish which for years has been practised in the neighbourhood of Kingston. I can only repeat that the case referred to is one of an important character, and if the true disciples of "Old Isaac" will also assist in this matter, and they can undoubtedly do so, in more ways than one, then there will be greater and more glorious days in store for the anglers, with a combination of interests seeking to preserve the Thames fishery from unfair and illegal practices. B.

SYSTEMATIC EXAMINATION OF PUNTS.

The periodical examination of punts, especially in the tidal waters of the Thames, is a most necessary duty to discharge, and owes its origin some twenty years ago to the valuable suggestions of Mr. Francis Francis in the columns of the *Field*. It was arranged for one of these visits to be made on Thursday afternoon in last week, the start to be made from the steps at the Anglers' Hotel, near to Teddington Weir. There were present to take part in this movement Mr. Thomas Spreckley, president, and Mr. W. H. Brougham, secretary of the T.A.P.S., assisted by river keepers G. J. Rough, Alfred Thompson, and James Drewe. Mr. Spreckley took occasion to address the Teddington fishermen in reference to the proposed new bye-laws, which, if carried in their present form, would prevent the laying of grig weels above Richmond Bridge. The T.A.P.S. in this matter had taken up the interests of the fishermen, and were seeking to obtain such an alteration as would allow them to lay their grig weels anywhere. The men were evidently much pleased with this interference on the part of the society, and resolved upon getting up a memorial asking the conservators to accede thereto, and pointing out the destructive character of the eels to the fish of the river, and the necessity of all efforts being encouraged to catch them. One o'clock was the time fixed to commence the examination of punts, but the rain came down in such torrents it was found desirable to wait until it had subsided. There was therefore a delay of at least half-an-hour, with no prospect of a thorough clearing up. Mr. Spreckley gave orders to start, and during the entire journey to Richmond Bridge the rain continued. There were, however, nearly twenty punts out, and in several of them the lady angler element prevailed. The reception of the inspectors was, with one trifling exception, favourably given, both by anglers and fishermen. Every punt was closely examined, some of the occupants expressing great satisfaction at the movement. The contents of the punts varied in the number and quality of the fish. In a few instances there were a few unsizeable dace, which the anglers had retained for jack fishing, their retention being of course permitted for such a purpose, especially as the numbers were very small. In some of the punts there were some good sized dace, and a few very fine roach. The best show was made by two gentlemen fishing with H. Wheeler, of Richmond, near to Petersham Ait. They had not been out long, and had taken seven good-sized barbel in the hour. By the time Richmond was reached—close upon four o'clock—it was flood, and the river opposite the residence of the Duke of Buccleuch was alive with fish, dancing and chopping about in all directions; in fact, the scene presented was more like a water frolic! In the face of this spectacle, to be told there was no fish in the river was distinctly negatived by the fish themselves, and, like most other complaints received, fully proved how hard it is to believe those who should be the first to help the T.A.P.S. in the preservation of the fishery, and who are unfortunately endeavouring to prejudice the minds of their clients against the society. The examination proved on the whole very satisfactory, and when the crew arrived at the steps at Richmond Bridge they were none the worse for the exposure to the weather. It was intended to have gone lower down, but the tide was coming up like a flood, and with a fearfully strong stream, it was considered necessary to terminate the visit at the classic town of Richmond. B.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ANGLING CLUBS.

The Proposed New Bye-laws for the Thames.

We have been requested to ask those clubs who have not yet done so to send in their memorials in support of the alterations and additions which were so unanimously agreed to at the conference on the 15th of August, with as little delay as possible, to Mr. W. H. Brougham, Swayfield Villa, Hounslow, as it is most important the assent of all the London and suburban angling clubs should be given. Some of the clubs have returned their memorials properly signed, but without the designation of the society, and are, of course, valueless. One has been returned without the name of the club and minus the signatures. The following clubs are reported through the General Post Office as "gone away," and their whereabouts not known:—Carnaby Castle, Doddington, First Surrey, Free and Easy, Golden Tench, Junction Brothers, Old Bower, and Stoke Newington. Replies are wanted from the following clubs, some of which may be amongst those whose name is not inserted:—Acme, Albert, Acorn, Albert Edward, Act on the Square, Atlas, Bloomsbury Brothers, Brentford, Barbican, Battersea Piscatorials, Cadogan, City of London, Clerkenwell Amateurs, Convivial, Carlisle, Clapham Junction, Canonbury, Clerkenwell Piscatorials, Critchfield, Crown Piscatorials, East London, Excelsior Eustonian, Friendly Citizens, Golden Barbel, Good Intent, Hearts of Oak, Hampstead, Isledon Piscatorials, Isaac Walton, Junior Piscatorials, Jolly Piscatorials, Kentish Perseverance, Kenton, Kingfishers, Kentish Brothers, Limehouse Brothers, Little Independent, Metropolitan, Marylebone, Nautilus, Nelson, Nil Desperandum, North London, North Western, Norton Folgate, New Globe, Odds and Evens, Old Artillery Ground, Original Alexandra, Pike and Anchor, Perseverance, Royal George, Royal Piscatorial, South Essex, South Kensington, Suffolk, South Essex Piscatorial, Savoy Brothers, St. Pancras, Stratford Brothers, South Hackney, Sons of the Thames, Sociable Brothers, St. James and Soho, Three Pigeons, Trafalgar, United Brothers, United Society of Anglers, United Marlboro' Brothers, Woolwich Invicta, and Walthamstow. Several of these clubs were represented at the conference, and it is important each club should further support the movement by returning the memorial properly filled up.

THE RIGHT OF FISHING IN THE THAMES.

At Maidenhead, on Monday last, Mr. J. Granville Layard was summoned by Mr. Tyrrell Lewis for taking a trout and for attempting to take fish by angling in the Thames, near the eel bucks above Maidenhead Railway Bridge, between the Thames Ait and the house on the Berks shore in the occupation of Mr. Graham Smith, alleged to be the private fishery of Mr. Lewis. The case came on before Mr. W. B. Farr, the mayor, and a full bench of borough magistrates. Mr. R. A. Ward appeared for the prosecution; Mr. Layard conducted his case in person. The prosecution attempted to shew that they had over sixty years' title to the fishery, but none of their deeds granted the soil of the river to Mr. Lewis, or to his predecessors in title. Mr. Layard cited various old charters, statutes, and cases, some dating as far back as Richard I., in support of his contention that the soil of the river Thames was vested in the Crown, and consequently the public had a right to angle thereover; and even if this were not so, the prosecution had failed to shew that they had obtained the fishery under a grant from the Crown as far back as the last year of Henry II., subsequent to which the power of making such grants was taken away from the Crown by Magna Charta. After a hearing lasting about four hours, the magistrates gave the following judgment for the defendant, with costs:—

"In this case of a complaint by Lewis *v.* Layard, the magistrates, after considerable deliberation, do not consider that the complainant has established his right to the soil of the bed of the river, and therefore cannot claim, and indeed does not appear to have enjoyed the exclusive right of angling in the river. The magistrates, therefore, must dismiss the summons against the defendant."

Mr. Ward applied for a case, which the magistrates said they would grant on any point of law arising out of their decision.

Mr. Layard has expressed his thanks to Mr. William A. Crump, solicitor to the Thames Rights Defence Association, for his valuable advice and loan of books and documents, which materially contributed to the success of the defence.

This is another victory to be scored to the Thames Rights Defence Association, as the decision, although founded on justice and common-sense, was greatly attributable to the authorities given to the defendant (Mr. Layard) by Mr. Crump, of Philpot Lane, the solicitor to the association. The work of the greatest use being the "Brochure of Legal Decisions," &c., published at Marlow, and signed "Piscator."

FISH POACHING.

Petty Sessions, Watford, Tuesday, September 5, 1882.—Present: W. R. Woolrych, Esq., in the chair; A. J. Copeland, Esq., J. S. Gilliat, Esq., H. C. Finch, Esq, the Rev. A. H. Baker, and the Rev. H. J. A. Birchell-Herne.

James Petrie, Richard Allen, and Henry Jackson, of London, were charged with angling, unlawfully and wilfully to take certain fish, the property of the Grand Junction Canal Company, Charles Francis Humbert and Mr. Edward Moon having the private right of fishing.

Allen said that he was guilty of fishing, but did not know that he was on private ground. He was on his way from Langley to Rickmansworth, and was trying to keep his bait alive.

Petrie said he was merely attempting to catch a few minnows for bait.

Jackson denied that he was fishing. His rod and line were on the bank, and he was sitting down, eating some bread and meat.

Mr. H. M. Turner said he was instructed to make this charge by Mr. Humbert, who holds the right of fishing in the canal from Lord Clarendon's Park at Cassiobridge.—Mr. E. Moon's keeper, who saw them there, would say distinctly that he saw them fishing. He need not tell the Bench that the man who put his line into private water could not be released from the charge by saying he was only keeping his bait alive. He would state, by way of explanation, that there was also a charge of assault against Allen and Jackson, but he would keep the charge of fishing separate.

Charles Francis Humbert produced a lease from the Grand Junction Canal Company, under their seal to himself, granting him the right of fishing in the canal from Bridge No. 166 Grove Mill, extending southerly down to and terminating at Cassiobridge, from the 25th December, 1866, for twenty-one years. The lease, he said, was granted with Lord Essex's free consent, because he, by that means, hoped to keep Cassiobury Park free from trespassers. Men like the defendants fished the canal on Sundays, and became a great nuisance.

Noah Bygrove: I am gamekeeper to Mr. Edward Moon. On Sunday, September 3, I saw the defendants at 7 o'clock in the morning fishing in the Grand Junction Canal between Cassiobridge and Cassiobury Park, near Cassiobridge Lock, in the lock, and Johnson was a little lower down, between the lock and Cassiobridge; Petrie was with Jackson. I went to Allen and said, "Good morning." He said

"Good morning." I said, "You know you are not allowed here fishing." There is a board facing the road at the Halfway House warning persons not to fish there, and three others along the towing-path. I said, "You will have to go with me to Mr. Moon's." He said, "No, I shall not." I took hold of his jacket and said, "Come along." He began to put himself about, and I took hold of his collar and dropped his rod over into the garden of the cottage.

Mr. Finch: What has Mr. Moon to do with it?

Mr. Turner: Mr. Moon has Mr. Humbert's liberty to fish there.

The Chairman: How long has the board been put up at Cassiobridge?

Witness: About a month. While I was tussling with Allen, Jackson came up with a handful of stones. I said to him, "What are you going to do with those stones?" He said, "Throw them at your head." He then threw one, which hit me on the leg. I then let Allen go, and he then said, "Stop a minute," and he put his hand into his pocket, drew out a knife, and said, coming towards me as I drew back, "I'll run it into your ——— heart." He said he did not care for me or Mr. Moon either. I asked him for his name, and he said "Allen." I asked what address, and he then used the most filthy language. I went towards Cassiobridge, and Allen drew the knife again there.

By Allen: I have no witness to say that you drew the knife.

Allen: I have a witness who knows that you grappled me by the neck before I had time to speak.

By Jackson: You did throw a stone at me, and I saw you fishing. Your rods were not packed up on your back, and you were not lying on the grass.

Allen, in defence, said it was not quite daybreak when he left Sells's to go to King's Langley to a "favourite swim" they knew of. Having fished for an hour here without success they resolved to go to Rickmansworth. They proceeded along the canal until they came to a swing iron gate, which he thought divided private from public fishing. He had only one bait, and he dabbled it in the water to keep it alive. Jackson and Petrie were lower down, one with his rod over his shoulder. The keeper came up and said, "Don't you know you are doing wrong?" and he replied, "If I am doing wrong I will go away." Without another word the keeper grappled him by the neck, and said, "Hold hard, you are going with me." He told the keeper he was abusing his authority in treating him as if he were a thief and a vagabond. The keeper pointed to the boards, and he told him he could not read. The keeper replied, "That's an old game, none of you can read." Then the keeper brandished a stick over his head and threatened to dash his head in if he did not go with him to Mr. Moon. A bargeman saw it, and said that the keeper was doing wrong. They then went past Shell's and fished the first lock, after which a policeman came up and took our names and address. The knife instead of being in his hand, as the keeper said, was lying on the ground with his haversack. He never threathened to stab the keeper.

Mr. Finch said he understood the fishing was open along the towing path of the canal, as he had seen lots of people fishing there.

Mr. Copeland: I received information from Mr. Thomas, the company's engineer, that no one has right to fish the canal without permission.

Mr. Turner: There are a great many angling societies.

Mr. Boydell: I may say the society held in this town, viz., the Watford Piscators; are in treaty for the water from Mr. Humbert's water, at Cassiobridge, to Brasley's Lock.

Chairman: The Bench consider that there can be no claim set up in this instance, the case is one of poaching. We shall fine each of the defendants 10s. and costs, which was afterwards remitted to 5s., the cost being so great.

The defendants asked for time to pay the fine, which was not granted; so the prisoners were removed to custody for seven days in default.

The charge for assault was withdrawn on account of confusion in the service of the summonses.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS

By L. B.

MR. T. HOOLE, the secretary of the West Central Association of London and Provincial Angling Societies, is from home, enjoying his well-earned annual holiday. He will probably be back about the 15th or 16th; so secretaries of angling societies having occasion to correspond with Mr. Hoole and not receiving a reply as promptly as usual, will be able to ascribe it to its true cause, and not to any intentional neglect.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Society for Renting Fisheries will be held on Monday evening next at the Star and Garter Tavern, St. Martin's Lane, W.C., at nine sharp. Committeemen will oblige by attending, as business of importance will be brought forward for discussion and settlement.

At the committee meeting of the West Central Association on Friday last a new society was enrolled, viz., The Wellington, held at the Prince Regent, Beresford Street, Walworth; secretary Mr. W. Palmer; meeting nights Wednesdays and Sundays.

A No. 2 district West Central Association visit will be paid the St. John's Angling Society, Three Compasses, Cow Cross Street, Farringdon Street, on Wednesday evening, September 20th. As the St. John's is a good visiting society, and the notices to clubs in the district will by the time this is in print have been issued some days, a good muster is confidently anticipated.

The next Central Association return visit will be paid the Buckland Angling Society, Middlesex Arms, Clerkenwell Green, on Tuesday evening, September 12th.

A good many of the readers of the FISHING GAZETTE, besides the writer of these notes, must have been considerably puzzled by the letter which appeared in last week's issue from a member of an angling society recently started at Watford, and signed G. V. As far as the letter is intelligible, it is in substance a complaint that a hitherto unprotected and much poached water has been rented by our good friends the Watford Piscatorials, who, actuated by a laudable Waltonian spirit, have thrown it open to all fair anglers, subject, of course, to certain very necessary restrictions as to size, fence season, and the total abolition of night lines, wiring, netting, and kindred abominations. The minimum sizes of fish are those adopted by most angling clubs in London, and, indeed, in several cases far higher measurements are enforced. Even in the case of roach, placed at 7 inches from tip to tip, and weighing from this river (the Colne) 2½ oz. to a little over 3 oz., according to season, the restriction is very lenient; but, strange to say, what the person responsible for this epistle seems to most take exception to is the abolition of night lines, netting, &c. There is no getting away from it, and the writer has, speaking apparently on behalf of his brother anglers (save the mark!) in the newly-formed society, registered his protest against the abolition of these practices.

From Haslett, of Chertsey, the following report comes to hand:—"I expect you have been waiting to hear from me, but I have had very few customers. Gentlemen seem to forget that now is the very best time of the year for barbel. I have had three days since the Piscatorial Bream Competition, in which Mr. Wheatstone, who fished with me, came in first—viz., two days with Mr. C. Hatfield, 100 lb. of bream and barbel, heaviest barbel 6 lb., one eel about 1 lb., several bream 4 lb. and over, and a splendid trout, 10 lb. I was out again on Thursday, result—9 barbel, 4 good bream, and 1 perch, heaviest barbel, 5 lb. You see the fishing speaks for itself.' A No. 3 West Central Association district visit will be paid the Peckham Brothers' Angling Society, Prince Albert, East Surrey Grove, Peckham, on Tuesday evening, September 12.

The usual monthly meeting of the United London Anglers' Central Committee was held at the Bald Faced Stag, Worship Square, Finsbury, on last Monday evening, Mr. S. Morgan presiding. After the reading and confirming of the minutes of the previous meeting, we were treated to a long and most interesting discussion *re* private, public, and manorial rights in a certain portion of the Lea navigation—not a hundred miles from Broxbourne—in which Messrs. Beckett, Murphy, Manning, Secretary Ghurney and others took a most earnest share. I cannot help thinking, however, in cases of this kind, the adoption of some clear and well defined course is far more satisfactory, not to say dignified, than the policy of masterly inactivity—or as one delegate called it the "Micawber" like system of "waiting for something to turn up."

Mr. Ghurney reported that he had taken out, on behalf of the Lea Conservancy, several summonses against persons taking undersized fish from the river Lea, all of which would be heard in a few days, and he hoped—in fact he had no doubt, the offences being very clear and conclusively proved—they would obtain a conviction in every case.

Mr. George, of the Act on the Square Angling Society, was elected delegate from this association to the Fisheries Renting Society, and Mr. Williams, Hearts of Oak Angling Society, to be Honorary River Lea Bailiff, both in the place of Mr Philips, deceased.

Mr. Manning then inquired of the secretary what action, if any, was being taken in the matter of the recent poisoning of the river Lea. He thought it was an anomaly that, though a poor man was liable to be summoned and fined, or in default imprisoned, for taking a few unsizeable or unseasonable fish, wealthy manufacturers and others might poison whole reaches of the river, destroy thousands of fish, and go scot free. Mr. Ghurney stated in reply that action was being taken by a certain influential and wealthy body interested in the abolition of so reprehensible a practice; he might term it such, for this was by no means the first time they had had to lament a similar occurrence.

The Rivers Pollution Act is a measure difficult to understand, and one which has puzzled the most learned judges and lawyers; to take action and seek redress under its provision would entail no little expense, and some influence to move the Local Government Boards, &c. It is, therefore, a matter for congratulation that a powerful funded body who, in this case have interests in common with us, are taking steps to discover and punish the offenders, and prevent a repetition of this great and surely unnecessary waste.

All clubs enrolled on the central committee's books are agreeably to a minute part at the last meeting entitled to send two delegates to every meeting, and circulars are to be sent to every society suggesting this minute be acted upon.

It was also decided that the delegates' annual dinner should take place at the Rye House on the last Sunday in this month, September 24th. Members' friends will be welcome. Gentlemen intending to be present should send their names in to Mr. R. Ghurney, not later than Thursday, 21st inst. A cordial vote of thanks to the chairman brought the meeting to a close.

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

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RIVER REPORTS

MID-THAMES.

"Amongst the views of many, mine."—Shakespeare.

Once more a list of sunshine has been vouchsafed, and punts may be seen dotted here and there on the surface of Father Thames, with the occupants busily engaged in landing the succulent gudgeon or the brilliant roach or dace, all of which class of fish since the rain are well on the feed. Chub are taking the black and white palmer fly in the early morn and dewy eve, and may be tempted in mid-day with a dainty bit of Gruyère or Cheddar cheese, the beasties being connoisseurs enough to choose the latter with a vein of blue mould therein. The late rains have much freshened up the river, although not discoloured it to any appreciable extent, so now is the time to go in for barbel, and not begrudge baiting with a few thousands of lobs, if good sport is to be deserved. My reports from Pangbourne, Sonning, Hunley, Marlow, and Maidenhead all tell of the roach having come on all at once, takes of 20 lb., 17 lb., 14½ lb., and 12 lb. having been had since Tuesday. At Hurley, three piscators, hailing from The Bell, have had 14 lb., 8 lb., and 5 lb. respectively; and at Medmenham, Messrs. Bryan and Brooksbank, out with Tom Street on wet Tuesday, nobbled some 10 lb. of good roach, and Mr. Bryan yesterday, out with "The Boy," in the same waters got 6¼ dozen clinking roach in two hours, all had with gentles, and rubble and bread for ground bait. Sweet flakey bran with bread is *par excellence* the best attraction for roach; but in its absence, rubble pollard, or barley meal mixed up with bread, sand, or light clay, is an excellent substitute. With an immense amount of pleasure I have to report that the public right of fishing in the Thames has been upheld by the Maidenhead bench of magistrates. Mr. Robert J. Granville Layard, of 5, Fenchurch Buildings, London, was summoned by Mr. Tyrrell Lewis, of Albany Court Yard, Piccadilly, for having on the 3rd of August fished in water in the Thames in which the complainant stated he had a private right of fishery. After a deal of argument and evidence on either side, the magistrates, after grave consideration, gave the following decision. "In this case of Lewis *v.* Layard, we do not consider that the complainant has established his right to the soil of the bed of the river, and therefore cannot claim and enjoy any exclusive right of angling in the portion of the river in question." Costs followed a decision which was received with applause in a crowded court. Friday evening: Water in excellent all-round trim, and most river fish endued with biting proclivities. Wind N.E. Weather to-day dry and pleasant.—Marlow Buzz.

Ancholme District.

The water has been discoloured during the past week by the heavy rains. This has, however, had the effect of putting the fish well on the feed. Several large catches have been had, but the best was by a gentleman on Wednesday last who caught, half way between Brigg and Brandy Wath, no less than 5 stone of fine bream and one stone of roach and perch (total 84 lb.) The fishing, too, in the trout streams has much improved. I am taking a holiday on some southern waters. This week I am on the Great Ouse, near Bedford, and am having some very large catches with the artificial fly, often getting two at once. I get mixed baskets of chub, dace, and roach. The largest fish thus far is a chub of 2 lb. 2 oz. I hope to spend the rest of this week on a private pike fishery belonging to the Duke of B——, and anticipate a large haul.—Thomas Ford.

Camel and Inny (Cornwall).

River full of water and fishing splendid, never better. Good baskets of trout are being taken every day, together with many peel and a few salmon in good condition. Some large fish are now reported to be coming up the river. Baits to be used. Flies: August and September duns, light blue dun, whirling dun, cinnamon, female willow, blue bottle, red palmer. Minnows: Brass minnows for peel and salmon. Devon bait for both trout and peel.

Coquet (Welden Bridge).

The river is very small at present, and we have no company in at the present time.—A. Glass.

Chichester.

A change for the better in the weather has materially added to the success of rodsters in this locality. On Saturday evening some good takes of bream were made, Messrs. Young and Summers, as usual, being to the fore. On Monday a large pike was hooked, played, and almost landed, but at the eventful moment broke tackle and escaped; Mr. Young computed it at 16 lb. Myself on Wednesday, while angling with Mr. W., hooked a couple of large carp in the lower water. The first broke a stout gut cast; the latter was not firmly hooked, after some minutes' play breaking hold. Since the clearance of weed from the canal, fish seem much healthier and stronger, big fish breaking away almost daily. Paste and gentles are most killing.—George F. Salter.

Derwent (Chatsworth).

River is in splendid condition, and weather very favourable. Anglers are now having good sport, killing from half a dozen to ten brace per day with sand-fly, bumble, and needle-fly. Last Saturday, Mr. Hogg made a good basket with the wasp grub, one trout being over 5 lb. in weight. Grayling are rising very freely to-night (Thursday).—J. Eades.

Dove.

There has been a nice shade of colour in this river since my last, at least, so I am informed, as I am now for the present located at Scarborough, and have to derive my information partly second-hand. I may mention that the sea-fishing here has been and is now very good. The visitors and natives are enjoying excellent sport, amongst others my own son, a youth of fifteen, having been very successful. My last advices from the Dove are to the effect that the Autumn dun, the honey dun, bumble, and the intermediate are killing best. The largest fish are trout, falling to the spinning baits, such as the Derby killer, the Gregory, and the Gresham. Roach on Saturday were biting eagerly at the wasp grub, while barbel would scarcely touch anything. Capital sport has also been obtained in the Dove's tributaries, as well as the main river.—The Splodger.

Eden.

Owing to heavy rains the latter part of last week, the rivers were very much flooded on Saturday and Sunday; on Saturday evening a Carlisle gentleman got a nice dish of trout in the Armathwaite club waters, one weighing over a pound weight. On Monday, J. Bird, gamekeeper, Lazenby Hall, landed a fine salmon in the Barrow Wood waters. The river is in capital condition, but the last few days it has been too bright and hot for much fishing; the netting season closed on the 31st of last month.—Skiddaw.

Exe (Exeter).

The river is now in excellent ply, and anglers generally are having a splendid time of it. Some of the heaviest creels have been made during the past week. Perch have been taken up to 2 lb. weight, and roach and dace from ¾ lb. to 1¼ lb. each. Rudd have also been had in goodly numbers, while a few carp and tench have also been brought to grass. Anglers should now pay a visit to Exeter, and fish the various streams that can be reached, east, west, north, or south, by rail or road in a short space of time. The weather is delightful, the scenery beautiful, and the waters in splendid condition. I have heard of a grand dish of trout, forty in number, of good size and condition, being grassed by Mr. Williams, a gentleman of whom I have had the pleasure of reporting upon several occasions; also with the above trout he had three salmon of the following weights: 5½ lb., 8½ lb., and 10½ lb., these were all taken in the upper waters of the Exe, some fifteen miles from Exeter. Messrs. Prickman and Baker have been doing exceedingly well, Mr. Pearson also keeps adding to his double numbers; in fact, the salmon fishermen all round have had a splendid season, and everything promises well for the closing portion. The flies now taking are so numerous as to be scarcely worth recording, each angler praising his own flies—some their browns, some the drakes, some the duns, many the blue bottle, others the palmers and flesh fly; so from this long list, since the heavy showers we have had, nothing seems to come amiss. I have not been able to do very much myself, having other fish to fry, but during the last week I have had a parcel containing many packages of King's Natural Bait, for roach, bream, carp, &c., which I have distributed, and hope next week to give you the opinions of several rodsters here. Mr. J. A Keily, as usual, continues to have excellent sport with coarse fish, and is now fishing with some friends on purpose to test this bait, the result of which shall be forwarded, when I hope to astonish your readers. As for myself, and without wishing to flatter the proprietor, I must certainly say it is the best, most convenient, easily made, adhesive, luring bait I have ever by chance had to mix or use. Two gentlemen have just returned with from ten to twelve dozen roach and dace each from the canal and river, both having used this bait. Mackerel and pilchards are coming along in the estuary, the latter very fine and the former altogether so very small, taking as many as eighteen and twenty to weigh 1 lb., and are being sold for 2d. and 3d. per dozen. Prawns, crabs, and queens plentiful. Laver is now in season.—Frank Gosden, Exeter.

Exe (Tiverton).

The water is now in good condition for salmon fishing; a good number have been taken during the past week.—Wm. Mudford.

Holmrock (Cumberland).

The rivers Est, Irt, Hean, and small tributaries are all in splendid order for fishing, and more rain this morning. The river Irt fishing has been, and is good, one tradesman alone having killed over eighty fish, and several from 30 to 50 each, myself among the lot.—A. Brocklebank.

Ilfracombe.

Sea fishing for the past fortnight has been very slack—raining and blowing every day, so that no boats could venture outside the harbour; and the strong spring tides have swept away nearly all the lobster pots. The fishermen are lamenting what a bad season—plenty of visitors here and plenty of fish, but no weather to catch them. Tuesday, the weather slightly changed, and a few boats put out, and they got from 16 lb. to 20 lb. whiting pout and pollack. Wednesday, a few strings of whiting and tamlin cod were brought in by fishing parties. Several small conger eel and dabs have been caught from the pier-head with rod and hand lines. The weather at present moderate.—E. Comer.

Lea (Ware).

A good fall of rain on Tuesday has put the water in excellent condition here, and good sport has been had among the roach and dace. Jack continue to be taken daily, but no fish of any size worth recording have yet been captured, although some really "growlers" are frequently to be seen. On Sunday a fine carp weighing over 4 lb. was caught by a London angler off the Wharf; this is an exceptional take for this part of the river. Perch are now on the feed, and some fair captures have been made amongst these fish during the week.—Lion and Wheatsheaf.

Leicester.

Fishing has greatly improved in this locality since my last, as some fair takes of roach and perch have been had. On Saturday, Mr. Boon, amongst a nice lot of fish, had a perch weighing 2 lb., and a roach 1 lb. 8 oz. Mr. Bird, on Monday, took twenty-seven very good roach. Mr. Elliott also weighed in between 4 lb. and 5 lb. of roach on Wednesday, whilst several other good takes of roach and perch have been landed from the waters of the Leicester Angling Society. At Aylestone matters have been rather quiet during this week, but from the Wreake reports are more favourable, as several good takes of roach and perch have been secured and large pike have fallen to gentlemen from Leicester whilst spinning. The Barrow waters are quiet, and the match fished there last Saturday ended in a complete fiasco. One of the conditions under which the contest took place was that no angler should be awarded a prize if he had not caught 4 oz. of fish, and to the utter surprise of the committee, not one of the anglers could raise enough to weigh the stipulated quantity; the match, therefore, has to be fished again this Saturday, when it is to be hoped that the elements will be more propitious.—Alert.

Medway (Tonbridge).

The water is as clear as gin, and, as I prophesied last week, the warmer weather has had the effect of bringing the bream well on the feed again. On Wednesday and Thursday, near Tonbridge Castle, Mr. R. A. Dallas Beeching and Messrs. Bartram were making good bags, after liberally ground baiting with lob worms.—Ye Medway Water Rat.

Nen (Northampton).

The water is getting into good condition again for angling. The heavy rains on Friday last caused the over shats to flow and bring down the polluted water, which affects the stream for two miles down. On Monday last, by permission of W. Rigby, landlord of the Half Moon, Broad Street, Messrs. Eyte, Turner, Seal, Burnell, and Garlick enjoyed a nice day's fishing in his private water. The roach being well on the feed they each had a nice bag of fish, Seal taking the cream with a 10 lb. bag. On Thursday W. Williams had a very nice chub weighing 3 lb. Our Little Demon Bill Ball had another grand day on Thursday, killing about 40 lb. of bream in his old spot in the lower water of the Nen Angling club.—T. F.

Ouse (St. Ive's).

Roach well on the feed—some excellent catches this day, varying from 1 lb. to 2 lb. Splendid chub noticed under the old bridge, from 5 lb. to 7 lb.—nine caught over 4 lb. Water in good condition. Weeds dying off fast. Seventy-five pounds weight of pike caught between this and Huntingdon.—Tom Adams.

Thames (Goring).

Water in good order for all round fishing; roach biting better, gudgeon biting well. Sunday some good perch, Monday a few good roach and perch and four jack, Tuesday two dozen of roach and few perch. Prospects look well for the next few days.—J. Rush.

Thames (Halliford).

The river is still low, but improved since the rain, and by judicious baiting some fair bags are to be had. Different gentlemen fishing with me since my last week's report. Their takes have been as follows:—1st day, Mr. Martin, 4½ dozen roach and dace; 2nd day, Mr. G. Palmer, 24 lb. of bream and 10 lb. of barbel; 3rd day, Mr. Bennett, six barbel, weighing 16½ lb.; 4th day, Mr. Geo. Palmer, 30 lb. of barbel and 3 large bream; 5th day, Mr. Young, four good bream (largest 4½ lb.), a barbel of 2 lb., two good chub, and a perch; altogether, 18 lb.—George Rosewell.

Thames (Hampton).

Barbel-fishing is in good force in this district, and it is remarkable here and in other portions of the river that trout are frequently taking the lobworm. John Smith, one day, twenty barbel; another day twenty-three, and another day thirteen, and a trout of 4 lb. He also caught another trout of 2 lb. Thomas Wheeler has been getting about ten barbel each day.—H.

Thames (Richmond.

The river is now in splendid order for fishing, and the fish are feeding very well. All the punts have been out this last week, and all had very good sport, and the barbel have began feeding a little better than they had previously done. Up till now it has been the worst season I know of for four years, and the fish have been running very small, but are improving a lot now as the roach are feeding, so that we are not confined to dace fishing alone. The average takes of sizeable fish have been from four to seven dozen per punt per day. I can say for safety now that it is worth having a day's fishing, which I have not been able to say before this season, though it is better late than never. I can also say we have got a river keeper now, which the Thames Angling Preservation Society has kindly let us have on our own water at last, which every angler who visits Richmond should be thankful for.—John Bushnell.

Thames (Windsor).

Very little has been done the last week. I have only heard of one decent take of barbel, by Richard Gray, with a patron, 30 lb., on the 3rd. I have been out three times since my last report; have not had a blank; might have had a good catch if the rods had been in the hands of experts. The bank anglers have been encouraged by the roach, the best bait for them being paste, morning and evening. A gentleman out with Vicars hooked a very fine jack from 8 to 10 lb., but after a struggle he succeeded in running him foul of a root. The water has not improved, notwithstanding the heavy rain of Tuesday.—G. Lumsden.

Torridge (Torrington).

River in order for fishing and plenty of water to bring up the fish; so we may look forward to good sport for some time to come. I have heard of one salmon, twenty-four peel and lots of trout and dace being taken since last report. Peel have sported well at the fly this week. One gentleman lost a large salmon through his line catching in the reel. We have had some heavy showers this week, but to-day it is fine.—Practical Angler.

Torridge (Woodford Bridge).

There has been but very little fishing this week. The water is much improved within the last day or two, but the catches have been small. One gentleman killed nine trout and five dace on Wednesday; and another gentleman, thirteen trout and three dace, Thursday. The favourite flies are the coch-y bonddhu and yellow fly. The small minnow has been of some service.—John Blake.

Trent (Newark).

The weather has decidedly took a turn for the better during the last day or two, heavy rain and wind having been the order of the day. Sport has not been so good as I had anticipated, probably the adverse state of the elements having something to do with this; but, as I have just said, the weather has very much improved to-day, hope it will continue. The water is now fast getting into trim, and by the time this is in print will be in capital condition for any sort of angling. I have been out one day this week, and tried my hand with the roach, but I had to content myself with fifteen very nice roach, going nearly 10 lb. I got them on the feed capitally, but the wind was so rough that I could scarcely tell when I had a bite; plain bread paste was the bait I used, and a moderate supply of good sweet ground bait, made from bread, creed rice, bran, and a handful of barley meal, nicely mixed. The ground bait is of more consequence than the hook bait in my opinion, for unless you judiciously administer the ground bait your chance of success is not a very good one. I believe I should have made a heavy bag of roach if the wind had not been so rough. Creed wheat, malt, or bread paste will be the best baits for roach just now, while the worm can be tried for bream, &c., and should the water fine down sufficiently the wasp grub will kill chub.—The Trent Otter.

Trent (Nottingham).

Sport has varied a good deal during the week, and it is singular that throughout the season so few barbel have been caught. How to account for this I am at a loss to conceive, as the fish in the upper reaches are plentiful enough, especially at Shardlow. Mr. R. Fish has taken a very fine roach in, I suppose, Mr. Smith's reach at Burton-on-Trent. It weighed 1 lb. 11¼ oz., and was added to the already long roll of fish at the Wellington Hotel, in Station Street.—The Man at the Clubs.

Wharfe (Yorkshire).

Beautiful weather has prevailed in this district during the past few days, but I have not heard of many anglers being out; possibly the gun is occupying their attention at present. The only dish that has come under my notice was one of nine fish, trout and grayling, taken with the fly on Monday.—Francis M. Walbran.

Wye and Derwent.

Sport, both on the Wye and Derwent, since my last report, has been very fair, and some nice baskets of both trout and grayling have been killed The killing flies have been the honey dun, bumble, little red and black flies, along with a very small light dun. The abundance of flies that are now upon both rivers, makes fish very particular about the kind of flies they take; both the Wye and the higher lengths of the Derwent above Rowley, are in first-class condition for fly-fishing. The bottom fishers, on the Derwent, did well both on last Saturday and the beginning of the week, killing good baskets of both trout and grayling, both with wasp grubs and cockspur worms; below Cromford several barbel, chub, roach and dace have been landed. chiefly with wasp grubs for baits. Weather hot and bright to-day (Thursday). Many anglers are on both rivers.—George James Eaton.

CLUB REPORTS.

AMICABLE BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members fished a pegged-down match at Weybridge with but a very bad show of fish. The water chosen was below the White Hart Inn. Eighteen were pegged-down and five others roaming. Mr. Say first, Mr. Shury second, Mr. Worledge third. The remaining prizes will be fished for at Cheshunt next Sunday, all to go down by the 7.25 a.m. from Liverpool Street Staton. The train calls at all stations down the line. Mr. Partrick had a very nice show of roach, weight 11 lb. 10 oz.; Mr. Larkman, bream, 1 lb. 1 oz., roach, 1 lb. 2½ oz., from Dagenham. – J. Worledge.

ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Since my last report I beg to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of £1 1s. from G. Chambers, Esq., per the Gresham Angling Society.—R. Ghurney, sec.

September 6th.

CLAPHAM JUNCTION ANGLING SOCIETY.

Members weighing in fish since last report were Mr. Bousseau 5 lb. 9½ oz. of roach; Mr. Martin, 4 lb. 3 oz. of bream; Mr. Walbrook 2lb. 8 oz. of roach; Mr. Wright 2 lb. 1 oz. of roach; Mr. Pannifer 4 lb. 3½ oz. of roach and chub; Mr. C. Speed, 3 lb. 5 oz. of roach; Mr. Willoughby, 3 lb. 12½ oz. of bream; Mr. E. Wilson roach, chub and perch; one nice fish, scaling 3 lb 9 oz., is now being preserved and will be added to our stock of preserved fish. Members are requested to attend on Thursday next.—E. Wilson, sec.

GOOD INTENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

There were a good many of our members out on Sunday last, but their takes were small, the best coming from Ware, by Mr. J. Robinson. On Tuesday last we had a good number of members at the club, the object of the meeting being to receive Mr. T. Crumplen as an honorary member of our society. It was with a very great deal of pleasure he was received, and I hope the hearty welcome which he had will leave a pleasant recollection on his mind. After being duly admitted a member his health and also the prosperity of the Gresham Angling Society were drunk. Mr. Crumplen responded in an excellent speech, which was warmly applauded. Our distribution of prizes takes place on Tuesday next, the 12th inst. They will be on view at 7 p.m.—R. Murphy.

GREAT YARMOUTH PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

This society continues to prosper, and it is now decided to make the entrance fee 7s. 6d., and 2s. 6d. annual subscription; honorary members, 10s. On Thursday last, the second competition took place, at Potter Heigham, A. Mitchell, Esq., being referee. First prize awarded to Mr. Warner, for 14 lb. of fish; second to Mr. Chapman, for 4 lb.; third to J. Hewettson, Esq, of Putney, for 3 lb.; the spring tides acting very much against good catches, as will be seen by the fish weighed in during the week. The bream are now well on the feed in the Broads, and in the Bure some good catches of roach have been reported, but not registered—some of our London anglers having splendid sport, but not reporting it to the society, no doubt not knowing that a society is in existence, which next season will be better known.—J. Lark, sec.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The meeting of this society on Thursday last was exceptionally interesting, the Rev. Hayman Cummings, F.R.H.S., &c, reading his long-promised paper on "Trout Culture," Charles Bates, Esq., in the chair. The rev. gentleman, who was warmly welcomed, dealt very ably with all the various points relative to this branch of pisciculture, giving a popular and scientific account of everything relating thereto, from the deposit and impregnation of the ova, to the time when the fish were able to take care of themselves. It is needless to say that his great motto was "follow nature," and in this following of nature, he thought laid the secret of all true success. The paper, evidently the result of deep thought and practical experience, will shortly be printed and distributed to the members of The Gresham, and we only regret that space compels us at the moment to notice it so briefly. Mr. Frost put a series of queries to Mr. Cummings, founded on his own experience, and these, ably replied to, proved of very considerable interest, adding to the information already given;

Mr. Jardine expressing the pleasure he had derived from the paper, and the discussion it had evoked. Captain Alfred moved a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Cummings, in seconding which Mr. Crumplen said he hoped at some future time to hear how far the experiments of Mr. Cummings might have a bearing on the culture of what are called "coarse fish," in which anglers were now so much interested. The recent takes of fish by members have been exceptionally good, Dr. Brunton has weighed in trout, Captain Alfred, barbel. Mr. Miller, barbel, chub and roach, Mr. Bennett (of Yarmouth) perch, and Mr. Young brought up a capital show of bream, chub and barbel just as the meeting closed, one of the former going 4 lb. 3 oz. Parker (the keeper at Waltham) reports several recent takes of pike by Mr. Morris and others from the society's water. A notable incident of the evening was the presentation of a reading desk, by A. W. Parker, which, designed, by himself, was in addition furnished with a beautifully embroidered cover, the badge of the society being worked thereon from a sketch by Mr. Holroyd, whose portraits of Walton and Gresham adorn the society's walls. Mr. Cartwright presented a bound copy of Wheeldon's "Angling Resorts" to the library, and Mr. Crumplen added a fac-simile copy of the original edition of "The Compleat Angler." Mr. Crumplen was on Tuesday elected an honorary member of the Good Intent Angling Society a large number of members being present, notwithstanding the weather. The health and prosperity of the members of The Gresham being enthusiastically given. The Anglers Benevolent box having been duly shaken, a very cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Bates concluded the proceedings of a very enjoyable evening.

HAMPSTEAD ANGLING SOCIETY.

The annual supper of this society took place on on August 30 at the Cock and Crown, when a pleasant evening was enjoyed by the members. Mr. Jackson was at the piano. After the toasts of the evening, the distribution of prizes was made by Mr. Stedall, the chairman, with Mr. Blatchley as vice. Gross weight prizes, given by the club—First, 18s., for gross weight of all fish, taken by Mr. Blatchley; second, 10s. 6d., for ditto of roach, taken by Mr. Woodward; third, 10s. 6d., for ditto of perch, taken by Mr. C. Messenger; fourth, 10s. 6d, for ditto of bream, taken by Mr. Cheil; fifth, 10s. 6d, for ditto of jack taken by Mr. W. Messenger. Special prizes—A silver cup, given by Mr. C. Busbridge for best specimen fish taken during the season, won by Mr. C. Messenger; a rod, given by Mr. Dillon, tackle maker, for roving match, won by Mr. C. Messenger; 10s. 6d., given by Mr. H. Busbridge, for gross weight of perch taken during the season, won by Mr. W. Messenger; a handsome rod, given by Mr. R. George for roving match, not less than 5 lb. of fish to win the rod, won by Mr. W. Messenger; this was fished for on August 27. Mr. W. Messenger taking it with 8 lb. of roach. Several other members weighed in. Mr. Blatchley, bream and barbel; Mr. C. Messenger, roach and rudd.—W Broom, sec.

HEARTS OF OAK ANGLING SOCIETY.

The above society fished for prizes last Sunday, which were won respectively by Messrs. A. Fish, Furlong, W. Rider, and R. Ford. I might also mention that the annual dinner of this club will take place next Sunday at the Black Swan, at Hertford.—C. J. Millie, sec.

JUNIOR PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Within last fortnight have had weighed in the following:—Mr. J. W. Cathel, roach, 3 lb. 5 oz.; Mr. Mills, roach, 2 lb. 12 oz.; Mr. Geo. Woodman, from Datchet, 4 lb. 14 oz., roach, 5 lb. 13 oz, tench, 1 lb. 11 oz., barbel, 9 lb. 2 oz.; Mr. John Warne, from Staines, barbel, 4 lb. 3 oz.; Mr. George Woodman, 6 tench, 13 lb. 2 oz., roach, 8 lb. 6 oz., perch, 2 lb 11 oz. Mr. T. Jenkins, 1 bream, 1 lb. 10 oz. On Monday next the members of the above society will have a peg-down match on Truss's Island, near Staines, for numerous prizes, which will be presented to the successful competitors at the dinner to take place at Mr. Currie Banfield's Swan Hotel, Staines Bridge—Alf. Bisley.

LEICESTER JOLLY ANGLERS' CLUB.

The members of the above club held their first fishing contest last Saturday, when twenty-four members took part in the competition. A brake and three horses started from the headquarters, the Earl of Leicester Inn, Infirmary Square, and conveyed the merry party to the village of Rearsby, where the waters of C. Woodcock, Esq., had been generously lent for the purpose. Owing to a strong south west wind, the catches were not large, and the following are the prize takers. First prize, Mr. H. Starkey, a splendid fishing rod and reel; second prize, Mr. G. Broadhead, half a dozen knives and nickel silver forks; third, Mr. C. Clark, inkstand; fourth, Mr. G. Gask, writing desk; fifth, Mr. Bonner, reel; sixth, Mr. Sheriff, fishing basket; and seventh, Mr. R. Greasley, roach line.

LONDON AND SOUTH-WESTERN RAILWAY ANGLING CLUB.

At our meeting on Friday last a pegged-down match was arranged to take place at Weybridge, on the 17th inst., for two silver cups kindly presented by R. Toomer, Esq. Members please note that all competitors must give their names to the chairman on Friday, the 15th inst. Our members have not been so fortunate as others, but, as young beginners, satisfactory. R. Fortescue has taken two handsome specimen bream, weight 7 lb. 7 oz., which are being preserved. Any brother anglers wishing to join a society in the neighbourhood of Vauxhall could not do better than see Mr. Bulmer, 62, Wandsworth Road, who will with great pleasure give all information and answer any questions.—J. Woodcook, sec.

September 4th.

NORTH WESTERN ANGLING CLUB.

Forty of our members had an excursion to Boxmoor on Sunday last, to fish for eleven prizes, but on account of ounces instead of pounds being the order of the day, only nine were taken; Mr. Wynn 1st, Smart 2nd, Underwood 3rd, Hayes 4th, Harris 5th, L. Roxbee 6th, Foreman 7th, Billings 8th, and G. Lemon 9th. Four-horse 'bus and three-horse brake were the vehicles engaged, and a most enjoyable day was spent in true North Western style. H.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

There has been some good fish shown. Messrs. T. Longman, Laundy, Crafford, and Obbard, and Dr. Lavender had roach, bream, and perch; Messrs. Richardson and Laundy also weighed in some roach.—J. Obbard, sec.

Sept. 4.

PECKHAM BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

The match for the prizes given by Messrs. Reed, Garrad, and Bignall resulted as follows:—Mr. Stidolph, first; Mr. Lang, seeond; Mr. Otjan, third. The next match, for the president's cup, takes place on the 10th, at Maidenhead. The next return visit West Central Association, No. 3 District, goes to the above club on Tuesday next; A. Brodie, Esq., in the chair, faced by W. R. Matthews, "Sloper." As it is expected that the president, chairman, and secretary of the West-Central Association will be present, we trust that the members of kindred societies will turn up in large numbers.—W. H. Page, hon. sec.

Sept. 5.

PECKHAM PERSEVERANCE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Members of this society fished a peg-down match on Sunday last at Amberley. There was a fair show of fish. F. Cook, weighed in 8 lb. of bream; a splendid one weighing 4 lb. was sent to Mr. Miller to be preserved. The next match takes place on Sunday 10th, at Windsor, for four prizes.—W. Arnold, sec.

PIKE AND ANCHOR ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday last, a Mr. Wallace, of the Alexandria Fishing Society, took a very fine perch weighing 1 lb. 14 oz., which was weighed before thirty or forty other anglers. This fish was taken out of my back water close to the house; it was taken with a gudgeon last night. Mr. Joe Woodie took a very fine barbel close to the same place.—H. Puddicombe.

Sept. 6.

PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The roach competition for fish taken out of public waters took place amongst the members of this society on Monday last. Owing to so many London anglers visiting the broads and rivers of Norfolk and Suffolk and others enjoying the sea breezes, the attendance at the clubroom, Ashley's Hotel, Covent Garden, on that evening was not very numerous. Mr. Murray was voted into the chair, and about twenty members were present. Mr. R. S. Fennings won the first prize with 27¾ lb. of roach from Ringwood; Mr. Walker took the second prize with 18 lb. 14 oz. of roach. The following other fish were weighed in:—Mr. G. Robinson, 18 lb. 8 oz. of roach and 6½ lb. of perch from Ringwood; Mr. Kisch, a Thames trout of 4 lb. 12½ oz.; Mr. H. Gray, a trout of 3 lb. 2 oz.; Mr. Fennings, 6 lb 6 oz. of roach; and Mr. Walker, 12 lb 6 oz. of roach and a perch of 2 lb. 10¾ oz from Ringwood. The next competition on October 2 is also for roach, but limited to the Thames, and no fish to be weighed in under 6 oz.

QUEEN'S ANGLING SOCIETY.

Very few of our members went out on Sunday. Mr. Walford had 14 lb. 6½ oz. bream; Mr. Barrett, 6 lb. 6 oz. bream; Mr. Pratt, 2 lb. roach; Mr. Morgan, 1 lb. 8 oz. dace.—L. Walford, sec.

RODNEY PISCATORIALS.

On the 3rd, at the headquarters of the above, about 20 lb. of roach and dace were exhibited by Messrs. Diggins, Grant, and Marsh, from the Thames and the Lea. At the meeting held on the 6th, Mr Diggins in the chair, the following gentlemen were elected as members of the society:—Messrs. W. Luland, F. E. Diggins, G. W. Diggins, F. Smith, J. Marsh, G. Grant, W. G. Howell, G. Miles, and H. King. The following prizes have been promised for competition during the remaining part of the season: £5 5s. by Mr. T. Hughes, £1 1s. by Mrs. T. Hughes, £1 1s. by Mr. King, and a perambulator by a friend. —Pixie.

Sept. 7.

THE HIGHBURY ANGLING SOCIETY.

The annual dinner of this most flourishing society took place at Mr. Lyndsell's, the Pied Bull, St. Margaret's, on Saturday last, the 2nd inst. The weather being somewhat unfavourable prevented the attendance of many of our members and friends, but a goodly number sat down to a most excellent repast provided by the worthy host. The chair was efficiently occupied by Mr. Sampson, and ably supported by Mr. Edward Wheatley in the vice-chair. After the usual loyal and customary toasts were given and duly responded to, the chairman gave the toast of the day, "Success to the Highbury Angling Society," which was most enthusiastically received with what is known as the Highbury Whisper, namely, three times three. Some excellent songs and recitations were effectively rendered by the company, and altogether a very enjoyable day was passed. A capital show of jack, tench, roach, dace, &c., took place on the 3rd inst., by Messrs. Higley, McDermott, Charles, Rose, Payne, Howell, and others, the result of a keen competition for two valuable prizes, which were respectively won by the two former gentlemen.—James Edward Wheatley, sec.

Sept. 5.

WALTONIANS.

On Sunday we had very fair shows. Mr. Jos. Moor had roach, 5 lb. 8¾ oz.; Mr. J. Dodge roach, 5 lb. 6 oz.; Mr. Read roach, 5 lb. 1¾ oz.; Mr. Packman roach, 3 lb. 6 oz.; Mr. E. Watkins roach, 3 lb. 11 oz; Mr. Waltham roach, 2 lb 9½ oz.; Mr. Starr, 1 lb. 10 oz; Mr. Good, jun., bream, 4 lb. 5½ oz., and roach, 1 lb. Mr. Togwell also weighed in fish.—A. J. Marriott.

WESTBOURNE PARK PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

On August 28, our members fished a match at Godfrey water West Drayton, and at the same time had a photographic group taken. 1 lb. 14½ oz. took first prize, which included one roach of 1 lb. 7½ oz, the largest yet weighed in. On Tuesday, September 5th, Mr. Oatley was successful with two handsome dace from the Kennet, scaling 12 oz. and 15¾ oz., the largest ever weighed in this club, though we have one in the room, caught by a member at Godfrey, of 16¼ oz.

On Wednesday evening Mr. Huber, who had previously made a tie with Mr. Young, each having taken a trout of 4 lb. 10¼ oz., succeeded in catching a splendid Thames trout of 6 lb. 1 oz., spinning from the bank near Monkey Island. Harry Wilder, who was fishing with two gentlemen in a punt, kindly assisted in landing the fish. Mr. Huber having kindly presented it to the club, it will be preserved, and in due time grace the walls of the Pelican, with other fine specimen fish.—W. Adeane, sec.

Sept. 6.

George James Eaton, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether the may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[Advt.]

FACEACHE, TOOTHACHE, PAINS IN THE GUMS, NEURALGIA. —Adam Smith's Neuralgine is a Certain Cure. Bottles, 1s. 1½d., 2s. 9d. Post free from Proprietor, Chemist, Wednesbury. London Agent, W. Edwards, 157, Queen Victoria Street.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

GUT *v.* HAIR.

Sir,—Having had considerable experience with both, I can quite endorse the "Trent Otter's" opinion. I have frequently caught from 20 to 40 lb. of roach with the same hook, without a single breakage. Some time ago I quite annoyed an old friend of mine (who knows everything) because he would have it that hair was finer than gut; but on sending him some of the finest drawn gut for roach fishing with wheat, he was so thoroughly convinced he was wrong he now uses nothing else. Besides, playing very large roach on a single hair line, 6, 8, 10, 12, or 15 minutes, as the case may be, although it may be, and undoubtedly is, highly exhilarating, not only plays the very deuce with your swim when roach are on the feed, but too often attracts the "unwelcome visitor" described in your issue of July 22—at least so I have found it; and I need not inform your readers after his arrival no more sport need be expected.—I am, &c., Mark Antony.

FLY-FISHING CHALLENGE.

Sir,—I have read with interest the controversy anent "Gut *v.* Hair," in the last few numbers of the Fishing Gazette, and note with pleasure your proposed match with Mr. Balderston. I am an advocate of the use of gut as against hair. I was tutored in this (as in what piscatory accomplishments I may possess) by the talented author of the Scientific Angler, whose able advocacy of the finest and genuinely scientific modes of fishing was ever borne out by results. (Angling contests, forsooth, he met, and acted a chief part in them weekly during the greater part of his career). Results indisputable, for he was never known to have been defeated. But now the world-renowned "David" is no longer with us, thanks to his exertions in the promotion of the angling, cause; his example of high and able proficiency, and withal his reverse of egotistic disposition, he has left many anglers who are proud to own him as their tutor and mentor, and who are willing and able to raise the high standard of efficiency he uplifted and so ably upheld till death did intercede. The writer is willing to meet either "Herne the Hunter," or any other reviver of old time customs upon the most difficult of all noted trouting streams, The Dove. The disputed point being "Hair, *v.* Gut"—I am, &c., W. H. Cooper.

Prospect House, Ashbourne, Aug. 26, 1882.

HAIR *v.* GUT.

Sir,—I have read with no little interest the controversy Hair *v.* Gut—al-othe challenge proffered and accepted, but as I dont see any practical result from it, as the result will depend far more upon the skill of the angler than his use either of gut or hair. I submit the following: No men are more prejudiced than anglers (especially fly fishers in country districts), as it has fallen to my lot to be brought out by one of the best, but, at the same time, the most prejudiced Nothing but hair must I use, in fact, if I had hinted fine gut there would have been no more communication this side the grave. Still, I have taken upon myself to try fine gut, the finest I could procure—I have never yet seen hair so fine—and, I suppose, the finer the more difficult for the fish to see it; hence one count in favour of fine gut. Again, how often has a good fish, at the head of a stream, bolted and taken my cast with him, and this, sir, is doubly grievous where the fish run small; not so with fine gut—another count in favour of gut. What more annoying to be broken, especially when one has been fishing all the day with no result, and just when the fish are in, not only wasting time, but working yourself into a temper? Not so with fine gut I have not only saved time by playing my fish less, and consequently disturbing the stream less, but also in breakages These reasons have induced me to support the gut theory. I certainly think grayling may prove a trouble, as trout wind the gut a good deal, but this, with a little care, can soon be straightened. The only objections to gut jacks is that they wind round the cast, I think, more than hair. I have shortened them, but still fear this is a fault—shall be glad of a hint in reference to this. Still, sir, in conclusion, when one knows the trouble and annoyance in procuring good hair, the risk whether it will stand the water, and the many other drawbacks, is it not wiser and fairer to cast away prejudice and go in for the very finest and best gut, no rubbish?

Higher Wharfedale. "Snipe Bloa."

RIVAL ANGLERS.—GUT *v.* HAIR.

Sir,—You, Mr. Editor, call the projected contest between yourself and Mr. Balderston a trial of gut *v.* hair. As an implicit believer in the superiority of the latter, under certain conditions, I should like its honour to be upheld by some one whose excellencies as an angler are known to be something above the average. The gentleman of many aliases infers as plainly as he possibly can, that he stands at the head of fly-fishers. I am afraid this opinion is held only by Mr. Balderstone himself. If I am not mistaken as to that gentleman's identity, he resided in the neighbourhood of, or actually in the town of Kendal for some time. Whilst there, he created no favourable impression as an expert fly trout fisher. In our little district I could lay my hands on a dozen anglers who can give Mr. Balderstone all the odds he offers you, and a beating to boot. Such being my opinion, I protest against the proposed contest being dubbed "gut *v.* hair." Let it merely be a test of skill between the two parties, in any case until we hair fishers select some one we know is qualified to act as champion of our cause.—I am, &c., Sprint (one who has used only hair casts in trout fishing with fly for over twenty years, and killed sea trout up to 3 lb. weight with single hair).

GUT *v.* HAIR.

Sir,—"Herne the Hunter"* has at length thrown off the antlered mask. Who and what the writer of such an epistle could be, I did not take the trouble to enquire or even consider. It is easy to make random assertions which would be often difficult to prove. Now that the mask has fallen, I must say I am surprised to find Mr. Robert Balderston has considered it conducive to his dignity or repute to enact the *role* of the "boisterous buck."

For one to contest and refute the main arguments, or, more correctly speaking, assertions, advanced in favour of the "ancient and traditional hair," would be a task easy enough; but for the tax on my time and your valuable space, sir, I shall upon this occasion content myself by merely touching upon an odd point or two conspicuously (according to my personal experience) at fault. I notice amongst other things that rather free use is made of your name, Mr. Editor, as also that of Mr. F. Francis. All I may here observe on this point is this: Had Mr. Balderston been in Derbyshire at the period indicated in his letter, he, with the aid of his hair, would to a dead certainty have found himself in the rear. The Dove and Wye are known as well by the writer as by the major portion of brother anglers who habitually fish them, and I have no hesitation in disproving such twaddle (forgive the name) as the paragraph here referred to, knowing full well as I do that the use of hair has been practically distanced these two decades and more. The paragraphs, too, in numerical order, endorsed by the signature of Mr. Balderston, are startlingly eloquent. From them the adept southern fly fisher gathers that their author knows absolutely little or nothing of what is needed in the way of skill and proficiency in fishing successfully a well flogged and frequented southern trout stream. I commend paragraph No. 3 particularly to the notice of my brother fly fishers who may be subscribers to the Gazette. No. 2 is not unimportant—*Six inches?* Assuredly this must be a misprint. There is not an angling club or society to my knowledge in existence that places the restriction so low. Restriction, indeed? would most certainly suggest to Mr. Balderston the adoption of no restriction at all. Fingerlings of 6 inches, forsooth! Why the idea is perfectly repulsive to the genuine sportsman. There are other individuals who understand conditions for trouting with "divers kinds of tackle" as well as "Herne the Hunter."—I am, &c. The Splodger.

RE GUT AND HAIR.

Sir,—Judging from the denunciating comments that are being unstintingly bestowed on the string of letters penned by Mr. R. Balderston (under cover of *nom de plume*, "Herne the Hunter," and open), the feeling created has been the extreme reverse to that doubtless intended by their author. But then, as set against this ostentatious display of brag and bluster, it must not be forgotten that we are indebted to Mr. Balderston for a really meritorious article on the theory of artificial flies, in which he has taken exception to the northern freethinking doctrine in the typical trio of flies or spiders, thus unmistakably and beyond all question proving himself a head of the clique, the elysium of whom is the mountain burn and moorland stream.

Every trouting district has its crack rodster, who on his part has contracted a certain method of procedure, a distinct line of tactics, which united with a spice of enthusiasm, and in most cases with a degree of natural aptitude, has placed above his immediate compeers. It is when these best men meet in friendly casual contests that the genuine champion transpires. But to the subject announced on heading, gut was originally introduced as an improvement on hair for angling purposes prior to the advent of the present century, gradually as the demand for this article increased. The Spanish and Madeira silk culturists gave increased attention to their new product, as at first the substance of it was so coarse and rough as to be of small utility for general purposes; competition and a quickened demand, however, soon worked an entire change, and in the next few years the best of the midwater and Cotton-fishers advocated, by their personal employment of it, the new specimen of gut. The opponent of the cat-gut piscators, as they were termed, were, of course, heavily adverse to the change that threatened, and what, we would here ask, sterling improvement was ever permanently made without heavy and persistent (often inconsistent) opposition? Our past and present history, as a nation and a people, affords analogies innumerable. Up to a period of about forty years since gut had been eschewed by the main body of fly fishers as being unnecessary thick and strong. At this time great progress was being effected in the construction of almost every description of the anglers', and especially the fly-fishers' equipage. So great was the desire manifest for advancement, that investigations were in many quarters ardently followed to an extent bordering on the verge of absurdity. Thus we find among the MS. writings of the late author of the "Scientific Angler" that he used none and rejected all but the best hair from an entire race-horse of good blood; and that in the course of time a microscope of powerful lens was employed, and that to such a nicety, that but a few odd strands would be deemed worthy selection. To what further heights could the search for perfection extend? we are led to inquire. Human hair would appear to have been finally resorted to. Strength and length were the essentials here needed. These, however, were either difficult to procure in sufficient quantities or were deficient in utility when obtained. As the next of these investigations chronicled is a series of experiments in refining silkworm gut, the ultimate result being the steel drawing plate, the idea would doubtless be taken from the stone wire-drawing appliances. Subsequently from the date of this invention, the decline in the use of hair in all grades of angling was great and significant, as most angling readers will remember. This gave rise to much contention from the scurrilous attacks and vain boastings of the local hair champion. Mr. Foster was led to publish, in the *Derby Mercury*, August 22, 1849 (a copy of which we have before us), a fly-fishing challenge to fish for a stated sum; offering, at the same time, "to kill three fish to his oppenent's one." This, though not accepted, had the desired effect in toning down local antagonism—not so abroad. Contest after contest, in a perpetuated string, was waged and won; now north, now south, from Scottish beck to Cornwall's streams. Finally, the able advocate of refined gut—to stop the now becoming wearisome advances of what proved in the large majority of cases presumptive aspirants—published a challenge in *Bell's Life*, stating the readiness of the inventor of the gut-refining system to fish any hair champion for a sum of not less than £100. This also remained unaccepted (we have not evidence to the contrary, however); and since this time some thirty years have elapsed, during which period the recognised standard practitioners and writers on angling have declared in favour of gut as against hair, that is, where a comparison has been at all invited. Whilst upon the most noted trout streams of the Midlands and of the South, hair, for trout fishing, is and has for long years been looked upon as a relic of bygone times. We cannot think of enlarging further upon this subject. The wording of the conditions of the intended contest put forth by your correspondent cannot fail to probe a line from more than one ardent piscator, if we mistake not their effect.—I am, &c.,

Ashbourne. David Foster, Jun.

THE THAMES BELOW RICHMOND.

Sir,—The remarks made by L. B. under the heading of Club and Other Jottings in your issue of 26th August, as to the admirable propositions made at the recent conference at the Cannon Street Hotel by the Richmond Piscatorial delegates, must have so commended itself to all anglers desiring to preserve fish for angling purposes in the Thames, that I am sure numbers of piscators, like myself, looked in your issue of September 2nd (but in vain) for the reason which induced Mr. Geen to oppose the resolution in question other than "that the present time was not opportune." Can it possibly be that Mr. Geen has no other explanation than this to offer for opposing a scheme so fraught with benefit to the angling world? If so, the course of action he thought fit to adopt must indeed appear inexplicable to the many hundreds (nay, thousands) of anglers whose interest he not only ignored, but was mainly instrumental in defeating on the occasion in question. Apologising for thus troubling you, I am, &c., A Constant Subscriber.

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* A letter with this *nom de plume* appeared in Mr. Balderston's paper of last quarter,

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FISHING AT POOL AND BOROUGHBRIDGE.

Sir,—I noticed a correspondent in your last issue requiring some information as to the fishing at Pool. If he will write to Mr. Lodge, White Hart, Pool, he will make arrangements to comfortably accommodate him for a few days, and, with his usual liberality, allow him to fish in his length of water, which is good for trout, grayling, chub, and dace. He can go five minutes' walk up the river, and fish in a good length for 6d. a day; or he can go down the river to Arthington, about a mile, call at the Wharfedale Hotel, and he will be supplied with a day ticket on payment of 1s.

As to tackle, baits, and kind of flies: for bottom fishing the tackle must be the finest made, the fish are now mostly taking maggots and wasp grub. For flies I recommend your correspondent to write to Smith Suttle, Westgate, Otley, who will supply him with particulars and the taking flies at a reasonable price.

"Rus in Urbis" will find good pike, roach, chub, and dace at Boroughbridge. There is a small inn on the river bank, close to the bridge. The landlord will supply him with any information he may require. The fishing is free on the landlord's side. If the fish are not on the feed the landlord will direct him to the river Swale, a distance of three miles, where he is sure to get a basket of fish.—I am, &c., F. P. Hammond.

Leeds.

FISHING AT POOL, WHARFEDALE.

Sir,—If "Yorkshireman" will write a private letter to me I will then give him all necessary information concerning the above.—I am, &c.,

Pool, Wharfedale. Francis M. Walbran.

THE CONFERENCE AND THE BYE-LAWS.

Sir,—In your issue of August 19, under the above heading, objection was taken to two of the proposed new bye-laws—viz., the close season for jack, and the rule forbidding the use of only two rods. I was greatly surprised at the editorial opinion, and on Wednesday last we discussed the matter at our club. We had a good full meeting, and I asked the chairman to favour me by taking a vote on both subjects; the result was, that without a single dissentient the highest approval was expressed of the proposed alteration of the close season for jack to be from March 1 to July 31; also the rule, which has been a rule of our club for some time, forbidding the use of more than two rods.

I read the comments from the article in the Gazette, and strong doubts were expressed as to the existence of any persons attempting to get a living by rod and line fishing; as to such persons turning worse poachers than they practically are at present, we don't fear poachers of any sort once we get an efficient code of bye-laws.—I am, &c., A. J. Marriott, Waltonian Angling Society, 37, Judd Street, King's Cross.

[We have no objection to private individuals or clubs making what rules they like. What we do object to is carrying legislation for the public generally *too far*. And we are still strongly of opinion that to interfere with the angler's rods and tackle is a grandmotherly interference with the rights of individuals. You might as well legislate to stop the use of more than one gun, because too many birds are shot. Such questions should be left to the unwritten moral laws of sport. Stop netting, stop the pollution of streams, but do not destroy the spirit of sport by so hedging it in with laws and bye-laws, as if it were a dangerous compound like nitro-glycerine. The Waltonian Angling Society has unanimously sat down upon us. We can only hope that they will not refuse to spend 2d. a week in their usual copy of the Gazette, because we venture to express our own opinions, as sometimes happens with regard to the pike. From a pike angler's point of view, the more the fish is fenced the better, but we have to consider the views of thousands of anglers, who care nothing for jack fishing, and hate the fish as a destroyer of their trout, roach, &c. That Mr. Marriott and his friends think we wish to advocate anything against the real interests of sport we do not believe. What we find so irksome is, that with all this legislation to make us virtuous anglers, the true *sport* feeling will be lost. Whatever is not against the law will be lawful whether sportsmanlike or not.—Ed.]

GROUND BAITING.

Sir,—I have found the following by "Ephemera" in my common place book as cut from *Bell's Life* many years ago:—"Groundbaits are essential to extensive success, and should be used freely, thrown in for days and nights previously at the spots wherein you intend to angle. They should be thrown in at all events the night before you begin to fish; they should be of the same sort as the baits you intend to use, but of inferior quality. Elsewhere (he says) you should never ground bait with gentles. The more carefully and constantly you ground bait any locality the greater number of fish you will entice there, as of course they will readily congregate in those places at which they find most food."

Mr. Blaine explains the rationale of ground baiting thus:—"Fishes naturally congregate where they have been led by any singularity of appearance in the water they inhabit, thus they are on the alert, and take every kind of bait eagerly when a flood is coming down. Conscious that food of different kinds is forced along by the sweeping current, they are on the look out to receive it; and thus also when ground bait is thrown in it attracts their attention and draws them together and detains them, and although their naturally roving disposition may carry them away again, fresh supplies render their absence short, and they instinctively return to the scene of former plenty. It is the principle of ground bait to attract fish without glutting them, and thus, although edible matters enter into the composition of ground baits, yet they are, or ought to be, always inferior to the hook baits offered at the same time, by which fish may be tempted to leave the ground bait for the more delicate morsel on the hook. In rivers that are constantly ground baited with heavy substances, the very noise of the splash in the water by its fall attracts fish to the spot. They are used to it, and know the consequences. Large worms, mixed with balls of clay, attract barbel, chub, perch, and trout; bran, pollard, meal, and malt grains, attract roach, chub, and bream; greaves and pieces of cheese attract barbel and chub. Raking with an iron rake the bottom of the stream, or mudding it by going into the water and stirring up the gravel, &c., with your strong soled shoes or boots, will bring fish into the wake of the discoloured water, and they will eagerly take worms before them." Blaine then describes various ground baits which have already been given.

In ground baiting with chopped lobworms it is advisable to have a pan or tub of silver or river sand to throw the pieces into. The sand will cling to these and assist to sink them the quicker. To get ground bait to rest properly where it is desired, the depth of the swim should be considered, and the set of the currents, more particularly if there are more than one. The plan is to throw a little in at first, and if the water is clear enough to watch its career. A pretty accurate guess may be made whether you are to cast the ground bait well above, close to the punt, or to this or that side. An exercise of judgment is necessary here, and I do not know any man who more skilfully comes to the desired conclusion than Mr. William Badley, of Nottingham. It is a compliance with these apparently trifling conditions which materially distinguishes the sport and success of one fisherman from another. This clever angler uses but little ground bait when fishing from the bank in the Trent. I believe a little chewed bread thrown in at intervals suffices him.

It is a question whether the eels do not get more than the lion's share when worms are so prodigally cast in. One thing is certain, if the fish are not plentiful enough to eat these quarts of worms in the course of a few hours they must become distasteful to the fish, and injurious to the water. Those who doubt this have only to place a few lobs in an utensil and cover with water, to witness their slimy and offensive character, after, say, a day's immersion.—I am, &c., Creel

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DESTRUCTION OF SPAWNING GROUND.

Sir,—In reference to that portion of "Creel's" letter on ground baiting, where he states that the use of large quantities of clay tends to pave the bottom of the river with clay sediment and thus spoil the spawning grounds. If such is the case, should not some regulation be put upon its use by the T.A.P.S. I, however, presume that "Creel's" reference to the bottom of the river between Teddington and Isleworth means really those few favourite swims which are constantly being baited, and if that is what he does mean, we need not fear the spoiling of spawning grounds generally, which his letter seems to infer. I have made a careful calculation, and find that to pave the bottom of the river for a length of one mile and a breadth of 150 feet a thickness of ¼ inch would take five and a half years, supposing that fifteen anglers used each one bushel of clay per day on 200 days per year, and also supposing that none of it was washed away by the tides and stream, which it most certainly would be. I really think that "Creel" has sounded a false note of alarm on this point, for there can be no doubt but that an exceedingly small percentage of the clay thrown into the river for baiting purposes remains on its bed; it is washed away by the stream after being stirred up and disintegrated by the moving action of the shingle, and a far greater amount of sediment is deposited in the quiet eddies from the clay and earthy particles always held in solution by the water. I must apologise for asking so much of your space, Mr. Editor, but I think this is a matter of interest and importance, and ought to be carefully investigated. —I am, &c., R. W. Hobden.

COLOURLESS WAX FOR TYING HOOKS AND FLIES.

Sir,—Can you or any of your readers inform me of a substance that will do instead of gum shellac dissolved in spirits of wine for putting over the whipping of hooks, that is transparent. The shellac, after being dissolved, turns nearly black of dark brown, and discolours the silk. Your correspondent sincerely hopes with "Constant Reader" that "Ariel" will give us his plan of spinning, and which has been anxiously looked out for by M. L. H.

[In November, 1879, we gave one or two recipes for a colourless wax. Here is a good one from "Pennell:" "Burgundy pitch, 120 grains (¼ oz.); white resin, 60 grains; tallow, 20 grains. Having reduced the resin and pitch to a mixed powder, and placed them in some clean receptacle (an egg cup will be found very convenient), put them into an oven, and when quite melted, add the tallow, stirring the whole thoroughly up together for several minutes. The wax, which when cold will be quite hard, will be ready for use in about 12 hours. The above quantities will make a lump of wax as large as a walnut."—Ed.]

SCARCE BRITISH FISH WANTED.

Sir,—Could you, or any of my brother readers, give me any information as to where I could procure some fish for specimens, names of which I give below? I am collecting for a large case of British freshwater fish to be preserved, and should like to have it complete if possible. The names of fish are as follows: The vendace or vindis, the pollan, the powan, the gwiniad, the ide, the graining, the azurine or blue roach.

Any information as to any of the above will be thankfully received by yours &c., Walton, Junior.

Barnsley, Yorks.

[The Vendace (*Coregonus Willoughbii*), according to Couch, "is believed to be peculiar to Lochmaben and the neighbouring pieces of water in Scotland," and is supposed to have been introduced from the Continent at the suggestion of the unfortunate Queen Mary; but by Sir William Jardine, Bart., who first decided that it was a distinct species, this is thought to be unlikely. The fish is to be found in some of the rivers and lakes of Scandinavia, and also, we believe, in some of the Swiss and German lakes. Yarrell states that the vendace is also to be found in Windermere and Bassenthwaite lakes in Cumberland.

The Pollan (*Coregonus Pollan*).—Yarrell mentions this fish as being found in Lough Neagh, Loch Corrib, and Lough Derg, Ireland.

The Powan (*Coregonus Cepedei*), according to Yarrell, is found in Loch Lomond.

The Gwiniad (*Coregonus Pennanti*) is, Yarrell says, very numerous in Ullswater, and other large lakes in Cumberland.

The Ide (*Cyprinus idus*).—Yarrell says, "According to Mr. Stuart, this species was taken at the mouth of the Nith by the late Dr. Walker," but there is some ground for supposing the specimen was only a chub after all. It is common in Scandinavia.

The Graining (*Leuciscus Lancastriensis*) is found in the Mersey and its tributaries, especially the Alt, also in the Leam, near Leamington. Our Liverpool correspondents have often mentioned the capture of this fish.

The Azurine, or Blue Roach (*Leuciscus Cœruleus*) is a rare fish in England. According to Yarrell it is found only "within the township of Knowsley." We have an impression it also exists in some ponds in Kent.—Ed.]

EXTRAORDINARY CAPTURE OF A JACK.

Sir,—In one of your late issues, I read with much interest an account of the take of a pike with a perch as accidental bait, your correspondent querily deeming his capture an unprecedented one. I beg to assure him it is not so, for I have a vivid and to be carried to the grave recollection of a similar occurrence—similar as far as the perch being the bait, but dissimilar as far as the means of capture. In the year 1845 (you will perceive by the date, Mr. Editor, there is "an ancient and fish-like smell" about me), I had permission from Mrs. Lloyd, of Aston Hall, Shropshire, to fish a mill-pool on her estate. One hot afternoon I was seated on the grass (that was not the period of bank baskets and boxes) with my legs dangling over by the waste-gate of the mill and catching perch galore to my boyish delight, when all at once in playing a little kick-some fellow of about 2 oz. I felt a tug which nearly lost me my equilibrium, and entirely my self-command. Inexperienced, I held on like grim death; and it has always been a marvel to me the gut did not give (the gut of that day was of the cart-rope description). However, it held, and I held until I could scramble on my feet; and getting away from the waste-gate some dozen yards, and pulling my captive *nolens volens* along into shallow water, I was enabled to take the kick out of my unknown friend, and eventually bring him to the edge of the pool, exhausted. I then laid my rod down, and putting my boot behind the fish gave him a hoist fairly and safely on to *terra firma*. Thus, Mr. Editor, "the Boy Jones," thirty-seven years ago, caught his first jack. I was afraid at first to handle the beast, but at last summoned up courage to try and extract my hook. After much fear and trembling on my part, I succeeded in finding out that the upright spines of the perch were firmly fixed in the roof of the jack's mouth, and it took some boyish force to disengage the same; and when at last it came with a jerk, the jack snapped his jaws together and scraped a broad bit of skin off my thumb from the knuckle to the nail, and that is the "vivid and to be carried to the grave recollection" mentioned above, for I retain the scar still, and my memory of my first jack in happy childhood is as yesterday.—I am, &c.,

Marlow Buzz.

Holmleigh, Hurley, Berks.

CHICHESTER ANGLING SOCIETY.

At the annual meeting of the above society, held at the Globe Hotel, September 5, the secretary, Mr. G. F. Salter, read the first annual report as follows:—Twelve months since a few energetic knights of the rod met to consider the probability of forming an angling society in Chichester. Portsmouth had its Waltonians, Brighton its Angling Association, whose favourite resort was our canal. Messrs. Young, Summers, and Cook, appointed a meeting, which took place on August 31, when twenty-three members were enrolled and officers elected *pro tem.* At the next meeting a code of rules were submitted and passed, His Grace the Duke of Richmond kindly consenting to be elected as patron, W. W. Baker, Esq, as president, W. Kerwood, Esq., vice-president, A. Purchase, Esq, treasurer, Mr. W. Cook, jun., undertaking the arduous duties of secretary; the committee, as previously elected, being unanimously re-appointed. The first step towards the improvement of the angling was clearing weeds from the canal, for which some few pounds were expended. A meeting of delegates from Portsmouth, Brighton, the Chichester Rowing Club, and the Chichester Angling Society, took place in October, to discuss measures for improvement on a larger scale. This meeting was adjourned until February. In the meantime, by the kind permission of Mr. Baker, of Aldingbourne, about 300 roach were transferred from the mill pond to the canal. A boat was purchased from H. Coombes as a tank for live bait, for the use of the members. A large bait can provided, and a pair of scales and set of weights obtained for club use. In February the delegates again met to consider the weed question. At this period, Captain Purchase informed the society that in consequence of repairs necessary to Birdham Lock the water would be let off between Donnington Bridge and Birdham. Means for the preservation of fish and clearance of weeds were discussed, when it was proposed and carried "That the Committee of the Chichester Angling Society be empowered to take what steps may be necessary for the preservation of fish, watching the canal, and clearing weeds, each society to bear their quota of expenses incurred." Measures were at once taken, large quantities of fine bream, roach, and tench were transferred to the upper reach above the dam. On Good Friday the water between the locks was netted, the Brighton Anglers rendering valuable assistance. Several tanks of fish were transferred to the upper reach in good condition. As the work was progressing favourably the dam at Donnington gave way, necessitating immediate measures. A new hurdle dam was constructed—willing hands lending valuable aid to convey several hundred fine bream to the upper water, some fish being computed at from 3½ to 4 lb. in weight. Roach, tench, and pike were also saved. This unlooked-for event caused a considerably increased outlay. The canal was watched night and day, the fish in the shallow portions of the canal appearing in myriads—an easy prey to the poacher—but, thanks to the vigilance exercised, we have no reason to think any fish were taken illegally. The canal was thoroughly cleared of weeds and obstructions from Donnington Bridge to Birdham Lock, and from Donnington to the basin, on the towpath side only. The expenses incurred owing to unlooked-for difficulties were very heavy, amounting to close upon £40. Towards this amount the Portsmouth Waltonians contributed £11. The Brighton Anglers' Association £5, with use of nets, repairs, &c., leaving us a heavy balance to meet. Thanks to the kindness of our treasurer, the liabilities incurred were at once discharged—leaving us more than pecuniarily his debtor. From the unfortunate weed question we pass to a more pleasing episode, our annual dinner, which took place here on March 21st, when our worthy host gave an excellent repast, to which the forty jolly fishermen paid ample justice, the pleasures of the evening being greatly enhanced by some excellent songs and recitations by members and friends. You will grant us that was a grand success. And now as regards angling prospects. The opening of this season has been highly successful, both in quantity and health of fish, a marked contrast to last season, when hundreds of diseased bream and roach might be seen floating in the canal, and when our olfactory organs were certainly not gratified by the exhalations from decaying animal and vegetable matter. That our expenditure is not all wasted you must admit. We trust ere the close of another year to stock the water with chub, and at no distant period to reckon the black bass among the finny tribe located in our waters, affording sport to the fly fisherman as well as the bottom angler. At present our prize competitions have been meagre in the extreme. We trust another season to give a goodly prize list and rival our more fortunate brethren. One great feature of the season, thanks to the kindness of Mr. J. P. Knight, is the concession to our society in angling excursion tickets by the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Company. The return fares to Selham being reduced to 1s. 8d., Petworth or Pulborough, 2s., and to Littlehampton, 1s. 2d, where charming scenery adds zest to the enjoyment of the day. And last, though not least, our financial position is far better than the most sanguine could have anticipated, a few months since, the debt to our treasurer being reduced to shillings in lieu of pounds. We trust when the balance sheet is laid before you it may show a balance in our favour, as subscriptions for the quarter are now due. With the settlement of the debt incurred in the weed clearance we are looking forward to a prosperous close to the present season.

The officers were all re-elected. A vote of thanks to the secretary and past secretary, Mr. G. F. Salter and Mr. W. Cooke, and to the chairman, Mr. S. Young, was unanimously accorded.

Large Fish from the Thames.—On Wednesday last, Mr. F. C. Hatfield, of the Silver Trout Angling Club, St. Martin's Lane, caught, with rod and line, a fine clean Thames trout, of 12 lb. weight, while fishing near Chertsey. At the same time he took barbel and bream to the gross weight of over 1 cwt. The former averaged from 4 lb. to 6 lb., and the latter ran about 4 lb. to 5 lb. These fish were presented by him to the Royal Aquarium, Westminster, where they are now doing well. The large trout is in No. 2 tank, in company with one of nearly 7 lb. weight, taken and presented by Mr. Hatfield, from near Datchet, some few months ago.

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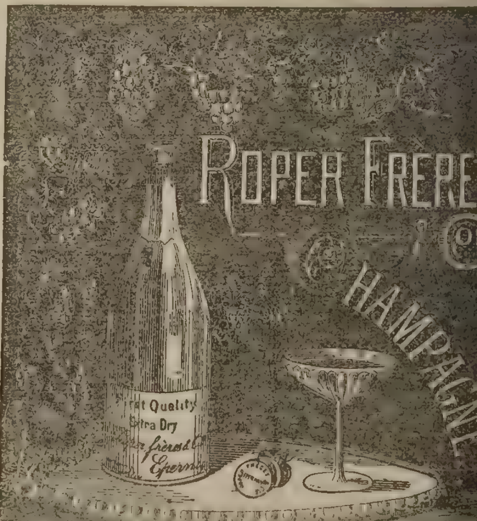

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Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1882.

THE CAMEL.

By THOMAS FORD.

THIS is almost the only stream in Cornwall which may fairly be called a river. It rises in the high moors which form the continuation of the Devonian range, between Camelford and and Boscastle, and enters the Atlantic below Padstow, having a course of about thirty-one miles. In its upper reaches it flows through a locality somewhat resembling Dartmoor—treeless, marshy, and barren, but lower down the surroundings are romantic, sylvan, and beautiful. There is hardly a district in England which in spring time shows so great a profusion of wild-flowers.

The trout are comparatively small, and do not average less than five or six to the pound, while in the early part of the year the angler is very much pestered with salmon fry. The native fishermen generally use two or three flies on the collar, and often secure as many fish at a cast. A trout of 1 lb. is somewhat of a rarity, but in September and October it is no unusual thing to land peel of 3 or 4 lb., whilst the salmon run to 20 lb. or more. The last one that I captured was just a yard in length, and weighed 15 lb. Here I hooked—aye, and lost too—my first salmon. I was fishing with ordinary trout tackle, and had neither landing-net nor gaff. It was early in the season, and I knew not that the fish were in the river. Moreover, I was mounted upon a high bank with a break of only thirty or forty yards in a wood, but I battled manfully with the fish for about half an hour. I think it was about 12 lb. At length, however, through constant friction, the silk which bound the hook become unravelled, and master salmo, with a wag of the tail, which I shall never forget, left me the most miserable of mortals. But, if I lost the fish, I learned a lesson of the first importance. For years previously to this but few salmon had been caught, although during the months of September and October there were always some in the river. The local anglers tried for them with fly alone, but though they would now and then get a rise, the fish almost invariably came short, and were seldom caught. I hooked the fish in question with a well scoured lob-worm. This set me talking a little to myself, which by the way is sometimes as profitable as advertising. The substance of the soliloquy ran pretty much as follows: "Now look here, my man, you have been bothering your brains for several seasons over these precious salmon, and never a one have you caught. Surely the weather and water are too cold at this late period of the year for them to care much about the fly. If they won't come up to your gaudy invitations, go down to them with something more substantial: offer them a couple of nice riggling, well-scoured lob-worms, and mark the result." I did so, and before the end of the season had probably caught more salmon with the rod and line than had been captured in that way during the previous twenty years. But I took the greatest possible care of my worms, and always selected two of medium size, replacing with others when the liveliness was gone. It was a week before I was able to go again, and then I only had an hour or two before dusk, but I was properly prepared. I not merely had regular salmon tackle, but took with me two boys, John and James, the one to carry the landing-net, the other to see the fun. On arrival we found several rods had been at work scaring—not catching—the fishes; so my time being limited, and darkness approaching, I endeavoured to find a comparatively inaccessible pool, which had not been fished. In this I was at length successful. We came to a deep hole surrounded with hazels, with a shelving bank of about two yards in length, covered with driftwood and an embankment at the back. I said to my boys: "If we can only get down here, and with a sharp pocket-knife cut away some of the hazel boughs overhanging the pool, I am almost sure we shall get a fish." It took some time to work out the desirable result, but at length the end was accomplished. I made the best preparations also with rod, line, and worms. I believed instinctively that the first throw would decide the result. So calculating nicely the proper length of line the worms came trottling down to the tail end of the dub, when the electric thrill of a substantial bite gave the earnest of the battle at hand. I always pride myself on being able to manage a big fish, but here the circumstances were of the trying description. I could not move for more than two yards, whilst above and below were thick overhanging woods, which precluded the possibility of giving my antagonist line. It was a splendid fight. Ever and anon the fish would bolt upwards trying to get above two huge boulders at the head of the run, and it required the utmost good management to give the butt at the proper moment to bring it back within the circuit of the pool. But if it was difficult to keep the fish from running upwards, it still more trying to prevent it from shooting downwards. However, by dint of the greatest care, and after about twenty minutes' warfare Master Silversides was safely housed by James in the landing-net, and afterwards laid upon the green sward for our mutual admiration. It weighed only 7½ lb., but being the first I had landed it was looked upon as a veritable monster. It was amusing to hear James tease John all the way home, and during the next few days with the query: "Who landed the salmon? Who landed the salmon?" The sequel supplies another short tale. A few days after I went again. On this occasion I took John alone. But though I fished the whole of the day, up to four o'clock, I had not a single rise. I had just covered one of the finest runs in the river, and feeling quite hungry I said to my boy, "If the fish won't feed, I will." So I sat down under an ash tree, took out my pasty (whoever went fishing in Cornwall without a pasty?) and began operations. My son, who had been nibbling his by the water-side said, "Let me have a try?" so I offered him a piece. "No," said he, "I don't want pasty, let me fish." "Fish!" I said, "why, a big one will pull you in." "Well, never mind, father," said he, "if it does, I will try and swim." "Go it, you rascal," said I, "you will beat your dad some day." I little expected the result which followed. He put in the last pool which I had tried, and the very first throw hooked a splendid fish. "I have him," he shouted. I dropped my pasty in a jiffy, took the rod, and after a magnificent fight of thirty minutes John landed a 10 lb. fish, in the very pink of condition. It was his turn now to tease James, and all the next week my sides were ready to split with laughter to hear the incessant question:—"Who caught the salmon, Jimmy? Who caught the salmon, Jimmy?" The old boy and the young ones have since then had many a delightful day together, and creeled scores of handsome fish, but the reminiscences of that eventful week, will, with perennial freshness from memory's fount.

But to return to the trout. All ordinary flies kill well upon this river, but the natives often use the coarsest tackle, and flies as big as bees. The palmers are great favourites here (with the fishermen), as well as all over the West of England, but for my part I vastly prefer small imitations of the numerous aquatic flies as they severally appear in their proper seasons. During the five consecutive years that I fished this river, I never once met an angler using single hair, though I found it perfectly admissible, and it was no unusual thing for me to bag ten or twelve dozen in a day. The price of a season ticket was 5s., which gave the holder the right to fish from Slaughter Bridge, a mile and a half above Camelford, to Gam Bridge, about four miles below. But, like waters in more populous districts, portions of this stream are now falling into private hands. Sergeant Madden, of Camelford, one of the oldest and best anglers upon the water, will, I have no doubt, supply information to visitors which this article fails to give, and Mr. James Symonds, of the King's Arms, will, I am sure; provide the best of accommodation for tourists. From Slaughter Bridge to Gam Bridge the fishing is comparatively open. Above the first place the stream is very small and the sides marshy, whilst below the latter place it is much encumbered with wood. As a rule, where the fishing is preserved, the owners are very courteous, and will generally give respectable applicants the required permit. One of the most open tributaries of the Camel, is the Jump River. They are all called rivers in Cornwall. This would be simply a Beck in the North. The junction of this stream with the main river is very romantic. The rocks rise precipitately on either side, and on a certain occasion, so runs the legend, his sable majesty of the infernal regions was seen to jump from one side to the other. Hence the place is called the Devil's Jump. The fish here are still smaller than their cousins of the main stream, but they afford capital sport, and the surroundings are specially attractive. This stream is sometimes slightly discoloured with the refuse from china clay works, but I have always found it fishable. If the angler follows the course of the river upwards, he will come to the two sister mountains Roughtor (pronounced Rowter) and Brown Willy, the highest peaks in Cornwall. Here the huge stones lie piled one upon another, whilst logan rocks are by no means uncommon. The advent of the fern fly or fern web, as it is locally called, is, however, the period to which all local anglers look with most interest. When this fly is on, it is for the time being almost the only one used. It generally appears about the beginning of May, and on a bright sunny morning the larvæ hatch in millions, and the insects are so voracious that almost every leaf shows the effects of their depredations. It is always fished naturally. A single Limerick hook (Nos. 4 or 5) is generally used. The point is put in at the head and out at the tail, whilst the fly itself is slipped completely round the bend, and the point of the hook left bare. The blow-fly, green and grey drakes, tab-fly (small black beetle from cow-clap) can also be fished in this way, and with considerable success when the waters are low and artificials at a discount. Another feeder of the Camel is the St. Teath river, which rises near the famous Delabole Slate Quarries—the largest in England. This stream is, however, very hard to get at, as it runs through a succession of marshes and woods. The fish, however, are of finer flavour than those of the main stream. It joins the Camel near to the town of Wadebridge. There is not very far from Camelford, a small Beck, which runs into the sea at Trebarwith, from which I have also caught some nice dishes of fish. They are about the same size as the Camel fish, but of finer condition, and delicious in taste. I have taken as many as forty or fifty in a day.

Apart, however, from piscatorial matters, the neighbourhood is well worth a visit from the tourist. Who has not heard of the solitary grandeur of King Arthur's Castle at Tintagel; of Nectar's Kieve; of Tregenna, and of Sandy Rock? We stand here upon classic ground, the records of which pertain to the very earliest period of British history. As we listen to the shrill cry of the seagull, which scuds before the western breeze, or watch the solitary cormorant perched upon the weather-beaten rock, our minds are carried backward to the time when the sea-kings found a home in the rocky caverns, and we are tempted to finish this article with one of the legends with which the neighbourhood is so rife, but time forbids. But we can assure all visitors who may favour this *ultima thule* with their presence, that they will meet with the most hospitable welcome from a people proverbial for cleanliness and civility.

NOTES ON THE FISHES OF THE LAKE DISTRICT.

No. I.

(By Sprint.)

THE season in the lake district of Cumberland, Westmoreland, and Lancashire, without being exactly ephemeral, is an exceedingly short one. The present year it opened most auspiciously as far as the weather was concerned, and the influx of visitors consequently became immense. This is a capital country for making a practical study of natural history in almost every department, and the writer is frequently astonished that visitors, as a rule, spend their time in mooning and spooning about the less precipitous mountains and on the lakes. Save in the collection of a few parsley and other of our commoner ferns, they neglect the observance of the more striking objects of animal or vegetable creation. Many of the lakes teem with valuable fish of our best varieties, the trout taking pre-eminence on account of its plenty; following him comes the char; in Windermere we have a few salmon, and most of the sheets of water contain pike and perch. The latter form an attraction to our female friends and the children, who, on a calm and quiet day, without risk of drowning, may go out in a boat and at times make quite respectable "bags" of that somewhat neglected fish. It may not be generally known that in the season large quantities of perch are, by a not very peculiar procedure, transformed into potted char and as such disposed of at an exorbitant price to those who may be ignorant of the deception. The chars have been fairly numerous both in Coniston and Windermere during this season. Formerly they afforded capital sport and a remunerative occupation to the rod-fishers; but of late years their capture by rod, fly, and line has been of very rare occurrence. Now they are chiefly taken by small meshed nets, indeed, of a mesh so minute that even the most infantile fish is unable to escape and is ruthlessly destroyed by the fisherman, who has no thought for the morrow. There is no doubt that this destructive mode of fishing sadly interferes with the piscatory prospects of Windermere, and so prevents it being the leading angling resort in England. The Board of Local Fishery Conservators are making an effort to obtain the different fisheries of this lake into their own hands, and for a time at least to altogether stop the netting; but some two or three of the proprietors, for reasons best known to themselves, refuse to let their rights to any one else than the professional fishermen. However, there are some fisheries already leased by the Board, and on them netting is for the present stopped. Another mode of taking char is by the plumb line. This is simply a line carried some distance from the side of a boat, to which line is fastened a somewhat heavy weight. The lead sinks to a varying distance, and above it from the line to which it is attached, are placed at certain distances bright baits, which spin as the boat is propelled and so attract the fish. The weight is of course used to enable the fisherman to spin his baits at various depths in the water, and so catch the char which seldom, nowadays, feed at the surface. A skilful manipulator of these lines can alone manage and work one from each side of his boat, two lines in all. Large trout are sometimes caught on these baits, usually primitive affairs enough—a mere bit of tin painted red on one side, or a small spoon bait. On a favourable day perhaps two, three, or even four dozen char may be taken by one boat, which, as they bring 1s. 3d. per lb. and will average three to the pound, their capture proves a paying occupation. But blank days are very far from the exception. Spring and autumn are the periods when char are caught best by these plumb lines. Trout fishing on the lakes themselves is, as a rule, quite or even more uncertain than the afore-mentioned char fishing. The rod is now brought into play, and with ordinary lake flies, on a likely day in spring, moderate sport may be had. But the angler must not be disappointed or discouraged were he to prove quite unsuccessful, though as a rule he may, if a fairly good performer, expect to catch from three to a dozen trout, reaching up to a pound weight each, but averaging perhaps three or four to the pound. There are much larger trout than these in all the lakes, especially in Windermere, but the big fish care not for such small deer as flies, and are usually beguiled by spinning or trolling with a minnow about and just after sunset. Again, trout are taken by cross-lines which are used between two boats, a procedure which, to the writer, is decidedly illegal and against the spirit of the salmon acts. Lath, otter, or jack fishing is made illegal, but when the cross line is used, as stated, between two boats, one or both boats act as the otter and even prove more destructive and require less skill to work. Notwithstanding what many persons say to the contrary, I consider it very unfair to stop this otter fishing, and legalise that by cross lines. Many and many a day of capital sport have I had with the lath or otter, and, in skilful hands, I never found it nearly so detrimental to the rising fish as an ordinary rod would prove in the hands of a bungler.

LOCHINVER, SUTHERLAND.

WELL, really—but not really well by any means, as regards angling for salmon in this famous spot. I put off leaving home until after July 15, in the belief that that course would indicate such palpable genius that I would not only deserve, but be *sure* of success. Now, as to the desert on my part, I can truly say that "'Tis not in mortal to command success, but I'll do more, Mr. Editor, I'll deserve it." So much for the first personal pronoun, and now for history. The week before my arrival fish were being got rapidly, thirty-two salmon and grilse coming to creel, as well as a good many sea-trout, and of brown-trout as many as were wanted. Since then, however, there was a period of lowness, and after it came a heavy spate and cold-north winds There is now abundant water, but temperature more like the end of April than the beginning of August. Whether or not, fish have been deadened by the influences named is not here asserted, but knowing, as we do, that the pools on both rivers swarm with salmon, and that we have the most approved flies and tackle, as well as excellent gillies, how are we to account for the comparative non-success? The Inver is situated about 3½ to 4 miles north of the Kirkaig, but yesterday, both being in fairly equal angling condition. Not a salmon rose to the fly, although numbers were seen "playing" to their own sweet will on the former, while one gentleman got two fish of 18 and 8 lb. respectively—saw several more; and the other angler lost what he considered a 20 pounder and "more" some others on the Kirkaig. Exactly the reverse of this state of matters held the day before. Mr. Burton, a keen, excellent, and liberal angler, taking one 9 lb. and another 8 lb. fish. Captain Campbell, C.B., R.N., got another on a previous date, and an odd fish or two have come to creel, but the highest water on the Inver has been a complete blank since my arrival here, and it was my lot to try it on for four days. There are very fine pools—pools that almost make a man's teeth water to be at them—and salmon constantly leaping in them, but the hotel water has alone done good this season. It always was the best, so far as my experience goes, and it is impossible to doubt that the baskets of next week will be heavy, on both rivers. Last year my luck was good, as good as that of any one on the coast, but this season, either the fish or myself have been bewitched; Mr. Morrison, Dingwall, Messrs. Snowie, Inverness; Mr. McLeoy, of the same town, and Messrs. Anderson, now of Edinburgh, late of Dunkeld, have furnished me with most killing flies—and better dressed flies could not well be found—but all in vain. *Spero meliora*, however. We will get round the corner into good fortune yet, and your correspondent enjoyed Mr. Wheeldon's most humorous article while lying abed this morning, indulging in hopes of the good time coming, for which we'll wait a little longer.

Mr. Poston, of London, has been at the sea-trout in Loch Roe since his arrival, and as a set-off to his non-success on the Inver, has taken some very fine trout, (I must not say "fish," for fear of the gillies, and so am compelled to repeat "trout!") He repeats seeing numbers and losing some, so that Loch Roe will soon be much sought after. He is personally one of the most popular anglers even seen here. The gillies would go through fire and water for him, and so would the hotel staff, as they all have pleasant recollections of the two months' sojourn he and his lady and family made here last August and September. His brother, who has been here this season and last, shares the popularity. In short, it is both pleasant and curious to note the enthusiasm with which the name of Poston is received here. Their ladies are fully as well liked as the mankind, at least.

Meditative anglers—men who can enjoy really magnificent scenery, in spite of lagging salmon—would like trying Inver and Kirkaig. As has been said already, fish abound, and when the evil spirit of cunning is exercised out of them, then, oh then! my rod and Grant will charm them, and get us out of the "doleful dumps."

Both hotels are well filled, day by day, as the arrivals and departures almost balance each other; but those Waltonians who want river angling must write at once to Mr. Burns Brown, the lessee of the two hotels, asking him to get them river water, if possible, within given dates, otherwise there will be disappointment and discontent, "as sure as guns are made of iron."

To use the first personal pronoun again, I must say that never was a man better served in his hotel than I am in the old Lochinver house; but the swells affect the Culag hotel, which until three years ago was the West Coast residence of the Duke of Sutherland, K.G., &c.

P.S.—To-day on the Inver, Mr. Burton had two salmon and a sea-trout on the Whirlpool. Saw a heavy fish in the Long Pool, and Dr. Mackenzie had a grilse on Mr. Whitebread's water Mr. Almond had some success on the Kirkaig, and so we look forward to good days when the river is lower and the temperature milder.

CAMPBELL ROSS.

TROUT FISHING IN DEVONSHIRE.

THE river now is extremely low and very clear, so clear that it is necessary to cast an extra long line to secure anything in the way of a rise.

This is very requisite when fishing down stream, a mode of angling which appears to be universal on the Exe. Equipped with a stiff fourteen feet rod, a strong line, ditto collar, on which are hung some half dozen of Brobdignagian flies, the Exe angler casts across the first stream—locality known as a stickle—he arrives at, and slowly works his way down it, combing foot after foot of the water till he reaches the bottom of the pool, when he passes onwards to the next likely spot. If he hooks a fish, he treats it very unceremoniously, a jerk of the rod, and Master Troutie is flung on the bank, unhooked, basketed, and the casting goes on again without a moment's loss of time. In this way mile after mile of stream is passed over, and if the fish be "taking" at all, a decent basket is secured before the day is over. Exe trout-fishing may be summed up in a few words. The man who sticks most assiduously to his casting and steadily plods on from morning till night is, if his flies be right, generally rewarded with the best basket. And as to the flies, even there he can't go very wrong; in spring the variety is limited, and a few changes of the cast, or comparing notes with other anglers, will soon shew what imitation the fish are inclined to take. Flies for the Exe in early spring are usually confined to one class—viz., hackled flies, and the hackle invariably used is one from a blue fowl; they vary in construction by having bodies of differently coloured materials, and are distinguished by name accordingly; the hackles also vary in depth of shade, the darker blues being more effectual on cold days, and in early spring generally.

I must confess I am not particularly fond of this mechanical style of Exe fishing, the sport seems to me monotonous when fish all run very much of a size, as they seem to do in the stickles; I prefer a gossamer cast with a midge fly on the smallest hook, and a throw over a rising fish, one of the veterans of the stream, who has taken up his abode in a quiet pool, and regards with just contempt a series of bundles of fur and feather cast across his nose in the vain hope that he will mistake one of them for a fly. Such fish, no longer in their teens, are above these attractions—attractions not enhanced by the spectacle of a biped with the help of a sixteen feet pole dragging something like the towing line of a canal boat over the pool. There are various spots of this sort on the Exe about Tiverton, the resort of big fish, and they caused me many a blank day when I first commenced to fish them. Do what I would I could not raise a fish. All the Exe artificial flies I could obtain had no attractions for the great trout that were calmly sailing about, rising every moment, and sucking down natural flies within easy casting distance, until at last I felt inclined to give them up in despair, when I happened to read an old angling work, containing very useful hints on the fabrication of flies of a class little known on the Exe.

It would, perhaps, be too long a story to tell how I ultimately produced flies, varying somewhat from the patterns given, that gave me rare sport among the big fellows—fish running up to two pounds each. When it is remembered that Exe fish do not as a rule average above six ounces, it will be seen that a two pound fish is one of very unusual size. So far as I remember, I one afternoon, with these flies, killed eight fish, the biggest one pound fourteen ounces, and each one of the others over a pound; besides these, I hooked and lost four or five.

Fishing down stream in the ordinary manner, an orthodox Exe fisherman will, on a good day, probably take double this weight of smaller fish, but for the life of me I cannot see that he meets with the same amount of what I call sport. When you have pitted your skill against the sagacity of a wily old trout that has been long monopolising a pool, and been considered above all temptation, what satisfaction in hauling out any number of troutlings can equal that which you feel when regarding your spotted adversary stretched on the grass at your feet, after ten minutes' fight on a drawn gut cast?

That at all events is my idea, and if there be a big fish about I enjoy attempting its capture a great deal more than any amount of "chance" whipping over the stickles. I fear, however, I am encroaching on your space, and must cut short these remarks which have extended much further than I originally intended them to do, as this subject, being a favourite hobby of mine, I am in the habit, when fairly mounted, of riding it either too fast or too far.

R. A.

R. B. MARSTON *v.* R. BALDERSTON.

MR. MARSTON could not imagine what Mr. Balderston meant by referring to Mr. Marston's fish as "needing apology and not bearing inspection," inasmuch as Mr. Marston never apologised for them, and allowed Mr. Balderston to inspect them whenever he liked. It now appears from a letter which Mr. B. has written to the "Trent Otter," and which the "Trent Otter" sent on to Mr. Marston, that Mr. B. accounts for his being beaten by saying that Mr. Marston "took trout with him and then pretended he had caught them!" Mr. B. says when he examined Mr. M.'s fish at lunch time some of them were dry, while his were moist even at night. When Mr. B. so carefully examined Mr. M.'s trout he said never a word of this, and he knew that fish in an open wicker-work creel, such as Mr. Marston used will get dry in an hour or two on a hot, dry day, whereas his own fish were carried in a waterproof, almost air-tight, leather case. Indeed, Mr. B. had himself previously pointed out the fact that the fish would get dry in a wicker creel and keep moist in an air-tight one. Every trout fisher knows this. Mr. B. also tells the "Trent Otter" that on the first day Mr. Marston threw a stone into the water, pretending that it was a fish he was returning as undersized. He says he saw Mr. M. do this. Now, can any of our readers imagine this eminent scientific man, this curator of the Ripon fossils, this ex-curator of the fell-beck fishes, this son of the most eminent fly fisher of the day.* Can anyone imagine this great man condescending to go on fishing with Mr. Marston for three days after having seen Mr. M. throw a stone in the water after telling Mr. B. it was a fish? Mr. M. only regrets he did not insist on his first suggestion being carried out, viz., that there should be witnesses to the fishing, but Mr. B. objected to this, and it would appear now that he did so with the deliberate intention of saying Mr. Marston cheated, in case he (Mr. B.) got beaten. Why did not Mr. B. accuse Mr. M. on the spot, at once, as any man or gentleman would have done? He knew better than to do that.

SIR THOMAS BARRETT LENNARD'S ANNUAL SALE.

THE annual sale of the Belhus hunters takes place on Thursday next. This event may not inaptly be compared to the annual recurrence of some of our celebrated races. Just as the Doncaster St. Leger brings us to the close of the racing year, so does the Belhus sale announce the advent of the hunting season. This will be the eighth year that Sir Thomas has got together as fine a lot of hunters as one can wish to see. The catalogue comprises forty first-class horses, and amongst them are some remarkably fine specimens of the perfect hunter. I don't propose to go through the list, but rather to call the attention of your readers to this grand opportunity for procuring a splendid mount for the approaching hunting season. Here are to be found all sorts and descriptions of equine beauty, from the ladies' perfect hack, to the grand weight-carrying hunter. The sale is announced for one o'clock, the luncheon at 12, and I may remark that the well known hospitality of Sir Thomas Barrett Lennard is always done full justice to on these occasions by the large and fashionable company which is invariably attracted to the scene.

For the information of those who propose attending the sale, I may state, that Belhus is four miles from Rainham and five miles from Grays Stations on the London, Tilbury, and Southend Railway; and seven miles from Romford, on the Great Eastern Railway. The train leaving Fenchurch-street Station at 10.50 will stop at Rainham on the day of the sale. A special train will start from St. Pancras Station at 10.30, and will return from Rainham Station at 7.0.—R. J. M.

George James Eaton, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether the may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[Advt.]

ANGLING FOR SEA-TROUT ON THE EAST AND SOUTH COASTS.

In all probability good sport might occasionally be enjoyed by angling for sea-trout near and in the estuaries of rivers between Yarmouth and the Isle of Wight. While spinning with one of Hearder's plano-convex minnows, a nice fish of this kind was taken, the other day, off the east point of Ramsgate Harbour. Several large bass have lately been killed there with artificial bait, both early in the morning and late in the evening when no boats were moving, and in the daytime when the sea has been moderately rough. The bass is a shy fish. Fishermen who have taken sea-trout with rod and line within the limits pointed out, should give us the benefit of their experience. A good book on sea-fishing with rod and line is still a desideratum. Such a work, with an appendix containing information as to the best places and times for fishing round the coast, supplied by those who have had practical experience, would meet a want that is increasing every year. The sea is large enough for us all.

The following remarks of the late Mr. Buckland, on sea-trout, in the capital report made by himself and Mr. Walpole, in 1879, *On the Sea Fisheries of England and Wales*, are worth attending to:—

"I do not propose to enter in this appendix into the natural history of the salmon. . . . A curious fact, however, which has not yet been sufficiently recognised, must not be omitted in this report, viz, the occasional presence of sea-trout along the coast of England near rivers which do not contain spawning grounds for migratory salmonidæ. This part of England may be said to begin at Yarmouth and to extend all the way round as far as the Southampton Water and the estuary of the Itchen. The principal places where these fish are found are Yarmouth, the estuary of the Yare at Gorlestone, the mouth of the Thames, and the estuaries of the Canterbury, Stour, the Rother, the Ouse, and the Arun, all situated between the South Foreland and the Isle of Wight.

"On June 14th, 1879, Mrs. French, of Yarmouth, showed me six or seven very handsome silvery fish, the largest weighing about four pounds. They had been caught in a seine net to the south of Golestone Pier, and I was informed by Dr. Norman that considerable quantities of these fish had been caught in 1879; and when at Yarmouth, in the middle of August, I found they were still abundant. These fish were bull-trout, and in my official report on the fisheries of Norfolk.* I stated that I thought these Yarmouth bull-trout were visitors from the Coquet, the Tyne, and Berwick-on-Tweed, in fact, a bull-trout was on one occasion caught at Yarmouth with a Berwick mark upon his tail. These bull-trout, without doubt, come to feed upon the shrimps of both kinds, that are so plentiful along the Norfolk coast. In August 1879, a fish over 13 lbs. was caught seven miles north of Yarmouth.

"They are netted in seines close to the shore. I am strongly of opinion these fish would take a spinning bait. I advise anglers to make a trial of this idea, for if it succeeds it will form quite a new addition to the resources of rod fishermen from London, Norwich, Yarmouth, Lowestoft, and the neighbourhood. Almost every year for many years past I have received migratory trout caught in whitebait nets in the estuary of the Thames and Medway. I had hoped that these were some of the fish I had bred artificially, but I am afraid it is not so.

"Every year considerable numbers of sea-trout are caught in the fixed nets at Pegwell Bay. It is difficult to get hold of them, as they are immediately sold in Ramsgate and Margate. Some of these may have been hatched in the Canterbury Stour. Small sea-trout are also taken in the kettle nets near Romney Marshes."

Mr. Buckland also speaks of migratory trout being caught between Dynchurch and Dungeness, in the estuaries of the four Sussex rivers before mentioned, in Rye Bay and in the Ouse below Lewes. He thinks it possible that the bouge, "budge," or sea-trout, of the Southampton Water, may be the same class of fish.—O. L.

NORFOLK BROADS (WROXHAM.)

THINKING that many of your readers, and probably some who contemplate a week or fortnight's fishing in Norfolk, would like to hear a correct account of the personal experience of a fisherman, who is a lover of the gentle art, and one also who wishes to state truthfully his experience upon any water he may have fished. To commence, I should advise any fishermen starting with a desire to fish the Broads, to do away with the notion that he is to have the enormous takes reported in some of the books recently published, descriptive of fishing in Suffolk and Norfolk, or he will be doomed to as much disappointment as I have been, I arrived at Wroxham Station at 12 a.m., on the 28th August, and secured a bed at the King's Head. I immediately inquired for a fisherman, and secured the services of one of the two in the village. He was quietly smoking his pipe at the bar of the house. I inquired of him if he had any well scoured worms, gentles, and ground bait ready, and to my surprise he had no bait of any kind ready. Worms he had to dig for among some rubbish in the yard of the house, and anyone can imagine the success likely to be gained by such a bait. I am not quite sure if he had any live bait to dispose of, although it is reported that baits at 1s. per score are easily procurable at any of the fishing stations. Here, I may remark, this was the invariable rule at Wroxham, to the disappointment of many anglers, who, like myself, thought it would pay the local fishermen to provide the necessaries in the shape of bait that visitors require, than loafing at a public bar, smoking and drinking, waiting for something to turn up, but too lazy to provide the bait, &c., for that unlucky turn up on his arrival. I and a young gentleman, who I accidentally met at the house I have named, fished steadily and carefully from Monday until Friday night, with no better result than any number of very small roach and bream, which we, of course, returned to the river or broad, the former averaging about 1½ oz. to 2½ oz., and the latter between 2 oz. and 4 oz. each.

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* We wondered this remarkable fly-fisher had never been heard of except through his son. It appears he carried on the business of an ironmonger at Hawes, until recently, it was doubtless in this business that Mr. B. junior, acquired his immense stock of "brass."—Ed.

* H. of C. Paper. No. 428, Sess., 1875.

During the whole week the only fish I caught worth taking was on the Tuesday after my arrival, and that a pike of about 5 lb.

My experience was also the experience of every fisherman I met with, and I am sure I enquired the result of the catches of at least thirty or forty men, the reply in each case being one of profound disgust—"Only a lot of little things not worth taking."

I did not, during my stay at Wroxham, see a dozen bream worth taking away.

I fished with the finest Nottingham tackle, in the most approved way, and I have therefore the satisfaction of feeling there was nothing wrong in my lines, gut, &c.

Before concluding, I must however remark, I am convinced excellent sport can at times be had, particularly for pike, from November to the end of February, and a most killing bait is the old spoon; but I think a gudgeon, spun in the Thames style, would be the most deadly of all. The usual method for Norfolk fishermen appears to be to trail the bait from a boat, which is certainly not sportsmanlike, although very killing. I think it also well to inform my brethren of the angle that the accommodation at Wroxham station, the King's Head, proprietor, Mr. Simpson, is excellent. To start with, the beds are scrupulously clean and comfortable, the living good, wholesome, plentiful, and very nicely cooked by Mrs. Simpson, who looks after the visitors more like a mother than a landlady; the landlord is easy going and will always take a nip with a friend, as a landlord should. But do not forget to write to him a week beforehand for apartments, as he is generally full; and again, if you want good fishing in Norfolk, do not forget to take your own baits, tackle, &c.—W. THOMAS.

[Very large takes of heavy fish are made by Norwich anglers in Wroxham Broad, but we should, and always have, advise anglers to try the river Yare for big roach and rudd, bream, perch, &c.—ED.]

NOTES FROM THE WITHAM.

THIS river, one of the most noted in England for coarse fish, is having a new face put upon it which promises well for both fish and anglers. Numerous gangs of navvies have been at work with spade and dredger for several months past widening and deepening its bed, and this work I understand is to be carried on as far as Bardney, a distance of twenty-two miles; the lock-pit at the Grand Sluice is to be doubled in width and have its sill lowered 3 feet. "The Auld Brig" —that great obstructionist—is to be replaced by "The New," and corresponding improvements are being rapidly pushed forward on the outfall or seaward side. The docks are progressing famously, and we Bostonians hope to see the day when the capital of the Fens shall regain its ancient prestige as a port. Your readers will better understand the magnitude and importance of these works when they learn that £230,000 is to be spent; when completed, they must prove advantageous not only to the landed proprietor and tradesmen of the town, but to the angler and his quarry. The Boston Angling Association preserves 156 miles of splendid waters, which teem with fish; besides the Witham there are ten or a dozen large drains radiating from Boston as a centre, and all can be fished for the trifling sum of 1s. per annum. With such an extensive area of water to look after our keeper cannot do half justice to his charge, there is work enough for three. But how can help be given him whilst such scant support is accorded to the association. Their funds I know are in anything but a flourishing condition, and it is on the cards whether they will be able to continue their labours without more hearty and liberal patronage. I can assure you poaching is far more rife than many imagine, and is it to be wondered at? No longer ago than last Thursday morning, about "The wee sma' hours ayout the twal," a gang were detected close to town, and there was a whisper that "it was'nt t'fust time ayther they'd been at it." I rejoice to say the net was captured, and it is to be hoped they will get their deserts. Their leader, who owns the net, is a member of the aforesaid association. Arraign him before the fishes I say! Now Sheffield, which boasts its 10,000 anglers, sends a special train load weekly to fish these waters, and I don't speak without my book when I tell you that since the 15th of last June no fewer than 9900 Sheffield and Nottingham rodsters have wetted their lines in our preserves. And would you credit it, Mr. Editor, their subscriptions for this season to date amount to the magnificent sum of £3 10s. 10d.? Not half a farthing apiece! Really, Mr. Tyke, we expected better things of Mundella's supporters. One almost feels inclined to grudge you those fine baskets of tench, pike, and roach you sneak away with every week!

Boston, being only five miles from the sea, is exceptionally healthy, and when visitors get tired of fishing, and the tide serves, a four hours' trip to sea can be had for 6d.; or, if preferred, a berth on one of the well-appointed smacks can be secured for a shilling or so, which includes a blow out of shrimps on the catch-'em-alive-and-cook-'em-as-you-want-'em principle. And, oh, the flavour of Boston shrimps, cooked on board and eaten all hot. You peg away without stint, and, when tired, the lively little crabs and other curiosities will find you amusement whilst you rest your masticating machinery, when at it you'll go again. Pardon this digression, the Bittern doesn't often croak.

In my rambles lately I saw two trout fry, 1 inch in length, which had been caught in the Witham, near Boston; this goes to prove that they left larger behind. Water during past week very low and clear; fish biting shy, and little doing worthy of note. Yesterday's rain should make them find their appetites by Saturday.

THE BOSTON BITTERN.

THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY AND OTHER ATTRACTIONS OF GREAT YARMOUTH.

THE capital of Bloaterland this year has presented an additional attraction to many of the chiefs of our metropolitan piscators by the establishment of a Great Yarmouth Piscatorial Society, and together with the very important facilities of transit now afforded by the liberal policy of the Great Eastern Railway, the fish farms of Norfolk and Suffolk are, and will become even now attractive to the London anglers. I have never known a season when so many well-known anglers have been in the neighbourhood of Yarmouth, and one grand specialite with them has been to encourage the growth and popularity of the local piscatorial society by their presence at the Monday weekly meetings. I may mention amongst others that do not at present occur to me the names of Messrs. Alfred Nuthall, Thomas Crumplen, G. Bates, L. Bonvoisin, Bennett, and W. H. Brougham. Before referring at more length to the progress and value of the Great Yarmouth Piscatorial Society, I would mention that the comparatively short season which usually characterises Yarmouth has been a most successful one in the number of visitors. The great difficulty, notwithstanding the increased and constantly increasing accommodation, has been that of getting apartments. Every year I have noticed new streets have been made and unfinished streets completed, and yet there are more houses required to meet the demand. When the angler wants a change from fishing few places possess greater attraction than Yarmouth. The aquarium, though denuded of that which gives the name, has this season, under the enterprising management of Mr. C. Greenhead, been immensely popular, and the new feature of an open air comic concert on the flat roof of the building, where the public are admitted for the small charge of two pence, has each evening drawn together crowds of people, whilst the entertainments below by the talented Cremona Musical Union and a great variety entertainment have rendered the entire building a very popular lounge and resort. Messrs. Pullen (formerly manager of the Westminster Aquarium refreshment department) and Nightingale have proved themselves admirable caterers in the restaurant and dining rooms, and made both of these eminently successful and satisfactory. Mr. Dunn has been as popular as ever with his comic company at the end of the Britannia Pier, where, through the kind courtesy of Mr. Doolan, I had frequent opportunities to lounge and witness the throngs of piscators plying their business on the lower stage of the pier amongst the whiting, dog-fish, and eels. At the extreme of this popular pier a first-rate refreshment department is now carried on, and at the extreme ends "oysters fished up from the beds below," and "tea and coffee is provided." The beach possesses its usual amusements, and no beach in England has more—gipsy fortune-tellers, photographic artists, cheap jacks, fruit and flower girls, new milk and buns, fresh shrimps, minstrelsy of all kinds, a camera obscura, popular concerts, acrobats, sailing and row boats, vendors of rock, and plenty of flirtation. In the town there is a good theatre and always a first-rate company, of which Mr. Terry Hurst is the successful lessee; lecture halls, concert rooms, and all kinds of indoor entertainments, with frequent visits of horsemanship and other exhibitions. To those who enjoy seeing life in all these varieties—to those who require invigorating and healthy air, to those who can appreciate good railway facilities and punctual arrival of trains, and last, but not least, to those who rank in the immense army of anglers who love good sport and plenty of it, my advice is, and I give it with all sincerity, go to Yarmouth! Yarmouth is an improving place and none the less appreciable to the anglers, amongst whom I am most interested is that to which I am now anxious to refer, the establishment of a piscatorial society in the very centre of the town, which if conducted properly, and I believe it will, must become the rendezvous of the London anglers. Mr. J. Lark, the excellent proprietor of St. George's Tavern, in King Street, where the club meets every Monday evening at nine o'clock, prompt, has done much to make the society a substantial fact. Under all sorts of discouragements he has maintained his own, and he has been well supported by the president, Dr. Mitcheli, whose heart and soul are also in the work. The time will soon exist when the London angler, at present unacquainted with the Broads, can go to Yarmouth and call upon Mr. Lark and he will only be too pleased to give every possible information; and as the society grows, perhaps by another year it will possess waters of its own, which will be available in some way or other to our London piscators. As a proof of the progress of the society it commenced with six members—it has now thirty-four—it is so far well established that a larger entrance fee is required to make it select; it seeks to encourage fair fishing and to denounce those evils which at present exist in the Norfolk and Suffolk waters; it aims at all that is good for sport, and all it is hoped will soon combine with the society in its effects in that direction, and without any selfishness or jealousy become members and supporters of it. All the important Broads are within easy reach of Yarmouth; and, where concessions of railway fares are desirable, there is no other company of directors, or a general manager that will be more ready to grant them if shown to be necessary than the Great Eastern, who in London were the first to support a movement of that kind in connection with the Central Association, and led to the great results which have followed with other companies. I am certain we depend much on the railway facilities for the success of our London angling clubs. It is to the concessions that have been obtained from the railway companies that numbers of clubs have sprung up, and so long as these concessions are not abused they will doubtless be continued. If privileges granted by the railways to individuals or clubs are unfairly and improperly used, it is only right and just to expect their discontinuance.

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RIVER REPORTS

MID-THAMES.

"Amongst the views of many—mine."
—SHAKESPEARE.

The Thames is now in grand trim for all-round fishing, and anything in the way of fins may be gathered from the river. I have received some twenty reports of excellent all-round angling, amid which are reports of 20 lb., 30 lb., 25 lb., and 17 lb. of roach from Maidenhead, Cookham, Bourne End, and Marlow respectively. Water in grand trim for roach and chub. Weeds gradually decaying, and jack coming out. Weather everything to be desired for fishing. Wind, W.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Ancholme District.

The advent of finer weather has proved of much service to the angler, and some fine baskets of bream have again been taken. The pike are still very cautious, and but few have been caught. I am continuing my holiday on the Great Ouse, and have caught some large dishes of dace, roach, and chub—all with the fly. I wonder this art is not more cultivated on our coarse-fishing streams. Other anglers that I met (bottom-fishers), unless they previously bait the swims, have simply *nil*; whereas my sport is both continuous and invigorating. Personally, I enjoy it very much better than pike-fishing, which is so uncertain. THOMAS FORD.

Ballynahinch.

Since last report we have had a good deal of rain. There has only been two anglers on the fishing the whole week. The following are their takes:—On the 6th, Mr. Bury, 12 trout. On the 7th, Mr. Grissel, 16 trout; same date Mr. Bury, 7 trout. On the 8th, Mr. Grissel, 11 trout; Mr. Bury, 6 trout. On the 9th, Mr. Grissel, 26 trout; same date Mr. Bury, 1 salmon 9 lb. and 13 trout. On the 11th, Mr Grissel, 20 trout; Mr. Bury, 3 salmon 10, 8, and 6 lb., and 10 trout. On the 12th, Mr. Grissel, 20 trout.—WALTER BLACKADDER.

Chichester.

The weather here has been fairly favourable for piscatorial pursuits, but mornings and evenings have been much too cold to be pleasant, in fact, King Frost has given us timely notice that summer is waning fast. Fair sport has been had among the small roach and bream. The nocturnal anglers playing havoc among the heavier fish. Messrs. Young and Summers on Saturday night basketed some good bream. Mr. Downing Wallace, of Stamford Hill, while angling with me on Tuesday, hooked and played a handsome carp, which was successfully brought to bank, weighing 6 lb. 3 oz, a fish of 2¾ lb. also falling to his share. Light legering with fine gut, with paste as bait, proving successful. At Selham, our anglers have not been fortunate, the water being continually netted.—GEORGE F. SALTER.

Derwent (Chatsworth).

River in nice condition. The sport since last week very fair. Some nice baskets of both trout and grayling have been killed, the baskets averaging from four to seven brace. The flies killing are the bumble and little blue dun. The bottom fishers have been doing remarkably well, killing chiefly with wasp grub.—J. EADES.

Dove.

This river is in splendid order for all kinds of fishing and the weather during the week has been all that the most exacting of the piscatorial fraternity could desire. The takes of trout and grayling have been large, of the latter particularly. The best killing flies have proved to be the grey palmer, the needle, and the willow. An Ashburn gentleman, Mr. W. Cooper, was highly successful the other day on the Dove's lower waters, and in the Ghurnet. He killed a capital dish of 13½ brace of grayling. Trout keep rising fairly well on the Dove's upper reaches, but grayling are now showing the finest sport, being in grand, gamey order, and coming up well to the fly on the top, and to the worm and wasp-grub on the bottom. Roach fishers have been catching large samples with the cockspur worm, maggot, and wasp-grub—while scratching on the lower waters has proved the most "fetching" bait for chub.—THE SPLODGER

Eden (Armathwaite).

The river is very low, and the days have been so bright that little or no fishing has been had this week. There is a great deal of salmon in the waters about Carlisle; all that is required is a flood to bring them up. It is raining heavily here to-day, so we hope to have good fishing next week.—SKIDDAW.

Exe and Barle (Dulverton).

The trout fishing is now virtually over, notwithstanding that the owners have no stated closing time. Salmon are plentiful, and the water has been and still is in good condition for the fly. Several have been taken during the past week. the heaviest being 16 lb., taken by Mr. Jellicoe.—C. W. NELDER.

Exe (Exeter).

The weather during the past week up to Wednesday has been splendid, when about midday we had a very heavy hailstorm, finishing up with a steady downpour of rain, the whole only lasting about twenty minutes. It had a great effect upon the river, which rose several inches in a very short time, but which as quickly subsided, and, despite the coloured state of the water, some heavy creels have been made by those who prefer angling to racing. This being the Exeter race week, has consequently kept numerous rodsters from the river side. The only sport in the salmon way that has come to my knowledge have been two fish to Mr. Cowan, weighing together 24 lb. In some private waters here some excellent baskets of roach, dace, and tench have been landed, and, I am pleased to say, with King's Natural bait, of which, by the way, I have promised to send a *resume*, but owing, as stated above, to its being race week news has not reached me as I anticipated, and all that I can say at present is that those who have and are trying it are recommending it to others. Up to the present I have not seen a salmon with any traces of "saprolegnia ferax." This time last season there were many.—FRANK GOSDEN.

Gade (Boxmoor).

River very clear and many weeds; very bad fishing, only a very few fish taken. I took three pound roach, two perch, and one jack, 3 lb.; baited with small roach for the jack, red worms for perch, and gentles for roach. The river is very full of weeds.—R. COMBEY.

Ilfracombe.

The weather has been more favourable this week for sea fishing, boats out with their fishing parties every day, and some nice baskets of whiting pout, pollock, tamlin cod, and bream have been brought in by them, but no large quantities; the most brought in by one boat has been about 20 lb. The trawlers from Barnstaple Bay brought up each time about 40 lb. of soles, some plaice, hake, whiting and thornback. At Morthoe a small seine was set, they hauled quite a variety of fish, salmon peel, turbot, brill, bass, plaice, thornback, &c., weighing altogether about 50 lb. Some very good fishing has been had this week from the Capstone Rocks and the jetty. Weather at present mild.—E. COMER.

Irt, Esk, Bling, Mite (Holmook).

To-day all nets are stopped in the above rivers. The weather to-day is dark and raining. Every prospect of good fishing to-morrow and the next three or four days. These rivers being low, not much sport has been had for the last few days. Should the rivers keep in good order till the end of the month, will be the best salmon fishing. The spoon is a very deadly bait in these rivers. The fly most taking is dark red cock hackle body, with black head, silver tinsel under wing, dark drakes, top wing dark, turkey feathers. Every prospect of a good day's fishing to-morrow.—A. BROCKLEBANK.

Lea (Ware).

Frequent rains during the week have prevented any great influx of anglers here, but those that have been out have had very fair sport. A fine trout, weighing 12½ lb., was taken on Saturday last at Stanstead; this fish I should think is by far the heaviest trout caught in the Lea, or at any rate this part of the river, during the season; the fortunate angler, whose name I believe is Webb, belonged to one of the London clubs, the name of which I was unable to ascertain. On Sunday several jack were taken, the best of which, weighing about 7 lb., was caught in the bend of the river off the brickfield here by a townsman, who has been fairly successful among these fish since the commencement of the season. I had the misfortune to lose a fine jack on Wednesday, after playing him for quite twenty minutes, I estimated his weight at 10 or 12 lb.; rather galling this, as I believe I hooked the same fish about ten days ago with a similar result. Water in good condition and roach fairly on the feed.—LION AND WHEATSHEAF.

Leicester.

Anglers generally seemed to have fared better lately, as with the waters in good condition some capital fish of all descriptions have been taken. The latter part of last week being a general holiday at Leicester, caused a great many anglers to visit the various resorts, and they were fairly well rewarded. The most noticeable was a good basket by Mr. Marwood, which included a pike weighing 6 lb. 8 oz., and a capital lot of roach, the two largest weighing 1 lb. 4 oz. and 1 lb. 2 oz. respectively. The day following this angler landed a splendid pike weighing 10 lb. 8 oz. The majority of the fish were taken from the Soar. Mr. Francis and Mr. Noon also had good takes of both roach and perch. During the earlier portion of this week a fair number of anglers met with good success, both roach and dace biting freely. At Aylestone matters are represented as being rather quiet, and, with the exception of a few takes of roach, the catches have been but small, the chub being entirely off the feed. Nothing has been done at Barrow. The annual match, which was fished there last Saturday week undecided, was again fished by twenty-eight members, and again the affair ended unfortunately, as for the second time not enough fish were caught to take the prizes that were offered, therefore the match will have to be contested for a third time.—ALERT.

Medway (Tonbridge).

The water is still in splendid condition, though no very large bags have been registered during the week. On Saturday, Mr R. A. Dallas, Beeching, caught some very good bream near Tonbridge Castle, while the Messrs. Bartram, opposite, were successful with roach and bream and roach. Below the town, Mr. Swinnard caught a fine brace of pike, while Mr. J. A. Snelling was equally successful above. A very fine tench was captured near the Powder Mill Lock. Those who are fond of spinning should get some good jack above the town, as there are plenty. The local society are making efforts to put their newly-acquired water, the Ballast Pit, in order for winter fishing.—YE MEDWAY WATER RAT.

Norfolk.

Our most successful season is now well nigh drawing to a close. There has been no lack of sport either from the Yare or Bure. Some extremely fine catches of roach have been taken from the Yare, Cantley, Buckenham, and Brundall, each yielding an average quantity. The Bure likewise has not been behind in affording bream fishers good sport, as I have at various times witnessed. Anglers using the Yare have not been a little disconcerted at the intrusion of two monsters in the shape of steam-tugs conveying pleasure parties to and from Yarmouth, and their depredations have become so serious, and the question taken up so warmly, that I should presume this will be their first and last season. The silting up of the channel, the washing away of the banks, and the danger to life are questions of too serious a nature to be lightly passed over. The various piscatorial clubs in the city have each contested in their annual matches, and two societies have had to forfeit their challenge cups to the successful members who have, according to their cup rules, won them twice in succession; that of the Norwich Piscatorial, a most beautiful cup, value 15 guineas, falling to the lot of Mr G. Corbyn, who has been the head weight three consecutive times, and carrying off the cup before it had been in the society twelve months. The annual dinner of the "East Anglian Piscatorial" was held on Wednesday evening last, a report of which will be found elsewhere. I understand that "Hewitt," the respected water bailiff to the "Yare Preservation Society," has resigned office, and is about to enter in the "public" line, having secured that well-known anglers' house, the Anchor, at Coltishall, and admirably situated on the Bure, affording plenty of good fishing and shooting. Well, with his great knowledge of fishing and boating and the great circle of friends which he has made during the six years he has been bailiff, I think he will be well supported, more especially when sportsmen recollect what service he has rendered by the capture and conviction of many notorious river poachers. The distance to the house is only about seven miles from Norwich, and can be reached by railway, the fare being about 8d. return journey. Gentlemen from a distance will find plenty of comfortable beds, good boats, and, I am certain the greatest civility; although many will regret missing his jovial face from the Yare. I have just heard of an extremely fine catch of bream from the Bure, at Acle Bridge, taken by Mr. Tom Randall (the courteous manager of Messrs. Boswell and Baxters). No fewer than thirty-two fine bream were landed, varying in weight from 2 to 3 lb. per fish. Of course, we always knew that Mr. Tom was a dead slayer when he got amongst them; but this, I think, crowns all his exploits. This also speaks well for Acle, and, no doubt, so soon as the rail reaches there many anglers will pay it a visit.—ANGLER.

Ribble and Hodder.

Both the rivers are getting too low for fishing but it is raining now, and a night's rain would make it nice fishing at the end of the week. Last Saturday was a good day—one gentleman caught a fine mort opposite the house, near the bridge, 2½ lb., and, after tea, another mort and six trout; another gentleman caught a mort 3 lb.—E. DUGDALE.

Taw (N. Devon).

The Taw and Mole are in good order, and many salmon and peel are being taken. I hear Captain Palisser got six peel and a 2 lb. trout one day; the stationmaster at Cappleton got four, and all along the Taw and many of its tributaries peel are being caught. At Southmolton Road Mr. Bradshaw has done extraordinarily well, many salmon and peal having fallen his lot. The best place I know of on the Taw is at the Portsmouth Arms; the Farmer has no one staying there now, and the lucky person who next takes the lodgings will get first-class sport. The Lower Taw is well fished, and many gents who have the permits take a few good peel. The majority are going with the real Barnstaple Devon minnow, and few fishermen in these parts use anything else; the size adapted to the state of the river.—RUSTY GAME.

Thames (Eynsham).

After the recent rains, the water is in very good condition. Perch and jack have been biting freely, and there have been some good takes of each. Roach do not feed well. Mr. Hoole and Mr. Geen were here last week, and had a good take of barbel and chub. The fishing prospects for next week look very promising.—W. HOWE.

Thames (Goring).

Water very low and clear; not much doing in fishing, and gudgeon are the only fish now well on. I have been out to day with Frederick Marsh, of 324, Oxford Street, London; 10 dozen of gudgeon, 4 jack, 8 perch, and some very good roach.—JOHN RUDD.

Thames (Richmond)

The river is now in very fair order and the fish are running much better in size than last week. All the punts have been out each day and all their patrons have had very fair takes of roach and dace. Sport this day (Thursday), Kit Brown, 12 roach, 8 lb.; H. Wheeler, E. Brown, H. Howard, John Morrice, from 4 to 6 doz. roach and dace; John Brain, fishing with gentlemen at Twickenham for a club prize, 7 lb. roach and dace; John Bushnell, with Mr. Anderson, of London, 20 lb. of dace.—JOHN BUSHNELL.

Thames (Twickenham).

Wind, N.E.; river in splendid condition (except being a little too bright) Since last Thursday I have had thirty punts out, but I cannot say they have all had good takes, simply because some of my customers have never fished from a punt before, and, of course, like colts they have to be broken in, but when the day is over I am pleased to say (while the little account is being made up) the pleasant remarks are: "Well, I have enjoyed myself if I have not got many fish," and as P.'s usually hope for better luck next time, this is very satisfactory to hear. Among some of our best takes was Spong one day with Colonel Adcock, who took 13 dozen of roach and dace; one day with Mr. Rogers, Covent Garden, 12 dozen; one day with Captain Turner, 8 dozen; "Our Joe," with Mr. Jacobs and friend, Covent Garden, 6 dozen roach and dace, some roach weighing 1 lb. each; this is the best roach taken this season; one day with Mr. Cole, 10 doz. and 2 barbel 3 and 4 lb.; one day with Mr. Dawson, 10 dozen; Dick Moffat, one day 7 dozen, one day 6 dozen, one day 10 dozen; Farmer, with Colonel Gardener's son, 6 dozen and 2 barbel; one day Mr. Hawkins, 6 dozen, one day 5 dozen 1 barbel.—A. PERRIN.

Thames (Windsor).

The water is very low and clear, but for all that patience and perseverance has been rewarded. Mr. Hirkley, Esq., out with Richard Gray, took about 30 lb. of barbel on the 8th; Gray, with two other patrons, on the 10th got a barble 8½ lb., and a few small ones. Mr. Taylor, out with James Gray on the 9th, a fine jack of 12 lb., another of 3 lb., and several small ones, which were all returned in a sportsmanlike manner. The same gentleman, on the 11th, caught a jack turning the scale at 8 lb., and hooked another large one, but his time had not yet expired. Again, on the 12th, Mr. Taylor got well among the barbel, catching twenty, a few dace, and one roach. I was out on the 11th with a patron; caught 4 dozen roach, and 7 dozen gudgeon. Messrs. Wright, with two friends, on the 13th, 22 dozen gudgeon. I hear of a 7 lb. carp being caught at Datchet. A poor jack came to grief under the screw of a steam launch up water—Oakley Reach. It was picked up by Mr. Lock, of High Street, Eton, and weighed 15¼ lb.; if it had been in condition it would have weighed over 20 lb.—GEORGE LUMSDEN.

Torridge (Torrington).

River in good order for fishing; I have heard of two salmon, twenty-four peel, and many trout being taken this past week. Peel have sported of an evening to a very light fly tied large, and many fine fish have been taken. One gentleman took eight peel and three trout in the river Yeo, a tributary of the Torridge, with the minnow. Weather fine.—PRACTICAL ANGLER.

Trent (Newark).

The water is very low and clear, and in capital condition for general angling. Heavy bags of fish, principally roach, have been taken by various anglers during the week, the gentle being the most successful lure, although creed wheat malt, bread paste and tail end of lobworm have had a share in the general destruction. Several members of the Newark and Muskham Fishery Association have been particularly fortunate in securing heavy bags of fish. Messrs. R. and J. Chatterton, H. Weaver, R. Dale, T. Sunman, A. Broughton, W. Bulman, and Mr. Hammond being among the number who have made bags of from 2 stone down to 8 or 9 lb. each.; Mr. Dale, I believe, having the biggest roach, scaling 1 lb. 7½ oz.; Mr. Weaver getting one weighing 1 lb. 4½ oz. A few chub have also been taken with wasp grub, and I noticed a few bream that had fallen victims to the seductive lob. Barbel are conspicuous by their absence, Mr. R. Chatterton, I believe, being the only angler who got on terms with them, and his bag only contained eight fish; I have not heard of anyone else having a single barbel, in this locality, at least. Thursday night, water in nice trim, weather still nicer, and angling prospects of the very nicest. I had a day on Monday, but only got 6 lb. of roach.—THE TRENT OTTER.

Trent (Nottingham).

The river is very low and fine, and on Thursday at Colwick a number of barbel were killed from a punt above the Weir. But the best take, in respect of barbel, comes from Twyford, where on Wednesday John Heaker, attending upon Mr. S. Sills, of Nottingham, succeeded in taking twenty-five fish besides a magnificent lot of dace, weighing upwards of 36 lb. A grander sample has not been seen at the clubs for weeks past. Mr. Brutnall, whilst angling for barbel last Saturday caught a very fine carp of 8¼ lb. It is very rarely indeed that carp are killed in the Trent, and the fish in question have been sent to Mr. Stanley, of Trent Street, for preservation. Some very nice lots of roach have been brought in from Weston, creed-wheat proving the most destructive bait.—THE MAN AT THE CLUBS.

Tweed and Teviot.

The past week has been more favourable for the prosecution of the gentle art, and on nearly all the "casts" a few of the silvery salmon have been banked. Trout angling, too has been prosecuted with some amount of success, many very good baskets having been killed on the Floors Castle waters. His Grace the Duke of Roxburghe has killed several salmon, the heaviest turning the beam at 17 lb., while a few of the fish ranged from 7 lb. to 10 lb. On the Makerstown waters, also, some half dozen fish have been killed, and on the Sprouston waters Mr. Charles Kerss killed one grilse of 7 lb. on Monday, and he also was successful in killing a very beautiful salmon of 21 lb. on the same water. Very little has been done on the Edenmouth and Hendersyde waters, and the Ednam House fishings has been *nil*. On the upper waters the report to hand states that the takes are poor, owing to the smallness of the rivers and the bright weather. On the netting stations the produce is reported to be very small, and it is only those on the sea coast that are getting any fish, The netting places in the river are absolutely doing nothing, and as the netting season closes to-day (Thursday), it will wind up one of the worst ending seasons for lessees that has occurred for some years back. One reason given for the scarcity of salmon in and near the mouth of the Tweed is that the herring fishermen, having had to go so far out to sea for the herring shoals, has been the cause of frightening the salmon from their usual haunts, and driving them further down, and nearer to the English river Tyne where it is reported that enormous takes of salmon have lately been got. Now that rain has set in, however, and the nets off, it is hoped that the fish will once more return to the rivers and give a good back-end rod angling to the disciples of old Izaak.—MAXWHEEL, Kelso.

Wharfe (Yorkshire).

There has been no sport worthy of record during the past week, as grayling have been rising at the little black midge and would look at no other fly. Our worthy editor and I had a day on the Otley Club water last Friday, but owing to the above cause met with very poor sport, what fish I did kill took a fly made from a water hen's feather and lead coloured silk for body, while Mr. Marston found the honey dun bumble most seductive. Weather cold, dull, and inclined for rain—FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

Wye (Bakewell).

The water is in good order for fishing; fair sport, chiefly with the apple-green and orange duns, red palmers and furnace. On bright days the red ant are taking a few fish. Evening fishing, red spinner and sand fly.—R. H.

Wye and Derwent.

Both the Wye and Derwent have had great quantities of anglers out on them during the past week, and most of them have had fair catches, especially those that have fished the Chatsworth fishery waters. The best basket that have come to my knowledge was 12½ brace of both trout and grayling, killed on the Derwent, between Cromford and Ambergate, last Saturday, with honey dun bumble furnace, and dotteril flies; and several other baskets have been made, ranging from 3½ brace per angler upwards. Grayling are beginning to rise freely on these waters, especially in the deep slow runs and in the flats. Very few fish have yet got into the strong streams. The bottom fishers on the Derwent have killed some fair quantities of grayling and coarse fish off the Darey Dale waters during the past week, chiefly with gentles and brandling worms. I also heard of a trout of 2 lb., and a large eel being killed on F. Cartwright Esq.'s water below Cromford with wasp grubs, also several small pike have been landed about Cromford during the past ten days by spinning with artificial baits. Both the Wye and Derwent are in first-class order for fly-fishing.—G. J. EATON.

Yare.

J. Cole, Esq., London, helped by J. Burroughs of Lowestoft, landed 8 stone of bream and roach the largest take of the season. Some of the bream turned the scale at 3 lb and 4 lb. each; the roach were good size. Mr. John Morris Broad, of Hornsey Rise, London, with J. Burroughs of Lowestoff, caught on September 5, 1882, over 4 stone of roach, one weighing 2½ lb.—A. J. GOLDSPINK.

[Was not this 2½ lb. "roach" a rudd?—ED.]

FACEACHE, TOOTHACHE, PAINS IN THE GUMS, NEURALGIA.—ADAM SMITH'S NEURALGINE is a Certain Cure. Bottles, 1s. 1½d., 2s. 9d. Post free from Proprietor, Chemist, Wednesbury. London Agent, W. EDWARDS, 157, Queen Victoria Street.

CLUB REPORTS.

AMICABLE BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

The result of the pegged-down match at Cheshunt was not very great, the takes being very small. Four out of the five prizes were won by Mr. J. Hunt, first; Mr. G. Howlett, second; Mr. W. Lake, third; Mr. M. Sinclair, fourth. The members will fish at Burnt Mill next Sunday. Mr. Shury had roach, bream, perch and dace from Amberley, one roach, 1 lb. $9\frac{1}{2}$ oz., Mr. Partrick roach. A return visit will take place in the above club room on Monday, Sept. 25, when members of clubs are respectfully invited.—J. Worledge.

ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Since my last report I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of 10s. donation from the Original Alexandra Angling Society.

BERMONDSEY BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this club showed some good fish this week; viz., Mr. Conn roach from Pangbourne; Mr. Gafney, bream and gudgeon from Weybridge; Messrs. Frost and T. Mitchell, bream from Yalding. At a committee meeting it was decided that Messrs. Ayton, Gafney and Frost were entitled to the prizes fished for on September 3, in the above order. The next outing for daily prizes is on Sunday, October 1.—A. G. Croker, sec.

BRISTOL GOLDEN CARP ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

Two of our members, viz., Messrs. Powell and Harrison, were out on Saturday last, and succeeded in bringing home some splendid roach, Mr. Powell having one weighing 1 lb. 6 oz., and Mr. Harrison one weighing 1 lb. 1 oz., most of the other fish weighed half-pound each.—Lewis Wride, sec.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed in on the 3rd:—Messrs. Chambers, Warden, Osman, and Martin bream and roach from Amberley; Mr. Nitz bream from the Welsh Harp; and Mr. Macdonald roach and gudgeon from the Lea. On the 10th, Messrs. Chambers, Hobbs, Pratt, Clark, and Warden had perch, roach, and bream from Amberley, Mr. Castell roach, dace, and chub from the Roding; and Messrs. Nitz and Mortimer bream from the Harp.—Cas.

CROWN PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The members of the above society fish a pegged down match in the Forty Guinea Water, Rye House, on Sunday, September 25th, for a silver watch given by Mr. Miller. Members are requested that the Thursday following is quarterly night, when it will be necessary to attend to arrange club matters, and to fix the date for the supper.—W. H. Burwash, sec.

September 13, 1882.

EDMONTON AND TOTTENHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday last Messrs. Sellwood, Mole, and Holdsworth a good display of jack; Messrs. G. Stephens and Button, a large show of bream; Mr. A. Robinson, on Wednesday last, some very good roach. Also that on Sunday, October 1, the members of the above club will fish for a series of prizes.—W. G. Gardner, hon. sec.

GOOD INTENT SOCIETY.

There were not many fish shown in the club on Sunday last, Mr. Maybury having the best take, G. Robinson next, with some good roach from Ware. The other takes were small. Our distribution of prizes took place on Tuesday evening last, and was a great success, there being £75i worth of prizes to be given up. No member is allowed to take money, he must buy something equivalent to the amount of the prize won. The most successful prizetakers were Messrs. Bell, Maybury, H. Baker, Richard Agambar, Charles Bates, Ormes, Philpott, G. Robinson, Guntrip, J. Smart. Several others took a smaller number. After the distribution of prizes, subscriptions were taken for the coming year, and the amount collected was over £50, with many more to give.—R. Murphy.

HEARTS OF OAK ANGLING SOCIETY.

The above society had their annual dinner last Sunday at the Black Swan, at Hertford, and enjoyed themselves exceedingly well, thanks to the hostess, Mrs. Price, who put on the table an excellent spread. The chair was taken by Mr. A. Williams, faced by Mr. Millie.—C. J. Millie, sec.

September 13, 1882.

HIGHBURY ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday last, the 10th instant, the members of the above society sallied forth in great force to Pulborough to compete for prizes for the three heaviest weights of all fish, and although the trays were not as well furnished as we had anticipated, at the same time we had a fair show of bream, roach, and carp, contributed by Messrs. Anthony, Howell, Charles, Rose, Ballard, and others, the three former securing the honours of the day.—James Edward Wheatley, sec.

Sept. 11.

HOXTON BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The annual distribution of prizes will take place in the club room, the Cherry Tree, Kingsland Road, Shoreditch, on Monday evening next. The room will be open for visitors and friends at six o'clock.—R. Ghurney.

IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several members were out on Sunday last, the 10th inst. Mr. E. W. Turner had five nice bream, which weighed nearly 8 lb., the heaviest one 2 lb. $10\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Mr. T. Ward had bream and roach. Mr. B. Crook had some good roach. Mr. H. Butt had roach. On Wednesday, the 13th inst., Mr. G. Rolt had a tray of nice roach. Mr. G. P. Rolt had a show of beautiful dace. Four special prizes are promised, to be fished for on any Sunday the members choose to name. The secretary would feel obliged if all members that can make it convenient will attend on Wednesday next to name conditions for the above.

PATRIOTIC ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several members of the above were out last Sunday. Messrs. Mackay Empson and Fuller had a nice show of bream and roach from Weybridge,, the largest being a bream weighing 1 lb. 7 oz., caught by Mr. Mackay. Messrs. Poole and Atkins also weighed in roach and gudgeon from Greenford Bridge.—H. A. Fuller, sec.

QUEEN'S ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our members have met with less sport this week. Mr. Pearce had 9 lb. 13 oz. of bream; Mr. Walford, 8 lb. $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of bream; Mr. Barrett, 2 lb. 8 oz. bream; Mr. Morgan, 1 lb. 13 oz. roach.—L. Walford, sec.

RODNEY PISCATORIALS.

The members of this society will have their first open competition from the bank on the 24th for three prizes, all fish to weigh, bar jack and eels; size of fish to be Thames rules, with the addenda that they measure from the eye to the fork of the tail, instead of tip to tip.—Pixie.

ROYAL GEORGE ANGLING TOCIETY.

Several members of the Royal George Angling Society were out last Sunday. Mr. Palmer was to the fore with 10 lb. 9 oz. from Amberley, followed by Mr. Wood with 9 lb. 12 oz. from Henley. Messrs. Hughes, Parsons, Holden, and Bernhardt also had good takes.—I am, &c., C. W. W. Bernhardt, sec.

Sept. 12.

SOUTH LONDON UNITED.

In order to encourage a spirit of fraternity amongst its members the delegates of the South London United District Visiting List have decided to have a competition for a series of prizes, to be fished for by the member of clubs on the above list, only it will a pegged-down match and take place at Amberley on October 15th, entrance fee 1s. All entries to close on the 7th October. Tickets to be had of the secretaries of the clubs.—Wm. Allen, hon. sec.

STOKE NEWINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The open competition and excursion organised by the above took place on the 10th inst., about thirty members and friends proceeding by road to Dagenham Lake. Eight prizes were fished for, with the following result:—1st, Mr. El'am; 2nd, E. Read; 3rd, G. Whitmore; 4th, C. F. Robinson; 5th, A. Parrott; 6th, Mr. Meacham; 7th, Mr. Huggett; 8th, E. Machin. Not being exclusively club prizes, they will be presented to the winners on Wednesday, September 20th. Mr. W. Robinson will give a prize value 10s. for the best specimen roach takenn during September and October.—T. Gretton.

P.S.—In answer to numerous inquiries, secretaries of clubs and others are informed that this club is now located at the Middleton Arms, Mansfield Street, Kingsland Road, and the meeting nights the first and third Wednesday in the month.

SURREY PISCATORIALS.

The members of this society competed for three prizes on the 13th, the result of which is as follows: Mr. Murray, first, with dace; Mr. Becket, second, with dace; Mr. Humphries, third, with dace from Rickmansworth, some of the dace turning the scale at 10 oz. Messrs. J. Howard, jun., Bansback, jun., and Linstead also exhibited fish. The last-named gentleman had a splendid tench that weighed 2 lb. 6 oz.—Pixie.

THE LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our show of fish this week was not so large as there has been for some time past, as there were only a few of our members that went out. The most noticeable, therefore, was a nice lot of roach taken by Mr. T. Scott, also some nice jack, rudd, and roach taken by Messrs. Keene, Snich, and F. Hurwood.—H. Moore, secretary.

THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Although there are at least one half of the members of this society away in the country, the returns of fish taken last week and the present one are very satisfactory, At the meeting on Monday evening last at Ashley's Hotel, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, Mr. James Lander, the honorary secretary, reported during the evening the following takes:—Mr. Marsden, one carp of 5 lb. 4 oz., taken in barbel fishing at Datchet; Mr. H. B. Brown, two chub weighing 3 lb. 13 oz., caught with the fly at Abingdon; Mr. Harrisson, three chub, weighing 4 lb. 10 oz., also taken with the fly at Abingdon; Mr. R. S. Fennings, 32 lb. 15 oz. of roach, the largest fish, 1 lb. 12 oz., caught in the Hampshire Avon; Dr. Brunton, six trout, weighing 6 lb. 10 oz., taken with the fly in private waters. This gentleman also showed another take of ten trout and one jack from private waters.—B.

THE WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The above club, which has only been in existence about twelve months, and now numbers 80 members, held an open contest on Saturday last for six money prizes, given by the landlord of the Swan Inn, at whose house the club is held. No less than 168 anglers competed in the contest, which proved a success in every respect, the whole of the fish that were taken being considered excellent specimens considering the water they were taken from, viz., the Peak Forest canal, which is let off a great many times during the year, and is netted regularly in the most open manner. It is, however, the intention of this sotiety to acquire, if possible, the right of fishing a certain length of this canal, when, if acquired, there is no doubt it will be properly watched. We have several fair specimens of fish weighed in for the yearly prizes, particularly a perch of 2 lb. by the worthy host, Mr. James Fogg, from Bardney, Lincolnshire. Several of the members have been fortunate with trout, having landed fish scaling upwards of 2 lb.; but as they came from a private water near they are not allowed to be weighed in for prizes.—Robt. G. Borwick, sec.

TRAFALGAR ANGLING SOCIETY.

Sir,—The trays of the above society were filled on Sunday the 10th inst., Mr. Humphries showing some fine roach from Amberley, the heaviest going 1 lb. $7\frac{1}{2}$ oz., and three more, 2 lb. 14 oz.; H. Wilson, roach and dace from the Thames; J. Gaze, roach and jack from Pulborough; Messrs. Richardson, R. Gaze, Cooper, Goldstine, Lord, Turner, and Potter, roach and perch from the Wey.—J. Gaze, sec.

WESTBOURNE PARK PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

On Monday the 11th, Mr. Huber succeeded in landing a handsome pike above Teddington Lock, scaling nearly 7 lb. To-day (Tuesday) Mr. H. Hulbert knocked it out of heaviest weight with a pike of 8 lb. from the Avon, Chippenham; Mr. Buttery also weighed-in bream from the Ouse, largest scaling 3 lb. 6 oz.—W. Adeane, sec.

WALTONIANS.

The trays were well filled on the 10th, although with two or three exceptions the individual takes were very small. Mr. Philips had bream 25 lb. 14 oz. from the Ouse; Mr. Good, jun., had 9 lb. of roach and bream from Pulborough; Mr. Malcolm had a small show of roach; among them, however, he had one fish

1[illegible]lb. 14 ox., Mr. Graee had 5 lb. 9½ oz. from Goring; and Mr. Watson had roach 2 lb. 7 oz. Various other smaller takes were weighed in.—A, J. Marriott.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

On the 10th the members competed for nine prizes at Paddock Wood. The following is the result:—1st, Mr. Delehaye, sen., won a £5 5s. diamond ring, given by Mr. Renault; 2nd, Mr. J. Bedford, £3 3s., by Mr. Bansback; 3rd, Mr. Delehaye, jun., side of bacon, by Mr. F. Grigg; 4th, Mr. Cain, £1 1s., by Mr. Parrett; 5th, Mr. Fox, £1 1s., by Mr. Field; 6th, Mr. Collins, 1 gallon of whisky; 7th, Mr. Beale, 10s. 6d.; 8th, Mr. Piolaine, 10s. 6d. The ninth prize was not taken. The next competition will take place on the 21st, between Egham Lock and Victoria Bridge, towing path. "Fish how and for what you like," all fish subject to society's rules.—Pixie.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS

By L. B.

The best bit of news with which to commence my jottings this week most certainly is that of the renting of another excellent stretch of water by the United London Angling Association Fisheries Society (oh, that name!) for the use of its members. The water in question, Springwell Fishery, is about a mile and a half from Rickmansworth Station, on the London and North Western Railway; third class return fare from Euston to holders of privilege tickets and comprises about a mile and a quarter to a mile and a half of the canalized Colne, and about half a mile of the back river. I know from personal experience that it contains some very handsome and heavy roach and dace, some good chub, and I am informed, on very good authority, some very decent jack and an occasional trout or two.

I have known and fished the water for some years, and am of opinion it is principally a winter water. During the summer the back river is in many parts almost choked up with dense masses of aquatic vegetation, among which the fish find abundance of food and a safe harbour of refuge from their two-footed and other foes; the weeds in the canalized portion, a swift running, fairly deep, gravelly-bottomed stretch are also very troublesome, though they are here and there occasionally cut some depth below the surface; but when the sharp frosts of late autumn and early winter have killed the fast browning weeds, and they have silently but surely been swirled away by the sharp running waters, then, indeed, can the bottom fisher, who is up to his work and doesn't expect a huge take, but is satisfied with a moderate basket of really good fish, have his innings.

The water is very low at the Welsh Harp, Hendon, and the finny ones which here feed so well during the early part of the season, are now suffering from a considerable loss of appetite.

Those tench haven't come on at Elstree, as they were expected to, though a few have here and there been picked up; some fair jack, however, have bitten gimp for the last time.

The anglers, and indeed the whole of the Thames loving public are to be congratulated on the recent victory at Maidenhead, and considering the valuable advice and assistance Mr. Granville Layard received and gratefully acknowledges from Mr. Crump, solicitor to the Thames Rights Defence Association, it will be a standing disgrace to the London and other anglers if so valuable an association is allowed to break up or become crippled for want of pecuniary support.

The Thames trout long fence season commenced on the 10th of this month, so brother rodsters who should accidentally hook and land an aquatic leopard, remember and beware.

In answer to an application made by Mr. T. Hoole, as secretary of the United London Association Fisheries Society, that angling might be permitted in the London parks from the opening of the gates till 10 a. m., a reply has been received from the Commissioners regretting their inability to grant such request, as contrary to the parks' regulations.

While all true anglers will rejoice at the upholding of time-honoured and undoubted public rights, they will with equal warmth repudiate the very suspicion of sympathy with foul-mouthed rowdies, who, masquerading as anglers, only too often on the Sabbath morning, when glad sunshine, birds singing merrily, church bells chiming melodiously, and a host of other sweet sounds and sights vie with each other in proclaiming Nature in her brightest and happiest mood, stand out like dark foul blots on a pure, wholly peaceful and almost holy page. I should not indulge in this bit of sentiment and moralizing if I were not prepared to point to something practical. Unfortunately, I have recently had convincing evidence that there are still among our London anglers (or passing as such) persons of the class above referred to, and I could instance two good stretches of water which have been closed against the many on account of the gross misbehaviour of a few; it is not, however, enough to merely deprecate the existence of such an evil, it behoves every right thinking man to use his best endeavours to sternly put it down whenever it comes under his notice.

Now the winter season is fast approaching, the annual wail is heard from those London tackle dealers who provide live baits for pike fishing. The anglers, they say, are the first to cry, hear, hear! when an unfortunate netsman is caught red handed, and Preservation Societies, and the Associations, by offering and readily paying rewards for the conviction of offenders, have made it so hot that nearly all their men have given up the job; or the few that do keep at it ask almost prohibition prices, yet the anglers clamour loudly for baits, and will often altogether remove their custom to the establishment where they are procurable—truly that bait question is a knotty problem.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

GUT. *v.* HAIR.

Sir,—I, as a great lover of, though very humble performer at, angling, and a regular reader of your paper, thought a more conceited challenge was never issued by one gentleman to another than that by "The Croaker"—I beg his pardon, "The Raven—to Mr. Marston. What with his bad feet, running after and watching Mr. M. and his business, I am not so much surprised at his being knocked off his perch.

With regard to the gossamer gut, the only possible objection to it is that about two hours' fishing is as much as it will stand; but, muffin as I am, I can kill fish with it when far and away better fishermen can't move a single trout with the ordinary gut.

Mr. Farlow, of London, makes some splendidly fine casts also.—I am, &c.,

M. L. H.

[We have found the "gossamer" casts will stand two or three days' hard fishing and be none the worse for it. Some drawn gut gets very white after a day's fishing, but we have not found the "gossamer" do this until after two or three days' fishing.—Ed]

GUT *v.* HAIR.—IN FAVOUR OF HAIR.

Sir,—I suppose the traducers of hair will be in ecstacies at the result of the match between Mr. Balderston and Mr. Marston. However, as I said the other day, and as one of your correspondents wrote, that contest was a test of skill and not one of gut *v.* hair. The euphonious "Splodger" is very grim about the six-inch trout, or "fingerlings" as he delights to call them. I take a "fingerling" to be something the length of a finger—and who ever saw a finger six inches long? So! so! have a care, Mr. Splodger! Our association here, which I venture to say includes as many crack fly fishermen as any other association, numbering about 150 members, has a rule prohibiting the capture of trout under six inches in length. This is the Kent Angling Association. From it I dare venture to take some half-dozen fly fishers who use hair and pit them against any half dozen using gut from any other fishing association or club in the United Kingdom. But the contest would have to be on equal terms, and should, if possible, take place on some river which had never previously been fished by by any of the competitors. This would be a *sine qua non.* Mr. Cooper magnanimously issues a challenge and selects a river, one perhaps, as it is in his district, in which every eddy and boulder and favourite corner is known to him. He could or should be able to go to the best place on the streams, and know exactly where to fish at various heights of the water. Then the flies too—he knows the favourites, and what variety will be on at a certain time of day. A stranger would have to learn all this, and more of it; he would have to learn the more difficult the stream or more cunning the trout. Such challenges, of which the one I refer to is an example, are mere empty boast or at least not fair ones for the reasons I name, and which must be palpable to the unbiassed. Mr. Foster, jun., alludes to challenges issued more than thirty years ago, but what such have to do with the present question I am at a loss to know. Notwithstanding his statement that "the recognised standard practitioners and writers on angling have declared in favour of "Gut *v.* Hair," I hold an exactly contrary opinion, and perhaps another season some fair means of proving the superiority of the one over the other may be arranged. Do I understand Mr. Foster, jun., to mean that single strands of human hair were used for the tail line or cast? What about the colours and length, likewise the power to hold for half a dozen throws, even a No. 1 hook!

As I have before written I claim for hair that it can be obtained, if not quite so fine as the finest drawn gut, sufficiently fine for all angling purposes; that it fishes straighter and better, does not entangle and get twisted up by a leaping trout so much as gut; that the jacks or droppers stick out from the cast better, that it does not glisten and shine in the sun so much as gut; moreover, it sails or floats on the water, thereby keeping the flies nearer or actually on the surface better than any gut can; and, lastly, being of less strength than gut, hair requires a greater amount of skill to use with proficiency. Hence fly fishing with single hair is the higher branch of piscatorial art, and as such, more worthy of the support of all true anglers than it appears to be fitting by a majority of your correspondents.

A word or two in answer to "Snipe Bloa." His first argument as to extra fineness of gut. This is something, but can only be applicable so far as the end fly of the cast is concerned. At the droppers fine drawn gut is so soft that the "jacks" stick to the cast, refuse to stand out, and the fish have the two thicknesses to see, and, in addition, are likely to be deterred from taking either of the dropper flies because they are clinging to the main cast. This is so to a very great extent. As to getting broken, there is no fear of this occurring, so long as your reel runs freely, and in striking your fish you keep your finger from the line and let the reel revolve with the stroke—what you, Mr. Editor, call striking from the reel; but strike with your rod, and let the reel revolve and line be taken out until you can stop your fish. After having so hooked your trout, with ordinary care and skill very moderate hair will kill big fish, and at the end of an ordinary 14-feet trout rod (and of course lesser ones) you can put as much pressure on your fish with hair as you care to do with gut, taking into consideration that with extra roughness the hold you have on your fish has extra chance of giving way. As to hair standing water, I find it does this very much better than gut, either drawn or otherwise. Hair never gets frayed, and never becomes soft as pulp, as does all the drawn gut I have ever used. One thing the user of hair must not forget. It becomes "necked" or broken at the knots and droppers much sooner than gut does, and I always re-knot my hair casts after they have had a day's fishing. I had almost forgotten to name another advantage hair has over gut, viz., a greater elasticity. This latter quality is advantageous, as it enables one to play and land a more lightly hooked fish than gut will do under similar circumstances. Such are some of the arguments in favour of hair. They are all practical ones, and cannot be gainsaid with any degree of fairness. Some fishermen find they crack off their end fly when fishing hair; this they can remedy by having a few inches of fine drawn gut, upon which the tail fly is tied. Then, again, I have used hair droppers on gut. They stand out very much better than gut does, and can be recommended under certain circumstances. But of course such casts require manipulating almost as carefully as hair itself.—"Sprint," Kendal, September 13.

P.S.—Opponents to my cause must not forget that the advantage I claim for single hair I do only under ordinary circumstances, where trout do not average say more than from 8 oz. to 10 oz. each, one with another. Of course where the trout lives in sluggish waters, and he becomes from his surroundings more like a "logger-headed chub" than the lively and active creature he is in a swift running stream; in such places as these a life of idleness and peace and lack of exercise, such as stemming the current, make him wax fat, and he overgrows himself. His deadweight of two or three pounds or more as he slowly makes tracks for a bed of weed would be too much for hair. Such fish require gut, and to use hair under such surroundings would lead but to disappointment. Perhaps most who are antagonistic to single hair know trout fishing only under such circumstances. —Yours, &c., SPRINT.

[As we have always said during this controversy, we only give our own opinion—not doggedly or obstinately—and we are still of opinion that fine drawn gut is better than hair. "Sprint" admits it is better in the case of fish over a certain size. We cannot see much sport in catching trout under eight inches in length with any line, hair or gut. We should much like to see a fair trial of hair *versus* gut on the river Eden, between Armathwaite and Langwathby, next spring.—ED.]

GUT GOT IT!

SIR,—Yes; Gut Got It, and got something that it hadn't expected! Gut got it, and won! But if there is anything that is calculated more than another to create or develop a brotherly feeling all the world over, it is the "freemasonry of sport" and the inherent love of sportsmanlike conduct among all true sportsmen for sport's sake, in testing the merits of different modes of fishing, or flies, or in any particular tackle whatsoever.

When any sportsman-angler had read the plain and unvarnished statement in last week's FISHING GAZETTE, detailing the friendly-agreed fly fishing trial or test of "Gut *v.* Hair," between R. Balderston and R. B. Marston, everything appeared to have gone on fair and honest principles up to a certain point; for, after "a long and pleasant chat" of the previous evening, the mutually or tacitly-agreed-upon angling test commenced, and the river Laver was whipped—'Gut *v.* Hair."

In aggregate weight of fish caught, as well as numbers, Gut, as represented by the editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, got it so far; and the angler-sportsman had agreed to fish elsewhere next day. Now, if Mr. Balderston had had any objection whatever to make as to any stated or implied conditions he wished to be observed as to the size of the fish to be retained, or other details, in fairly testing the respective merits of "Gut *v.* Hair," why had he not suggested them at the onset, or as soon after as practicable, in order that both might begin *de novo?*

Mr. Balderston went on fly fishing without comment of any kind, so far as we know, until lunch, and further on in the afternoon, when he, it appears, said to Mr. Marston, he was feeling cold; and, therefore, the day's contest, or supposed friendly trial, was so far over, to the disadvantage of—Hair!

I cannot trust myself to touch upon the episode that followed. I can hardly believe that the same R. Balderston penned that note to his fellow fly fisher friend of the previous day, unless he (the writer of it) must have been ill or not in such a condition of mental clearness that he must ordinarily possess, to have given us those erstwhile lengthy tables, showing lucidly worked out averages, and decimals, and notes upon flies, &c., almost to tiresome iteration.

If I have read Mr. Balderston's writings aright, he seems to me to be a gentleman who tries to impress upon others, and that too from a rather lofty standpoint, or self-assertiveness, as to minute details, founded on great experience in the art of fly-fishing, while dealing with the results recorded by him in his exhaustive analyses, and in the gravity of his own inferences or induction.

Under all the circumstances of this most unhappy affair, I think that, in the interest of sport, in justice to his opponent and to himself also, above all, as interesting also to thousands of readers of the FISHING GAZETTE, that Mr. Balderston will surely not delay in giving (if he does not this week) an explanation of the feelings under which he wrote that irritating letter, together with an *amende honorable*, if time, and perhaps better health and reflection, would require it of him.—I am, &c., THE PILGRIM FRY-ER.

CARP FISHING AT WANSTEAD.

SIR,—Would you kindly inform me, through the medium of your valuable paper, whether there is any truth in the rumour that some fine carp fishing has been thrown open to the public at Wanstead, in the shape of several ponds? Also, if so, is Sunday fishing allowed?—I am, &c., G. T. PAGE.

[We have heard nothing about this matter, perhaps some of our readers can give the information wanted.—ED.]

THE FOOD OF SALMON IN FRESH WATER.

SIR,—In a recent number of your excellent paper, I observed an editorial statement which rather surprised me. It was to the effect that salmon whilst abiding in fresh water eat nothing. I confess I had looked upon this assumption as one of those popular fallacies, commonly credited, but absolutely unsupported by proof.

Whether the salmon "rises" at the so called "fly," for "food or play," I am not prepared to say, but when, as in Loch Tay, the only successful lure is a real fish, or its representative—a "phantom minnow"—when the par-tail is everywhere a deadly bait, and a "dollop" of worms, under certain circumstances, an irresistible one, I can hardly doubt the object of the fish in taking either into his mouth.—I am, &c., SALMO SALAR.

["The proof of the pudding is in the eating." We can only repeat that both in this country, in Germany, and in America we have made inquiries on this question, and have never been able to find any one who had ever found any food in the stomach of a salmon. At the American canning establishments many hundreds of thousands of salmon are opened almost, if not quite, alive from the nets, and yet it is only when the fish is just fresh from the sea that any food is ever found, and that food consists of salt-water animals, shrimps, &c. Our theory is that whilst in the sea the salmon is always feeding and growing fat, always dashing at some small fish or picking up sea-worms. It comes into fresh water with a store of fat on its pyloric appendages, enough to last it while in fresh water, unless it is detained by lowness of the river. This store of fat and its undoubted use was discovered by Frank Buckland, who told us he did not believe salmon fed on fresh water fish, though an old kelt might possibly, when detained in a pool for weeks beyond the usual time, kill a few trout. . . . . As to why salmon takes the fly, worm, &c, we some years ago said our idea was it was simply done from force of habit, and not with a view to making a meal. If salmon had to subsist on worms they would come off very badly indeed. The eels get what few worms do get into the river. The theory that the salmon's digestion is so rapid that bones and all go "at once," or that it ejects the contents of its stomach, will not do, because when caught in estuaries the fish has food in it, and undigested food.—ED.]

DESTRUCTION OF SPAWNING GROUNDS IN THE TIDAL THAMES.

SIR,—I am extremely obliged to Mr. R. W. Hobden for his letter in your issue of the 9th inst., and am free to acknowledge that it will certainly do much to allay the "false alarm" I may have raised on this point. At the same time I would desire to be understood to include more than the "favourite swims" in which this paving of the bottom of the river with clay is going on from season to season; for the same process, takes place at every available angling spot on the banks, while, moreover, the swims, whether favourite or otherwise, are much more numerous than Mr. Hobden would imply. There are eight professional fishermen, besides their apprentices and assistants, at Teddington, and several watermen who let out boats for angling. At Twickenham there are at least twenty fishermen—professional and outsiders; and at Richmond some eight or ten professionals and a host of outsiders, with a perfect flotilla of boats, reaching westward far beyond the landing stage on the parade, and eastward nearly down to the White Cross Tavern, all ready and willing to take in a cargo of clay-made ground bait to add to "the paving of the bottom of the river."

I am inclined to the belief that Mr. Hobden underrates the character of clay. A coherent, weighty, compact, and hard earthy product when dry, but stiff, viscid, and ductile when moist, not readily diffusible in water, and when anchored not readily moved, by even strong currents. Indeed, if clay did disintegrate with the facility which Mr. Hobden would appear to assume, so heavy a material would scarcely be washed away by a receding tide any more than it would be carried upwards by the flood; and if it did break up into small particles, the destiny of those particles would be the interstices between the pebbles, and tend to the formation of a concrete base or pavement in strict accordance with one of the suggestions of McAdams—that modern Colossus of Rhodes.

But the fact is unanswerable that the bottom of the river between Teddington and Richmond is no longer the clean, gravelly scour that it formerly was, within the recollection of even middle-aged men. Indeed, this has been a ground of complaint during recent years, and it is but logical to include the vast quantity of clay thrown in during the last twenty years amongst those causes, if it be not the primary one. There was a period, not far distant, when the bottom was thought clean enough to dispense with the use of the rake, which was only then resorted to for gudgeon fishing; now it is applied as an attraction for dace and roach.—I am, &c., CREEL.

"SHAMEFULLY SERVED."—CAUTION TO EXHIBITORS, BY ONE WHO IS SUFFERING.

SIR,—Some time since I informed you that my exhibits from the Edinburgh Exhibition, after having remained there during the whole time the building was open—and where, as usual, greatly admired—they were the same eight cases that brought me a Diploma of Honour and Certificate of Merit from the Norwich Fisheries Exhibition—arrived with the four principal cases smashed to atoms. It is a most remarkable thing that only one case was sent from Edinburgh, containing four cases, and it was not until I had written; eight days after, the other case containing four more cases arrived, the case that arrived first remaining at the station until the second package came, which after eight days arrived and was duly forwarded on. Upon arrival at the house, I and my son were away, I in the country fishing, he in the city, the cases were placed in the hall and a bill tendered to my good lady for signature, as she was told it was to vouch for the delivery of them. The carman's attention was called to a portion of the top of case being absent, of which he took no note; it was as he received the same. My son, on arrival, noticed the same, and upon lifting the case heard the things, viz. glass, &c., rattling. He came to meet me at the station, and without seeing them myself we informed the principal of the goods department, who came up and saw the damage done and reported the same. Well, to make my account short, the Edinburgh people would have nothing to do with it, and the railway people say that in passing over so many lines they cannot find out upon whose line it happened, and that nothing was noticed during the transit anywhere. And when I asked for damages they, after two months' waiting, tell me the sheet should not have been signed before the contents were seen, at the same time knowing that the carman will not wait for such, and there was no one in the house to do so had it been requisite. Had I been a person of means, I could better have afforded to put up with the loss, but being quite the reverse, I am doomed to loose that which has taken me years to accumulate, and cost me considerably over the claim I sent in of £10 by another £10—it is very hard. The case that arrived a week before the second was safe and sound, although it remained a week at the station previous to the second's arrival. Had the Edinburgh folks sent the exhibits home by the same route they desired them to be sent by, it might not have happened.—I am, &c., FRANK GOSDEN.

DAVENTRY PERCH.

SIR,—On August 20, 1881, I sent an account to the FISHING GAZETTE of a large perch taken in a lake near the old town of Daventry.

On August 21 of this year I received from a friend another perch in a box (caught by a rev. gentleman in the same water), without a note for directions; but, supposing they would follow, I waited a few days, and then wrote to the effect that the fish had arrived, and I thought it a beautiful one, and asking if my rev. friend, if not too much trouble, could catch another one, somewhat inferring that the one previously sent had been eaten. To my surprise, in a few days, came another, so that I have had three perch of the weights, $3\frac{3}{4}$ lb., 4 lb., and 4 lb. 2 oz., three such fish hardly to be matched.—I am, &c.,
WICKHAM.

RECIPE FOR COLOURLESS WAX.

SIR,—M. L. H. inquires for a recipe to make colourless wax for fly-dressing. I picked up the following about two years ago, and have found it answer well: Two ounces best yellow resin (in powder), one drachm white beeswax (sliced in small pieces). Melt the above together, and add two and a half drachms lard (without salt), and let the whole remain there ten minutes, stirring all the time; then pour into cold water, and, while warm, pull and knead to make it tough. The above will keep for years in a cool place. I enclose a small piece which I have kept in water since July, 1880.—I am, &c., RICHARD ALISON.

Stockton-on-Tees, September 9th, 1882.

[Many thanks for your recipe. The sample sent seems first-rate.—ED.]

BARBEL FISHING AT KINGSTON.

Mr. Alfred Nuthall fishing with John Johnson, senr., and using only one rod, succeeded in taking in three hours twenty six barbel, weighing from 2 lb. to 5 lb. each. They were all caught in early hours, for as soon as the boats begin to get about, it is all over with fishing, and especially in the present bright condition of the water. Mr Nuthall is to be congratulated on his successful capture, and considering the great interest he takes in the protection and preservation of the Thames Fishery, and the personal assistance he gives to it, all anglers will rejoice at the result. On the following morning, with the same fisherman, Mr. T. Hardy of the Griffin Hotel, went out for one hour and got four good fish.

B.

THE SUPERIORITY OF ANGLING.

Let others over hill and dale pursue,
In mad delight, the little, red, rank fox,
And break their necks in fashion orthodox:
We anglers have another end in view.
Or, let who will, at Midas's battue
Shoot tame villatic fowl, till,—like haycocks
Are heaped his hecatombs, which dwarf the stocks
Of half the poultry-shops in Town; but you
And I amuse ourselves *how differently!*
Down where the silver river winds its way—
While contemplation doth with sport combine,
And holy quiet woos sweet reverie—
We follow, to the fading of the day,
Our pensive pastime of the rod and line.

London, September, 1882. A.R.I.E.L.

POLLUTION OF THE THAMES.

Alderman Sir Andrew Lusk, who is usually accurate in his remarks, made last week, in his magisterial capacity, a statement reflecting on the Corporation and Commissioners of Sewers which appears to have no foundation whatever in fact. A man named Francis Flood was brought up at the Mansion House charged with polluting the Thames by throwing into it some rubbish from the barge "Faith." The Alderman remarked, that he could impose a fine of £20 for the offence, but that he felt considerable difficulty in dealing with the case, as the same thing was being repeatedly done by the Corporation and the Commissioners of Sewers, a quantity of filth being swept down the gullies, and so conveyed to the Thames. This statement is entirely wrong. The Corporation have nothing whatever to do with the matter, and it is clear that the Commissioners of Sewers would not be permitted to commit so flagrant a breach of the law. As a matter of fact, underneath each grating a large box is placed to receive any substance which may have accidentally passed through, and this box is periodically taken up by the scavengers and emptied into their carts. Nothing but water passes through the gullies to the Thames. The worthy Alderman's remark is the more to be regretted, as it has been reproduced in numerous provincial and metropolitan papers, and has been either ignorantly or maliciously used as a lever for another attack upon the Corporation. We are sure no one will regret this more than the Alderman himself, who will doubtless give an official contradiction to what may otherwise, coming from such a source, continue to mislead the public.—*City Press*

A Snake Rise at a Fly.—"Opposite to the lower end of the southern gravel bed near the Bishop's corn mill, a course of stepping stones crossed the river, and on these I frequently stood and cast my flies, for many a fish fed near. One summer evening while thus engaged I had an extraordinary rise accompanied by a severe pull, but there the matter ended. Looking down steadily I saw that a snake about fifteen inches long, while crossing the river, had snapped at my fly. The creature pursued its onward course, and found shelter in a hole on the opposite bank. This is the only case of the kind that I have ever witnessed."—From "My Life as an Angler," by Wm. Henderson.

SCARCITY OF FISH.

Amongst the questions that have arisen of late in the angling world; and especially as regards the Thames, is the cause of the scarcity of fish in the river. Several reasons have been assigned for this declension, and perhaps the most important of all in the lower Thames is the one which has reference to the migration of the fish as young fry through the grating into the reservoirs of the various water works, all of which are said to be teeming with fish; and these fish could not possibly have got there but from the river, inasmuch as no attempts have been made on the part of the Water Works Companies to stock them themselves with the finny tribe. Several applications have been made for reduced openings in the gratings and willing responses from the directors have generally been received. With all this reduction of space, the great evil has not been remedied, nor indeed can it be, so long as the water is taken out of the river, for the fish get through as young fry, and it does not require a very large opening for that. There is only one way to compensate the great loss to the river, and that is the view which the committee of the Thames Angling Preservation Society has wisely taken, to obtain permission from the Water Works Directors to visit the reservoirs occasionally with the net, and restore some of the fish back to their native stream. This has been done to very great advantage, The only object of these companies is to get water out of the river—I mean the pure and simple object—and in obtaining the water, I cannot imagine they have any desire to deprive the anglers of the stock of fish, which as from a *free* river belongs to them. It can be shown unmistakably, that in their removal of the water, for which they have obtained a legal right to do, they are at the same time removing from the river every year thousands upon thousands—I might even go further than this—of fish life, which is of no use to them, in the one object those Companies have been established to promote. This in a common sense view must be granted, but there is a greater point than that. It is the benefits they confer upon the tens of thousands of honest working men, whose enjoyment is the sport of angling in the river. On behalf of these men, I feel that I cannot too strongly thank the Directors who have already allowed the netting. Not only is angling a healthful recreation to pursue, not only does it bring the anglers into the pure and healthy air of the country, but the fish they take back with them is good and wholesome food. The river Thames is their own river, because as far as the "City Waters" are concerned, it is free. They are content to abide by all laws as regards the sizes and seasons of fish; but they must not, they ought not, to be deprived of any portion of the fish by other means than honest angling. The young fry getting into these reservoirs is a necessary evil; they go of their own accord and free will through the gratings, and if water is to be got out of the river, the youngsters will go with it, and so would the big ones if they had a chance. There is no Act of Parliament that would fairly give possession of the fish to the Water Companies, nor do I believe there is a body of directors that would desire to claim them, when they become impressed with the value of them to the river and to the humble rodsters. The feeling is every day growing stronger in favour of the propagation of coarse-fish, and the sooner a start is made in it the better. The tidal waters of the Thames have been this last few seasons yielding large takes of roach and dace, and only last season it was recorded in The Fishing Gazette, that a member of the Richmond Piscatorial Society had taken in four successive days 80 lb. 4 oz. of dace! This report needs no comment. It is more in the river between Teddington Lock and the City Stone at Staines where an increased supply of fish is necessary, and from what I have now stated, there is a fair reason to hope that in an early future that much desired result will be accomplished.

B.

Gregory's Spinning Baits. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[Advt.]

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Applications for tickets will be treated according to priority, but a preference will be to applicants for "season tickets." Boats for angling and stands on the river will be allotted by the head keeper, and no angler will be permitted to use a boat or fish a stand that has not been so allotted. Superior accommodation can be had on application to Mr. T. Mullarkey, at Glendalough Hotel, Recess, Galway. Anglers are requested to take out their licences in the Ballynahinch district, as by doing so they increase the fund for the preservation of the district.

No men can be employed as boatmen except the Water Bailiffs as arranged by head keeper.

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WILLIAM BIRT, General Manager.

London, August, 1882.

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Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1882.

THE "ANGLER'S CURSE."

By R. B. MARSTON.

IN September the trout and grayling angler is often utterly beaten, in consequence of the appearance on the water of the wee black fly known as the "Angler's Curse." In shape this fly is like a bee—that is to say, the wings and body are similar in shape, but it is a very small fly, about half the size of the common house fly and it is perfectly black, glistening black in the body. It comes floating down on the surface in countless numbers all day long for days together, and while it is on the water it is a most difficult matter to pick up a few fish, even when they are rising freely in all directions; especially is this the case with grayling. I have thrown many dozens of times over a lot of rising grayling, and no rise could I get. I need hardly say I tried everything I could think of, the finest small black midges (smaller it would be impossible to use), small black-flies of all kinds. I floated them in dry-fly fashion over the fish, I let them sink a little. I tried them on the finest drawn gut and the finest hair. I tried flies made by makers in London, Edinburgh, Cheltenham, Winchester, Alnwick, Berwick, Bishop Auckland, Birmingham, Ashbourne, Matlock, and half-a-dozen other places. I waded up stream and threw a long line, and in fact I did everything which my experience could suggest; it was only now and then that a grayling would look at the artificial. I knew I had not disturbed the fish, because they went on rising. My friend Mr. Francis M. Walbran and I had a fine experience of this kind recently on the Wharfe (by the way a clearer or purer stream than the Wharfe I do not wish to fish; it was clear as unsweetened gin, and full of big grayling, trout, chub, dace, barbel, &c.). We fished carefully, but our best art was useless against this black little "deevil's" attractions, and we found that some of the best anglers in the Otley Club had been served in exactly the same way. Ambrose, the keeper, tried in vain, so did other local anglers. If any other fly had been "on," we could have filled our baskets, but for some reason, "which no fellow can understand," the grayling, when rising at the "curse," can rarely be induced to take the most dainty imitation on the most delicate tackle. I have proved this over and over again on various rivers, it also affects the trout in the same way, but not quite to the same extent, the reason, in my opinion, being that the vision of the grayling is much keener than that of trout for short distances. The trout can see an object much further off and is more easily frightened by the appearance of the angler, but for seeing any object floating above it, the grayling has a much keener eye than the trout, I am sure. The trout, when feeding on the fly, hovers near the surface or goes into shallow water. The grayling rises from the bottom of his swim every time, and perhaps his swim is two or three feet deep, or more. Has any angler who reads this succeeded in killing grayling when the "curse" was on? I mean not solitary fish, but a fair basket, such as one expects when the fish are rising well. I should be glad to hear how it is done, so would many other anglers, including Mr. Walbran.

DEATH OF CARL LINDENBERG.

WE much regret to learn from our German contemporary the *Deutsche Fischerei Zeitung*, that the celebrated Berlin fish merchant, Mr. Carl Lindenberg, died almost suddenly on the 12th, at Lübeck. Lindenberg was in his 39th year, and his death will be greatly deplored in Germany. It was chiefly through his untiring exertions that the inland parts of Germany have been supplied with good sea fish at a cheap rate. In this way the whole nation has benefitted to an incalculable extent. He took up the matter in the press, he agitated for the removal of restrictions, and provided railway facilities. He always kept his own interests subservient to the public welfare. All visitors to the Berlin Exhibition will remember his magnificent live and dead fish exhibits, which obtained for him the second prize of honour given by the Emperor.

A GREAT YORKSHIRE TROUT.

THE following account of the life and death of a great Yorkshire trout may interest readers of the FISHING GAZETTE.

It is given in prose and verse—the prose by a friend of the happy angler who killed the fish, the verse by the angler himself. The writers (clergymen) often fish together in Yorkshire waters, and, meeting from time to time, compare notes as to fish taken in two rivers near which they live.

In the month of July of the current year, two anglers made their way to some preserved waters in the river and commenced sport. To the experienced eye of one of them there appeared in a small space of calm water formed by the shoring up of a portion of a weir, a likely habitat for either pike or large trout. So wide was the river and so great the volume of water falling, that minnow was discarded for spinning with dead bait of the size usual in pike fishing. A first cast near the hollow formed by the shoring was followed by a sudden check, and immediate evidence that a large and strong fish had accepted the angler's offer. Away with a rush to his home under the apron of the weir, two furious endeavours to reach a sunken oak stump, a leap out of the water, a skimming hurry along the surface of the water, offering to the delighted angler a view of a great trout, a repeated effort to rid himself of his steel enemies, a pause, a lesser rush, a turn over, and, with the help of a skilled hand with the net, there lay before the excited fishermen a magnificent river trout, exquisitely spotted, and in perfect form and condition, his length 20 inches, girth 13 inches, and weight 4 lb. 5 oz. J. L. B., Ripon, Sept. 1882.

In tiny rill, where on the moors
The grouse the sportsman slaughters,
Emerged a troutlet from his egg
Into the world of waters.

A mother's love he never knew;
His sisters and his brothers
Were many; but he could not tell
Them from a thousand others.

And when the summer sun waxed hot,
And rills began to fail,
Upon his earliest home he turned
His saucy little tail.

And downward, where his native rill
Ran to the rapid brook;—
Though awkward for a fish to say—
He lived on his own hook!

He learnt that worms come down in floods,
And flies the surface skim;
And selfishly he thought them sent
For nobody but him.

He saw the smelt to "blue backs" turn,
The "blue backs" go to sea;
And yet, a little speckled trout
Seemed all that he could be.

They laughed at him in stream and dub,
And said he was a fool;
And only fit to go and teach
A minnow infant school!

His ignorance he hid beneath
A lofty scorn of knowledge;
He said he'd rather "pass" a weir
Than any fishy college!

He boasted of aquatic sports,
Nor to the truth did keep;
Said, he could do the "ladder" trick,
And take the salmon leap.

While gifted with a sense acute,
And keen observant eye;
He learned to never look at food
When fishermen were by.

He knew the worm upon a line,
The fly with steely tail;
The daring minnow, much too tame,
The live-bait's deadly mail.

Full many a fellow fish he saw
Go strangely up on high!
And rise, as fishes never do
That take a proper fly.

He kept himself select below,
Nor ill companions sought;
The pike, with his voracious jaws,
Ne'er long was out of thought.

He would not trust the chumming chub,
Nor let large perch make free;
He did not even cultivate
His cousins from the sea!

So in a long and active life
Of cautious enterprise,
He grew a plump and handsome trout
Of most surpassing size.

A deep and rocky home had he,
Befitting his high sphere;
Remote from angler's wily cast,
Or poacher's net and spear.

Where over him the foaming floods
Thundered in cataract;
He called "his place" Niagara!
(A rather fishy fact).

High lived he there, till one dark day—
At least black day for him—
He saw a fine, disabled dace
Roll blindly down his swim.

He little recked an angler bold,
Leaving the beaten track,
Had flung a bait in the boiling foam
That others use for jack.

And as he felt the hooks strike deep,
Thus thought the captive trout—
"Why! bless my fin! I'm taken in—
And also taken out!"

So now, in the calm of a large glass case,
He lies o'er a pebbly bed;—
A piece of his rocky haunt upreared
A tombstone at his head.

F. D. H.

ARTIFICIAL FLY-FISHING.

Lightly clad and lightly laden,
Rod and flies in hand, the maiden
Sallies forth to fish.
Softly springs the turf beneath her,
Blue above her shines the ether,
More could maiden wish?

Still perchance that lassie's wishes
Sometimes do transcend the fishes,
Speckled though they be.
Ah! A thing in garments dual!
(Doubtful seems it if we knew all.
Too confiding we!)

This explains the maiden's actions.
Fishes are not the attractions
That her fancy catch.
See the laddie hurries faster,
He would be her lord and master,
And it is a match.

Paul Taylor.

BARBEL FISHING AT KINGSTON.

Mr. Alfred Nuthall has had another successful capture of barbel in the Kingston waters. In company with Mr. Thomas Hardy, and fishing with John Johnson, sen., they took nineteen good barbel in one day, and another day in four hours eighteen more. Mr. Nuthall by himself got eighteen more, one chub, two trout, and one eel. Unfortunately, one trout of 2 lb., he had to kill, owing to the hook being right in the gullet; it was carefully nursed for upwards of half an hour, but died. The other trout was a nice fish of 6 lb., and was returned to the water again. The water was intensely bright, and the finest tackle was used. Mr. Nuthall returned most of the barbel, and only retained the very best fish. B.

SALICYLIC ACID AS A CURE FOR FUNGUS ON FISH IN AQUARIA.

Our valuable contemporary, the *German Fishing Gazette*, some time ago referred to salicylic acid as being a cure for the fungus disease on roach, perch, carp, etc., in the aquarium. We mentioned the fact at the time, and now we see that the *Fischerei Zeitung* again refers to the matter as follows:—

"Herr Karl Marustik says that when young carp, goldfish, &c., are taken from ponds and rivers and placed in an aquarium, it very often happens that a fungus appears on them in the course of a week or so, and this fungus spreads, turns gradually black and still continues to spread. An infallible means of relieving the fish from this pest, is to rub the affected part gently with the above acid. In a few days the fungus begins to decline, and at the end of a week not a sign of it is left. The operation does not hurt the fish, which are more lively than before."

We recommend this to Mr. Carrington's attention, and hope he will inform us how it succeeds when applied to his fresh water fish, which are suffering from the pest.

CATCHING A TOM CAT.

"I collected a batch of minnows, baited my night lines and hung them upon a nail outside the house at some distance from the ground. As we were seated snugly at tea that evening, the maid rushed into the room shrieking, 'O, ma'am, Tom's gone mad.' Out we rushed into the garden and beheld a sight worthy of Cruikshank's pencil. The fat cook, loudly calling for help, was holding on by one end of a night line, while the Tom cat, who had swallowed down a minnow with its sharp enclosure, was promenading along the ridge of the house roof, with his tail and every hair of his back as erect as a maypole. 'Pussy! poor Pussy!' said my mother. 'Wow!' said Tom, and took another turn on the pantiles. Off I ran to find my friend John, who was always near when wanted. This proved, however, a serious affair, for as John clambered along the ridge and approached the cat, Tom treated him as an enemy, spit at him, and indeed clawed him shamefully. Still John, as a gallant squire, had his spurs to win, and maids fair and fat were looking on, so despite all struggles the capture was effected. On the surgical operation which followed I need not enlarge, suffice to say that Tom walked about for some time with a bandage round his neck, and warned by the disaster I gave up all use of night lines, increasing years allowing me soon to aspire to the capture of the most game fish that swims, the angler's best sport, the trout."—From "My Life as an Angler," by Wm. Henderson.

George James Eaton, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether the may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[Advt.]

GUT *v.* HAIR.—MARSTON *v.* BALDERSTON.—TENCH AS A MUD FISH.—MUD FISHES OF THE GAMBIA.—VORACITY OF THE BULL-HEAD, ETC.

WHY so fierce a battle should be raged over the comparative virtues of hair and gut I really can't understand. Both are capital material for bottom lines or casts. Your roach fisher of the professed sort will tell you that with his tight line and stiff rod—stiff that it may strike instantaneously—the hair bottom is preferable to gut, because it is elastic. If also the water be that of the average kind—neither excessively clear nor discoloured, he will assert the invisibility of hair, and this for a very good reason—hair has little gloss in water, and is not transparent, be it ever so white, but approximate to the colour of the aforesaid water. Were he to use unstained drawn gut, it would show light on a darker ground, and so the hair gains the day. Again, the strength of hair varies very considerably. I send you herewith, Mr. Editor, a few strands of hair from the tail of a white thoroughbred stallion, famed some years since for his size and beauty throughout Hampshire, and you will, I think, agree that it is strong enough for anything up to a six pound Thames trout. Such hair is a capital substitute anywhere for gut, but by no means its equal for drawn gut half its thickness is as strong.

* * * * *

For roach tight line fishing, or for fishing on streams where the wretched trout, from lack of food or the bad quality of it, continued through countless generations, are diminutive, the hair cast is useful. Moreover, it is cheap, which is in itself a very great recommendation. For such streams, however, as that on which I am living, the Hampshire Itchen, I have during the last few months proved its inefficiency by experiment, as compared with fine gut. The Itchen, let it be borne in mind, is a river always as clear as gin, and the length of four miles, of which I have control, is but sparsely supplied with wood or undergrowth whereby one may hide oneself. The trout, moreover, are glorious, thick-backed, golden and carmine-sided fellows, ranging up to three and four pounds, and it is our rule to return all below half-a-pound. And they are as quick sighted as greyhounds. I stood thirty-five yards, by measurement, above a rising three-pounder yesterday, and on waving my light-coloured straw hat, he immediately ceased rising and dived. Well, with these fellows the finest hair I could get was not strong enough, and the strongest I could procure was not fine enough. Hair simply did not answer at all. I threw over a fish thirty times one night with a fine hair cast, which he would infallibly have broken, and he wouldn't look at the fly. With the same fly changed to a fine gut cast, I caught him the next throw. *De gustibus non est disputandum.*

* * * * *

As for the ridiculous aspersions cast upon the fair sporting fame of our editor, Mr. Marston, by Mr. R. Balderston, (Lecturer in the Natural Sciences, Curator of fossils, &c.), they are hardly worth notice, were it not that some of the FISHING GAZETTE readers at a distance may perchance give heed. Anyone who knows Mr. M., knows him to be utterly incapable, not only of foul play, but of bad feeling. The "Raven" was "licked," that's the word, and it serves him right, if only on account of the "damnable iteration" and bombastic literary insolence of most of his contributions to this paper.

* * * * *

A very peculiar and interesting, though not entirely unprecedented discovery was made by a friend of mine the other day. Some two years since he had a small pond on his estate drained, and the fish—gold carp and tench—taken out. A little water has since been trickling down the centre and much mud of a comparatively solid consistency has remained. No fish, however, were dreamed of. Seeing, however, a slight movement of the mud while passing recently, he sent for a rake and unearthed a tench of three pounds two ounces, in good condition, and perfectly lively when introduced to its native element. A sort of nest seemed to have been formed, for the cavity showed the contour of the fish, and the latter was in a curved attitude.

* * * * *

Daniel, in "Rural Sports," speaks of a much more remarkable case than this, of what cannot but be termed true hibernation. "After the pond was thought to be quite free," he says, "under some roots there seemed to be an animal which was conjectured to be an otter. The place was surrounded, and on opening an entrance among the roots, a tench was found of most singular form, having literally assumed the shape of the hole." This extraordinary tench weighed eleven pounds nine ounces, and its belly was of a vermilion or char colour.

This power of the tench, and similarly the eel, depends, according to Professor Owen, on the peculiar formation of the vagal lobes of the brain. I confess I am really far from certain what is meant by this, but it is clear that an increased vitality resides in these fish as compared with many others. A sufficiency of moisture to keep the gills from drying seems chiefly necessary. In the mud fish of the Gambia Nature has provided for lack of moisture, by supplying true air-breathing lungs as well as gills, and in the hot weather it is thus enabled to live comfortably, as it does, in the mud, some eighteen inches or so beneath the surface. After making a nest they coil themselves round and so reside till the wet season sets them free. The specific named *Lepidosiren annectans*, has been given to these fish by Professor Owen. The mud fishes of Ceylon have not the air-breathing apparatus of the Lepidosiren, though they nevertheless live and hibernate in the mud.

* * * * *

An instance of the voracity of the millers-thumb (*Cottus gobio*), came before me last week. In order to effectually cut the weeds in the stream flowing past my house, we let down the water—it being a mill stream—and as a result many of the stones and boulders in its bed were left dry. Wishing to get a small eel or two, cray fish and millers-thumbs for my aquarium, I proceeded to turn over some of these stones, and presently came across a bull-head of very large size; length $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches, breadth across head when extended $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches; it was, however, dead. This being the case, I opened it, and found a small cray-fish about an inch long, two bull-heads of nearly the same length, and the remains of a horse-leech. My supposition is that this very predacious gentleman took advantage of the disturbance amongst the lesser inhabitants of the water, caused by its lowering, to lay in a store of food. He unfortunately hadn't time to digest it. Bye-the-bye, how very evident it is that the name of the fish is derived from the shape a miller's thumb assumes after many years milling. At the mill aforesaid, there is an old miller who has followed his trade for forty years, and the appearance of his right thumb indicates tbe outline of a *Cottus gobio* in a remarkable degree. The explanation given by Yarrell, derived from John Constable, Esq., R.A., is precisely true, therefore, in every particular.

CHUB CHAVENDER.

THE MEDWAY NEAR PADDOCK WOODS.

HAVING taken an interest in the haunts of "Ye Medway Water Rat," I decided that I would visit Paddock Woods on the 10th with the Walworth Waltonians. We started, some forty strong, a little after eight a.m., all bent to do our best in the slaughter of the finny tribe. We reach Paddock Woods about 10.30. Here we were met by Messrs. Bedford and Cain, who, fortunately for some of the elderly and tender-footed members, had hired a large carrier's waggon for the purpose of conveying those members and the luggage, consisting of rods, boxes, baskets, bags, and last, though not least, ground bait for the enemy, to the Rose and Crown, a distance of about two and a half miles. After starting our luggage and ambulance waggon, several of us followed on foot. We had not gone far before we soon became aware that we were not the only Londoners in that part of the world by some hundreds, nearly all of whom arrived the previous evening for the purpose of picking hops, which business this year in this part of Kent is, I am sorry to say, very bad indeed, the crop in some places hardly paying for the time of putting in the poles. Reaching the Rose and Crown, we sifted the luggage, washed the dust down, and drew for swims, thirty of which were marked off in about one mile of water, which would have been greatly improved if another mile of water had been pushing it further down the stream, for it was as stagnant as a ditch. The bell having been sounded, the bombarding commenced with ground bait, and each one got his rod and line together as soon as possible for the first fish, which fell to Mr. Bedford in the shape of a bream. Having seen them "all hard on the job," I strolled along and found a quiet shop for myself, with about 16 feet of water. In the course of an hour or so I managed to get four gudgeon and one bream, when I was interrupted by an enquiry from one of the members, "Are you ready for a thumbpiece of boiled beef and carrots? The bread and ale have arrived, thanks to Mr. Sutcliffe." Preferring to have some when I had done fishing, I declined the beef and carrots and continued my fishing for another hour or two. In the meantime, I had only taken four more gudgeon, when an elderly gentleman came along and said to me, "Ah, that is where I caught some nice large bream last night, and I baited it again this morning, so as to get it ready for this evening. You will not get anything out of there unless you fish it in the same way as I do. As you are from London, I will show you how I get them." Putting his hand into his coat pocket, he drew out a small bag of boiled corn, with which he baited the swim; he next produced a reel, from which he unwound a stout eight-plait cord, to which was attached some large eel hooks, which he baited with brandlings and small red worms. Thinking that he was going to use this as a bank runner, I said "That is not a fair way of angling, you have no rod." "Wait a minute; I will show you." He then laid down the line and proceeded into the hop field, and selected the longest and straightest hop-pole, which he brought to the waterside and fastened on his line; he then cast his line into the water, and sticks the pole into the hedge, and then sits down as unconcerned as possible. "I shall get one presently, and if I get any before you go you shall have them, as it is a great pity to come all this way with all that fine tackle, to say nothing of hiring a waggon into the bargain, and then get no fish to take home." I do not know if the elderly gentleman meant taking compassion on, or if he was "getting" at me, but at that moment the bell rang to pack up, which I commenced to do. The packing of the day's sport did not take long, twelve gudgeon and two small bream being the total were consigned to the water in a very short time. The rest of the tackle was soon disposed of, with the exception of a couple of gimp hooks, which I gave to the elderly gentleman. I left him enjoying his pipe and admiring the gimp hooks, to find some of that beef and carrots, as my digestive organs required something to amuse themselves with. Arriving at the Rose and Crown, I discovered that all the beef had disappeared, the country air had had an effect on other peoples' internal arrangements as well as my own. But I soon made myself comfortable (thanks to Mr. F. G.) with the top and bottom crusts of a loaf decorated with rump steak. Having "stopped a hole," I proceeded to enquire about the amount of fish taken, and who had won prizes. I found that eight of the competitors had won prizes; the gross weight I cannot give, as chemical balances and scruples were at a great premium. The baggage and ambulance waggon was now got ready, and, as the weight of the luggage to be taken to the station did not correspond with the amount brought down in the morning, we threw in several of the "tired and weary" who could not walk the distance, and started home delighted with the country and the people, but not with the fish, as we could not get acquainted with enough of them. Much praise is due to Messrs. Boalch, Bedford, and Cain for the railway and other arrangements, and also Mr. Sutcliffe for his beef and carrots, which were enjoyed by all parties, with the exception of

PIXIE.

A GRUMBLE ABOUT WINDERMERE.

I HAVE often heard it said that every man ought, at least once in his life, make the attempt to pen down his adventures when from home, and to fall in with this rule, I now make the "attempt." Some few days ago I decided to go to Windermere for a day or two's fishing. Having handled the rod for over thirty years' and killed in my time a fair number of fishes of most descriptions, both on lake and river, with "fur, feather and flesh." I had some hope of doing something on this famous water. I started from home by train with my tackle, as I had no thought of wielding the timber supplied by the boatmen, and was timed to arrive at Bowness at 7 p.m., and expected having about an hour or so before turning in, but in this I was disappointed, as the train was three hours late, and nothing could be done this day except secure a bed and turn in; but this I found no easy matter, for it was Saturday night and the Monday following was Bank Holiday, and every one knows what this means. It seemed as if all the world nearly had got "fishing on the brain," and had turned their steps towards Bowness; however, a bed was found at last, and to roost I went, with a determination to sleep early and sound. Sleep did come at last and bound me fast enough till about seven o'clock Sunday morning. I determined not to fish on this day, but to take a quiet look round the place and so in a measure prepare myself as to which way to steer when morning should again dawn upon us. My host was a boat owner and he kindly placed at my disposal a boat for the day free of charge (kind, was it not?) I little understood this kindness till the little bill was presented, when I found that other items made up for the loan of the boat. I inquired from seveaal gentlemen, whom I thought to be "natives," and found I must procure a licence, costing 5s., or I should be under a penalty if I cast a fly for trout or dropped a plumb line for char; but as I had fully prepared all my fly-tackle and carried also my "otter" so far, I determined I should pay for the licence, when again I was dropped on. Otter fishing was not allowed, and still they allowed netting—what a farce. Another thing also provoked me, the Post Office, where licences were granted, would not open till eight o'clock, so they said, and I intended being on the water by 4.30 at the latest, for I knew it would be no use whipping the stream in a blazing sun and the water clear as crystal, so in my desperation I determined to forget my flies for a time and try trolling for pike or any other finny friend that might like to taste of my bait. On the morning of Monday (Bank Holiday, remember) I went to the boats and secured one and tried my luck with a phantom, rowing in that sleepy, slow time, that is so requisite in this style of fishing—up the lake, down the lake, across the lake and back again, but never a bite. Fish were rising on either side of me, and with an otter-fly line I felt confident I could have landed a few fine trout; but flies were out of the question. Then I tried some fine brandling worms, then gentles, then live minnows, but to no purpose; and at about 9 a.m. I determined to leave off till evening. I may just remark here that my non-success was not a singular thing; there were hundreds on the water fishing, but none seemed to have anything, unless it was a small perch or two about four inches long. About six in the evening I felt ready again, and spoke to a young man with the boats, and got him to accompany me and bring with him the otter trolling line for pike. Away we went, on to what we thought good ground, and put out our line with four traces, two baited with small perch, one a phantom, and one a spoon. We had not been long on the move when one of the lines gave the ominous shake, which told plainly enough that something had caught a Tartar. We hauled in the line, and found a pike with his ugly jaws closed on one of the perch. We quickly laid him low in the boat, and cast the line again; ere long another trace showed an attack, this being the phantom. I suppose his lordship, Mr. Jack, not liking the morsel, decided to leave go again, which he did, and thus failed to make our acquaintance. We had after this many shakes at the line, but all failed to hook, and we left the water, bringing away one dead prisoner. Again the adage, "Early to bed, &c.," was acted upon, and morning found us on the water betimes, with otter line, &c., as on the evening before. We crossed the same waters again, and were at last gratified by seeing the danger signal again waved in a very excited manner, which plainly told of something being in difficulties, and ultimately proved to be a pike that might have been twin brother or sister to the one of the evening before; this was the only bite we got that morning. As the sun got up, we discarded the trolling, and tried with live bait for perch; but though we got in the midst of shoals of perch, none would bite, and the water was so clear we could see the fish playing round our bait, but never a one of them taking a fancy to it. Now, what shall we say about Windermere? First, I think netting should be forbidden, and then, though it be about the hardest fished place in existence, I fancy the rod and line fishing would be worth while trying; and till this is done, no doubt orthodox fishing will meet with poorer success year by year, and one of the main attractions to the place will have passed away.

GREY DRAKE.

THE UNITED LONDON ANGLING ASSOCIATIONS FISHERY SOCIETY.

September 14th, 1882.

SIR,—I am instructed to inform you we have been successful in gaining the right of fishing, for members only, in the following waters, viz:—

Weybridge Bridge to Pyrford Lock on the old river Wey, a distance of 4¼ miles. Nearest railway station, Weybridge.

Pike and Anchor Fishery, Ponder's End. Nearest railway station, Ponder's End.

Springwell Fishery, Harefield. Nearest railway station, Rickmansworth.

The society trust, with your assistance, to have many more miles of good fishing before the end of the present season.

Should any of your members know of water to let for angling purposes, the society will be indebted for the information.

It is to be distinctly understood the ticket of membership does not entitle members' friends to fish.—I am, &c., T. HOOLE, hon. sec.

7, King's Road, Mortlake, S.W.

[A copy of the above has been forwarded to the club house of every society upon my list.]

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS

By L. B.

ON Friday evening, September 15, the usual monthly meeting of the West Central Association of London and Provincial Angling Societies, was held at the Portman Arms, Great Quebec Street, Baker Street, Mr. L. Bonvoisin in the chair, faced in the vice by Mr. Beckett. Mr. T. Hoole (who looked all the better for his holiday) being in his accustomed place as secretary.

After the confirming of the minutes of the previous meeting and ratifying the election of the Wellington Angling Society by the committee, a very kind letter from Mr. Thomas Spreckley was read, acknowledging receipt of £5 5s., contributed by the Association towards defraying the expenses of the recent meeting at the Cannon Street Hotel. The resignation—owing to pressure of business—of Mr. Baylis, as committeeman, was accepted with a unanimous expression of regret, Mr. W. Page, of the Peckham Brothers' Angling Society, being elected in his place.

A letter was also read from Mr. Butler, the secretary of the Reading and District Preservation Society, acknowledging receipt of rewards to Messrs. Ashley and Ludgrove, of Pangbourne, for convictions recently obtained, inclosing balance sheet of the society, and hoping for a renewed grant from the West Central. After a few remarks from Messrs. Hoole, Bonvoisin, Murphy, and others, a donation of £5 5s. was unanimously voted to the funds of the Reading and District Thames Angling Preservation Society.

A reward of £1 1s. was also voted to Police Constable Myers, of Norbiton, for a conviction recently obtained for "snatching" at Kingston. The claim to a reward made by David Hackett, of Shepperton, was not considered sufficiently explicit, and has been referred back so as to enable the secretary to obtain fuller particulars.

Mr. R. Ghurney also mentioned several convictions obtained by him for taking undersized fish from the river Lee.

A vote of thanks to the chair, vice-chair, and secretary, bringing the meeting to a close. During the evening Mr. Hoole claimed Mr. Ghurney's assistance in discovering two persons of the class I referred to in my notes last week, who went fishing on a recent Sunday in a strictly private portion of the Mole, (Castle Mills, Dorking, I understood) and who, when remonstrated with by the proprietor, threatened to throw him into the adjective water and otherwise made themselves so objectionable that a constable had ultimately to be fetched to them.

A return visit is announced to the Amicable Brothers' Angling Society, Bald-Faced Stag, Worship Square, Finsbury, for Monday evening, September 25.

There is some talk of a new angling society being started at the Prince Arthur, Stamford Street, Blackfriars; transpontine London is running a close race with the bigger half of the metropolis in the matter of establishing new societies, as the capital and complete list, issued from time to time by Mr. T. Hoole, clearly proves.

Mr. W. J. Gee, the well known fishing-rod and tackle maker, of 19, Great St. Andrew Street, St. Martin's Lane, tells me a customer of his, Captain J. B. Brander, took, on 15th inst., from the Essex Stour, a handsome specimen roach, weighing 2 lbs. 1 oz., which has been duly forwarded to Mr. J. Lancaster for preservation.

On Sunday last I walked along the Grand Junction Canal Banks, from Grove Mill, Watford, past Lady Capel's Wharf, and through Hunton Bridge to King's Langley, but I did not see more than half-a-dozen anglers the whole way, in this once favourite reach; and though some of them had been fishing since daylight, they had in every case failed to secure any sizeable fish except minnows and sticklebacks; all seemed to agree that the bleach or soda used in the manufacture of paper from Esparto grass, and let off by the various mills into the canal at frequent intervals, is fast finishing the work of extermination hitherto freely carried on by wirers, netting, bargemen, and the fish-destroyers who carry off the scaly ones by pailsful when the water is drawn off for the repairs of lock, &c.

A London angling society is in treaty for a stretch of the river Ouse for use of its members, and another club is negotiating for a long reach of the river Kennet.

Friday evening, 22nd, at the New Forester's Hall, Clerkenwell Road, will be held the fortnightly meeting of the committee of the

Anglers' Benevolent Society, when committeemen will greatly oblige by their attendance.

I was sorry to read of the resignation of Hewitt, the hardworking and popular river keeper, of the Yare Preservation Society. I shall not readily forget the genial manner in which he extended to my friend, Mr. Hawkins, and myself, the hospitable shelter of his home, when on a recent occasion, at the close of a long day's fishing at Buckenham, we unexpectedly found ourselves bedless.

A circular has been issued to all London and provincial angling societies, enrolled on any of the three associations, and will no doubt prove of much needed assistance in guiding anglers to the waters already rented; if the number of letters asking for information received by Mr. Hoole are any criterion, too much stress cannot be laid on the paragraph requesting anglers to assist the society by forwarding particulars of any likely water they may know of, which will be immediately enquired into, and if found suitable, secured.

From Haslett of Chertsey, the following comes to hand: One day with Mr. L. Bonvoisin, 5 barbel and 1 perch, heaviest barbel $4\frac{1}{2}$ lbs; two other days, 10 barbel and 2 bream; three other days, 13 barbel, 2 chub, and 4 perch.

THE WATFORD ANGLERS.

I AM requested by the members of the Watford piscators to answer the weak attack made on our club by G. V., in a recent issue, ours being the so-called society referred to, which rent the Colne from the Five Railway Arches to the footbridge leading to the Leather Sellers' Arms, as a fishery, and have thrown it open to the public for fair rod and line angling. The matter of the sizes of fish, so much complained of by G. V., was most carefully gone into by the members, as we know the water is very much frequented by a great many juvenile anglers. The committee thought that, if anything, the sizes were too small, but refrained from putting them at a higher standard for the sake of the boys. I enclose one of our posters, which will give all information as to the sizes, restrictions, &c., which I fail to see are so unfair. Since the nets and night lines have been stopped, we have had many trout of 1, 2, 3, 4, and even over 5 lb. weighed-in out of this small piece of water, which I think everyone will own is highly satisfactory. The society that G. V. so upholds, we have a slight knowledge of, which up to now has been rather unfavourable. The club is held at a beerhouse, next door to the Leather Sellers' Arms, and its members have or had a cast net, which they used in our water, regardless of the bills posted along the banks, an action which, if sportsmanlike, was most ungentlemanly. Our solicitor has been obliged to write them on the subject, but until now his letter has been ignored. I received complaints from Rickmansworth, some weeks back, that the Watford Club had used a cast net in the canal, and had taken out a jack of nearly 2 lb., which was not returned; so, by this, I presume our friends go further afield for their bait. It is with great reluctance I write this letter, as, when I hear that such old anglers as Messrs. Ginger and Johnson belong to the club, I feel sure that such proceedings are entirely contrary to their views. If the society had any grievance, and it had been placed before our society in a proper manner, I feel sure we should have done everything in our power to make things pleasant. There can be no necessity in a small town like this for any wrangling between the jolly anglers. As for the night-liners and netters that G. V. speaks so well of, the anglers may thank them, and them alone, for so many good waters being closed against rod and line in this neighbourhood.

HERBERT A. VINCENT,
Hon. Sec. Watford Piscators.

WILKINSON ANGLING ASSOCIATION, HULL.

ON Thursday last the members of the Wilkinson Angling Association held their annual angling match, the proceeds of which is handed over to some charitable institution, and the benefit match on this occasion was in aid of the popular and deserving institution, the Sailors' and General Orphan Home. For some weeks prior to the date of the match an active committee had been soliciting prizes and donations in aid of the cause, and the results of their efforts was a list containing many useful prizes, and all that remained to make the affair a thorough success was a fine day for the excursion. The place chosen was the Ancholme, at Fernby Sluice. The steamer, *Lady Elizabeth* had been engaged for the occasion by the committee, who hoped to take a number of excursionists in addition to those who proposed to take part in the competition.

Unfortunately, the morning at the time of starting presented a prospect anything but inviting, and rained heavily, and was somewhat stormy. Under these circumstances, as a natural consequence, only a moderate number availed themselves of the excursion. By the time the steamer arrived at Fernby Sluice, however, a change for the better had taken place in the state of the weather, and the day turned out tolerably pleasant. During the trip up the river, Mr. F. J. Hamlyn, on behalf of the Wilkinson Angling Association, presented the captain of the steamer *Lady Elizabeth* with a handsome meerschaum pipe, as a small token of their respect for the kindness and courtesy with which he had always treated them. The captain in a few kindly remarks returned thanks for the gift.

Upwards of sixty competitors entered their names for the match. The ground was pegged out, and the competitors were soon at their allotted places. The day turned out very poor indeed, so far as the taking of any great weight of fish was concerned; even the don hands could not make a catch worth mentioning, and most of the competitors were glad when "time" was called; and on weighing in, the first prize was taken with something a little under 5 lb.

There were about twenty prizes, and the last prize was taken with 8 oz. of fish. The poor sport experienced can only be accounted for by the very unfavourable state of the weather, coupled with the fact that they were running off the water at the sluice gates pretty freely.

Under the circumstances already mentioned, the committee's efforts have not been crowned with the success which the cause deserves, but those having the affair in hand hope to hand over about £10 10s. to the funds of the institution, for which the match was arranged.

F. J. HAMLYN, Hull.

NORWICH CHAMPION ANGLING CLUB

ON Monday evening a special meeting of the members of this club was held at the club-house, the Champion, Chapel Field Road, Mr. G. Daniels, the president, and Mr. Howitt, the vice-president, officiating, for the presentation of the prizes won at the annual angling contest as follows:—1, challenge cup, value 20 guineas, and a small cup and 21s., Mr. G. G. Whincop; 2, a prize to the value of 50s., Mr. J. Parker; 3, tea service, value 45s., Mr. R. A. Stannard; 4, teapot, salts and spoons, and sugar-bows, value 42s., Mr. W. Wright; 5, four silver spoons, value 40s., Mr. F. Fitt; 6, earrings and brooch, value 35s., Mr. S. F. Howitt; 7, locket and chain, value 30s., Mr. R. Moll; 8, coat value 25s., Mr. C. Goreham; 9, teapot, value 20s., Mr. G. Brown; 10, breakfast cruet, value 15s., Mr. W. Varvel; 11, lady's "Acme" (by Mr. Allured), Mr. G. Daniels; 12, card basket, Mr. S. J. Hook; 13, fishing rod, Mr. S. Cubitt; 14, silver mounted walking-stick, Mr. J. J. Restieaux; 15, prize, value 10s, Mr. W. Chettleburgh. Mr. Whincop, in responding to the toast of "The Champion," spoke on the exceptional advantages enjoyed by Norwich anglers. In the neighbourhood of Norwich fishing was excellent, more particularly for roach, which abound in great quantities. It was the capture of this fish on which they usually depended in matches of this kind. Amongst anglers generally roach may be said to be a popular fish, because of his extreme wariness and timidity, his game qualities in the struggle, and his abundance. For anglers combination was not only necessary but absolutely imperative if they wanted their rights respected. Had not fishermen many common foes? Wherrymen were not always their friends. Time was when the craft on the river would not take half the trouble they now did to get out of their way. The Yare Preservation Society had done much to remedy this evil. It was through important combination of the angling fraternity that netting in our waters had been "scotched, if not killed." He hoped the day would come when a clause in the Act of Parliament would absolutely prohibit netting, as in the Thames, except for purposes of bait. This summer and autumn they had had another great drawback in the shape of two Yarmouth steamtugs daily coming up the river. As anglers they could not wish to stop commerce, but the size and speed of vessels of this description should be zealously watched by the Haven and Pier Commissioners, and any damage done to the river banks or danger of life to frequenters of the river be strictly guarded against. Mr. Whincop turned the champion into a "loving cup" by filling it with champagne for circulation among the members of the club. The topic to which Mr. Whincop had alluded, the tugs on the river, was then discussed, but it was agreed to adjourn the further consideration of the question with a view to framing some resolution to present to the Haven and Pier Commissioners to a future meeting.—*Eastern Daily Express.*

'The Coquet for ever! The Coquet for Aye!
The Coquet, the king o' the stream an' the brae!
Frae his high mountain thrones to his bed in the sea,
Oh where shall we find such a river as he?'—R. ROXBY.

CAPTURE OF AN EXTRAORDINARY LARGE BREAM.—Mr. Richard Yarsley, a member of the United Brothers' Angling Society, Kidderminster, fishing with the red worm in the River Severn, facing Red Stone Rock, near Lincomb Weir, one mile from Stourport, hooked a very fine silver bream, which showed excellent sport, it being ten minutes before he could be brought to the water's edge, when, after much difficulty, he was safely landed by Mr. John Evans, without net or gaff. He was taken to Lincomb House and weighed, when he turned the scales at $8\frac{1}{4}$ lb., and measured $21\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, and 20 inches in girth. It was in first-class condition; the rod used was a Japanese one, without reel, and the line was of fine gut. It was exhibited at the Club House, Swan Hotel, Vicar Street, Kidderminster, and was greatly admired by a number of people. Mr. A. G. Titley, the proprietor of the hotel, purchased the fish, and it is now in hand for preservation; when completed, it will be placed along with some other good specimens caught by the proprietor of the hotel. Anglers visiting this part of the district will do well to call and inspect his collection of fish. Every information will be given to anglers visiting here, by members of the society.—EDWIN LAWRENCE, sec.

[This is no *silver* bream, as this species rarely exceeds one pound in weight. It is doubtless the common carp bream, and a very fine one, too.—ED.]

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best bait; invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

"Amongst the views of many, mine."
—Shakespeare.

It is my pleasant duty to report that something having been attempted, something has been done in the angling line on the Upper Thames during the past week. The weather has been wet and windy of late, but nevertheless ardent piscators have been at work, and if not successful with roach or chub, perch or barbel, have gone in for gudgeon, at any rate to fill up the midday work, for roach and chub only seem to have been inclined for breakfast and supper. Roach, in the present clearness of the water, are feeding on gentles or paste, with bran bread and boiled rice as ground attraction. Chub are on the fly, and doing the cheese in selected watering places—"Tidi fol-lol!" Jack are coming out of the weeds, and will now reward the live-baiter. At Bray some bank men have been rewarded with some decent hauls of roach and perch, and at Maidenhead, amid a multitude of small catches, may be recorded one of 17 dozen fine gudgeon. by Mr. Jackson, (son of General Jackson), and Mr. W. Stanley, with L Wilder, as professional attendant. At Hurley, Messrs. A. Thompson and Mr. Brooksbank have had good sport in the evenings with roach, and Mr. Fred. Nott, out with the above gentlemen yesterday, did well, and his mistake was not to give the exact measure thereof—so refrain. Henley waters are particularly quiet lately—possibly the new association has somewhat sat upon them.

Thursday Evening.—Weather stormy and threatening rain. River very bright, and successful angling most difficult.—Marlow Buzz.

Ballynahinch.

For this last four or five days weather has been rather changeable. The following are the takes for the week .—On the 13th Mr. Bury 1 salmon, 9 lb., and 9 trout; on the 14th Mr. Bury 10 trout, Mr. Wigan 10 trout, and Mr. Gerrard 8 trout; on the 15th Mr. Bury 13 trout, Mr. Wigan 10 trout, and Mr. Gerrard 20 trout, Mr. Sutherland 12 trout, and Mr. C. Sutherland 5 trout; on the 16th Mr. Bury 27 trout, Mr. Wigan 16 trout, Mr. Gerrard 5 trout, Mr. Sutherland 12 trout, and Mr. C. Sutherland on Attery Lake 12 trout; on the 18th Mr. Bury 1 salmon, 10 lb., and 15 trout; Mr. Wigan, 2 trout; Mr. Gerrard, 5 trout; Mr. Sutherland, 12 trout; and Mr. C. Sutherland, on Orrid lakes, 16 trout. On the 19th, Mr. Bury, 1 salmon, 12 lb., and 10 trout; Mr. Sutherland, 22 trout; and Mr. C. Sutherland, on Attery lake, 4 trout.—Walter Blackadder.

Camel and Inney (Cornwall).

The first-named river flows by Camelford and the latter within an easy distance of three miles. There are many smaller streams in the neighbourhood good for trout, particularly the Devil's Jump burn which has romantic scenery along its banks and is worthy of attention. The Inney is a splendid river for trout only, the fish are very plentiful and of tolerable size, good baskets being generally the rule, particularly of late. Many peel have been captured since my last report, and several good dishes of trout have been taken likewise in the Camel. Good, soft weather, with wind from the south or south-west are desirable for good sport on the above rivers. Waters are very moderate at the present time. Flies: the willow, cinnamon, whirling blue dun, and palmer, are the best flies at present. These flies dressed large are good for peel; salmon will sometimes rise to them. Minnows: Devon bait and brass minnows two large worms on a salmon hook are bait for salmon.—H. O. P.

Chichester.

Sport the past week has been fairly good among the juvenile members of the finny tribe, but larger fish seem off the feed, the record being much below last week's. Mr. Downing Wallace secured a carp of 3 lb. near Birdham, losing a much heavier fish after an exciting fifteen minutes' contest, his attendant being scarcely *au fait* with the landing net. The weather after the downpour of Tuesday is much warmer; fish should be on feed. As I am writing—8·20 p.m.—the "Nocturnals" are at the canal side with their bull's-eye lanterns, but up to this time have met with but little success. I am using a fresh form of paste, which proves most seductive for carp, bream, and roach, where all else fails. I forgot to mention the 6 lb. carp of last week was taken with one of Williams' No. 9 crystal hooks, on fine gut. I believe they would hold a 10 lb. fish.—George F. Salter.

Dove.

This river since I last wrote has undergone a considerable change. Rain began to fall on Wednesday and the weather to-day (Thursday) continues very much unsettled. The water has risen considerably during the last few hours and there is more colour in it than has been apparent for the last three weeks. Should the weather clear up now, therefore, I fancy angling prospects by Saturday will have come very rosy. During this week fish have not been particularly well on the feed. They, no doubt, wanted a fresh, and now that they have got it I think sport is certain to improve. Grayling are the only fish that have been biting with any degree of freedom, and this has been principally in the middle of the day. The needle, the whistler, and the grey palmer have proved the best killing lures. Trout have been in a very lethargic humour and I don't think much more will be done with them this season, as they are now showing decided evidence of being ready to go into spawn. The coarse fishers have used the maggot and cockspur worm with the best effect. Wasp-grub, somehow or other, has been very scarce this season, and I know some rodsters who tried to procure a cake last Tuesday and they quite failed, the tackle-dealers saying that the season for the grub had been closed. This is much ealier than usual. Last season I got some right up to the second week in October.—The Splodger.

Derwent (Chatsworth).

During the past week there has been no great influx of anglers, the water being rather quiet, but there has been some very fair baskets taken with the bumble and little blue dun. To-day (Thursday) the river is rather swollen owing to the heavy rain yesterday. If it continues fine now the water will be in good condition by Friday or Saturday.—Wheatsheaf Hotel.

Eden (Carlisle).

We had a good fresh in the river on September 15th, the first since the nets came off on September 1st, and salmon fishers' spirits rose considerably, as there seemed a prospect of a run of fish up the river. The water is now in fine order for angling, but so far I have heard of no fish coming to the gaff about Carlisle, and, from all accounts, and also from personal observation, I fear there are not as yet many fish up. It is too soon to croak about the prospects of sport in October, our best salmon month; but it is a fact that there were quite twice as many fish to be seen this time last year. We had a moderate run of sea trout in the summer, but not above half a crop of grilse, which augurs badly for salmon-fishing next spring. As for the whitings or herlings, those merry little fish which are at once the delight of the novice and veteran, we have not had so bad a season for many years. I am much afraid that we are now beginning to feel the effects of four years of the salmon disease, and yet, forsooth, we have been treated to a reduction of the weekly close-time by six hours; in other words, the nets are allowed to carry on their slaughter for an additional 180 hours each year. If we have a couple of years of scarcity, we will have a radical change in the bye-laws of this district, or my name is not—Silver Grey.

[Can "Silver Grey" tell us if the Penrith Club still protects the Eden, also what the heaviest baskets of trout this year have been?—Ed.]

Exe (Exeter).

The salmon season, as far as the net fishermen are concerned, will soon close, when I hope the rodsters will be as successful as of yore. Speaking of the salmon fishing, it would be as well to state that in the salmon fishery district of the Exe the sum of £100 has been offered by Mr. T. C. Daniel, of Stoodleigh, near Tiverton, towards the construction of salmon passes at Salmon Pool, Cowley Bridge and Pyne's weir, on condition that the remainder of the cost of the same be subscribed this year. It is estimated that about £400 will be required for the purpose. Mr. Daniel has also intimated his willingness to give £50 towards the expenses of putting on watchers for the upper waters, if a like sum be subscribed. It is considered that between Thorverton and Symonsbath on the Barle, and Exford on the Exe, there should be four watchers at least. The Conservators accordingly invite subscriptions in order to enable them to avail themselves of Mr. Daniel's liberal offer. I quite agree with the engagement of watchers, providing they are employed constantly and not for two or three months, as in the lower waters. With regard to the construction of salmon passes at Salmon Pool and Cowley Bridge, also Pyne's Weir, it is to be hoped that no elaborate passes will be made, which will be more of a block than none at all. The wretched affair of a salmon ladder has disappeared from Salmon Pool, and a good job too; who ever saw a salmon pass through it? There are more salmon in the upper waters than ever, evidently it is not through using the ladder, at any rate, they are there. You cannot educate fish to go which way you please. Over a good weir, such as Salmon Pool, Tews Weir, (whoever saw a Salmon passing up the ladder?) Blackwaller Weir, Head Weir, or Cowley Bridge Weir, the latter of which is spoken of in the blue book as being the best weir on the "Exe," the fish even despise these pools in a great measure. Zigzags, diagonal baulks, and watchers are all that is required to keep the river full of fish, (pollutions excepted). Such weirs as Totnes on the Dart, or Pyne's Weir on the Exe, are exceptions; but when carried out as proposed, the fish will be bound to go the desired rout; although as far as Pyne's Weir goes at present, numbers of fish pass up, otherwise, how is it they have reached so many miles further upwards than they have done before, to the detriment of trout fishing? I shall be very glad to see any improvement that can possibly be made with regard to rendering the fish any assistance in reaching the upper waters, but I shall not forget the excellent remarks made by S. Walpole, Esq., Her Majesty's late Inspector of Salmon Fisheries, on his last visit here, and upon several other occasions the remarks of the late F Buckland. Coarse fishing good, I hope next week to give you some account of what is being done with Mr. King's Natural Bait. I have introduced it to a few friends, who intend giving it a fair trial this week. Up to the present I have found it A 1., but would rather send up friends' reports.

Fishing during the past week has put me in mind of the wounded snake drawing its sluggish length along. Very little has been done indeed, the weather being very unpropitious. Cold, windy, and wet; to-day it is very heavy and close, although the wind is due north. I have not heard of a salmon being taken for the week from the Exe. A few daisies with the dorsal fin have been grassed. Some very good roach and dace have been taken, and I am pleased to say with King's Natural Bait. If the season was not so far advanced, I believe the anglers here would soon swear by it. A few tench and some good eels have been creeled, and a few small pike. What have become of the larger ones we can scarcely tell, but I expect as the days get colder they will show up again. Whitebait plentiful, but large.—Frank Gosden, Exeter.

Exe (Tiverton).

The water is still very low, the little rain we had has not been enough to improve the fishing. Two salmon only have been taken during the past week. To-day (Thursday) several fish have been risen, but none have been killed.—Wm. Mudford.

Ilfracombe.

Sea-fishing, Friday, there were some good strings of whiting pout and pollack, one boat brought in 60 lb. of conger eel, and on Saturday, 70 lb. eel, besides whiting. Monday and Tuesday, several boats, with their fishing parties, out, their average catches of whiting pout and pollack were 30 lb. each boat. Only one boat has been out to try for herrings; they, with four nets, caught eleven herrings and one mackerel. Wednesday, boats again made a start for their fishing ground; wind blowing strong from the north-west, they had a difficulty to get back to harbour. From Sunday to Thursday, twenty-five lobsters and three crabs were taken from four pots at Morthoe, and a lot of prawns from the ponds between Woolacombe and Morthoe. The sport continues very good with rod and hand lines for small fish from the pier and jetty. Weather at present moderate.—E. COMER.

Leicester.

During the week we have been treated with some very cold winds and several very heavy storms which have interfered with angling operations in this district. Considering the large number of anglers that have patronised the waters the takes on the average were but small; and several of the best rodsters who usually show some good baskets, have returned home with but a scanty lot of fish. Bottom fishermen have been trying for roach and perch, but the best basket that I could hear of was one of 4 lb., all roach, by Mr. Mason. Few perch have been had, but pike-fishing has been quiet, although a good many have been trying for the big ones. The success which pike fishermen met with last week, no doubt induced many to try their luck, but with the exception of a brace weighing 8¼ lb., but little was done. At Barrow-on-Soar matters remain rather quiet, but should the weather remain favourable no doubt some good pike will be had from these waters. Fishermen who generally patronise the Wreake, have not met with much success, as with the exception of some small baskets of roach and perch, nothing noteworthy has occurred. At the time of writing, late on Thursday evening, the weather is very cold and clear, and prospects are looking decidedly better.—ALERT.

Nen (Northampton).

There has been no sport worthy of record during the past week. On Sunday last Sam Garrett had a nice bag of dace and chub, one chub weighed 3¼ lb.; but business was disturbed by the appearance of a very fine otter, which stopped all sport by taking a dive in his swim. J. Macmagre was out on Monday, and had a nice bag of roach of 10 lb. The water is getting into good condition.—T. F.

Test (Hampshire).

Having taken up my rod only once during the last last six or seven weeks, I had my final throw for trout, for this season, on Tuesday last. I had seen them rise fairly on Monday, which induced me to venture out. Getting on the water about 11 o'clock, I found them taking every fly that came down, and a fair amount there was. Medium sized olive dun seemed about the mark. I could, see at a glance, it would be easy work to fill a basket, and I was not disappointed. The second throw I was on to one about 1½ lb., which soon came to the net. A little further on I saw several fish lazily taking the fly. They rose at the artificial generally the first time it was put near them. In about one hundred yards I had three brace of very nice fish, all in about twenty minutes. As I did not want them I returned two brace to the water; those I kept were in fine condition. Had I gone on I think one might have filled a hamper. Trout at this time of the year do not play nearly so well or strong as a month or two back, but no doubt September is the month to make a bag; but I think once the gun is taken up it is time to put away the rod. Looking back at the past year, as far as the Test is concerned, I don't think there ever was a worse season. The spring fishing was poor; the Grannom time was wet and windy, which is fatal to a fly that only come out in the sun shine; then the May fly was most disappointing at times, there were plenty of flies and the fish would not look at them; then we had a continuous adverse wind and nothing could be done, and the evenings were so cold, there was no spent fly, with which the big fish are generally killed. I tremble to think how the May fly will be for the next year or two, I say two, because it is not known for certain how long they take to arrive at maturity. My idea is they hatch out in one year. I know that last June I put a boy on to catch me several thousands; I took them a mile and half up the river, and deposited them in the grass and hedges. This year there was a sprinkling of flies and some fish killed with them. I had never seen the fly there before. It is, of course, very easy to localise it. Many ignorant people won't have it; they say it spoils the small fly fishing, and that the fish become so glutted with it they won't rise for a fortnight after. I always find that people who talk like that have generally derived their information from some old keeper who, perhaps, has never seen a May fly in his life. I well remember, this very season, having a day lower down the Test, where the fly comes on about ten days earlier than it does here. In the afternoon the May fly came down thick, and the fish rose all over the river. I could not touch one. I was in company with two regular nailers (with the May fly), not a rise could we get, float the fly ever so well. At last I crawled on all-fours, close to where a large fish was feeding, I watched minutely, and soon found my friend was sucking in a small blue dun, and not touching the May flies. As the wind was blowing slightly down stream it was no use trying to drive a small fly against it; in fact, after using the May fly it is difficult to revert to the small fly all at once, for the simple reason one generally uses a stiff and longer rod for the former. July and August we generally look upon as the best months for evening fishing. This year there was hardly one on which I saw the fish well on the feed, or any fly to speak of. You might get a brace about 9 o'clock by fishing down stream with two bank flies, but it was quite a chance. In former years it used to be a most deadly way to wind up a day's fishing, but now they won't have it. In fact, I don't know what trout fishing will come to in a few years—they are becoming so cunning and difficult to catch. My rod is now put aside till the end of October or beginning of November, when I generally have a day or two at the grayling, lower down the river. If a bright day, after a frost, it is very good fun, especially when the fish run up to 3½ and 4 lb.

P.S.—On the Test there is no regular date as to when you are to stop fishing. Some shut up on the 1st September, others the 15th, and a few go on till the end of the month. Lord Portsmouth closes his on the 15th August, but that I think is too soon. The 15th September would be a very fair time.—HAMPSHIRE.

Thames (Chertsey).

Water low, but a little coloured. Now is the time for barbel; we have plenty of barbel and bream; a good rodman cannot fail in taking fish. My three days' fishing were:—13 barbel, 4 perch, 2 chub on Wednesday; 3 barbel and 1 chub—not the fishes' fault—there were no more. It all depends on the rod. I hope to send you a longer list next week.—JAMES HASLETT.

Thames (Hall ford).

The river is now in good order for all seasonable fishing. Different gentlemen fishing with me since my last report, their takes have been as follows, viz., Mr. George Palmer, one beautiful specimen of a silver bream, weighing 4½ lb., four perch and three carp, bream, altogether weighing 14 lb. Second day, eight nice barbel, three bream, and two chub, largest chub weighing 4 lb. 8 oz., the thirteen fish weighing 38 lb. Third day, Mr. Smith, four barbel, a bream of 4½ lb., and three eels, altogether weighing 14 lb. Fourth day, Mr. Withers, two barbel, three nice roach, one chub, and some roach and dace. Fifth day, Mr. Young, four nice bream, three largest weighing 11½ lb., one chub, and a perch, altogether weighing 15 lb. All the above fish were taken ledgering.—GEORGE ROSEWELL.

Thames (Twickenham).

Wind, N.E., showery, which will improve the water. Twenty-two punts out during the week, and average fair takes; but some days better than others. Spong, "Our Joe," Dick Moffat, and Farmer have been freely employed.—ALFRED PERRIN.

Thames (Walton).

On September 17 a gentleman out with R Watson took 8½ dozen roach, dace, and gudgeon, and four perch, ½ lb. each. Another gentleman out with G. Rogerson succeeded in taking 170 lb. of bream in three days, several weighing between 4 lb. and 5 lb. (the largest 5¾ lb.), and a barbel, 4 lb. On the 19th Mr. Keyl, out with H. Searle, took 10 bream—largest 2 lb. On the same date Mr. Mackrise with G. Hone, 11 bream and 2 barbel—total weight 25 lb.—largest bream, 4 lb.; one barbel, 3 lb.; and the other 1½ lb. On the 20th Mr. Wingrove out with G. Rogerson, 11 bream; average, 3½ lb.; largest, 4½ lb. September 21: Wind changed; fish won't bite. Plenty of fish of all descriptions, only waiting to be hooked.—H. WOOD.

Thames (Windsor).

The river still keeps very low and clear. I hear of very little being done, but should the recent change in the weather continue, some good sport may be expected, as there seems to be plenty of fish.—GEORGE LUMSDEN.

Trent (Newark).

For two or three days after sending off my last report the weather was all that could be desired, the water in capital condition, and some fairish bags of fish made by various anglers. But on Tuesday a change came o'er the spirit of the anglers dream, for the weather turned wet and uncomfortable, and to make a bad thing worse, a heavy wind set in, which has continued more or less up to the present. During the early part of the week some very good bags of fish have been had. A. Broughton, in three days had something like four stone. T. Sunman, in one day, had about 20 lb., principally roach and bream; W. Bulman and I out together one day had 23 lb. between us of the same class of fish, nothing very big, bream 2 lb., and roach 1 lb. 1 oz., being the biggest we had; various other bags came under my notice, but too numerous to generalise; tail end of maiden lob worm being the most successful bait in the three instances referred to above. Mr. Thompson got three or four barbel with scratching in an hour or two's fishing, and a few more odd ones have come under my notice, but nothing worth mentioning. At the time of writing the water is still low and clear, but the weather is still uncomfortable. I think that unless a lot more rain falls, we shall not have much rise in the river. I think, also, that tail end of lob worms and cockspurs will be the best baits just now, only anglers should operate on the deepest swims they can find. Several anglers have been out after chub with wasp-grub, but without much success.—THE TRENT OTTER.

Wharfe (Yorkshire).

After I had sent my report last week the weather changed wonderfully for the better, and as the "black midge" disappeared simultaneously from off the water, anglers had rather a better time of it than they have experienced of late. On Saturday the cinnamon fly was very strong upon the water. I killed a grayling weighing a pound with the imitation, and also hooked and lost other two nice fish. Our Yankee friends predicted a storm this week, and to-day it has come upon us with a vengeance, putting an end to fly-fishing for the present.—F. M. WALBRAN.

Wye and Derwent.

Rain has been hanging about the whole of the week, which has quite taken the fish off the feed again till Thursday, when some good baskets of fish have been killed, chiefly by the bottom fishers, using maggots and brandling worms. We have a most beautiful woodland water on the Derwent to-day from the heavy rain which fell on Wednesday. Sport with the artificial fly, both on last Friday and Saturday, was first class. The killing flies were honey dun bumble, furnace, and dun flies. Both the Wye and Derwent ought to be in first class condition for fly fishing by Monday, and good sport ought to be had.—GEORGE JAMES EATON.

CLUB REPORTS.

AMICABLE BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members fished Burnt Mill, but the show of fish was very limited. Mr. Squire first, Mr. Farebrother second; Mr. Medcalf, roach; Mr. Moir, from Dagenham, roach and bream; Mr. Binks, one jack. Mr. Partrick, I regret to state, will not be able to fish for some time, having met with an accident to his hand from the bursting of a bottle. The return visit will take place on Monday, September 25, when brother anglers are respectfully invited to attend. —J. WORLEDGE.

BURDETT ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had an excellent show of fish at this club on Sunday last, although only four members weighed-in. Mr. Creffield, rudd; Mr. Coughlan, rudd; Mr. Lamb, roach; and Mr. Herring, roach; the first two named gentlemen scaling over 21 lb. of rudd between them.—T. G. WALKER.

Sept. 21.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following weighed-in on the 17th:—Mr. J. Chambers, roach from Amberley, largest fish 1 lb. 2¾ oz.; Mr. Castell, roach from the Medway; Messrs. Mortimer and Nitz, bream from the Welsh Harp, and Mr. Macdonald roach from the Lea.

CLAPHAM JUNCTION ANGLING SOCIETY.

The annual dinner will take place at the club-house on Thursday, the 28th, and presentation of prizes. Dinner will be on the table at 8 30 sharp. The only members who weighed-in were: Mr. Maslin, chub and roach; Mr. Bouisseau, roach; Mr. E. Wilson, bream.—E. WILSON, sec.

CRESCENT ANGLERS.

A meeting was held at Mr. J. Collins's, The Giraffe, Crescent Place, Walworth, on the 20th, and 14 gentlemen residing in the neighbourhood decided to form an Angling Society, under the above name. The meetings are to be held, on Sunday and Wednesday evenings. For further information, anglers residing in the neighbourhood are requested to apply to Mr. Peirson, the secretary, at the above house.—Pixie.

CRITCHFIELD ANGLING SOCIETY.

The president of the above society had another good take of roach on the 12th inst., consisting of thirty-three fish, weighing 22½ lb., twelve of which weighed 12 lb. 2 oz.—the heaviest scaled 1¼ lb. At the general meeting held on Thursday, the 14th inst., it was arranged that a competition for several prizes should take place at Goring. The following gentlemen have signified their intention of giving the following prizes:—Mr. A. C. Critchfield, a cane trolling rod; Mr. C. Hayward, a reel and line; Mr. J. H. Ellis, a Stilton cheese. A general meeting will be held on Thursday, the 28th inst., at 8.30 p m., to arrange final particulars for the above competition. Members wishing to take part in the same are requested to attend and register their names. Mr. A. Jardine visited the above society on the 14th inst., and kindly showed two cases of his renowned pike, which were much admired—one fish of 27½ lb., another case containing two fish, weighing 17 lb. and 22 lb. respectively.—J. E.

September 20.

DUKE OF CORNWALL.

The members turned out in full strength on Sunday to fish for a number of prizes. The takes were small, but ultimately four prizes were taken. Mr. New first, Mr. England second, Mr. Mann third, and the Host, Mr. McCluer, fourth. The members fish another match on Sunday, Oct. 1, at Ponder's End. —J. Heckford, sec.

GREAT YARMOUTH PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

This society held its weekly meeting on Monday the 11th, under the presidency of H. Mitchell, Esq., M.D. There was a good attendance of members, several gentlemen being placed on the roll of the society; and one especially who, during his stay in Yarmouth, has given great encouragement to the Yarmouth society, the gentleman in question being Mr. Brougham, of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, and the society feel proud of having his name on their books as an honorary member. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed, making it now a standing rule that the entrance fee shall be 7s. 6d. instead of 2s. 6d., and it is now to be hoped that next year our London friends will find better assistance at our club for a good day's angling than at the present, but we cannot do everything at once. Considering we have not been in existence three months, it will be of great satisfaction for our friends to know our numbers are increasing each meeting. We shall not do much more until jack fishing can be prosecuted with success, and then it is proposed to have a few weeks' fishing in all the rivers and broads which are in easy distance of the society, and to finish up with a dinner as the end of the first season, when we hope to see many London friends again amongst us. On Tuesday next a party of seventeen will leave the club for a day's angling, this last Tuesday being so very wet that angling was out of the question. We have had no heavy catches during the week, no doubt owing to the unsettled state of the weather, and salt-water fishing has not been very encouraging either here or at Gorleston, which is noted for being first in salt water fishing; the water by the beach seems to be overrun with small dog fish, and as long as they abound we cannot expect good fishing.—James Lark, sec.

At the weekly meeting of the society on Monday a fair report was made of the state of the water around Yarmouth, and several new members were enrolled. The article relating to the attractions of Yarmouth was freely discussed, and especially the great take of J. Cole, Esq., as reported under the heading of the Yare, which fully justifies the reports of the resources around Yarmouth.—J. Lark, sec.

September 20.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this Society have been very active of late, and some good bags have been weighed in. Last week Mr. G. W. Hunt had a splendid take of perch, 36 fish in all, going 32 lb. 5 oz; the 6 largest weighing 8 lb. 1 oz. Mr. J. F. Clarke weighed in 4 chub 7 lb. 14½ oz. in all, the largest 2 lb. 14 oz., and the smallest 1 lb. 5 oz., taken from the Thames. By a happy thought, 25 perch and 2 chub were sent to the London Hospital for the use of the patients, and for which the House Committee of that institution have expressed their very warm thanks. Mr. Young, of Greenwich, has since weighed in 2 barbel, weighing 5 lb., and other members not weighing in have had good takes. Mr. Young also weighed in 2 bream from the Thames weighing 7½ lb., the largest turning the scale at 4 lb. Dr. Brunton showed 8 jack taken in three-quarters of an hour on fine gut with a peacock fly in private water. At the special meeting held on Thursday, the 21st, S. C. Harding, Esq., in the chair, the question of removal to Masons' Hall Tavern, Basinghall Street, E.C., was very fully discussed, and it was almost unanimously resolved that after the present month the meetings of the society should be held at that welll known tavern. After the resolution had been carried it was unanimously resolved that a suitable present be made to Mr. Thompson, who had earned the respect of every member of the Society, and great regret was expressed, in a personal sense, that the great and growing character of the society, demanded a change of quarters. In reply to sundry questions, the secretary stated that more than 250 members were on the books, and two new candidates stood for election. The Rev. John Walker, Fritz Behrend, and John Groom, Esq.'s were elected at the last meeting. A circular will shortly be addressed to every member, advising them of the society's removal, and the final assembly of the society will be held at its present rooms on Thursday next. The meeting night will afterwards be Tuesday instead of Thursday, and a general feeling was expressed that the society had now entered on a still more extended sphere of success. The proceedings closed with a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Harding for his able occupancy of the chair.

IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

A few members were out on Sunday last and had fish, but only two weighed in, they were Mr. G. Bliss, who had bream, and Mr. H. Butt, who had roach. The members will compete for four special prizes on Sunday, October 1, in the Stort, between Harlow and Spellbrook. All fish weigh according to the rules of the society. No competitor to leave London before the morning of the competition.

LEEDS ROCKINGHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The annual match of the above society took place on Thursday, the 7th inst., at Brafferton on Swale. The contest was restricted to members, the prizes being numerous and costly, and with the exception of a marble timepiece, purchased from the society's funds, were the gifts of the members and friends interested in piscatorial matters. The day was exceedingly bright, the water low, and the fishing consequently poor. The first prize was won by Mr. T. Brittain with 4 lb. 7 oz., and the second by Mr. C. H. Bradford with 4 lb. 6¾ oz Luncheon was served at the Fox, Mr. Bannister and his niece catering, if possible, with more than their usual ability. After luncheon a series of groups were taken by Mr. J. B. Law, of the well-known firm of Messrs. A. and G. Taylor, photographers, and each member will thus be able to possess a memento of the pleasantest trip enjoyed by the society. On returning to Leeds the evening was spent at the Rockingham in music, singing, and relation of fishing adventures, and on separating each one expressed great gratification at the successful carrying out of the day's programme.—E. F. Atkinson, president.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

Most of our members were out last Sunday, and our trays were very well filled. Mr. Hurwood had a very pretty show of roach; Mr. Keene, jack; Mr. Humphreys, jack; Mr. Petrie, roach and dace; Mr. Scott, perch; Mr. Suich, roach; Mr. Raine, chub.—W. H. Evans, sec.

LONDON AND SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY ANGLING CLUB.

The match took place as arranged for the two silver cups given by R. Toomer, Esq., but with bad luck attending same. The winners (under the conditions of match) were desirous, owing to small trays of fish displayed, the heaviest being 8 ounces, of leaving it still an open match among those members who fished at Weybridge yesterday. The postponed match to take place on that day four weeks, October 15, which I must add shows a very friendly spirit prevailing among the members.—J. Woodcock, sec.

ORIGINAL ALEXANDRA ANGLERS.

We fished a pegged-down match at Cheshunt last Sunday, Mr. Brockett taking the prize; most of our members were unfortunate, and returned with blanks.—E. Dymonds.

PRINCESS OF WALES ANGLING SOCIETY.

The next return visit of No. 1 District of the West Central Association will be paid to this society, at their club house, the Prince of Wales, Great Barlow Street, High Street, Marylebone, W., on Monday next, the 25th inst., when it is hoped that as many as can possibly attend will do so, as this is the first return visit to be paid this society. Mr. F. Walker will give a selection on the dulcimer, and several other gentlemen have promised their services.—H. Robson, chairman.

RODNEY PISCATORIALS.

On the 17th Messrs. Marsh and Grant, out with Cole, of Twickenham, managed to get some nice dace and roach. On the 20th, Mr. Grant in the chair, Messrs. Fenwick, Chantry, and G. Jones were elected as members, and entitled to compete for the four prizes given for competition on the 24th.—Pixie.

ROYAL GEORGE ANGLING SOCIETY.

At Sunday's meeting of the Royal George Angling Society, the following members amongst others weighed in:—Mr. Chart. 4 lb.; Mr. Parsons, 6 lb.; Mr. Palmer, 3 lb. 7 oz.; and Mr. Guynau, 4 lb. The gross weight prizes last fished for were awarded as follows:—(1) Mr. Trotter; (2) Mr. Guynau; (3) Mr. Palmer.—C. W. W. Bernhardt, sec.

SOCIAL BROTHERS.

I have not sent a report lately, as our takes have been so small they have not been worth reporting, although all members have been trying hard, the best take up to the present, falling to our treasurer, Mr. Monk, on the 13th, out with Johnson at Kingston, eleven barbel and one roach weighing 19lb Six of us visited Amberley on the 17th, and did not capture a fish. I might add that a month back I was fortunate enough to take a roach there 1 lb. 8½ oz.—J. Goubot.

SPORTSMAN ANGLING CLUB.

Mr. Komlosy, one of our members, has presented us with a striped bass, caught by him in New Jersey, U.S.A. Is now preserved; should be glad for you to see it.—B. Denny, hon. sec.

[Many thanks, but we have seen the fish before.—Ed.]

STANLEY ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

The following weights of fish taken during the last fortnight were read out at the ordinary meeting of this society last night:—Mr. D. M. Humby, perch, 1 lb. 7½ oz.; Mr. W. R. Humby, roach, dace, and bream, 10 lb. 11 oz.: Mr. N. Pistrucci, roach and dace, 2 lb. 7 oz.; Mr. W. Ellis, jack, 3 lb. ½ oz., bream and rudd, 12 lb. 2½ oz., carp, 2 lb. 5½ oz., dace, 2 lb. 2 oz.; Mr. W. N. Hunter, carp, 2 lb. 5½ oz. Mr. C. Scull, who has been fishing in the neighbourhood of Yarmouth, sent up some heavy bags of roach, of which the following are some of the weights:—71 fish, 25 lb. 10½ oz.; 44, 15 lb. 6 oz.; 21, 9 lb. 3½ oz.; 25, 8 lb. 15 oz.; 25, 10 lb. 7½ oz.; 62, 24 lb. 3 oz.; 32, 11 lb. 10 oz.; bream, 2 lb. 3 oz.; and a very fine roach, 1 lb. 8 oz. Our president, Mr. C. P. Wheatstone, and secretary, Mr. Walker, have enjoyed a week's fishing in Wiltshire, and met with very fair sport. Appended are some of the weights sent to the club-room:—Mr. Wheatstone, 8 perch, 5 lb. 7 oz.; 21 roach, 7 lb. 5 oz.; chub, 5 lb. 12½ oz.; perch, chub, and barbel, 12 lb. 14 oz.; 12 perch, 8 lb. 11 oz.; one, 1 lb. 9 oz., 1 lb. 7 oz., 1 lb. 3½ oz.; 4 perch, 1 lb. 14 oz.; 5 roach, 2 lb. 5½ oz.; 1 tench, 4 lb. 8 oz.; 1 jack, 2 lb. 1½ oz.; 11 perch, 8 lb. 6½ oz.; 3 roach, 1 lb. 13½ oz.; 1 tench, 3 lb. 5½ oz.; and roach, perch, and chub, 5 lb. 15 oz. Mr. Walker's fish, 2 jack, 7 lb. 2 oz.; 2 roach, 1 lb. 11 oz.; 9 perch, 6 lb. 9 oz.; 1 tench, 2 lb. 3 oz.; 13 perch, 6 lb. 3½ oz.; 4 roach, 1 lb. 14½ oz.; 3 jack, 12 lb. 1½ oz., largest 6½ lb.; 10 perch, 7 lb. 2 oz., largest 2 lb.; 6 roach, 2 lb. 11 oz.; 16 roach, 5 lb. 10 oz.; and, last, but not least, a brace of tench scaling just under 9 lb., the heaviest fish of the two weighing barely 5 lb. This brace has of course been sent to Saunders for preservation. I may mention that during the week these two gentlemen took no less than forty-seven jack a little under 2 lb., which were duly returned, all taken on the worm. Mr. Walker returned fourteen of these fish in one day. They had only one break away during the whole time, which was by Mr. Walker with a 2 lb. perch, which he, however, secured at his next throw in, with the gut and hook in his mouth. The way in which these little monsters devoured worms at 4s. per thousand was a caution to the pocket. The average of the perch also was very fine, 69 fish scaling 47 lb. I would remind all members that next Wednesday is our half-yearly general meeting, when all members are earnestly requested to be there.

THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

At the weekly meeting on Monday evening last at Ashley's Hotel, Covent Garden, Mr. Robinson registered 66 lb. 3 oz. of roach, the largest 1 lb. 11 oz., from the Avon. Mr. Shipway, a chub of 4 lb. 3 oz., from the Thames. Mr. James Lander, two barbel weighing 4½ lb., from Shepperton. Mr. Blamey, four chub, weighing 6 lb. 15 oz., from Shepperton; and Mr. Thomas Hugget, a jack of 3 lb. 2 oz, and a dace of 8 oz.—B.

THE RICHMOND PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The weekly general meetings of this society now greatly increase in the numbers of members present as the holidays draw to a close, but much important business has of late been transacted, and good results are hoped for. The sum of five guineas was voted towards the preliminary expenses of the conference at the Cannon Street Hotel, and duly forwarded to W. H. Brougham, Esq. Takes of fish until lately have not been very large, owing to the brightness of the water in the river, but two excellent trays of roach and dace were shown on Wednesday, taken in Thames at Richmond by Messrs. Wm. Abbott and A. H. Wilson. Messrs. Powell and Dwelly, also members of the R.P.S., have been having good sport amongst the jack. From certificates received I find in one day their take of jack alone was 63 lb. 12 oz. Four gentlemen were proposed as members of this society. A competition will take place in the Thames on Wednesday next for a series of prizes, after which the members will sup at Mr. Bond's (a member of this society), Sun Hotel, Kingston. There were present on Wednesday, Mr. F. C. Clench (chairman), Mr. Dickinson, V.C.; Mr. Gaynor (curator), Messrs. J. Plant, F. A. Crew, A. Harwood, J. Munro, J. B. Johnson, W. Johnson, A. Percival, A. H. Wilson, H. Taman, H. B. Terrill, J. Heasler, J. Dunn, A. Giles, W. Penhey, A. J. Little, W. Abbott, &c.—J. H. Gaunt, secretary.

WALTONIANS.

On the 7th the following gentlemen weighed in:—Messrs. Malcom, Watson, Brady, Togwell, Rushbrook, and Grace; the take of the latter gentleman was the only one worthy of special mention, consisting of a little over 9 lb. of roach and dace.—A. J. Marriott.

September 19th.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

The result of the competition that took place this day at Egham among the members of the above society, is as follows:—Mr. Quodling 1st; Mr. Gilbert 2nd; Mr. Bayley 3rd; Mr. Weatherhead 4th; and Mr. Teuillade 5th. Messrs. J. Collins, Cain, Delehaye, sen., Delehaye, jun., Fox, and Mawby also had fish. The next contest will be for any four week-days' show during October, for the undermentioned prizes:—£3 3s. 0d., given by Mr. J. Collins, a guinea hat by Mr. Bayley, and 10s. 6d. given by Mr. Ross.—Pixie.

WEST CENTRAL ASSOCIATION.

A visit was paid to the Peckham Brothers' Angling Society on Tuesday, the 12th inst., Mr. A. Brodie in the chair, Mr. Matthews in the vice. The following gentlemen contributed to the enjoyment of the evening by singing capital songs:—Messrs. Gendle, Smith, Middleditch, Banks, Tappenden, Parkins, Davis, Camelford, Matthews, Palmer, Allen, Bignal, Watts, Stiddolph, Brodie and Page. This society, which is but young, is progressing wonderfully under the management of Mr. Page, as the hon. sec. The West Central Association have recognised his endeavours to do his duty by appointing him upon their committee of management, and, from what I have seen of Mr. P. I think he will be a regular attendant, which is absolutely necessary. You'll seldom meet a more business-like lot of gentlemen than the committee of the W. C. A. S. and P. A. S., and it's owing to that fact the association is so successful. Messrs. Hoole, Bonvoisin and Geen were to have been present at this visit; unfortunately Mr. Geen is so unwell that his doctor had ordered him to the seaside for a few weeks. Mr. Hoole was away in the country, holiday keeping, and Mr. Bonvoisin was engaged with another visit in his own district. The following clubs were well represented—Anglers' Pride, Peckham Perseverance, South London, United Brothers, Anchor and Hope, Crown Piscators, City of London and Bermondsey Brothers; total number of visitors, 76. The next visit goes to the Penge.—Tinney.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

FISH CULTURE.

Sir,—The recent Fishery Exhibitions at Norwich and Edinburgh have undoubtedly awakened in the mind of the public an interest in the important subject of our food producing fishes, and the measures by which they can best be increased. This interest will no doubt be considerably enhanced by the forthcoming Great International Fishery Exhibition to be held in London next year.

Attention is particularly directed to the noble works of foreign nations in the advancement they are making in the science of pisciculture as a source of national wealth, and when we contemplate how little the cultivation of our food fishes is understood in England, and how little we contribute to keeping up the supply of our portion of the world's vast fish farm, we are compelled with humiliation to note the weakness of our knowledge of this important subject.

The time has arrived when we must contemplate our position in order to contribute to the amelioration of mankind by meeting the demands of our rapidly increasing cities and populous manufacturing towns.

The question of food supply arrests the attention not only of our practical scientists, but also of the thoughtful public at large, to make provision for a cheap and adequate aliment, and perhaps it would be difficult to determine a more wholesome and substantial nutriment than fish, as it contains all the elements calculated to sustain the body as well as the brain.

I would suggest that measures be adopted to establish in this country a national fish culture association. Several noblemen and gentlemen have given great practical attention to the science, and would, no doubt, render valuable advice and material assistance in the organisation of such an enterprise.

I need hardly dilate on the many objects to be attained and the advantages to be derived from a society of this nature.

We have in this country several thousand acres of water and miles of rivers entirely neglected and almost depleted of fish-life, that would, under scientific cultivation, produce a food supply for our nation rich and productive in the extreme. It must not be forgotten that this life, in addition to giving sport to the angler, presents food to the people.

It might fairly be the duty of the executive of the society to advise as to remedial measures for such depletion, and the best means to be adopted for the restocking of the waters in question, either with anadromous fish or the varied species of our so-called national coarse fish.

Encouragement should be given to the agricultural community in the utilisation of the vast areas of land partially covered with water, that for agricultural purposes in their present condition are valueless. Therefore, to bring these waste districts into aquacultural use for our food fishes, must in itself be an act of the greatest possible service.

Farmers should be induced to follow the practice of their German and American confrères, and lay down these neglected districts for carp farming, particularly the *Cyprinus carpio specularis*. It is a proven fact that any given area of water, by the assistance of fish culture, can be made far more productive than the same area of land.

The farming interest has, unfortunately, in the last few years been most depressed through the continuous bad seasons; but here we should have presented a harvest entirely independent of cold springs and rainy summers.

I would venture the suggestion that the objects of the society might also be extended to the cultivation of our commercial deep-sea fishes.

It has been computed that every acre of sea could produce as much as six acres of land, and considering the enormous revenue that might thus be attained, it is our duty to assist in the cultivation of the broad acres of this vast fish farm.

It may safely be assumed the success that has rewarded the endeavours to restock with salmon and trout the rivers of this and other countries would also crown the exertions of deep sea fish culture.

From experiments and investigations I have made in this direction during the last few months, I am confident there is no practical difficulty in artificially hatching our sea food fishes, and I have established the fact, not devoid of value, that the fecundated ova of the cod may easily be transported from say, the East Coast to other parts of England; and, further, that the milt may likewise be transmitted in jars without fear of injury, for the purpose of impregnating the ova of the female fish taken on a distant coast, provided the milt does not come into contact with water before impregnation.

Excellent nurseries can be furnished for the fry thus artificially hatched by utilising the waste tracts of land partially covered with water to be found at the entrances of our large estuaries and rivers.

When it is remembered that every full-sized female codfish sheds no less than nine millions of eggs during one season, which represents about the number of codfish annually brought to our markets, who is there that would estimate the influence on our future fisheries in the light of national wealth by carrying out experiments of this nature? I take it we might reasonably anticipate the improvement of existing stations and the introduction of fresh industries.

Without entering into details, such as embryological studies, the nature of the spawning beds of fishes of economic value, of their food, of the temperature of the waters in which they periodically resort, their mysterious migrations, &c., I think I have said sufficient to point out a grand work for a national association devoted to the study of fish culture, which I hope may soon be established in England, tending to benefit our fellow creatures.—I am, &c., W. Oldham Chambers.

Lowestoft, July 26.

FISHING NEAR MANCHESTER.

Sir,—Will you kindly inform me through your valuable paper, whether you know of any good fishing waters for roach, chub, dace, bream, carp, &c., near Manchester, within a handy distance for a day's sport now and again?—I am, &c., J. Brooks.

[Will some Manchester angler kindly answer this?—Ed.]

BREAM FROM THE MEDWAY.

Sir,—Having taken 50 lb. of bream from the Medway, Paddock Woods, Kent, last Sunday, I should like, if not taking a liberty, the report put in your Gazette.—I am, &c., P. Owen.

Marylebone, September 16th, 1882.

SALMON FISHING.

Sir,—I read with much interest Mr. J. P. Wheeldon's gossip on salmon fishing in your issue of 5th August, and entirely agree with him except perhaps on one point when he says "The easier a winch goes the better." Now I have frequently known an easy running salmon reel overrun the line when a heavy fish has made a great rush, and then of course it is good-bye to your fish and part of your tackle. But to my mind your correspondent's chief fault is that he does not finish his work so well begun. He has selected his rod, reel, and line with the greatest care. He has worked his fly in the most enticing manner, but he has not got his salmon on to the bank, or even hooked him. And here comes my chief point, which I hope all young salmon fishers will carefully note as coming from "an old hand." I will take up the subject just where your correspondent left it. The fly is well sunk, and judiciously worked a little, not too much, when there comes over you that delightful, unrivalled sensation occasioned by the steady pull or "dror" of a good fish. Do you strike? Ah! you have missed him, and will miss two out of three. Let him have it; give him time to turn downwards, then tighten up your line firmly, and you have him, bar accidents, well hooked.

The after part, the playing of your fish will soon be learnt with a little practice, the great secret being to keep as much strain on him as your casting line will stand, and not an ounce more. But the question of striking or not striking a salmon is one on which I am quite convinced from long experience, having repeatedly seen old salmon fishers lose fish after fish simply through striking, whilst it is a very rare thing to lose a fish if you only give him time to hook himself. Of course I do not lay claim to any secret in this matter. No doubt most anglers of experience adopt the non-striking system, but it is almost a universal fault with novices, and one to be very much guarded against. I have just handed over your issue of August 5th to a friend who is just about to buy rod, reel, line, &c., and begin fishing for salmon, that he may read for himself Mr. Wheeldon's very good advice, and if you favour me with the insertion of these lines he shall have the issue in which they appear, and then if he cannot entice, hook, and land a salmon he must be a duffer. Silver Grey.

Carlisle.

DO SALMON FEED IN FRESH WATER?

Sir,—In reply to your query about finding anything in the shape of food in any salmon I have caught, I answer, No; though I have cut up many fish to see. I do not myself believe that salmon ever do feed much in freshwater. The trout and salmon will lie close together in one river (I have often seen them) quite contentedly. Salmon at times will take a lob worm or any worm if offered to them, and also shrimps and prawns, but except as kelts they hardly ever touch other fish. As kelts, confined in a small pool as they often are here in winter, they will eat the trout, and small blame to them either!

Fishing has been very good this year—river full of salmon. I have had capital sport—killed up to this date thirty-six, and hope to kill thirty more; but water is very low, and I never care to kill anything except with fly.—I am, &c., G. S. J.

Somerset, Sept. 21.

[The writer is a clergyman of our acquaintance, and his practical testimony is all in favour of our view of this question. We shall have a letter from Mr. Gosden on this point next week.—Ed]

BREAD FISHING.

Sir,—Can you or any of your readers inform me if they ever fished with the inside of a French roll without attempting to make it into paste, or otherwise altering its consistency, before putting it on the hook, and, if so, whether they found it more successful than paste?

The reason I ask is, the other day I saw a gentleman fishing with the above in a well-known stream, and pulling the fish out when no one else could. "If you are clever at striking," said the gentleman, "the slightest approach to a nibble is quite sufficient to enable you to secure them." I saw his statement verified over and over again. It seemed to me the ragged and unsuspicious appearance of the bait took the fish off their guard, and the roll being so delicate and giving there is little or no resistance to the hook as in paste-fishing. The reason some anglers do not succeed in fishing with paste is this: They make the paste so sad and hard the force of the strike is deadened before it has any chance of entering the fish, especially where too large pellets are used, and thus bite after bite is lost mnch to the surprise of the angler.

N.B.—There is one terrible drawback to the above style of fishing, and that is the necessity of putting on a fresh bait almost every swim, but this he said "he got used to." It would scarcely suit yours truly, Mark Antony.

FISH CASE.

Sir,—Could you or any of your readers inform me where I could best obtain a piece of bent glass for the front of a fish case, also where I could get the woodwork made.—I am, &c., Amateur.

[If "Amateur" buys the glass and gets the woodwork made, he might as well buy a case ready made from one of the fish preserving firms; see our advertising columns.—Ed.]

THE ALEXANDRA.

Sir,—The fly called at the present time "Alexandra" has many times been spoken of in the Fishing Gazette as representing a minnow. Many like myself hold a different opinion, and say that it is taken by trout as a large gaudy fly.

Perhaps you will be surprised when I tell you that this day, while after trout, I put on an Alexandra for a few minutes, just as I was leaving off fishing, and in the second or third cast I caught a swallow; it swooped down upon the fly and was hooked, caught, carefully released, and let go, the little bird flying off in apparent joy. Many of these birds were about, feeding freely on small cocktails, which were out in great abundance. This was no chance take, but a fair capture in the attempt to seize my Alexandra. I do not think the little swallow would take a minnow, but it certainly attempted to take the large fly of yours, &c., John Brunton, M.D.

[The swallow took it for a dragon fly, we should say—eh, Doctor?—Ed.]

MR. WARNER OF BIRMINGHAM'S ADDRESS.

Sir,—Some weeks ago I was fishing the Dove at Willington, and the Trent near Tamworth, and wanting some tackle I went to Birmingham to get some at A. W. Warner's, 121, Broad Street, which is one and a quarter miles from the station. After walking there I found they had removed to Cannon Street, New Street, not two minutes' walk from the station, much to my annoyance. In your Saturday's issue I find the address uncorrected; hoping you will correct this in your list of agents for the sake of others visiting Birmingham for Warner's tackle —I am, &c., Lindum.

Lincoln.

A CURIOUS FLY.

Sir,—I enclose you a fly which I caught here the other day, near a manure heap. I should like, if you could tell me, the name of it, as I have never seen one like it before, and rather fancy it is an uncommon specimen.—I am, &c.,

Skutterskalfe, via Yarm. Peter Alison.

[This fly certainly does not come under the name of "angle fly," as some of the old writers call the flies used in angling. It is the nearest natural likeness to the "Alexandra" that we have ever seen! More than an inch long, with long wings like a wasp, a steel-blue conical body, terminating in a long point. We have asked a scientific friend to name the fly, and will let our correspondent know what it is.—Ed.]

UP STREAM FISHING WITH WORM.

Sir,—Would you be kind enough to explain the proper way to fish up-stream with worm, and much oblige?—I am, &c. Countryman.

Scarborough.

[Use a thirteen or fourteen feet fly rod, with running line same as for fly-fishing for trout; attach a fine gut line, six or seven feet long to the running line and then put on one fairly large hook, or else use the 3-hook Stewart tackle; use no float or shot. The best plan is to wade up stream and throw the worm by a gentle throw right up in front of you into all the likely places; let the worm come down as naturally as possible with the current, keeping only just sufficient control over it to prevent your line bagging, and keep as little of your gut line in the water as possible. You must keep on throwing as you wade up stream; the great thing is to keep out of sight. Some anglers use an underhand cast, but we prefer a bold overhand throw; of course, all jerks must be avoided, or the worm will come off. Well scoured marsh worms will stand a lot of throwing, as they are tough. This style of fishing is employed when the water is low and bright with great success. In the pools, when the surface is ruffled by a breeze, the fish will often take a worm cast near the edge in this way. You should watch for a rising fish and then throw where he rose last. Big bags are made on the Eden pools in this way fishing from a boat. It is by no means easy work to kill trout in this way, and those who are most successful, are those who have long practised it. A small artificial or natural minnow is often used in the same way by north-country anglers.—Ed.]

HAIR *v.* GUT.

Sir,—Whatever may be the merits of gut against hair in trouting, there can be no doubt but that in fly-fishing for dace hair has a decided advantage, and is infinitely the best to use. Very few trout fishers care much, perhaps, for dace fishing; but, if quickness of hand and eye is essential to trouting, it is far more so in dace fishing. A Waltonian who thoroughly masters these plucky little fish, can write himself a master of the art in any stream in the universe. The floating qualities of hair give it the advantage over gut in dace fishing, for dace will not, as a rule, take a fly under water. Again, in roaching, where the fish do not run very large, hair is preferable to gut in my humble opinion, but I should be inclined to claim relationship with "Herne the Hunter" if I went fishing for sea trout with a hair stretcher.—I am, &c., Renrut.

["Renrut" surely does not mean to say that it requires more skill to catch dace than trout? Our experience is that in trout streams, where dace abound the dace is often a nuisance because he will take your fly, you cannot keep him off.—Ed.]

FIRST RATE TROUT FISHING.

Sir,—I think some of your readers may like to know of a place where trout are to be caught. Here is a summary of what I caught in the region of Lairg in Sutherlandshire, only twenty-three hours from London. I stayed at the Sutherland Arms Hotel, right on Loch Shin, but this big loch I only fished once, for I preferred a good four or five miles' tramp over the moors to some more remote loch. Here is the result of each day, all taken fly fishing between August 4 and September 9:—Loch Beannoch, 4 trout weighing 3 lb.; 11, 7½ lb.; 14, 7 lb.; 18, 7 lb.; 12, 8 lb.; 13, 11½ lb.; total 72, weighing 44 lb. Loch Fourloch, 1 trout, weighing 2 lb.; 3, 4½ lb.; 57, 17 lb.; 34, 14 lb.; 13, 5 lb.; total 108, weighing 42½ lb. Cragail, 27 trout, weighing 13 lb.; 20, 10 lb.; 24, 10 lb.; 16, 8½ lb.; 26, 14 lb.; 42, 23 lb.; 26, 13 lb.; 14, 6½ lb.; total 195, weighing 98 lb. A private loch, 20, weighing 18 lb. Loch Clare, 28, 14 lb.; 24, 12 lb.; total 52, weighing 26 lb. River Tirry, 1 grilse, 4½ lb.; 18 trout, 5½ lb.; 23 days' fishing. The best flies are the black palmer with red tip and the "heckem-peckem," and I got some splendid flies from David Wells, of 11, Leith Street, Edinboro'.—I am, &c., Clarence E. Fry.

[This is trout fishing worthy the name; the fish are trout—not troutlets.—Ed.]

CARP FISHING AT WANSTEAD.

Sir.—In reply to your correspondent respecting the carp fishing at Wanstead, I may inform you that Wanstead Park, recently acquired by the Corporation of London, has been thrown open to the public, and in it are three ponds, the first and second contain carp and tench; and the third, tench, roach, rudd, and perch; but there is a great difficulty in fishing the two first ponds, as they are full of weeds, and ronnd the edges it is very shallow, not more than two feet of water at most. A fortnight since I fished the third pond, and in two hours' fishing had fifteen roach, but none over a quarter of a pound. I used an eighteen-feet rod, and then did not find more than three feet of water. There are jack in all the ponds, but fishing for them is strictly prohibited. I believe Sunday fishing is allowed at present but the Corporation think of stopping it.—I am, &c.,

A. George.

CARP (AND OTHER) FISHING AT WANSTEAD.

Sir,—For the information of your correspondent in last week's Gazette (Mr. G. T. Page), I beg to say that their are several ponds in Wanstead Park, which park has recently heen thrown open to the public by the Corporation of the City of London. I believe that fish abound in these ponds, but the ponds are so covered with lilies and candock weeds (two of them in particular) that they are next to unfishable. One of the ponds, much the larger of the three, contains some deep water in the middle, which could be reached only by a boat or punt, which vessel, however, is not to be obtained. If the Corporation could be induced to have these weeds removed and the bottom of these ponds cleansed, it would be a great boon to the Metropolitan anglers. Till these changes and improvements have been made, it would be worth no angler's while to go there with the idea of getting a basket of fish. If, however, Mr. Page would like to see the place himself and form his own opinion, the nearest station is Leytonstone. Fishing has, up to the present, been carried on on Sundays, but I fear with small results only.—I am, &c., J. F.

Sept. 20.

CARP FISHING AT WANSTEAD.

Sir,—In answer to Mr. G. T. Page, it is quite true that some fine carp fishing has been thrown open to the angling public at Wanstead, the ponds being situated in a park just formed from part of Epping Forest bordering upon Wanstead Flats, the entrance to which is near the residence of Alderman Finnis at Leytonstone.

There are three or four ponds, but, so far as I can see, but one is fishable, the others being completely grown up with weeds.

This one is of very considerable extent, covering an area of several acres, and containing, I should say, some capital fish, though the takes of roach and rudd up to the present have been but small, owing to the water not yet having been in condition.

When this is so, I opine there will be no cause for all the grumbling we hear about there being no fish in the water, for to my eye, which is somewhat that of an angler, it is a most fishy-looking spot.

There is no restriction as to fishing on Sunday, the only reservation made by the Corporation of London, who are the conservators, being the prohibition of the use of live bait.—I am, &c., Chemicus.

PIKE FROM THE WITHAM.

Sir,—Mr. R. Lovell, of Boston, secured a splendid jack on Saturday last (at Langrick) in the Witham; it measured 32 inches and weighed 15 lb. 10 oz.—I am, &c., F. G.

Boston Sept. 20.

FISHING CREELS.

SIR,—As regards creels, I never had a wicker one in my life. They are not good by any means, not only keeping your fish too dry and almost frizzled up, especially when the day is hot; but when the weather is wet, the water falls into your creel and then oozes out down your back. Even when the weather is fine and you have a basket full of fish, the wet and dirt therefrom come through the open wicker work and spoil your clothes. Here we use either creels made all of wood, or wood bottoms and tops and thin tin sides; or in some cases our creels are all of thin tin. Although not so light as the wicker ones, they keep the fish in nicer condition, the water or dirt cannot run out of them on to your back, and moreover, they are sufficiently strong to be used, when occasion requires, to sit upon. I have a very handy creel, mahogany bottom and top, tin sides, holds about 8½ or 9 lb. of trout; this, with heavy leather strap, weighs 1 lb. 13 oz.; another, all tin, holds 12 lb., weighs 1 lb. 14 oz., also including heavy strap. I have another, all tin, which holds 18 lb. or more, it is badly contrived, and will be nearly 2½ lb., but they could be made lighter. I should very much like to meet you in an angling expedition, and I have no doubt we could do so without quarrelling. We can scarcely do so this year; but renew the subject in the spring.—I am, &c.,

SPRINT.

Kendal.

DO TROUT EAT FROGS?

SIR,—The above was asked in your paper a few weeks ago. I have not had time to reply to it till now. "Yes." It is a most deadly bait when properly managed, but it must be used on certain nights and parts of the river. I should be sorry to inform your readers how to use so poaching a bait. I was shown the dodge some years ago by a native not a hundred miles away from the Curragh Camp. I don't know how many trout he did not take out with it in one night.—I am, &c.,

W. G. TURLE.

NORFOLK BROADS (WROXHAM).

SIR,—In reading your most valuable paper, I am sorry to see an unfortunate angler writes a very bad account of this splendid piece of water.

I am staying at Wroxham for a few days, and on Friday and Saturday had a turn at the bream. On Friday I caught with one rod and line 52 lb., and on Saturday 27 lb. of good bream. I kept no fish under 10 inches and weighed no fish under ¾ lb.; my largest was 2¾ lb., and the average was 1½ lb. The bream now want a lot of getting, as the nights are very cold. Were I to say how many I have caught in a day, a few years back, in July, I am sure many would doubt my word. The fish I took last week were seen by Mr. A. J. N. Chamberlin and several other gentlemen, who, I have no doubt, will endorse what I say. If Mr. W. Thomas got hold of a lazy fisherman, I am sorry he went out with him a second time. There are plenty of worms in Wroxham, which can be had for asking. If Mr. T. had gone to Norwich, he could have got no end at the tackle shops; but I hardly think it would pay a man to keep worms in Wroxham, as most anglers never leave home without their bait. The great secret of this water is ground bait. If I can at any time give a brother angler a tip about this broad, I shall be only too happy to do so. Any one who thinks of having a little fishing here, and is a stranger to the water, if he drops me a line to our club house, I will tell him all I know about the water and draw him a rough map of the best swims; at the same time, I have not had a great deal of fishing here, so the Norwich anglers could give better information than myself. Hoping next time Mr. Thomas comes to Wroxham he will find the fish on, I am, &c.,

W. A. VINCENT,
Hon. Sec. Watford Piscators.

Wroxham, Sept. 18.

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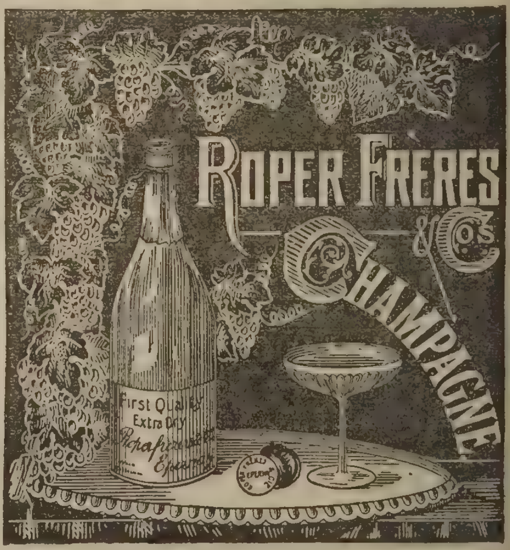

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1882.

TOUCHING PIKE: THEIR TRICKS AND THEIR MANNERS.

By J. P. Wheeldon.

I am often asked which is the best, most reliable, and certain, and at the same time the most sportsmanlike, method of killing pike. My answer is at all times ready and to hand, with regard to the latter portion of the query, but by no means so decided as to the former. Spinning and paternostering are unquestionably the most sportsmanlike styles, because, as a rule, the tackle used is lighter and more delicate in its construction, while at the same time the practice in its successful evolvement calls for infinitely harder work than others, together with the exercise of considerable judgment and accuracy of both hand and eye into the bargain.

Take paternostering with gut tackle and a single hook, as an example, and also by way of argument. To my mind, this is the very essence of angling science as applied to piking. I showed a bit of my paternoster tackle but the other day to the ancient custodian of a rare bit of pike water, to which, by-the-bye, I am shortly bound. It will, I am assured, be a pleasant trip, and the issue thereof I may possibly be enabled, with our good friend the editor's concurrence, to lay before the readers of the FISHING GAZETTE.

What was his comment (I mean the keeper's, of course)? Well, I'll even tell you, slightly uncomplimentary as it was personally.

He was a blunt and particularly plain spoken Yorkshireman. A person of crabbed and cranky looking exterior, while as honest as the sun. I should say, certainly, that his mental faculties were not quite so bright as the face of old Sol. Be that as it may, he took the yard or so of not over stout gut in his hand, and, feeling it all over with his broad thumb and finger, looking also carefully at the knots, for be it known I utterly eschew silk binding, where there is any probability of meeting with foemen worthy of my steel, he next unrolled the foot of fine gimp, and looked knowingly at the single hook, trying its point thoughtfully on the hardened ball of his thumb. Finally, he deliberately screwed one eye up in a singularly depreciatory manner, as though he valued both myself and my tackle at the lowest possible market price, and at last delivered himself of judgment in this wise,

"And thoo means too say mun as you can kill a twenty poond fish a' thatten?"

"Yes," said I stoutly, "and very likely if I had a bit of luck with it a thirty pounder to boot. What do you think of that?"

"Well, 'arm a plain mun, mind, and not to beat about t' bush like with ee, ar thinks its a dom'd lee."

Thus the keeper, an utter stranger to me, and a man who had probably never seen any really scientific fisherman operate in his life. Not that I desire, however, to lay the slighest claim to the title personally, but I think a similar verdict would have been that of a hundred others of similar kidney. Now what are the real facts of the case. A man goes salmon fishing, say, where he may possibly get hold of a magnificently vigorous fish, twenty or thirty pounds weight. This fellow will fight to its very last gasp, plunging, leaping, rushing off at express speed, and suddenly doubling back, like a hare on its tracks, playing, in fact, every known game in the category of piscine artfulness in the throat of a heavy run of water. He is content, is your angler, to tackle this kind of customer with a single gut and single hook, and frequently, very frequently, gets the best of the transaction. Another goes after what must certainly be dubbed a lubberly, cowardly foe, judged comparatively with a salmon, and it is supposedly necessary to use a coarse wire bound trace, in an attempt at its capture, aided by a perfect little armoury of hooks. Why?

There is in reality no good answer to the query; but I suppose it is principally based upon the fact that our angling forefathers used such tackle, and their sons therefore consider that what was right and proper then is the same now. "Besides," I have heard a pike angler say, "your jack is such a greedy, gormandising fool that he'll run at and bolt anything." True, at certain times and in certain waters, where he sees a selection of tackle perhaps five or six times in the course of the year; but to the pike, say, inhabiting the weedy lay-byes of the Thames or the Lea, and who see the stock in trade of all the tackle shops in London pretty well every day of their lives, it is, I fancy, another hymn, and it takes them some time to learn the tune.

One of the best practical fishermen that I ever met on the Thames in my life, Ned Andrews, of Maidenhead, to wit, many years ago now learnt me a telling lesson. I was out with him some time about October I fancy, and just when the last of the red, yellow, and amber brown leaves were swirling off the trees. We started one bright, frosty morning to fish down from Cookham Lock for pike, and all round the margin of that capital deep water under Cliefden Woods. I fancy this occasion was an early one in my acquaintance with Ned. I certainly saw him watching me narrowly as I fitted up the orthodox stout gimp spinning trace, with its attendant line of triple hooks. Then he took up the flight when all was ready, and quietly, and in the manner of the renowned Sim Tappertit, "eyed it over." He said nothing, but put up a little dace in his own capital style. Then I commenced, and in spite of bright water got run after run. But that was all. The fish ran at the lure, it is true, but they didn't hang on. At last came what I believe was Ned's wished-for opportunity. I hooked a 7 or 8 lb. fish, and when he saw me quickly drop the butt of the rod into the hollow of my thigh and play him decently off the reel, he produced a certain flat, square tin box. Out from this he took a simple Thames trouting trace of medium-sized gut, with a neat flight of hooks mounted on a short bit of fine white gimp. This being soaked a bit, he next stretched it well, trying the swivels separately and, by the bye, dropping a drip of oil from a phial bottle into each of them. Then he put up a fair sized bleak, touching it gingerly with well-wetted fingers as he popped the triangles in and gave it to me. I found it spin through the water like a flash of lightning.

"If you don't mind, sir," said Ned, half apologetically, "I think as I see you can kill a fish, I'd try this, sir. Waters very bright, sir, for the time of year, sir, and I fancy this bit of tackling of mine, sir, more than that of yourn, sir. Very good in its way, sir; but our waters gets fished so much, sir, and then there's the steam-launches and the swans, sir, a scaring the fish, sir, every day, sir." Excellent Ned, he dubs everybody "sir" five hundred times a day; but to show the quality of his judgment I need simply add that on the "fine tackle and little bait plan," every fish subsequently came at it with a deadly dash that meant murder, and I never missed or broke with one.

In paternostering for pike with single hook, I am convinced that half the fish that are missed are so lost through the operator neither giving them sufficient time, nor thinking about what he is doing. On certain occasions fish are ravenously hungry and come at the bait with a rush like a tiger's, stretching their jaws wide open, and taking it far into the capacious mouth at a snap. Then they turn it at once, and of course the thing is easy, while the difficulty is to miss them. If it should happen to be shallow water and the fish is a large one, one may see the swirl he makes as he dashes out from cover and then turns again for home. In such a case I should simply tighten up at once, and if I felt him pull, let him have it hot and sweet, if not strong. At the instant I hit him and I felt him go with another dash, I should pull at him a bit harder with a smart, yet gentle upward jerk, just sufficient to drive the hooks well home.

It must, however, be admitted that this happy state of things does not frequently obtain, particularly in waters that are fished to death, like the Thames and Lea. There your pike sails quietly and sagaciously up to the bait, you feel a gentle "snock" on the line, and away he goes again, equally as quietly and reflectively, often for some distance. If he feels the least pressure or strain he generally winds up the account and declines further business. I have over and over again seen anglers hit them the very instant they felt the joggle on the line, or just at the very moment they were moving away. Such men lose a lot of fish, and then they try to find comfort in such a phrase as this: "What infernal luck! I'd ha' bet a thousand pound to tuppence that was a twenty pounder." More likely, old fellow, to have been a five pounder, and at the time [illegible] you "hit" him he had the bait held just by the outside edge of the front teeth, while the hook itself was an inch at least clear of his jaws.

It is, of course, impossible to lay down a hard and fast law in anything concerning angling, so much has to be governed by place and circumstance. Admitted, yet equally as much should be governed by the simple process of reflective thought. For instance, suppose I were fishing down the side of a deep river where wooded banks jutted down to the water's edge, the trunks and branches of partially submerged trees, stretching far out, shaping themselves into little lay-byes and quiet sombre eddies. That sounds slightly like pike, what do you think? You do? Very good; and now say that the paternoster is dropped quietly down close to the edge of a mass of accumulated weeds, branches, rushes, and intermingled froth. "Just the very place for a big fish," says a bad judge even. And now say one gets an unmistakable pull. A very little time suffices here, and, moreover, it is dangerous to wait long, from the great probability that the fish, feeling something foreign to his general sense of the fitness of things in the matter of swallowing, and amalgamating a fat little roach or a lusty dace, instantly takes to edging farther back, among sunken roots, and such like horrors. Fancy a fifteen or a twenty-pounder quietly threading the intricacies of a place like the Maze at Hampton Court, with your tackle trailing behind. It won't bear fancying. Thus, if I did not feel some immediate "sign," such as a determined pull, or an outward move from cover, I should be inclined to tighten up at once, very gently, and feeling the fish, palpably strike at once. If the "feel of the rod" did not seem like business, and there was any suggestion that the gentleman was merely playing with the bait, then would I joggle at him with the point of the rod, a process which has the effect of perhaps making him think, if think he does at all, that his latest appropriation is trying its level best to escape, and instantly exciting his hungry conscience. Very probably he will turn it at once then, and if he does and pulls afresh, do you do likewise. If he is hooked, try at once to get him out from the hidden danger and keep him there. But above all, do not pull at him from above. Rather push the rod deep down into the water, and getting it opposite to his place of retreat, keep up a continuous heavy, even strain on his jaws, which possibly inducing toothache, may lead him to arrive at the conclusion that after all he has not got such a desirable family mansion as he had been induced to believe before later events had set in.

There is one drawback to paternostering, and that in my experience is demonstrated by the fact that when pike are in a "playful mood" there is nothing with which they take a greater series of liberties than a simple lip hooked bait. I have had a pike strike my bait over and over again, perhaps irretrievably mauling and smashing three or four good dace, and although the run has been all right so far as touch and appearance went, the only result of a strike was the spoliation or ruin of the bait. In such a case, and if you have no other tackle at hand, never waste time over such a cuss. But supposing that you have a paternoster snap hook, *i.e.*, a couple of good sharp double hooks with a small rider in lieu of the third of similar size, and thus forming the triangle, change the single at once, and put this little contrivance in its place. The lower rider hook should be slipped through the root of the rays of the dorsal fin, the upper into the lip. All being ready, drop the bait gently and quickly into the same place. If you get a run, as doubtless you will do from the gentleman emboldened by previous successes, give him a second or two, just to let him say his prayers and get the bait firmly in his teeth, and then, if possible, hit him smartly in an exactly reverse way to that in which he is going. Nine times out of ten the result will be in accordance with your inward wishes, and a few minutes afterwards you may revile him and his family in set and chosen phrase just as much as you like, as he lies on the grass at your feet, glaring up at you with his bright eye flashing malice as bitter as the sting of a rattlesnake, or the tongue of a perfect lady on a Sunday morning, whose newest dress has got puckers and creases all down the back.

Some of the ways and manners of your pike are very odd. One day he will not look at a paternoster bait, comparatively speaking, nor yet at one attached to snap tackle and float. Threadle a bait, however, with the needle, and he takes it at once. I hate the practice, for the same reason that I hate gorge fishing, namely, the great likelihood there is in its adoption of killing a lot of little fish, unworthy even of a schoolboy's bag. I only mention it, therefore, as an illustration of their peculiarities. So with spinning. I recollect once being out with a capital fisherman and friend, and having tried live baiting with snap, paternostering, and ledgering—a sometimes deadly practice in a deep hole—with an entire want of success, we made up our minds to finish the day with spinning. To it we went, with fresh hope burning in our bosoms. Splendid thing is hope, and fishermen want a large stock of it, always bottled up, and carried with the tobacco pouch and whiskey flask.

My friend commenced in the Thames style, casting from a coil, and throwing close up to the reeds on one side of the water. At the second cast or so, and although the fish had entirely declined our bait before, he shouted exultingly, "Got him," and the keeper stopped rowing the boat. He had another ten minutes afterwards, and a third, fourth, and fifth fish. I was throwing from the reel, "joggling" the point of the rod well in the act of spinning home, and not a touch could I get. Thought I, can it be that they like the sweep through the water—the sudden stop made by the action of spinning with the hand? I did not know, of course, but I tried it, and at the very first cast got a fish. Continuing, I killed as many as my friend, perhaps more, but the odd part of the thing was the events of the next day. We commenced spinning, and not one fish did we run in the Thames style. Then I wound up tight, and tried the Nottingham. I was with him in a second, and my friend following suit, we killed a splendid lot of fish. Who is there among the pikists of the FISHING GAZETTE that can give a really good and tangible reason for this queer variation of taste from one day to another on the part of the fish?

[We have in this paper often advised pike anglers to use salmon gut traces, with merely enough gimp to keep the pike's teeth away from the gut; and are delighted to find such a "pikist" as Mr. Wheeldon advocating the same thing. As we suggested last year, it would pay our tackle-makers to make up strong, stained gut traces three or four feet long, with three *brass* swivels (they do not rust) and six inches of gimp to loop the hooks on to.—Ed.]

SOME NOTES ON FISHING IN YORKSHIRE.

Information for Anglers.

By R. B. Marston.

The river Yore, at Ripon, is a fine stream, and although trout are said to be rather scarce, other fish are plentiful. The fishing is nearly all preserved by a club, but as there is only one keeper, who has also to look after some three miles of the Laver, it can hardly be very efficiently protected. Grayling are found in fair quantity and of good size. Mr. Collinson, proprietor of the Unicorn Hotel, a most comfortable house, can give leave to fish on the club water to any visitor staying at his hotel. There are great numbers of coarse fish, pike, barbel, chub, roach, dace, perch, &c., in the Yore, and a Thames or Trent adept would make some heavy bags amongst these fish. I was informed by Mr. Gell (one of the members of the club, whose courtesy during my short visit to Ripon I must cordially acknowledge) that a friend of his, the other day took fourteen pike in a short time and with a new spinning bait of his own devising. As this angler got fourteen fish out of fifteen runs, I trust he will not elect to keep his new bait to himself. The novelty consists, Mr. Gell tells me, in some peculiar arrangement of the hooks. There is a lot of heavy, dead water below Ripon, between the streams, which has every appearance of holding good pike. A rank poaching method of taking barbel is practised on the Yorkshire Yore and Wharfe. The natives assemble at night at such places as are known to hold barbel, and by the light of torches spear the fish in the simplest way. The men go into the water, and the fish are "stuck" as they lie motionless, on the bottom, apparently quite dazed by the light. As I said before, if one or two of our Thames or Trent barbel anglers were to pay a visit to Ripon and bait one or two of the strong streams two or three miles below, they would get some enormous takes.

No one fishes for these barbel, and "blazing" takes place but rarely now. I expect it is done when the fish are on the spawning beds, and the Freshwater Fisheries Act has made this a dangerous game. I saw some local anglers spinning for pike from the reel in the Nottingham style, but with heavy lines and coarse tackle. Perch, roach, dace, chub, &c., abound in the Yore below Ripon. The bottom fisher will also find good tench and jack fishing in some ponds, about three miles from Ripon. The best trout and grayling fishing on the Yore, near Ripon, is about five miles up-stream, at Tanfield, one of the most prettily situated villages in England. Mr. Walbran had strongly recommended me to have a day or two at Tanfield, and take up my abode at the Bruce Arms. This very capital inn is close to the railway station, and is much frequented by rod and gun sportsmen. I found one or two local anglers in the bar, and one of them, Mr.——, very kindly mended my landing net for me. He told me the trout were "dead off the feed," and would look at nothing, but that I might get a grayling or two and a few dace. After writing some letters in answer to Gazette correspondents—how those letters will follow one all over the country—I put on macintosh cap, coat, and wading boots, for it was raining hard, and walked down to the bridge, only a minute's walk from the inn. The fishing is free below the bridge, as far as the weir, perhaps half a mile, and above the bridge for some two or three miles, and permission to fish in the preserved waters above and below is rarely refused. It was at the mill below Tanfield that Jackson lived and wrote his capital work on "Fly-fishing for Grayling or Umber."

The view from Tanfield Bridge is an extremely pretty one; close above you on the right bank is the village, with a picturesque row of houses lining the ridge above the river, their gardens sloping down to its edge, some of them most tastefully laid out; then comes the old church, "restored" by Sir John Gilbert, then the massive ruins of a Marmion stronghold. Tanfield was the home of the Marmion family. The keep was built by the first Lord Marmion; the last time I had seen anything connected with this celebrated family was when fishing near Flodden Field, where the last of them fell, and where, according to Scott, those well known martial lines—

"Charge Chester, charge!
On, Stanley on!"
Were the last words of Marmion.

Beyond the village and church and tower, the wooded ridge rises and makes a bold curve, forming a barrier to the river's course and causing it to make a complete half circle; the left bank is flat and the land spreading out from the river is dotted with plantations and mapped out into meadows, corn-fields, and homesteads. Below the bridge the view is less varied, but still beautiful, as indeed is almost every mile of the Yore between Askrigg and Tanfield or Ripon. But to the angler, the most attractive feature in the landscape is the fine river. It would be difficult to imagine a more fishful-looking stream than the Yore presents from Tanfield Bridge. Plenty of rushing water for trout, long quieter flats for grayling, and deep, still pools in which the dace literally swarm. But to return to my fishing. Being a stranger to this part of the water, I was at first at a loss to know which way to go; finally I decided to cross the bridge and fish up the left side, and for this reason, the river, though of a nice fly-colour was full, and I knew the fish would be found in the shallows out of the main stream. I had not made many casts before I got a rise and hooked a good fish, which fought well, and proved to be a trout a trifle over a pound in weight, then I caught some half-dozen samlets, then another trout, also just over a pound and lost another similar fish. I should mention that a trout of a pound is considered rather an exceptional fish. My next takes were a grayling and a good dace. It was now lunch time, and I returned to the inn, having only been about half a mile up the river. Finding lunch was not ready, I went down to the bridge again, having seen some good fish rising just below, and in half-an-hour got another half-pound grayling and three brace of very fine dace. Miss Kemball weighed the fish, and remarked that she wished all anglers who came there had such sport, then they would not go away saying there were no fish in the river. After lunch I got another brace of half-pound grayling and two dace. The flies I found killed best were the red-quill gnat, the honey-dun bumble, and Eaton's "little red." I had another day and a half at Tanfield and got some good grayling and dace. The samlets ("blue-backs" the locals call them) are a terrible nuisance in the Yore, you cannot keep them off your line; the dace are equally plentiful, but considerately confine themselves chiefly to the long, deep pools. The best fishing I am told is at Hackfall, about four miles up-stream, but it is preserved by Lord Ripon, and my time was too limited to get a permit from the steward, H. Morton, Esq., of Ripon. I fished up nearly to

Mickley, and was delighted with the splendid streams which one finds all the way between the "Rocky streams" and Mickley. I hope it may not be long before I find myself again at Tanfield, and in company with Mr. Walbran. At the Bruce Arms, both Mrs. and Miss Kemball do everything to make their visitors comfortable; the cooking is first-rate, and the charges very moderate. What more can an angler want? I only regretted I had wasted so much time fishing the Laver, a pretty enough brook, but containing only small and poorly-fed fish.

The Wharfe.

Mr. Walbran happened to be staying at Pool, on the Wharfe, when I was at Ripon, and he very kindly invited me to spend a a day or two with him, in order that I might judge for myself regarding that river about which there has been so much discussion in the Gazette. Pool is a large village, and when, after a very dark walk from the station, I got to the White Hart, late at night, I found Mr. W. had gone to bed, as he had not received my letter saying I was coming; however, he sent word that he would be down immediately, and we had a long pleasant chat and smoke together. Mr. W. suggested I should take the train to Ilkley in the morning, to fish the Ilkley Club water, and he would be able to have a day with me on the Otley Club water afterwards. The free fishing at Pool is limited to two fields (one above and one below the bridge) belonging to the landlord of the White Hart, who imposes no restrictions on angling from his ground; this is a great boon to local anglers, and indeed, from Leeds and other places anglers come to fish this water, and the short length below the paper-mill, a quarter of a mile above the bridge, which is free to residents in Pool, strangers being charged sixpence a day. The White Hart being full, I shared a large bed-room with two sons of our host. I had a long talk with one of them, who is fond of bottom fishing; he informed me that the hole below the paper-mill was a noted spot for bottom fishing; the paper-mill stream here joins the river again, and after a fresh good takes were often had with wasp-grub, gentles and egg-paste. Having a suspicion that egg-paste meant prepared salmon eggs, I asked him how it was made, and as it appears to be a very favourite and killing bait for trout, roach, chub, dace, with Wharfe anglers, I will describe how it is made.

Egg-paste—A New Bait.

Take two or three new laid eggs, break the shells and carefully separate the yolks from the whites, without breaking the yolks; then put the yolks into a clean basin near the fire, and while they get gently warm keep stirring until a thick paste is formed; the bait is then ready for use. The whites are boiled hard, cut up into small pieces, and used as ground bait. To bait the hooks the fingers must be wet, or the paste sticks to them, and then a piece of the paste is worked on to the hook, making an almond-shaped yellow bait. The secret is to get the yolks into a proper paste, as if too thin it sticks to the fingers. A properly made paste sticks on the hook well, not dissolving in the water. My informant told me that Mr. Hammill of Leeds had had some splendid baskets of trout and dace with this bait at the paper-mill swim; but it is only late in the evening or when the water is coloured that bottom fishing is of much use, as ordinarily the river is as clear as glass. I must, however, do "Creel" the justice to say that I was at first at a loss to understand this undoubted purity after fishing up past Otley, where I saw many small outfalls of small sewers, some of which were pouring their horrid contents into the river, and Wharfe anglers would do well to get this nuisance abated if possible. I am certain no member of the Otley club will deny that these sewers exist, or that they must do some harm. That the injury is very small indeed at present, is clearly proved by the brightness of the water and the large quantities of fine fish which it contains. Even the American brook trout (*salmo fontinalis*) which were introduced by the Otley Club a few years ago, have not only lived but thriven well. I account for this general purity of the river in this way: there is always a strong body of water coming down; the mills at Pool, Otley, and elsewhere, dam back the water when not at work, when it is let on again it comes with a rush which soon clears away the sewage. Floods, which clear all refuse before them, are not infrequent on the Wharfe. These agents, *at present*, are more than sufficient, I think, to keep the river pure, and, as I have before said, I would not wish to fish in clearer waters than those preserved by the Ilkley and Otley Clubs, and it can hardly be doubted they will do all in their power to keep them so.

Mr. Walbran informed me I could get a day ticket for the Ilkley Club water, which extends from Ilkley to Ben-Rhydding. I went to Ilkley by rail, got a ticket, (price half-a-crown) at the Rose and Crown Inn, and then fished down to Ben Rhydding. I found some capital streams and pools, but the fish would not rise, except in one stream, and that was fairly alive with rising grayling feeding on the small black midge—the "angler's curse." I spent an hour over those fish only once pricking one. I tried the finest gut and the smallest midge flies, then I tried the finest hair. I tried a single fly floating, in fact, I tried everything and had to confess myself again utterly beaten by this black midge. I have had similar experiences on the grayling streams of Derbyshire and elsewhere. On the Dove, for instance, I fished for some hours amongst grayling rising all round me at the black midge, and only got a trout or two. A few days later, at the same spot, I got seven brace of grayling, but the midge was not present, a small dun taking its place. Finding it was useless to go on fishing, I had some lunch at an hotel at Ben Rhydding, and left by an early train for Pool. There is a good stock of fine fish in the Ilkley water, I saw them in the clear, deep pools. The next day, Mr. Walbran having procured tickets from the courteous secretary of the club, Mr. Pratt, of Otley, we both fished the Otley Club water, and fully anticipated making a dish between us. We fished some splendid streams most carefully, but without getting a rise or seeing one. At last, on a flat a little above where the Washburn stream comes in, we saw some grayling rising. I said, "Now, Mr. Walbran, I will have a pipe while you see what you can do against the black midge, for that is what they are rising at." "Holy Moses!" said Mr. W., "just look at them rising, the place is alive with them, I ought to get one or two of those fellows." Mr. W. throws a splendid fly, and had armed himself with a killing trio of wee Wharfe flies; like snow flakes his flies fell over the rising fish; he, too, tried all he knew, but in vain, not a touch could he get. We held a consultation and smoked a pipe over it; in the course of the day we held many consultations and smoked many pipes over it, for it was the same all through. In the majority of the streams not a fish was moving, while here and there they were feeding madly at the "curse," but there was too much method in their madness by far! It was some consolation to meet some of the best anglers in the Otley Club and find they could "do nothing;" one of them had three fish. When we got home and turned out our baskets, we could only muster between us five trout and a grayling! No wonder Mrs. Walbran was gently sarcastic over our dish, and threatened to send an account to the Gazette. However, she had had a capital dinner prepared for us, and after doing full justice to that, we had another long consultation and smoke over angling matters in general, and the "black midge" in particular, wisely coming to the conclusion that if there were no blank days, success would become rather monotonous.

BARBEL IN THE THAMES.

The present season has far eclipsed many previous ones in the successful capture of barbel, and completely disposes of the assumptions that have been made as to the scarcity of those fish in the Thames. From Kingston to Staines the reports of barbel fishing have far exceeded anything I have previously received. The last two numbers of the Fishing Gazette have recorded extraordinary captures of barbel from the rod of Mr. Alfred Nuthall at Kingston, and on Monday morning this week he took sixteen more and one trout. Although Mr. Nuthall has been singularly fortunate in his takes of barbel, other anglers have been getting some average sport. The report of John Johnson, senior, of Kingston, this week says, "I have been getting a nice lot of barbel, from ten to twenty in the day, and my son John has also been well in amongst them." The intermediate places between Kingston and Staines have produced some capital results, notably at Hampton Court and Shepperton, where Mr. M. H. Blamey has been so successful amongst both barbel and bream. At Staines Mr. Currie Banfield has made some monster captures of barbel, commencing on "the opening day" of the season with 90 lb. weight of fish, and he has been keeping the game alive ever since. I have just received the following report from William Milbourne at Hampton Court. He says, "John Smith one day got thirteen barbel, the next day eight, and the following day seventeen." It will thus be seen that barbel fishing in the Thames is a substantial reality, and that the present season is likely to be the best we have had for many years. It is not confined to one special portion of the river; and the reason why some places have been better than others is that they have been better fished, and more preparation made for the fishing. I should be glad to hear of some good doings at Sunbury, as there is some good barbel ground in that neighbourhood, and Messrs. T. and A. Stroud I know always keep a good stock of lob-worms for their customers.

B.

A SMALL FISHING POND WANTED.

The Editor of this paper will be much obliged if some of his readers will kindly inform him if they happen to know of any small pond (fed either by a stream or springs, within ten or twenty miles of London), which it would be possible to rent for a number of years. Address—The Editor of the Fishing Gazette, 12 and 13, Fetter Lane, London, E.C.

THAMES ANGLING BY ROYALTY.

SOME Thames anglers in the tidal waters may like to know that their portion of the river has been patronized by members of the royal family. Two of Mr. Perrin's punts were taken out on Monday last, under the charge of J. Dobbin and J. Spong. One of these punts, occupied by H.S.H. Prince Adolphus of Teck and Mr. Freeborn, made a take of three and a half dozen of roach and dace, and the other by H.S.H. Prince Francis Joseph of Teck and the Rev. J. H. Walthew, who took five dozen of roach and dace. At the conclusion of the day, the youthful princes said they had spent a very pleasant day, and returned home quite satisfied with the sport they had. The father of these youthful princes is H.S.H. the Duke of Teck, the Patron of the Richmond Piscatorial Society. B.

QUALITY OF LONDON WATER SUPPLY.

FROM the report on the composition and quality of daily samples of the water supplied to London, for the month ending August 31, 1882, by Messrs, Crookes, Odling, and Tidy, we learn that of the 182 samples from the mains of the seven London Water Companies, one was recorded at slightly turbid, and one as very slightly turbid; these were from the West Middlesex Company. The remaining 180 samples were found to be bright, clear, and efficiently filtered.

"With regard to the general state of the water in respect of its freedom from turbidity, we would draw special attention to the circumstance, that out of the 1074 samples of water examined by us during the six months ending August 31, and despite the frequent storms of July and August, twenty samples only, or less than 2 per cent. were recorded as 'very slightly turbid,' and seven samples only, or less than ¾ of a cent., as 'slightly turbid.'

In respect of colour, aeration, and freedom from excess of organic matter, the excellent condition of the water, as noted in our previous reports, has been fully maintained."

FAMILIAR WILD BIRDS.

UNDER this captivating title Messrs. Cassell and Co. have just issued Part I. of a new work by W. Swaysland. It will be published in sixpenny monthly parts, each part to contain two plates of birds in colours. The wild bird and the wild flower are things which add immensely to the charms of angling; it is only necessary to try and picture for a moment what angling would be *without* them, to get an idea of their value. Messrs. Cassell have already given us a standard work on wild flowers, and this on birds bids fair to be a worthy companion volume. We hope to see the kingfisher and the water ousel in an early part, and can promise Messrs. Cassell great success with their new venture amongst all lovers of nature. The angler who has no love of nature in him is only fit to be a companion for Shakespeare's "man that hath no music in himself."

NOTICES OF BOOKS &c.

Messrs. Cassell and Co. have just issued the first part of a serial edition of "The Arabian Night's Entertainments," to be completed in sixteen monthly numbers. The work will be fully illustrated by about 400 wood engravings, after drawings by Gustave Doré and other artists. Part I. is nicely printed in clear characters, and is all that could be desired.

"The Sea; Its Stirring Story of Adventure, Peril, and Heroism," is another of Messrs. Cassell's reprints, and is beautifully printed and choicely illustrated. With Part I. a presentation plate is given, entitled "Saved," from the painting by J. D. Watson. It measures 28½ by 21 inches. A coloured plate, inserted as frontispiece, gives "The Naval Flags of the World."

A FINE ROACH LINE.—Mr. A. W. Warner, of 35, Cannon Street, Birmingham, sends us one of his "new hand-made roach lines, warranted not to kink." It is a really beautiful line, extremely fine and yet of, for its fineness, extraordinary strength. It is composed entirely of silk of extra long fibre, and made entirely by hand. Sixty yards cost only two shillings. It appears to us to be just the line for the Nottingham style of fishing from the reel.

FACEACHE, TOOTHACHE, PAINS IN THE GUMS, NEURALGIA. —ADAM SMITH'S NEURALGINE is a Certain Cure. Bottles, 1s. 1½d., 2s. 9d. Post free from Proprietor, Chemist, Wednesbury. London Agent, W. EDWARDS, 157, Queen Victoria Street.

EXTRACTS FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

WE have much pleasure in drawing the attention of donors, annual subscribers, and members of the Anglers' Benevolent Society to the satisfactory financial position of that institution as shown in the statement of accounts, but at the same time desire to impress upon all members of the now numerous angling societies the necessity of giving a more extended and warm support to the society, in order that in course of time its continued existence may be firmly secured by the formation of an invested fund. Could this happily be accomplished, the day would not be distant when some provision might be made for permanently disabled members. This, of course, is a work of time and perseverance; but is also a task which may be cheerfully faced, seeing how the society has steadily won its way in the esteem of the angling community.

We once more earnestly entreat the secretaries of angling societies to lose no opportunity of commending to the notice of their members the Anglers' Benevolent Society, and the desirability of every club angler according it his hearty support.

In conclusion, we desire to tender our thanks to the Gresham Angling Society, to the Richmond Piscatorial Society, and to Mr. Marston for their conspicuously strenuous and successful efforts to increase the funds of our steadily prospering institution.

We Remain, Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servants,
THE COMMITTEE.

N B.—Collection boxes for the receipt of small donations will be supplied to angling societies desirous of placing such in their club rooms, and may be had on application to the secretary of the Anglers' Benevolent Society.

AUDITORS' REPORT ON ACCOUNTS, 1881-2.

Comparing the income of this year to April 1882 with that of the previous year 1881 it will be found that there is an increase in donations this year of		12 10 3
There has also been a slight increase in the annual subscriptions of	0 14 0	
And in the members subscriptions of	7 17 1	
And interest	0 11 4	
	9 2 5	9 2 5
		21 12 8
But nothing having been received this year for Piscatorial Exhibition Benefit Tickets causes a falling-off of	2 5 0	
And members' subscription unpaid ..	0 6 6	
	2 11 6	2 11 6
Thus there is a net increase in receipts for the year 1881-2 of		19 1 2
As to expenditure I have to report that the grants to members are less than the previous year, by ..	15 10 0	
But the expenses have increased by	4 18 3	
Showing a net decrease in outlay of	10 11 9	10 11 9
This year a saving has been made of	32 19 7	
Whereas the saving in previous year was only ..	3 6 8	
Increased saving this year over last	29 12 11	29 12 11

PROGRESS

April 30th, 1882, *compared with April 30th*, 1881.

GAIN.

	Members.	
14 clubs have joined this year	137	
17 do. have increased their subscribers ..	86	
2 do. who discontinued last year have re-joined this year	22	
Total members gained	245	245

LOSS.

	Members.	
17 clubs have fallen off this year, loss	64	
8 do. discontinued this year, loss	36	
Total members lost	100	100
NET increase of members		145

TROUT IN THE WAVENEY.

GREAT interest will be felt in an experiment which is being tried by the Norfolk and Suffolk Fish Acclimatization Society in introducing trout into the upper waters of the Waveney. The species of trout adopted for the experiment is the Loch Leven trout, which it is believed is well adapted for the Norfolk and Suffolk waters, and in the rearing of which the society has been very successful this year; the ova having been hatched at the society's establishment at Lowestoft, and the fry subsequently "nursed" by permission of Lord Suffield, in a stream at Gunton Park. Having more than was required for private customers, the society determined to distribute some of their surplus stock in the open waters in the two counties, and, as we have said, a commencement was made with the Waveney. Mr. Harry Bullard, of Norwich, most kindly placed his steam launch at the services of the committee—"well-found" in every respect—and those who have experienced Mr. Bullard's hospitality will know what that means; and the young trout were taken on board at Whitlingham, whither they were brought from Gunton by railway, under the care of Mr. Oldham Chambers, the honorary secretary of the society, in cans adapted for the purpose. After a delightful trip on a lovely autumnal morning, Beccles was reached soon after noon, where the Mayor of Beccles (Mr. W. M. Crowfoot), Mr. J. E. Crisp (one of the Haven and Pier Commissioners), and Mr. W. Everett, as representatives of the Waveney and Oulton Fisheries Protection Society, joined the party, which consisted of Mr. C. Louis Buxton, Mr. J. Stanley, Mr. J. B. Pearce, Mr. W. O. Chambers, and Mr. H. W. Stafford—Mr. E. Birkbeck, M.P., Sir Reginald Beauchamp, Bart., Colonel Custance, and other members of the committee, being unavoidably prevented by other engagements from being present. The progress from Beccles upwards was somewhat slow, owing to the prevalence of weeds and the winding character of the river, but Ellingham Mills was safely reached, and here, in a pretty little off-shoot of the Waveney, with a nice gravelly bottom, the first deposit of the young trout was made, a number were also placed in a side stream near the mills, which seems equally fitted for the purpose. Some of the young trout were from five to six inches long, and well capable, it is to be hoped, to take care of themselves against the perch and pike. There was a remarkable variation in size in the lot, some diminutive ones not measuring more than from two to three inches, although they were all hatched at the same time and reared under precisely similar circumstances. From Ellingham the launch proceeded to Wainford Mills, Bungay, where the party were most hospitably received by Mr. Mann, jun., in the absence of Mr. R. C. Mann, and here another batch of the trout were placed in the pretty back stream that runs past Mr. Mann's lawn. From the mills to Bungay staithe was but a short trip, and a horse and cart, lent by Mr. Mann, was in readiness to convey the cans of fish to the residence of Mr. Norton, abutting on the Waveney, where the rest of the trout were committed to the river, and the work of the day accomplished. The fish were all in admirable condition, thanks to the care bestowed upon them during the voyage, and it is to be hoped they will thrive and breed, so that in time we may see the Waveney well stocked with these fine fish. To further this object, we trust that all anglers will take care to put any that may be caught this year and next back into the river uninjured; the poachers must be the care of the Waveney and Oulton Fisheries Protection Society. It is intended to distribute some more of the trout in the upper waters and tributaries of the Norfolk rivers.—*Norfolk Chronicle*.

[We trust that this experiment will be successful. Mr. W. O. Chambers very kindly sent us a specimen of the trout introduced; it was a beautifully grown little fish, and a wonderful size, considering it was in the egg state last February, it was five inches in length.—Ed.]

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTS ANGLERS' PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday evening, September 20, the second annual meeting of this association was held at Mr. Packer's, the Minstrel Tavern, at Mark Street, when there was a crowded meeting of delegates from various clubs connected with the society. Mr. Caurah was elected chairman, and Mr. Clarke, the secretary, read his report of the past year, in which he showed the president, Mr. Coxon, and the whole of the committee had worked very hard to preserve the angler's rights, and also to prevent those dastardly practices of blowing up fish by dynamite, they had prosecuted some, while others had been cautioned. He also, in the name of the executive, thanked the Waltonian Society for the grant of £5, which had been given to one of the members, for information which led to a conviction of two men, near Ratcliffe, together with £5 granted from the association. He urged the necessity of combination, which was the only way in which to gain those rights and privileges that had been gradually stolen from them.

He also submitted the balance sheet, which showed that the cash left in treasurer's hands last year was £31 2s. 5d., the contributions from August to December, 1881, being £19 9s. 6d., and those from January to June, 1882, £20 9s. 6d., the total receipts amounting to £71 11s. 5d., as against that the expenditure was £34 4s. 5½d., so that the balance remaining in the treasurer's hands was £37 6s. 11½d. The report was unanimously received, and the secretary was subsequently re-elected. Mr. Henry Coxon was unanimously re-elected president, Mr. Cottrell, vice-president, and Mr. Henry Benson, treasurer.

Mr. Wilkinson spoke of the advantages and kindness of the Midland and Great Northern Railway Companies, and said he had no doubt the president would do his best to encourage the companies to extend the privileges for travelling to the members of the Association. Votes of thanks were accorded to the retiring officers, when the meeting was brought to a close, feeling satisfied that the association was on the right side of improvement.

George James Eaton, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether the may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[Advt.]

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS

By L. B.

"Where to fish Round London"—David Bogue—is, as its title conveys, a guide intended principally for the metropolitan angler, and is likely to prove a useful little volume. It, however, contains a number of inaccuracies—perhaps not altogether avoidable in the first edition of a work of this kind. For instance, we are told that at and below Richmond the usual charge for a man and punt is five shillings per day, above Richmond seven shillings and the puntsman's dinner. Again, mention is made of the Rickmansworth Preservation Society, whereas there is no such society in existence; also that the Huntingdon Angling Association preserve the water (Ouse) for the benefit of anglers generally. This was so some two or three years ago, but the water has since been taken up by the Huntingdon Angling Society for the use of its members, the terms of membership being 10s. 6d. per annum, which, I believe, confers the privilege of introducing a friend.

It is also a pity that the matter contained in the interesting chapter —"What the Anglers are Doing," treating principally of London associations, clubs, and the reduced railway fares—is two or three years old. Our friend, Mr. P. Geen, who is referred to several times, is persistently dubbed Mr. Green. Though the two principal associations are duly referred to, the existence of the third or Central Association is totally ignored in the list of fares and stations to which concessions are issued. There have been made a number of reductions and additions respectively within the last two or three years, notably upon the London and North Western, Great Western, and Great Eastern Railways. The list of angling clubs has also within the same period been swelled from 92 to 159, as per list issued in spring of present year, which, moreover, show there have been numerous alterations in the locale, meetings, secretaries, &c., in the list of 92 societies published in "Where to Fish Round London." Finally, the matter contained in this little book might advantageously have been extended to double its quantity, and had some ampler particulars been given as to the nature of the fishing of such important rivers as the Wey, Mole, &c., they would have been gladly welcomed by metropolitan seekers after piscatory knowledge.

A No. 2 West Central Association District visit was paid the St. John's Angling Society, Three Compasses, Cow Cross Street, Farringdon Street, on Wednesday evening, the 20th. The chair was ably filled by our good friend, Mr. Thorling; Mr. Hall proving an efficient *vis à vis* in the vice. There was a capital room-full; six clubs in the district, viz., Amicable Brothers, City of London, Globe, St. John's, Sir Hugh Myddleton, and the Trafalgar, and four other societies, viz., North Western, Golden Barbel, Piscatorial, and the Buckland being numerously represented. The singing was throughout excellent. The following, among others, contributed to the harmony of the evening: Messrs. Thorling, Hall, Joy, Matthews, Gooch, Stevens, Bonvoisin, Franklin, Bell, Murray (chairman Central Association), Fowler, Lewis, Stevens, &c. The success of the evening was further enhanced by the kind services of Messrs. Hill, Newton, and Drew, who accompanied the various singers on the harmonium, violin, and flute, respectively. The meeting was brought to a close with a hearty vote of thanks to the chair and vice-chair. The St. John's Angling Society since its removal to its present address, has increased from under a score of members to considerably over forty, and its progress in other particulars has been equally marked. I am told much of this prosperity is owing to its having a jolly and popular landlord, and I readily believe it. The next visit goes to the Sir Hugh Myddleton Angling Society, Empress of Russia, St. John Street Road, not later than 7th October.

A visit was paid the Amicable Brothers' Angling Society at the Bald Faced Stag, Worship Square, Finsbury, on Monday evening last, which was very well attended. I dropped in very late, and only for a little while, but not so late but I heard Mr. Imey Da Costa's feelingly rendered version of that beautiful song "The Ploughboy."

The Alliance Anglers have removed from the Old Red Lion, Great Warner Street, Clerkenwell, to the Clerkenwell Tavern, Farringdon Road. Their meetings will, as usual, be held on Friday evenings, when brother anglers who have an hour to spare and will drop in will be made heartily welcome.

The usual monthly meeting of the United London Anglers' Central Committee will take place at the Bald Faced Stag, Worship Square, Finsbury, on Monday evening next.

There was a rare lot of anglers at Rickmansworth on Saturday and Sunday last, including Mr. T. Hoole, but there were very few fish indeed taken.

The delegates annual dinner at the Rye House on Sunday last was a perfect success, though the attendance was not so large as it has been on some previous occasions.

Haslett, of Chertsey, writes he has had, during three days' fishing, 9 barbel, 3 chub, and 1 perch; and on Wednesday, which would have been a grand bream day but for a very heavy hailstorm, 11 bream, heaviest fish 5 lb.

Gregory's Spinning Baits. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[Advt.]

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RIVER REPORTS

MID-THAMES.

> "Amongst the views of many, mine."
> —SHAKESPEARE.

The weeds are rotting fast and good sport may now be depended upon amid the jack, and also by wormists among roach and chub. The river is slightly coloured from the heavy rain of last week, so roach should be well on for the Thames "Piscatorial" contest, which takes place on Monday next. Thursday evening: River in fine all-round trim; roach, perch, chub and jack should now be had, all of which, in consequence of an interview I had with them yesterday, are in the pink of fighting condition, and in accordance with the traditions of Her Majesty's angling army, will not be backward in coming forward in the course of a day or so.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Ancholme District.

I went out on Tuesday for a few final throws at the trout, and caught three fine fish, also one *Salmo fontinalis*, which was one of the batch turned out by me in April last. As an evidence of the way in which they thrive in the chalk streams in Lincolnshire, I may say that this pretty little fish, though only hatched in March, was just 6 inches long. It was injured too severely to throw back again, so I took it home, as a sample, to show some piscatorial friends. The stream in which these fish are placed would soon be beautifully stocked were it not for some local breweries which make sad havoc with my *protégés*. A perch of 2 lb. was caught about a week ago in the Ancholme, and the pike have begun to feed, some fair specimens having fallen to the rods of both locals and visitors. The best fishing places continue to be between Brigg and Brandy Wash. Roach have taken paste during the past week, but gentles are a still better bait.—THOMAS FORD.

Camel and Inney (Cornwall).

The weather of late in this district has been cold, with northerly winds and showers, and this has prevented anything like fishing with success or comfort. During the last few days the weather has changed, the river has been flooded, and sport amongst the large fish is eagerly anticipated. The river is subsiding now, and I may say I never saw it in better condition. Flies: Cinnamon, willow, whirling blue dun, and Palmer. These, dressed large, particularly the latter with a yellow tail, will kill peel and salmon. Two large worms are the best bait for the larger fish. Minnows: Devon bait and brass minnows, with stout gut attached.—H. O. PENGELLY.

Chichester.

The weather during the past week has been favourable for rodsters, but the water is getting woefully low, nearly two feet less than its ordinary depth. Fish may be seen in myriads; some good ones among them, yet takes worth mention are few. Some years since the basin was noted for its carp, grand fish being taken daily. Then a few seasons later bream were well on in all parts of the canal, from twenty to thirty pounds before breakfast being an ordinary occurrence. Roach, too, gave good sport, heavy bags being realised. The great influx of anglers the past few seasons has materially altered the prospects, heavy takes being the exception rather than the rule. Yet, withal, this season at present has been an improvement on the last. Fish there are, but feed they won't. With colder mornings they should bite more freely, but at present I hear of nothing worth chronicling in the large way.—GEORGE F. SALTER.

Derwent (Chatsworth).

There has been a great change in the weather, which has greatly improved the river. Somehow or other fish had not been biting so well, owing, no doubt, to the water being rather low, and that the fish, being sickly, were off the feed in consequence. Since the heavy rains rodsters have been doing remarkably well, killing chiefly with the bumble, honey dun, and little blue dun, and have caught baskets averaging about ten brace. There has been a quantity of anglers on the river this last day or so.—WHEATSHEAF HOTEL.

Dove.

Grayling sport at this river since I last wrote has been excellent, many large dishes having been killed—in fact, doings have been more remunerative than I ever remember in the past. The most destructive flies have been the October dun (small), the grey palmer, and the bumble. Coarse fish of all descriptions are taking the worm and maggot freely, and though rain is falling this (Wednesday) evening I don't fancy it will make much difference in the volume of water in the river. Prospects for next week seem, in fact, to be about all that can be desired.—THE SPLODGER.

Eden (Carlisle).

The river rose a full foot last night and is rather muddy to day, but will be in fine order for the fly to morrow. It is generally reported that a good many more whiting are to be seen jumping in the lower reaches of the river, but as yet I have not heard of any good takes. Very few salmon showing, but we expect the heavy tides of this week will improve matters. A nice grilse of 7 lb. was killed with the rod below Carlisle on Tuesday evening. With regard to your enquiry about the Penrith Club, it is still in existence, and is known as the Eden and Eamont Angling Association, the hon. sec. being Francis Parker, Esq., of Acorn Bank Penrith. Since the lamented death of Sir Richard Musgrave, of Edenhall, the president of the Association, and a fine specimen of an English country gentleman. They have lost a long stretch of their best water, viz., from Armathwaite up to Lagonby on the best side, but they have still some fine trout water higher up. I have not heard any particulars of the takes of trout in that district this season but have no doubt that 10 to 14 lb. was a common thing in April and May.—SILVER GREY.

Exe (Tiverton).

The river is slightly coloured with the rain, but risen only a little. Three salmon were killed on Saturday last in the lower portion of the water; nothing has been done this week. With a falling barometer there is a prospect of more rain. Should we get enough to raise the river to enable fresh fish to run up, some fair sport may be expected.—WM. MUDFORD.

Gade (Boxmoor).

The water very clear and full of weeds. Mr. Davay, of Boxmoor, two trout 4 lb.; Mr. Franklen, 3 jack, one 3 lb., one $3\frac{1}{2}$ lb., and one 2 lb.; myself, 3 perch, $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. each. The bait for trout and jack was minnow, and red worm for the perch.—R. COMBER.

[Will Mr. Comber please inform us in his next report how much free fishing can be had near Boxmoor?—ED.)

Ilfracombe.

Sea fishing has been going on this week with little variation. Boats with their fishing parties are out every day. There are no large quantities of fish to report; their average catches are from 10 lb. to 20 lb. per boat per tide, mostly whiting pout and pollack; occasionally a few conger eel and wraff are caught. The weather is so changeable that parties are afraid to venture down farther than fresh water, and now the strong spring tides make it difficult to pull against. I have seen several strings of fish pass along this week, which have been caught with rod and line from the pierr Weather at present stormy.—E. COMER.

Irt (Holmrook).

The river Irt has been low, bright, and clear this week, which has partly put a stop to angling, but notwithstanding this low state of the river, several salmon have been killed with the worm after dark in the evening, and to-day (Wednesday) W. B. Addington, Esq., Portland Place, W., who is now having his annual stay in this neighbourhood, hooked a splendid salmon, which gave him half-an hour's splendid sport, and only lost him at the moment of landing in a most difficult place. Should we have more rains, which is not unlikely just now when the high tides are on, we shall have good salmon fishing. Yesterday we had a splendid otter hunt in this river, and after a most exciting run made a splendid kill. This is the second killed this week in the neighbourhood, which I fancy will be a winding up for the season.—A. BROCKLEBANK.

Lea (Ware).

Since my last report sport here has only been of a moderate description, although the water is in capital condition. The roach fed, but very shy. Jack fed more freely, several being taken on Sunday last; but the number of undersized fish (jack) taken here at times is simply disgraceful. While walking on the tow-path on Sunday last I met a boy with no less than three such. Someone should see to this, I think.—LION AND WHEATSHEAF.

Leicester.

Anglers during this week have been more fortunate in regard to the weather, and, with the waters in good condition, a large number of rodsters for the time of year have patronised the various resorts. Taken upon the whole, the sport has been fairly successful, perch and roach especially biting very freely. Mr. Bent on Friday had a good basket of roach, and followed up well on Saturday with another capital take; the pick of his basket was a very nice fish weighing 1 lb. 4 oz. Mr. Gladstone, pike fishing this day week, secured two or three brace of fair sized fish. Monday and Tuesday a number of anglers out. Mr. H. James and Mr. Mason each had good takes of roach, and several good perch were also caught; and a gentleman fishing with a minnow landed a handsome fish weighing 1 lb. 7 oz. At Aylestone better sport has been had during the week, and fairly good baskets of roach and chub have been the rewards of anglers. At Barrow the Soar has received its share of attention, although nothing worthy of notice has been done. A few pike were taken trolling, whilst roach and perch fishing is reported quiet. A few pike have been caught by anglers at Wreake, below Rearsby. I would recommend anglers hereabouts to spin in preference to using the live bait. Weather bright and clear, water not very high but in good condition.—ALERT.

Nen (Northampton).

The river is still too clear by half for angling of any sort. On Thursday the members of the Nen Angling Club turned out in great force to compete for the first and second class prizes given by local gentlemen; but the water being in too clear a state, they were compelled to return without taking the prizes offered, the limit being too heavy for them to draw the scale. The third class compete on Saturday next, I hope with better luck.—T. F.

Taw (N. Devon).

The showers that have lately fallen caused the peal and large salmon to rise up and run at the baits sets for their destruction, and no doubt as the net men have now finished up, better sport will be had in the higher part of the Taw and Mole, and the tributaries of the Taw. The net men, when finishing up, caught some large salmon 25 lb., 30 lb, and over, and the speculation with them have paid, especially the hutch belonging to Mr. Rolle. A gentleman fishing at the higher Taw and Mole caught 10 peal one day, and some few salmon since last week. Mr. Bradshaw got two 15 lb. salmon and a host of peal, all spinning with the minnow. Major Gleg fishing the lower Taw got 8 peal one day, averaging $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. each Captain Venor has got a satisfactory catch since staying here, and Mr. Kerr is well pleased with the sport during the last few days. A gentleman staying at the Portsmouth Arms told 3 peal, and there is no doubt the next six weeks will be the best fishing had for many years. Trout fishing is over; they are full of spawn, and near their breeding time.—RUSTY GAME.

Thames (Chertsey).

My three days' fishing last week, 9 barbel, 3 chub, 1 perch. We had a sudden rise of water last week sent the fish abroad. Though the water rose quick, still there was no colour in it, but the river is settled down again and the water bright. I was out yesterday with two gentlemen. Bream were on, but we had a heavy hailstorm, or we would have had a good bag. As it was we got 11 bream, best fish 5 lb. Mr. T. Taylor, of Chertsey, been taking some barbel and bream. We have plenty of fish, but want more customers. There will be some good takes of fish here if the weather keeps fine.—JAMES HASLETT.

Thames (Goring).

Water in good order for roach fishing, roach biting very well; jack coming on better. Fishing with E. R. Stanham, of 3, Edwardes Terrace, Kensington, best day 4 jack and 3 dozen of good roach. Mr. Hue, of 231, Camden Road, Holloway, two days, 5 jack, 2 dozen roach, and a few good perch. Prospects at present look well for this week.—John Rush.

Thames (Hall'ford).

Owing to the river being so very low and bright, the fishing is very bad. Different gentlemen fishing with me since I last reported to you. Their takes have been as follows:—Mr. Innis, on Sunday last, had a fair basket of barbel, bream, roach, and chub; Monday, Mr. Matthews 3½ dozen roach and dace; Tuesday, Mr. Geo. Palmer 16 lb. of roach and barbel; Wednesday, Mr. Geo. Palmer a miscellaneous basket, consisting of perch, roach, barbel, and bream, altogether weighing 25 lb.—weighed at Mr. Robert Stone's, Ship Hotel, Halliford.—George Rosewell.

Thames (Twickenham).

Wind, S.W. River in good condition. I have had 25 punts during the week, and most of them have had good takes of fish. Last Monday we were honoured with a visit of H.S.H. Prince Joseph of Teck and H.S.H. Prince Adolphus of Teck, accompanied by the Rev. J. H Walthew and Mr. Freeborn, The weather being fine they had a thorough enjoyable day on the river, with fair sport, fishing with Jack Spong and " Our Joe," who managed to capture them a barble during the day; but I am sorry to say it was not landed into the punt. On Tuesday Jack Spong, fishing with Mr. Wiggans, of Hounslow, took 17½ lb. good sized fish. "Our Joe," fishing with Mr. Walker, one day, 8 dozen roach and dace and 1 barbel; one day, with Mr. Boulton, Chiswick, 6 dozen, and 1 barbel. Dick Moffatt and Farmer have also had some good takes. Tides will suit for the whole days' fishing next week, and my customers may now depend on getting some good sport.—Alfred Perrin.

N.B.—I have this day sent a fine bleak to be set up, measuring 8 inches from eye to tail, caught here.

Thames (Walton).

On September 22, Mr. Abbott out with J. Stone, took 1 bream, 5 lb., 2 bream, 2½ lb., and 2 good roach. Water very high and full of drift; no fishing. On September 24, Mr. Laver, fishing from bank, took 1 jack weighing 3 lb. The same day, Mr. Lindly, from boat, succeeded in capturing one jack, 3 lb., also hooked a trout (fishing for jack) weighing 4½ lb., which was returned. On the 25th, Mr. Mackriell, out with G. Hone, 3 bream, largest 4 lb., 1 barbel 3 lb., and 6 roach averaging ½ lb. each. On the 26th, a gentleman with G. Hone, 4 bream, largest 2 lb., 1 perch, 1 lb., and 3 roach. Mr. Keeble, out with G. Rogerson, 11 bream. On the 27th, Mr. Alexander, out with G. Hone, 1 jack, undersized, which was returned, and 4 roach, ½ lb. each. On the 28th, Mr. Abbott, out with G. Hone, 5 bream, 12 lb., largest 2½ lb., taken in two hours. Wind S.W.; water clear; prospects if weather continues good.—H. Wood.

Torridge (Woodford Bridge).

River in poor condition for fishing. However, on Tuesday a gentleman from Exeter took some fine fish in splendid condition, and who says the flavour of the Upper Torriage trout is unrivalled in its excellence. There has also been some good catches during the week with the worm —John Blake.

Torridge (Torrington).

I have heard of 18 peel taken this past week. S. Jackson took on Monday with the improved Devon minnow 12 peel and 12 splendid trout, some of them as large as the peel, certainly the largest and best basket made for the season. The River is now in heavy flood, which will bring up lots of fresh fish. Many salmon have been seen sporting; good fishing after this.—Practical Angler.

Trent (Newark).

The water has been very low and clear most of the week, but good catches of fish have not been general. All sorts of fish have bit very gingerly, and only old anglers have succeeded in making a decent bag. Last week I thought the barbel had woke up a bit, for a few have been taken in this locality by various anglers, worms being the bait. A very good catch of those fish is reported from Sir H. Bromley's fishery at Stoke. During the latter part of last week tail end of maiden lobworms and cockspurs have been the most successful lure. A friend of mine, out one day this week, got, among other fish, a nice chub of nearly 4 lb., and a roach of 1¼ lb. He reported the fish very shy and difficult to take. We had several hours very heavy rain yesterday, which has caused a slight rise in the water, but no colour as yet with it. I don't think it will interfere with angling operations this week. For bait I still recommend tail end of lobworms and cockspurs. Water still clear, but a few inches higher than last week. Prospects very favourable, all things considered.—The Trent Otter.

P.S.—If the gentleman from Doncaster, who sent the post card to Messrs. Sampson Low and Co., will send a letter to me at No. 4, Northern Buildings, Lovers' Lane, Newark, I will answer him by post.

Trent (Nottingham).

The river here is very low and clear, and the barbel swims have for the most part yielded good sport. Mr. S. Sills has, in this respect, killed a vast quantity of fish in one of the lower waters, and only in the previous week he took the credit of a basket of 26. There has been more doing at Shardlow, and in the Weston fishery roach have taken kindly to creed wheat and maggots. A few pike have also been killed. Below Nottingham some capital barbel were landed at Colwick on Tuesday, and an enormous catch of bream is reported from the neighbourhood of Clifton Hill by two well-known Nottingham rodsters.—The Man at the Clubs.

Tweed and Teviot.

The past week has been a very fair one so far as regards weather; but the state of the rivers has hardly been so satisfactory, and salmon angling, therefore, has not been so successful as could have been wished. The smallness of the rivers, combined with the want of rain and wind, has in a great measure contributed to the want of success on the part of the disciples of old Izaak. On Thursday last both Tweed and Teviot rose a few inches, but this was only productive of taking the lying fish to a "cast" or two further up the river, but was large enough to allow of a free run of fish up the river from the tidal waters. On the Mertoun waters on Friday a couple of salmon were, we understand, got, one of which turned the scale at 10 lb., the other being a couple of pound less weight. On the Makerstown waters some half-dozen fish were killed, and on the Spronston "casts," fished by Mr. Brunlees, E C., London, and Mr. Bidder, Q.C., London, only one salmon has been killed during the week. On the Hendersgate water very little has been done, but on the Edenmouth waters Mr. Kerss killed one bull-trout. On the Floods Castle waters, belonging to His Grace the Duke of Roxburghe, no fishing is at present taking place, but we are informed that large numbers of salmon are in all the "casts" and streams. His grace is at present from home. On the Pavilion waters very little has been done, but on the Gala water fishing, Mr. Scott, the proprietor, has killed two very nice fish, one weighing 12 lb. and the other 8 lbs. Our reports from the Ednam House Waters, Mertoun, Rutherford, and Birgham, are to the effect that takes are exceedingly small, and that a flood of some six feet is greatly wanted so as to allow a fresh run of fish from the bay at the mouth of the river. On the Teviot nothing has as yet been got, with the exception of a bull trout or two. On the Dumfriesshire river very fair sport has been got, and on the Kale, Ale, Ettrick, Leader, Blackadder, and Whitadder, the takes of sea-trout and common trout have been such as must have satisfied the most of anglers. On the North Esk river heavy rains on Sunday last had the effect of raising the river nearly a couple of feet, and fair good angling has been got since. On Saturday, Mr. Porteous, Lauriston, killed a fine salmon of 23½ lb. weight, at the bridge stream, and on Monday, Mr. Brigstock, London, was successful in killing a brace of salmon, weights, 24 lb. and 22 lb. respectively. Mr. George Robertson, keeper to Lord Kintore, had rare sport, landing four fish on the Morphie water, the salmon then killed turning the scales at 19 lb, 21 lb., 23 lb., and 24 lb. respectively. On the Tweed, on Friday, Mr. R Hendry had a capital basket of trout.—Max Wheeler.

Waveney (Norwich).

Mr. W. Balls, of Beeches, while trolling in this stream last week, had the good fortune to hook and land a fine pike weighing 19 lbs. 10 oz.; the fish was caught in the neighbourhood of the North Cove.

Wharfe (Yorkshire).

Grayling are beginning to rise more freely, but are not yet fully on the feed during the daytime. The cinnamon fly and small willow I have found the best killers so far this week. I would call the attention of fly-fishers to a new line brought out by Mr. Cummins, of Bishop Auckland; it is composed entirely of pure China silk, waterproofed five times; it falls very lightly upon the water, and is in every respect an excellent line for fly-fishing, stone fly, or stream worm fishing—the only fear I have about it is that, from its excessive lightness, it will not throw well against the wind, but cannot yet speak from experience. I may add that the price is very moderate.—F. M. Walbran.

Wye and Derwent.

We had a very heavy thunderstorm in Derbyshire on Wednesday afternoon, which discoloured both the Wye and Derwent a little. To-day (Thursday) the Derwent has a most beautiful woodland water on it, and some large baskets of both trout and grayling have been killed both by fly-fishing and ground baits. Sport last Monday was first-class on the Derwent, one angler killing twelve and a half brace of large fish with honey dun, bumble, and red flies. Sport on the Wye has been but moderate during the week. Many fishermen out on the Wye.—G. J. Eab[illegible]n.

Yare.

The water in this river is now becoming clearer, and if the weather does not become unsettled, good sport should be had the next few days. During the past week some capital catches of roach have been had at Brundall, and one friend of mine caught some good bream and roach there last Saturday. On Monday last Mr. Mackie, who occasionally contributes to your paper, caught at this station 13 roach, which weighed 12 lb. On the 21st inst., Mr. Youngs, of Norwich, was angling at Buckenham, and took 50 lb. of very fine roach in six hours; the fishing here has been generally good. I am informed that a Mr. Skull, from London, who stays here annually, has had a very good time of it this year, catching as many as 56 lb. of fine roach in the day. For this success he must thank the Yare Preservation Society. Mr. Geo. Hart, of Thorpe, had a capital catch of jack the other day, landing 6 fish which weighed 32 lb., the largest scaling 8½ lb. A large number of jack are now being taken just below Norwich with spoon bait, but the size of the jack is small, and it is to be hoped most of them will be returned to the water.—Robert Moll.

THE THAMES RIGHTS DEFENCE ASSOCIATION.

At the quarterly meeting of the Waltonian Angling Society, held at the club house, Redhill Street, Regent's Park, on September 27th, a discussion arose as to the advisability of anglers generally making the utmost efforts to give the above association all the pecuniary support in their power. It was resolved, after some discussion, to vote the sum of two guineas out of the funds of the society as a special donation at the present time; it was also resolved that an annual subscription should be sent to the above association. A suggestion was also mooted and favourably received that in addition to such sum or sums—as might be voted from the club funds. That, should it become necessary, that collections among our members should be made from time to time, in support of the objects of the above association. Hopes were expressed that other clubs would act in an equally vigorous and determined manner. The only opposition to the above proposals arose from an assertion being made that our club had not been individually appealed to; the lesson to be learned from this is that printed appeals, which we have received in common with others, however good in themselves, are not as effectual as personal appeals. If some of our leading men could find time to go round to the different clubs and make a personal appeal, this matter would be liberally supported.

I will sing of the Coquet, the dearest of themes,
The haunt of the fisher, the first of a' streams!
There's nane like the Coquet in a' the king's land
From the white cliffs of Dover to North Britain's strand,
The Coquet for ever! the Coquet for aye!
The Woodhall and Weldon, and Felton so gay;
And Brinkburn and Linden, wi' a' their sweet pride
For they add to the beauties of dear Coquetside.
Then blessings be on him, and lang may he glide,
The fisherman's home and the fisherman's pride,
From Harden's green hill to old Warkworth sa gray,
The Coquet for ever! the Coquet for aye! R. Roxby.

CLUB REPORTS.

ACTON AND EALING ANGLING SOCIETY.

The second annual dinner of the above society took place at the George and Dragon Hotel on September 20th, when about 40 members and friends partook of a capital spread provided by our host, J. Brooks. Mr. A. C. Bocking occupied the chair, Mr. A. Eydman, the Vice. The usual loyal toasts having been drunk, the toast of the evening, "Success to the Acton and Ealing Angling Society," coupled with the name of Mr. Simpson, secretary, was proposed by one of our honorary members, the Rev. A. H. Dunn. Before replying, the secretary read letters from the following gentlemen (who were invited, but could not attend):—Our President, Dr. Lingham, Mr. Marsden, T. P. Green, L. Bonvoisin, and W. Brougham. Mr. Simpson, in responding, stated that the society was in a flourishing condition, its members and funds being on the increase; also he could announce some good prizes had been given for the remainder of the season, some having been already competed for. The West Central Association was then given from the chair, coupled with the name of Mr. T. Hoole, who replied in his usual happy and business-like style, giving us a lot of information as well as a prize. The health of the officers of the Acton and Ealing Angling Society was next drunk, coupled with the names of Mr. Bocking, Chairman; Mr. W. Eydman, Vice. Mr. Eydman's name being coupled with the committee, each gentleman named responded in a feeling manner, promising to work as hard for us in the future as they have in the past. The honorary members and visitors were next proposed and responded to by the Rev. A. H. Dunn and Mr. Atthaws. The prize-givers was then drunk, coupled with the name of Mr. H. Taplin, an old Reading angler, who, after responding, gave a handsome gold pin for future competition. The prize-winners followed, coupled with the names of Mr. W. Howell, Mr. Townsend, and Mr. A. Eydman, those gentlemen finishing in the order named in the last competition. Success to the Fishing Gazette was drunk with the toast of the Press. The host and hostess were highly spoken of by the chairman (when proposing their healths), as most of us know they deserve to be. A number of valuable prizes were presented by members and friends, and some capital songs were given between the toasts during the evening. The last hour of a very pleasant evening was devoted to harmony. The following members have weighed in since my last report:—Mr. A. Eydman, barbel; Mr. Cook, bream; Mr. Taplin, roach and perch; Mr. W. Howell, barbel, roach, and dace; Mr. Townsend, roach and dace; Mr. A. Eydman, roach, dace, pope, bleak, all from the Thames. —Black Bag.

AMICABLE BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Shury, roach, dace, and bream, 5 lb. 4 oz.; Mr. Arnold, roach and dace, 3 lb. 6 oz.; Mr. Howlett, roach and dace, $13\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; Mr. Medcalf, one jack, 2 lb. $2\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Mr. Medcalf came off champion in the fishing match at the delegates dinner at the Rye House. Mr. Say's prize for the heaviest weight of jack will be fished for during October. Mr. Harding's prize (10s. 6d.) will be fished for in place of the late Mr. Henwood's prize. The return visit on Monday was represented by the following clubs:—Alliance, Hoxton Brothers, Great Northern, North Eastern, Izaak Walton, Good Intent, Alexandra, Hearts of Oak, Eustonian, Little Independent, City of London, Stoke Newington, Burdett, Original Clerkenwell Piscatorials, Original Alexandra, St. John's, Buckland, North Western, and the Never Frets. Mr. Grey in the chair, Mr. J. Robinson, sen., in the vice; Mr. De Costa in the centre, and he was the centre of attraction. The following brothers contributed to the harmony of the evening:—Messrs. Maybury, Sewell, Grettan, Field, De Costa, Say, Thorley, Matthews, J. Robinson, sen., Smith, Murphy, Bonvoisin, and Carter. —J. Worledge.

ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several of our members were out on Sunday last, but the takes were rather poor. A roving match will take place at Datchet, on Sunday, October 8, for three prizes.—W. Davis, sec.

Sept. 27.

ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Since my last report, I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of 10s. 6d. donation from the Silver Trout Angling Society, and 5s. from T. Poole, member of the Silver Trout Angling Society.—R. Ghurney, sec.

Sept. 27.

BURDETT ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above went to Amberley on Sunday last to fish for a series of six prizes, with an extra prize for top weight, but they met with no sport, only the first prize with the extra prize being taken, and that with a small dace, Mr. Hastings being the winner. Mr. Hadkiss was also at Amberley, but not prize fishing. He took a very nice roach, weight 1 lb. $6\frac{1}{2}$ oz.—T. H. Walker.

Sept 28th.

CAMBRIDGE FRIENDLY ANGLING SOCIETY.

Yesterday (Wednesday), Messrs. Warsop and Edwards had a capital show of fish from private waters, the combined take being 51 lb. $7\frac{3}{4}$ oz., consisting of pike, tench, perch, chub, rudd, and roach. Mr. Edwards' gross weight, 33 lb. $3\frac{1}{4}$ oz.—one pike, 10 lb. $8\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; largest tench, 3 lb. $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; and largest perch, 1 lb. $8\frac{3}{4}$ oz. Mr. Warsop s weight, 18 lb. 4 oz. All the fish were in splendid condition.—W. Sutton, sec.

Sept. 28.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 17th, Mr. P. Parkins had nineteen good roach from a pond on Hampstead Heath. On the 24th, Messrs. Chambers, Hobbs, and Warden, weighed bream and roach from Amberley, and Mr. Castell, roach, dace and chub from the Roding. On Sunday next we fish at Amberley for five prizes, pegged down.—Cas.

GOOD INTENT SOCIETY.

There was a good show of fish at our club on Sunday last, Mr. Maybury having a tray of fine dace and a tray of good roach; Mr. Gadbury, some capital perch; Donovan, roach; Haines, carp; and many others, small takes. Our members are going to fish for some valuable prizes, at Boxmoor, on October 8. We had a large number at our club on Tuesday night, and some important business was done. There was one application to our Club Benevolent Fund—the members voted to the case £1 10s.—R. Murphy.

Sept. 27.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The weekly meeting of this society was held as usual on Thursday the 29th inst., C. S. Bentley, Esq. in the chair. After the usual correspondence had been read, including a letter from Mr. Ghurney, relative to netting on the Lea, the chairman announcing that no special business was before the meeting, called on members present for any remark they might have to offer. The question of whitebait incidentally occurred, which after a very pleasant discussion led to an affirmation from Mr. Jardine that they were the fry of the shad; Mr. Crumplen being of a different opinion volunteered to discuss the question, but Mr. Jardine was unable to fix any specific date, and the matter therefore stands over to a future evening, Mr. Jardine to affirm that they are the fry of the shad, Mr. Crumplen taking the opposite view. It may be desirable to state that the society has now removed to the Masons' Hall, Tavern, Masons Avenue, Basinghall Street, E.C., where it will have accommodation suitable to its members and importance, and it is hoped make its influence useful for the general benefit of the angling community. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 3rd, when Captain Alfred will read a paper on "Barbel Fishing." Chair to be taken at 7 p.m. by J. P. Wheeldon, Esq., one of the most respected honorary members of the society, and so well known to the piscatorial world. All members of angling societies are welcome to attend.

HAMMERSMITH UNITED.

On September 17 a match took place for a prize kindly presented by Mr. Pitts. Several members took part in it, but it eventually fell to the lot of Mr. Peachey, who showed 12 lb. 3 oz. of chub and jack from Henley. On the 24th Messrs. G. Lewis and E. Reynolds got fairly among the dace, roving in tidal waters. Mr. Bacchus weighed in $33\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of fish from Christchurch, among them being some fine roach, several exceeding 1 lb. each, and one going 1 lb. $9\frac{1}{2}$ oz., which has been forwarded to Cooper for preservation. On Monday, the 25th, Mr. Seeley had a good take of roach and barbel from Marlow. Members are requested to attend on Thursday evening to arrange other prizes. —Vortex.

IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Through the kindness of our host, Mr. A. Rogers, who gave a spread to the members at his private residence, near Epping, on Sunday last, there were no fish shown. Mr. G. Bliss had seven nice roach on Wednesday, which weighed 4 lb. 8 oz., the heaviest one scaled just 1 lb. There are five special prizes to be fished for on Sunday next, in the Stort (between Harlow and Spellbrook) instead of four announced last week.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday last, we had a most splendid show of fish, our trays being filled so that there was no more room, having to place them on the tables. Mr. Hurwood headed the list with a most splendid show of roach and rudd; Mr. Raine came next, with another very fine show of roach; Mr. Letch had jack; Mr. Scott, jack. roach, and dace; Mr. Thompson, a very good show of roach and dace; Mr. Hopton, jack; Mr. Barr, jack—thus making a splendid show. —W. H. Evans, sec.

Sept. 28.

NORTH-WESTERN ANGLING CLUB.

On the 24th inst., Messrs. Billing and Aldis weighed in jack; Messrs. Lancaster and Bonvoisin, roach, the latter from Springwell; and Mr. Marshall, chub, also from Springwell.—H.

Sept. 25.

ORIGINAL ALEXANDRA ANGLERS.

We fished a match last Sunday at the Rye House, Mr. Morton taking the first prize, with a very fine jack; Mr. Dymond, sen. the second prize, with jack; Mr. Huskisson had roach; Mr. Blackedge, dace; Mr. Christer, roach and dace; and Mr. Towndrow, roach and perch.—E. Dymond, sec.

Sept. 27.

PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The members of this society continue to evidence their position as practical anglers, and with results of no ordinary character. At the weekly meeting at Ashley's Hotel, Covent Garden, on Monday evening last, Mr. G. Robinson weighed-in 66 lb. 3 oz. of perch, the seven largest fish turning the scale at 10 lb. Mr. Thomas Huggett equally distinguishes himself with 33 lb. 10 oz. of roach, 13 lb. 14 oz. of jack, and 3 lb. 7 oz. of perch from the Avon, the largest perch weighing 1 lb. 15 oz. Mr. Huggett is a most persevering angler, not only amongst jack, perch, and roach, but with the lordly salmon, and both he and Mr. Robinson are to be congratulated on their good sport during the present season. Mr. F. H. Lemann also weighed in two chub scaling 5 lb. 12 oz., the largest 3 lb. 5 oz. from the Thames. Dr. Brunton who has been great in the capture of trout and grayling with the fly, registered three trout weighing 3 lb. 5 oz., and three grayling weighing 3 lb. from Winchester. There is to be a roach competition in the Thames on Monday next and all fish are to be weighed in on that day in the club room at Ashley's Hotel.—B.

PRINCESS OF WALES ANGLING SOCIETY.

The return visit of No. 1 district of the West Central Association was paid this society on Monday last, the 25th inst., when the chair was occupied by Mr. F. Robson, and the vice by Mr. Percy. Some capital songs and recitations were renderedby Messrs. Dixie, Gibson, Poll, Osman, F. Robson, H. Robson, Percy, Chambers, Roberts, W. Wyeth, Hodges, Munslow, Speeks, Constable, Paris, Dobell, Jennings, Harrison, Fellowes, and Newton; and Mr. F. Walker gained great applause tor his performance on the dulcimer. Only six clubs were represented, and had it not been for the number from each of them, it would have been a very poor Visit, so that great praise is due to the Bostonians, Cambridge Friendly, Duke of Cornwall, Golden Barbel, Hammersmith United, and the Prince of Wales. Mr. F. Robson read a circular, that he stated had been sent to all societies enrolled in the West Central Association, respecting a very handsome black and gold scroll marble 14-day clock, that had been purchased by this society for the purpose of being competed for by the members of societies belonging to the West Central Association, at an entrance fee of 1s. each. The clock is on view at the club house, the Prince of Wales, Great Barlow Street, High Street, Marylebone, and it is hoped that a good competition will be the result. A vote of thanks to the chairman brought a very pleasant evening to a close.—H. Robson.

RICHMOND PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Wednesday last was set apart for a gross weight competition in the Thames, and an evening visit to the Sun Hotel, Kingston, the proprietors of that well-known hostelry being members of the society. Fifteen members gave in their names as competitors, it being arranged that each of those who weighed in any fish should have a prize of some kind or other, in proportion to their respective weights of the finny tribe, but only seven of these were successful in contributing a show of fish. At eight o'clock about thirty sat down to a tripe supper at the Sun Hotel, Kingston, the tripe and its usual accompaniment, rump steaks, being well served up and thoroughly enjoyed. There were no pretensions to set toasts; Mr. W. H. Brougham being first called upon to make some remarks, referred to the visit of royalty to a day's fishing at Twickenham, in the atmosphere of the Richmond Piscatorial Society, and after noticing several topics connected with the Thames, informed those present that Mr. F. C. Clench, and Mr. A. J. Little, having offered to the T. A. P. S. their services as honorary river keepers, were now in possession of the necessary warrants to act in that capacity. Mr. F. C. Clench, who acted as chairman of the evening, in his usual energetic spirit, announced the result of the competition, the first prize was awarded to Mr. John Bond, for 35 lb. 12 oz. of barbel, perch, and dace; the second prize to Mr. Terrill, with 13 lb. 9 oz. of roach and dace; the other prizes were won in the following order: Mr. Houghton, Mr. Dickenson, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Griffiths. Mr. Alfred Nuthall, in responding to the Richmond Piscatorial Society, offered to give a prize for specimen fish only, and strongly deprecated the system of gross weight competitions, which was warmly applauded. Mr. F. C. Clench replied to the toast of the chairman, and Messrs. H. Dickenson and W. Abbott to that of the vice-chairman. Mr. J. H. Gaunt performed his secretarial duties with his accustomed courtesy. Messrs. W. Abbott, Crew, and others sang some excellent songs, and the evening was one of a very pleasent character.—B.

STANLEY ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

Owing to various causes I am unable to send you any good account of our members' doings this week. Mr. D. M. Humby has had roach and dace; Mr. W. R. Humby, roach; Mr. C. Scull, roach; and Mr. Wheatstone, roach, and a nice tench of 2 lb. 14 oz. The last-named gentleman was very unfortunate at Ringwood last week, his punt having no well, and being without a keep net, he hung a hamper over the side of his punt for want of anything better, and the lid having by some means become unfastened, all the fish got out, among them being, he tells me, some 2 lb. roach. Yesterday evening we held our quarterly general meeting. There was a good attendance, and the balance sheet, which was of a highly satisfactory character, being read out by the secretary, was received with general approval.—G.

STOKE NEWINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The usual fortnightly meeting of the above society took place on Wednesday the 20th inst. The successful competitors at the recent open competition at Dagenham Lake receiving their prizes at the hands of Mr. Thos. Harris, the president, who addressed each recipient in suitable terms, some excellent singing bringing a pleasant termination to the evening's proceedings. Although trying very hard small takes of fish rewarded the efforts of the members on the 24th instant, only Mr. W. Robinson weighing in a bream of 2 lb. On October 1 four prizes are given for the four heaviest weights of roach taken on that date. Open to members only. Mr. C. F. Robinson will give a prize value 10s 6d. for the heaviest gross weight of any kind of fish taken up to and including October 29. A few friends are invited to compete for this prize.—T. GRETTON.

THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY, COVENT GARDEN.

The following are the fixtures for the above society:—Monday, October 2nd, roach competition, Thames only; 16th, pike competition, Thames only; 23rd, annual supper, Ashley's Hotel; November 6, perch competition, Thames only; 20th, pike competition, any public waters; December 4th, chub competition, any public waters. For further particulars, see the list of prizes and circular.—JAMES LANDER, hon. sec.

WALTONIANS.

On the 24th a great many of our members were out. Mr. Waltham weighed in 12 lb. roach from Pangbourne—two days' fishing; Messrs. Starr and Good, jun., had each a little over 6 lb. from the same place; Mr. Skeats had 4 lb. 10¾ oz. chub and dace; Messrs R. Dodge, Rushbrook, Watson, Bowring, Greenfield, and Togwell, also weighed in fish.—A. J. MARRIOTT.

ANGLING ON LOCHLEVEN IN 1882.

THE season has been one of disappointment to the angler. It has also given rise to some foreboding for the future, inasmuch as it seems to show that the fishings are now undergoing one of those periodical declines to which they are subject, and which are so difficult to account for. The ebb and flow of the trout supply—as well as the variations in the same months of each year—are shown in the following tabular statement. We may mention that the number of trout caught in 1877 was 4,852, after which the results were as follow:—

	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.
April	300	813	1,756	1,954	1,020
May	4,283	5,248	8,141	3,554	3,062
June	5,063	4,134	4,825	5,638	2,619
July	618	4,707	1,206	2,019	936
August	2,261	5,482	3,322	3,593	1,331
Total trout ..	12,525	20,384	19,363	16,398	8,968
Lb. weight ..	8,238	15,503	18,384	17,124	8,888

It will be seen from the above statement that compared with the previous year the number of trout caught during the past season have fallen off by about one-half. The competitions have been unprecedentedly numerous this year, numbering no fewer than fifty-seven, though the total number of competitors are less than in 1881. The general average to each rod in the competition was 2 lb. 9½ oz. The first kill for the season was achieved by Mr. Thomson, Cowdenbeath, on 19th January. The heaviest basket landed from any boat was got on 6th May by Messrs. Ridley, Northumberland—thirty-five trout, 30 lb. 8 oz. The heaviest single trout was caught by Mr. J. B. Mills at the competition of the Dundee Club on 21st August, the weight being 3 lb. 14 oz. The heaviest basket at a competition was got by Mr. P. D. Malloch, Perth, winning the Patron's Prize in the Kinross-shire Club on 1st September—twenty trout, weighing 19 lb. 14 oz.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

C. W. (Union Street, Worcester).—We think the fish you send is a samlet, and that you are mistaken about its being in spawn, but it is impossible to judge from the dried up remains of the head and tail. If you send us a good specimen we will endeavour to decide for you.—ED.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

DE MULTIS REBUS.

SIR,—I fear Mr. Marston's experience with the "angler's curse" is only too common. He has described most exactly what I have seen over and over again. But, to complicate matters still more, there is more than one "curse." The little black beast described by Mr. Marston is not so common, as far as my experience goes, as a tiny fly, smaller, if anything, of similar shape, and with a dirty body of mottled brown hue. I never yet heard of anyone making a bag when these tiny flies are on, but I don't think the artificial is entirely useless. During a furious rise of these midges, I once killed, on a strange water, in the middle of a hot August day, three trout weighing 1 lb. 5 oz., 1 lb. 6 oz., 2 lb. 4 oz.—all in less than half an hour. Quite recently I bagged a brace of good grayling, over 1 lb. each, and lost others (through the smallness of the hook, I fancy) within a few yards of each other. One of these I dissected there and then, and found him full of the "brown curse" and a few larvæ of the olive dun; no other flies were discernible. When all is said and done, I fear we shall always be at a discount when such microscopical insects are the chief attraction to rising fish. Only a fortnight ago I was standing on a bridge with Mr. Francis Francis, dipping up and examining the myriads of flies which were circling round the eddies about the old wooden piles. Besides duns and spinners of various sorts, delicate in the extreme, but still recognisable, we found insects which it would be hopeless to try and imitate, and which it would puzzle an entomologist to name. Still, grayling will go for these tit-bits sometimes, worse luck—even to the extent of gorging themselves on the green aphis, so I was told by two friends in Derbyshire last year. There is one point connected with this which I think is sometimes lost sight of. When any fly (no matter what) comes down very thick and a rising fish has half a dozen natural flies to choose from every time he comes up, it stands to reason he is very unlikely to pick out deliberately the one which has the curly blue tail; and every angler knows that an unusually heavy rise of May flies, March browns, or olive duns is generally productive of more bad temper than sport. The fact that the "curse" comes out in such numbers is in itself very much against the angler. Under these circumstances, I find that a fly which floats well, slightly larger, and perhaps adorned with a bit of tinsel, or nicely ribbed with gold wire, will often arrest the attention of the fish, and induce him to rise when the closest copy of the natural fly would be unnoticed. Again, something totally different, which does not challenge comparison with the natural fly, may frequently be used with advantage. For this purpose a very small "Wickham" on a 00 hook, used dry, will be found very useful, and for grayling it is out and out the best fancy fly I know of in the early part of the season. Though my imitation of the "curse" is by no means infallible, it is certainly very useful at times, and has rewarded me with several good fish this year. I find I have none left, but a specimen or two shall be forwarded to Mr. Marston in a few days if I can find time (and I should add, patience) to tie them. To tie a dozen of these flies is quite a liberal education in fly-making. The best of us is very ignorant about flies, and the man who professes a complete knowledge and undertakes to answer off hand any query about the theory and practice of fly-fishing is generally not worth talking to, while those who profess least will often be found the most thoughtful and well informed. It is to be hoped, therefore, that anglers who can throw any light, however scanty, on the "midging" proclivities of trout and grayling will be good enough to record their experience. It may lead to something interesting. At present, all I have ever discussed the question with are unanimous on one point, namely that sport is always indifferent (as it deserves to be) when "curses" fill the air.

The recent "Gut *v.* Hair" episode—in spite of the unhappy termination of the "friendly contest"—has not been without interest to the readers of the FISHING GAZETTE. It has elicited much valuable information from anglers of differing opinions, but it has not settled the question of most suitable tackle, and I don't see how any sensible person could ever have expected it to do so. In fishing, quite as much as in other things, the truth of *tot homines quot sententiæ* is constantly seen, and when I entered into dispute with "Herne the Hunter," I was most careful to state that no amount of discussion would make us agree upon the point at issue. We were at cross purposes (though the then confident and jubilant Hunter would not see it), he advocating one thing as best under all circumstances without any reservation, while I ventured to hint that on some waters where the fish run to 3 and 4 lb., hair was absolutely useless, and fine drawn gut answered admirably. "Chub Chavender's" remarks on September 23rd bear me out entirely. In fact, I (the "Logger-headed Chub" of the late controversy) can endorse from long experience every word that my brother chub says about the Itchen. I repudiate with scorn the bare idea that a half pound trout from one of the northern streams is more knowing about gut and hair, and more difficult to deceive than one of the Hampshire "Sockdollagers." For wiliness and cunning give me an old three-pound Test fish, one who for seasons has risen day after day in the same place, knowing to a fraction of an inch where each natural fly will come down, skirting the bank, into his very jaws. Throw ever so deftly your most delicate fly on hair, and you can't rise him; send him the same invitation on drawn gut, and he dies the death. What more can any reasonable angler want in the way of arguments?

Recent correspondence reminds me how thin is the disguise afforded by an alias. No one could mistake the authorship of that long and wearisome repetition about "Monstrosityists" and "Harelugists" (*sic*), and the equally uninteresting and utterly unintelligible maundering on the subject of hooks. Hooks and flies are my pet hobby, and I eagerly devour all the information I can get from my brother anglers. But in these papers I learnt nothing practical.

That style was all one with the bombastic Balderdash of the avowed champion of hair *v.* gut. There are other writers, valued contributors to the FISHING GAZETTE, quite unknown to me except by names whom I have spotted in spite of the *nom de plume*. I am resolved, therefore no longer to adopt an alias myself.

What does "Sprint" mean when he talks of a trout's "deadweight of two or three pounds or more as he slowly makes tracks for a bed of weeds?" If this is his notion of an Itchen or Test fish he is vastly mistaken. One good day between Alresford and Bishopstoke, or between Stockbridge and Romsey is quite enough to dispel the allusion about the gameness of a chalk stream trout once and for ever. When "Sprint" talks of persons "who know trout fishing only under these circumstances," is he himself fully aware what the circumstances are which make the killing of a big fish weight for weight, so much more difficult in a southern chalk stream than it is in the northern rapid moorland waters? I am speaking from experience. I have killed large fish on fine tackle in rapid Scotch streams and in "sluggish waters," as "Sprint" calls them; and I have no hesitation in saying that a fish from 2 to 3 lb. is infinitely harder to basket on a weedy, chalk stream than he is in the clear rapid streams of the North. I feel confident that any one, who is fairly qualified to judge of both kinds of fishing, will bear me out in this. I think "Chub Chavender," with his "wretched trout, diminutive from lack of food, continued through countless generations," is much nearer the mark as a description suitable to the denizens of many a northern stream. This may not apply literally to the waters "Sprint" frequents, but surely the lives of the trout must be wretched, indeed, if the 150 members of an angling association, including "as many crack fly fishermen as any other association" are only restrained from a murder of the six-inch innocents by a formulated rule of the club. Wretched, indeed, must be the prospect to a troutling doomed to die so young, with 150 anglers all thirsting for his blood so soon as he shall pass the six-inch limit.—I am, &c., H. S. H.

[We fully expected "Sprint's" libel on our southern trout would bring forward some champion. If "Sprint" had seen the way a 2 lb. trout we got recently near London fought for fully five minutes, leaping half-a-dozen times out of the water, he would not think them sluggish! H. S. H. and "Sprint" are two good anglers, and we sincercly trust they will agree to differ amicably. There is much to be said in favour of north country fishing, even if the fish do run small, and we must admit that we enjoy catching a 10 or 12 lb. basket of, say Eden trout, averaging three to the pound, with a sprinkling of bigger fish up to 2 lb. perhaps; we enjoy a day's fishing of this kind in a rapid river in a lovely country, better than a take of larger fish in the quiet Hampshire streams. But such matters as these are questions of individual taste, and ought never to send our correspondence thermometer up to "blood-heat."—Ed]

P.S.—Since writing the above, Mr. Hall's midge flies have come to hand. They are superbly made, and we intend to get a stock made from these patterns, and on Mr. Hall's capital eyed hooks. Although the midges we used were as small as these they were not so neatly made. We may say that we did try other flies of all kinds and sizes, up to the large red caterpillar. We will send "Sprint" some of these midges of Mr. Hall's as soon as we can get any made. The hooks are made by Messrs. Hutchinson, of Kendal.—Ed]

SILKWORM *VERSUS* HORSE.

Sir,—Probably there are many of your readers like your correspondent of last week, "Chub Chavender," who "can't understand why so fierce a battle should be waged over the comparative virtues of hair and gut!"

I have often thought when I have been reading with the greatest interest the articles and letters which have appeared in the Gazette upon the subject that it must have been very uninteresting to a large majority of the fraternity. It is well, however, to remember that "the brotherhood" embraces many distinct branches, and that each branch engages in the angling business in its own particular line. Modes of weighing in, baiting swims, paste for roach, &c., have only a very general interest for us northerners, who have to confine our attention almost exclusively to trout and grayling. But those subjects very preperly have their turn, and so our brethren, the bait fishers, must not begrudge us the space if we run out the lines a bit (and really we have done it of late as though the lines were all on Nottingham reels, they have come off so freely). To us the subject can hardly be termed a a second rate one. It's one of the first importance. Why, I know some natives upon the streams in this district whose professional credit hangs by a good hair. They have always used hair, done great feats with hair, always will use hair as long as they can wield the wand at all.

One of them bought a horse for his tail, and kept him well to grow hair. Poor fellow! When he was no more, deeply regretted, might, with a lot more consistency, have been inscribed over his grave than where we sometimes see it.

Previous to this matter being exalted into the columns of the Gazette, some of those old hands could not speak of the relative virtues of hair and gut with anything like patience. "Gut was not to be mentioned in the same day as hair for fly fishing." Now, however, the subject is actually seriously discussed in the small coteries of anglers that draw together for their evening pipe. Could you, 'sir, only have your ear to the telephone of a wire connecting you with one of those council chambers, you would be able to give your readers some lively comments and sage criticisms. "Ah, well! gut is all right for fiddlestrings, but it's about nought for fly fishing; it's as heavy as a tar band and makes such a splash." And so on go these philosophical remarks to the end of the programme, and then it's repeated next time the assembly meets, which, of course, vanquishes all the arguments in favour of gut, which after all are only as the smoke from their pipes.

I cannot be considered a member of these parliaments, but I do now and again enjoy a seat in the chimney corner, though I am afraid that there's a suspicion that I am not a "true blue" on this hair question; they are doubtful that I've been perverted, for only the other day when I went out with the president for a throw and was putting on my cast, he spied gut. "What, are you bound to fish with gut?" said he. I kept from blushing as well as I could, while I stammered out, "That I was going to give it a try; there has been so much said about it lately." "Ugh," and he passed on to wet his own cast. We soon had the river between us, and I got a couple before he had one, but he was not long before he cantered past me, and at the day's end he had almost four to my one. He had glorious satisfaction; he'd given the young 'un another lesson. "What had you on?" said he when we were walking slowly homeward. "Oh! I'd brown watchett and red palmer and musk and the dun, what did you find them take?" "Well, I could get 'em with nowt at first but the light blue, and then when the watter cam' out they wadn't look at it, but took needle like shot." "Well," I said, "I saw the needle on by scores, but I never thought they would take on in such a big water, and so I never put one on." "Only in the quiet corners," he said, and he knew well enough he had touched me in one. But I've wandered. I meant to say that I have come to the conclusion that on this burning question my good friends in the dales have too much prejudice and too little knowledge. When they think of gut their idea is that it is the sort of stuff that they use with lobworms in a big water. Bulmer's "Gossamer" drawn gut is an excellency of very recent times, and it has not reached the dales yet, except when a stranger makes an excursion to their stream. He does not do so well, for he is not acquainted with the stream and does not know the best flies, but his non-success is gut, of course, when the native comes across him. There many things to consider in this question. Your correspondent "Sprint" wrote well, pretty nearly all that could be said for hair—a very sensible letter I thought, but other matters, such as length of your cast, number and distance of your flies upon it, weight of your casting and reel line, all require consideration and adjustment if gut is to be got well out, lightly, straight, and without tangle—the latter too often caused by the end fly rebounding upon the line when the cast is made. One point I like gut in preference to hair is one upon which I find myself in disagreement with "Sprint," it can be cast straight. Hair too often—even good hair—will keep, hour after hour, a nasty curl in the end length, whereas gut when softened always goes out in a straight line. I won't repeat the arguments already put with so much force both by yourself and correspondents. No doubt this correspondence will have induced many anglers to try both gut and hair for themselves, in circumstances where they can be tested with something like accuracy. We shall probably have lots of "experience meetings" after this thorough ventilation of the subject.—I am, &c. Ingleborough.

September 25.

[If any hair-fisher who has not seen really fine drawn gut will write to us we shall be most happy to send him a sample gratis.—Ed.]

THE FOOD OF SALMON IN FRESH WATER.

Sir,—A few facts relative to the food of salmon may prove interesting to "Salmo Salar" as well as to many of your numerous readers; and as you justly observe, Mr. Editor, "The proof of the pudding is in the eating," I hope my remarks will have the same effect. For many years past I have had largely to do with salmon from all parts of the United Kingdom, as well as Norway and Sweden, but during the past ten years have had principally to do with the rivers Exe and Dart, to which rivers I intend to confine myself on the above subject, and to the year 1874, being the season I devoted considerable time in searching for the parasites, both inwardly and outwardly of the salmonidæ, from these rivers, upon which I may send you a résumé, with your kind permission, shortly. The year 1874 yielded a very good supply from both of these rivers, the Exe more especially. During this season I opened 490 fish, namely 290 from the Exe, and 150 from the Dart; also 50 peel from the latter river. The majority of these fish are taken almost in the salt water, but the Exe fish have a chance of reaching a few miles up into the fresh water previous to being netted, consequently have had time to satiate their appetites with a fresh water meal. It is not very frequent to find any substance whatever in the stomachs excepting mucus; but I have taken from those fish just from sea, such fish as pilchards, sand eels, shrimps, prawns, and the remains of other crustacæ; and upon several occasions the half-digested portions of grey mullet, and once only about six inches of the tail end of a redband fish. From those taken in fresh water I have taken quantities of minnows and small eels, and on one occasion an eel over one foot in length. Stones are by no means an unfrequent find, but I believe them to be taken accidentally, because when most frequently found is, during the very heavy freshets, when the land soil is washed down in abundance. I have known several salmon taken with a large shrimp (not a prawn), in the upper waters, and I verily believe that the artificial fly is taken in a great measure for the shrimp, with which they meet in considerable quantities in the Exe, within a mile or so of the city. Of sea trout we do not get an abundance; but what few I have examined were either full of shrimps (pink ones) or britt (whitebait). Mr. E. Parfitt in his "Fauna of Devon" says the sea trout frequent the south coast, and three specimens were captured in the salmon pool below Exeter, April 28th, 1864. The largest measured 19½ inches long; girth, 11¼; weight, 3 lb 9 oz. Some time since I communicated the contents of numerous seafish stomachs to the late F. Buckland, of which I could inform you.—I am, &c.,

Frank Gosden, Exeter.

[Is Mr. Gosden certain about the minnows? Are they found so near the sea?—Ed.].

MARKET DEEPING ANGLING, &c.

Sir,—In my report to you of 23rd inst. I think I used the word "Central" Association. If I did, will you please correct to United London Angling, &c., as I find by my card of membership that is the present title to which I intended to refer.—I am, &c., Thos. Poole.

FISHING AT MARKET DEEPING.

Sir,—I should be much obliged it you or any of your readers can inform me of any jack or perch fishing in the neighbourhood of Market Deeping, Lincolnshire, and, if so, how I can obtain permission.—I am, &c., G. H.

[The "Angler's Diary" says there is good coarse fishing free in the Welland at Market Deeping.—Ed.]

FISHING AT MARKET DEEPING.

THE RIVER WELLAND—INFORMATION FOR ANGLERS.

For information of London anglers, &c., by kind permission of S. B. Sharpe, Esq., honorary secretary, tickets for fishing can now be obtained of Mr. Charles Thorold, the Ship Inn, St. James Deeping. The tickets are 1s. for the day; 2s. 6d. for three days, or 5s. for the season. A very able and descriptive account of this fishery recently appeared in *Bell's Life*. The Ship (only a beerhouse), a clean, comfortable house; the host and hostess are obliging. It is within 15 minutes' walk of St. James Deeping Station, G.N.R., and can be reached before 8 a.m. by the 5.15 newspaper train from King's Cross (change at Peterborough). Breakfast can be had there, the ticket obtained, and the river reached by nine. There is a train up at 5.45, due at King's Cross at 8. Splendid travelling; so that eight hours can now be had by the river side. It holds among other fish splendid roach (very few bream). This is a place the Central Association of London Anglers would do well to get concession granted to—St. James Deeping. Beds can be had at the Ship, but it would be well to write first; their charges are very moderate.—I am, &c., Thomas Poole.

Covent Garden Market, W.C.,
22nd Sept., 1882.

[Anglers ought to be much obliged to Mr. Poole for this information.—Ed.].

TROUT FISHING IN DEVONSHIRE.

Sir,—The readers of the *Fishing Gazette* must think that the Exe is a most wonderful river, from the account given by R. A. in your last week's issue. I do not mean to say that it is not true, and I should not like to say it was. It seems strange that the account of this wonderful catch has only now come to the front. You, Mr. Editor, have fished the Exe, and knows well enough that this is most extraordinary sport for our river. It is passing strange that this was not advertised in our local paper at the time, as all fresh flies that have risen or caught a fish are, but how disappointing to those who have tried them. They say that there is nothing like the old patterns and colors after all. For R. A. to say that probably twice the amount in weight of his dish (presuming his weight 10 lb) might be taken on a good day, I never remember seeing any dish of 20 lb caught with the fly. The best I ever saw was caught about seven years since by a young gentleman, a native of Tiverton, weighing 18½ lb, 71 in number, and not one of them under ¼ lb. They were caught with Brobdignagian flies, and fishing up stream. Several others saw the same dish, and pronounced it to be the best dish they had ever seen taken with one rod. R. A. would not like to do anything like this because it is so monotonous. I have fished the Exe from childhood, and have never seen anyone using such tackle as he speaks of—viz., 16 feet poles, towing lines, bundles of fur and feather, &c. R. A. would have you to believe that no one knew how to kill fish until he came to reside at Tiverton some few years ago and since that time he knows (?) more about the Exe than those who have lived on its banks, and fished it for more than 40 years. R. A. seems to have mounted his hobby a little too high, and ridden too fast and too far as he acknowledges he is prone to do.—I am, &c ,

TIVERTONIAN.

[We must say this much for R. A. : his article was sent early this year, and referred *not* to this season's fishing. We fully expected that his catch of eight trout from the Exe with fly all over one pound would bring Exe anglers to the front wanting "particulars." We confess to wondering what part of the Exe holds fish of such an average weight. Even with minnow, which takes the heaviest fish, it is rare that one gets more than one or two fish above a pound or so much. The Rev. Mr. Anderson, of Winsford, is a first-rate hand with the minnow, and fishes some of the best water on the Upper Exe, water which we know holds good fish, but we question if even he, living on the spot, ever made anything like such a bag as R. A. refers to.—ED].

TROUT FISHING AT TIVERTON.

SIR,—Most of the piscatorial gentlemen of this neighbourhood were surprised at the letter and its contents in your last issue written by R. A. describing one of his recollections of an extraordinary dish of trout taken by him this season eight in number, all over a pound each. I do not doubt the statement, but at the same time one would imagine seeing some account ere this in one of our local papers. R. A., I am aware, is generally in the habit of displaying his catch, if he has a fair fish, in his net through the street, the object of which is patent to everyone. With regard to the poles, towing lines, Brobdignagian flies, &c. R. A. informs us that no trout out of his teens would look at such ; how does he account for the five pound trout taken by Mr. F. Folland on the 28th March last, a description of which appeared in the *Fishing Gazette* of April 1st? R. A. must be under a delusion when he states that those who fish hardest catch most. I have taken more in a few hours than those who have been whipping the stream all day ; for the simple reason, I had the right colour. R. A. condemns the usual way of fishing, simply because he meets with little or no success. In conclusion, I should be glad if R. A. would mention an orthodox fisherman who would catch twice the amount in weight which he speaks of in one day with the artificial fly.—I am, &c., A BROBDIGNAGIAN.

FISHING AT WANSTEAD.

SIR.—There are three ponds in the newly-acquired Wanstead Park, all containing fish. Permission to fish only extends to one of them. The "long pond," which is about a mile in extent, reaching up to the Tumbling Lock on the Roding, is strictly preserved, I believe, for the purpose of supplying the immense number of herons thereon. I have not seen carp taken—or indeed many fish of any kind—chiefly roach and bream, and I also believe fishing on Sundays is tolerated, as I saw a dozen or two fishing on Sunday last, with very small success. Workmen are busy making paths and clearing rubbish from the ponds which has been accumulating for years, so we may soon expect it to be one of the finest resorts to be found near London. For years the park has been strictly preserved. At present the grounds are in a very wild state. It was opened to the public on the first August last. The first trace of the park is during the reign of Edward VI., who granted it to Robert Lord Rich, who sold it to Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, and who in May, 1578, entertained Queen Elizabeth. It is well worth a visit by all lovers of wild scenery, whether rodster or otherwise.—I am, &c. P. F DAVIS.

DEATH OF MR. H. CHALON.

SIR,—Will you kindly give this note space in the FISHING GAZETTE. As we have lost our kind and much respected friend, Mr. H. Chalon, I and many friends would like to see a subscription opened among anglers for the erection of a tomb, or something of the sort, to the memory of Mr. Chalon, the Angler's Friend, as many hundreds knew. I am sure all anglers would give their mite. —Yours, &c., TENCH.

Lincoln Inn Fields, 25th Sept , 1882.

A CURIOUS FLY.

SIR,—Mr. Carrington has requested me to say that the fly sent you by Mr. Peter Alison is a firwood borer in the larval stage. It is one of the saw-flies, and its name is *Sirex juvencus*.—I am, &c. J. MATTHEWS.

PARTICULARS OF A RECENT CAPTURE OF SALMON WANTED.

SIR,—Will you kindly inform me, if you can, who are the lady and gentleman (husband and wife) whose name appeared lately as having killed a remarkable number of grilse or salmon, to their two rods alone, in Ireland? I am nearly certain it was in your journal that this account appeared. The gentleman is son of Lord somebody or other, and is an officer who served in the Zulu war.—I am, &c. REV. J. V. FOOT.

[We do not remember any such account recently. Perhaps some of our readers may have noticed it either in this paper or *Field* or *Land and Water*. The most remarkable take of trout we ever heard of was described to us by the captor, Sir Rose Price, Bart. Sir Rose was fishing last year with his wife on the Island of Antacosta in the mouth of the St. Lawrence. In one day Lady Price took some 80 lb. of trout with fly, and Sir Rose took over five hundred pounds weight of trout also with fly in one day. The fish were wanted for salting down as food, and Sir Rose told us that they were so numerous and voracious it was exceedingly monotonous work pulling them out. They would take the fly when torn to pieces, and little but bare hook left, as greedily as ever. If he wanted a salmon he was obliged first to fish out the trout from a pool in order to give the salmon a chance.—ED.]

A BIG TAKE OF PERCH.

SIR,—I think you will like to hear of a day's perch fishing which Mr. Clark and myself have just had. Mr. Clark fished with a float and two hooks ; I with a fine gut paternoster and three hooks. We commenced at 11 a.m. and finished at 5.30 p.m. At the end of the day our total catch was 145 perch and six pike, weighing 5 stone ; the perch averaged three to the pound. We returned about thirty small ones. I had the good luck to catch one, a perch, which weighed exactly 3 lb. (about five hours after it left the water). It was a grand fish. The pike ranged from 1½ lb to 4 lb. We caught them all with worms—with the exception of the pike and large perch, which took small roach —in a large gravel pit. The depth of water was between three and four feet. I think this is the grandest piece of fishing I have ever had. Several times we landed, or rather boated, two ½ pounders at once.—I am, &c.,

Wisbech, Sept. 25. CHAS. STANHOPE SMELT.

[This is the best day's perch fishing we have heard of for a long time — ED.]

ACCLIMATIZATION OF FISH. — Anglers frequenting the river Waveney may be congratulated upon a valuable addition of young trout to these waters, through the liberality of the Norfolk and Suffolk Fish Acclimatization Society, which met on Wednesday week at Whittingham, and proceeded as far as Bungay in one of Mr. Harry Bullard's (of Norwich) steam yachts, kindly lent by that gentleman for the occasion (and not with empty tables). The party were joined at Beccles by the mayor (W. M. Crowfoot, Esq), and other gentlemen. The trout selected for distribution came from the rearing-ponds at Gunton Park, in charge of the hon. sec., Mr. W. Oldham Chambers, and were hatched at Lowestoft, a few months ago. In passing up the river, the committee selected a few of the tributaries, where the fish were carefully turned into the waters. In the course of a few weeks other distributions will be made in the Bure, the Yare, and elsewhere. The society is to be congratulated upon their success, and all anglers will wish them good speed in their noble work.

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Applications for tickets will be treated according to priority, but a preference will be to applicants for "season tickets." Boats for angling and stands on the river will be allotted by the head keeper, and no angler will be permitted to use a boat or fish a stand that has not been so allotted. Superior accommodation can be had on application to Mr. T. Mullarkey, at Glendalough Hotel, Recess, Galway. Anglers are requested to take out their licences in the Ballynahinch district, as by doing so they increase the fund for the preservation of the district.

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Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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Mr. T. Barnett, 26, Church Street, Lisson Grove, N.W.
Mr. J. Smith, 7, Tottenham Court Road, London.
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Mr. H. Whitty, 15, Basnett-street, Liverpool.
Mr. C. J. Greene, 54, London-street, Norwich.
Mr. R. Ramsbottom, 81, Market-street, Manchester.
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Mr. Wm. Reid, Northgate, Darlington.
Mr. R. Pearsall, 11, Great Western Arcade, Birmingham.
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Mr. Thos. Heppleston, Manchester.
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ADVERTISEMENTS.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1882.

"RED SPINNER" AND "BELL'S LIFE."

WHEN Mr. J. P. Wheeldon retired from the angling editorship of *Bell's Life*, his place was taken by our good friend Mr. Wm. Senior, whose angling writings are so well known all over the world, in connection with the *nom-de-plume* of "Red Spinner." We always look out for the angling columns in *Bell* with great interest, there is such a spicy breath of fresh country air about Mr. Senior's writings; and though he by no means monopolises the space devoted to angling, we can easily "spot" his articles, sign them how he will. Our readers should look up the famous old "Bell," under Fitzgibbon and Wheeldon, its angling notes were always sound ones, and Mr. Senior has easily proved his right to play a "Bob major" on it for the benefit of the angling community.

A PIKE FISHER'S EXPERIENCES.

WHY pike? Because I was born where there were no trout or salmon, and because the first large fish ever caught was a pike of 10½ lb. weight, with a bank runner, during my apprenticeship. But the real initial impulse to this sport was due to Cholmondley Pennell. His shilling book on "Pike Fishing," was purchased at a bookstall, read and re-read till *Esox lucius* on the brain was in full swing, a week's holiday being anxiously looked to, and all preparations made for putting his style into operation. Oh, those days! Eager hope and disappointed results; how the effort to spin *à la Thames* resulted in terrible entanglements of lines and loss of them and bait; how the buttons caught the line, and how thistle heads and St. John's wort, with other plants, would grow on the shores of likely spots. How the reel would spin round and round if plenty of line was not uncoiled; and how, when more was lying at one's feet than needed, the hooks would get fast in weeds floating and weeds stationary, ere the line could be drawn in. How many bait and their paraphernlia lie at the bottom of that swift-flowing stream I cannot tell, but near £1 worth, I imagine. How the line would kink, and how in despair I sat down and voted fishing a snare, and Pennell's practice a delusion. No fish was the result. I might put it down to a variety of causes, but at home, after another blank day, the dreaded chaff could not be silenced. "No fish again, this is the third day; you have only two more and then—" "What was it Lord Byron said about anglers?" Still they could not chaff it out of me. Mentally and physically I felt it was doing me good, and I kept on hoping someday to master the style and be able make a forty or fifty yards cast and catch a fourteen-pounder into the bargain. I owe C. P. many thanks, even if I have given up his style and theories and adopted others. After a varied experience, a happy deliverance came. While tired out one evening, and resting on a bridge, an angler came up—that he was a pike fisherman his rod told of itself. We fell to talking. I told my troubles. He pooh-poohed the Thames style, all right for "a Cockney in a punt." "What style did he use?" "The Nottingham." After a while he offered to instruct me for his usual terms, "a guinea a day and grub"! "Oh, I always get that when fishing with gentlemen in Scotland and Ireland. I go with parties every year." I did not quite see it, so we parted. As I walked away, my companion thought he saw a pike and threw to the very spot, winding up as usual. It flashed through me in a moment. "Is that the Nottingham style" I asked? "Yes." That was quite sufficient. Next day saw me spinning till I was tired out, with only one small fish as my prize—it was a prize. Since then, pike fishing has been a pleasure, no kinking nor worry with line. Seven pounds is the weight of the heaviest pike I ever caught spinning, and didn't he give me some play; and twenty pounds the heaviest day's take, all fish over four pounds. The only drawback has been the swelling and warping of my wooden-reel, a great annoyance. This is a point on which I should like a wrinkle or two. Can it be prevented? Are ebonite or metal superior, and which of them is the best? I also ask if your readers have ever tried a small pulley wheel at the topmost ring, for the line to pass out more freely?

I lost a perch and the best spoon bait I ever had (a real beauty, silvered on both sides, and which spun like a top) by the line cutting against the worn brass ring at the rod top. While spinning for pike a week or two ago, a perch about 1 lb. weight followed it up to the side. I had read of them taking a spoon-bait, but never experienced it, so I let him have it again. As it neared a bed of sunken weed, he rushed out at it, getting well hooked; just then my line parted, and I lost the spoon and fish together. The only satisfaction was watching his efforts to get rid of his enemy; he went to a bare place a yard away and tried to rub it out, he stood on his head and rolled over, but it was no go, he could not free himself. While thus battling with adversity, a worse fate befell him, a 4 lb. pike appeared on the scene and watched his antics, like a policeman watching a drunken man, then suddenly rushed and seized the perch, shaking him like a rat and bore him out of sight.

While on the matter of spoons, I ask how is it that some will spin while others will not, I find it one of the best baits? When streams are low and the water clear and bright, it is beautiful to watch the pike take it, the young ones especially. They rush past it, turn, exposing for a moment part of the white belly, for a moment the spoon is hid, there is a check, and your captive is at your mercy. He rushes about like mad, then tired out, submits to be lifted out. Five fell to my lot, about a pound weight, but were returned to grow wiser and better for future holidays. Another good bait for using with dead gudgeon or small roach is Gregory's Archimedean spinner; it is ingeniously constructed and well made, it causes the bait to revolve beautifully, and many good fish have fallen to its use by self and friend. I once, while using it, had a memorable struggle with a pike, which I judged to be about 12 or 14 lb. weight. I hooked him twice, the first time I could not get a glimpse of him, he swam so deep, it being just after a fresh and the water cloudy. I had left my net behind me; I shouted to a labourer and his daughter, asking them to fetch it, but Agricola only grinned and went on with his work. I offered him a shilling, but got only a stupid stare, though it was only 400 yards off, so *à la book*. I tried to land him as soon as I could. I got him to a nice shelving spot, but no sooner did he touch the bottom than he fought hard and got off. I readjusted the bait, which was untorn, and at the second spin, at the same place, he or his mate seized it again. I gave him more play this time, and shouting for help, uselessly, again tried to land him, as before, with the same result. Mad with myself for not tiring him out before attempting to land him, I put on a fresh bait and gave another throw and was into either the same or another fish his size. I determined not to loose this one, so I struck several times, till I felt I could turn him as I liked, and accordingly ran him up and down the bank till I was tired, if he wasn't. Then thinking him done for, I wound up and drew him to the same place; he came very quietly this time. I got his head out on the side, and just as I was stooping to seize him, he opened his mouth and fiercely snapped his jaws, cutting the gimp (or breaking it) which held the triangles, and away he went. I tried a spoon and ordinary set of triangles over the place, but he had got enough, indicating that experience make fish wise as well as fools.

THE IDLE ESOX.

[All the best pike rods are now fitted with the revolving steel ring at the top, it is a great advantage, as nothing takes the waterproofing off a line more quickly than a brass ring, which has been worn into a saw by the friction of the line. Ebonite is the best material for a Nottingham winch, metal is too heavy. One great reason why some spoons will not spin, is that the swivels do not run evenly. We can, from practical experience, most strongly recommend "The Idle Esox" to try a medium "American Spoon" and also Gregory's "Clipper" for spinning for pike. —ED.]

LIST OF THAMES LOCK-KEEPERS.

As two or more works of late have appeared professing to give the names of the various lock-keepers on the Thames, the correctness of which is of some little consequence for obvious reasons, I here present you with a revised list, all of whom hold deputations, which entitle to the full privileges, of water-bailiffs, and to who many information of a suspicious or positive nature in regard to poaching or other illegal aquatic practices may be communicated, as well as the reckless speed of steam launches, &c.

Henry Tame, Teddington.
Henry Joist, Sunbury.
James Newble, Shepperton.
William Walford, Chertsey.
Mary Trotter, Penton Hook.
George Horne, Bell Weir.
William Blackwell, Old Windsor.
William Headney, Romney.
Edward Morris, Bray.
William Turner, Boulter.
Thomas Coster, Temple Lock.
R. H. Townsend, Hurley.
Alexander Kissick, Hambledon.
William D. Bishop, Marsh.
Joseph Constantine, Shiplake.
James Sadler, Sonning.
Robert H. T. Carter, Mapledurham.
Alfred Ridge, Whitechurch.
James Williams, Goring Lock.
Ivy Moy, Cleeve.
Charles Phillis, Chalmore Hole Lock.
John Whiteman, Benson.
James Lowe, Day's Lock.
Matthew Hickey, Clifton.
George Allen, Culham.
Thos. Surrage, Abingdon.
Stephen Blake, Sandford.

CREEL.

ADDRESSES OF BRITISH AND IRISH PISCICULTURISTS WANTED.

THE Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, 12, Fetter Lane, London, will be glad to receive the addresses of any gentlemen in any way coming under the above title, in order to make a communication of much importance to them, with a view to the establishment of a National Piscicultural Association.

A SMALL FISHING POND WANTED.

THE Editor of this paper will be much obliged if some of his readers will kindly inform him if they happen to know of any small pond (fed either by a stream or springs, within ten or twenty miles of London), which it would be possible to rent for a number of years. Address—The Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, 12 and 13, Fetter Lane, London, E.C.

THE INVITATION.

(To a Bottom-Fisher)

COME ye who love to fish
  And stray by water's brink;
Come ye, with keen relish,
  And see the float down sink.

Let them refuse the sport
  Who never knew its charm;
But, brother of the rod, resort
  To waters clear and calm.

The perch await us there—
  Perchance a pike, or two.
Shall dart from out their lair
  And give us pleasure true.

There will we bait our hook
  With brandling, clear and bright,
And read from Nature's book
  While waiting for a bite.

And when the tell-tale float
  Shall nervous warning give
That some gill-guarded throat
  Is striving to receive

The well-adjusted bait,
  We'll "strike" with wary zeal—
Ere yet it be too late—
  And bring the fish to creel.

Ah! angling, dear my friend,
  Hath many a joy full sweet,
And unto our life's end
  Its pleasures we will greet!

Then come on Tuesday next,
  Prepared for a campaign,
And leave all questions vext
  Of daily care, or gain.

And find what erst dear Walton found—
  No angler can deny it!—
A joy too deep for tongue to sound,
  And "Study to be quiet!"

O. W. R. in *Forest and Stream*.

SALMON FISHING IN THE WEST OF ENGLAND.

AN angling friend writes to us as follows:—"Many thanks for the flies, which came to hand all right; they are first rate and better made than those of ——. Last Wednesday was my first attempt at fly-fishing for salmon. T. arrived about nine, and we soon started; took the road the other side, and went down as far as the wood below 'Three Waters.' We put on the butcher, and fished a large pool there well, then tried it with a minnow; no good, did not see a rise; fished every likely place up to the Hammer; crossed and fished up this side until we came to a black pool with a tree at the top of it—a favourite pool of yours for trout—before you come to Dashway Dam, where the cottages are. T. had three or four throws and rose a fish but did not hook it, he went on but did not rise him again, then I took the rod from him and chaffed him that he did not understand it; the third or fourth throw a ten-pounder followed the fly across the pool and made a dash at it close to my feet, almost took away my breath; away he went, but did not go out of the pool. This lasted for about a quarter of an hour, and T. wanted to gaff him, but I thought I should like some more fun out of him. He then went into the next pool below, very rough water, and showed more play, then he went to the bottom and rubbed the fly out. Though I lost the fish yet I was very pleased with the half hour's sport. After that, we rose two in Oldman's meadows, and one in Blackpool, but did not hook them. Yesterday we had another turn at them, went up the other side. When we got to Blackpool I saw a large fish jump out of the water, we tried him with fly and minnow, but no good, he would not look at it; after that we tried Vine's Pool, rose a small one, then on again past the beech tree, through the hunting gate, and so on to that long ham before you come to the lane that leads to Brackley Hammer. At the top end there is a very fine pool, which you know well, having had many fish out of it. T. and I fished it alternately; at last he got into one in the deepest part of the pool, between two bushes; luckily for us the fish did not go out of the pool. I took the rod at first, then gave it to T., the place was so awkward that we could not get near him to gaff him, though I was in the water as far as possible; however, after many tries T. got him out, a very poor fish; my opinion is they are all in bad condition, we are so far from the sea. Just as I was leaving off I rose a very large fish to the Jock Scott, three times. It seems to me that they very often come short, for we saw him rise distinctly; they are nothing like so active as trout.

"Last Friday we had the harvest festival service at three, after that refreshments in the school-room, then dancing. I went into it strong, dancing with all the girls. Post is waiting, so I must stop. I don't think I shall stay much longer, this salmon fishing is nothing after the trout, and that is all over.

"THE ARTFUL DODGER."

P.S.—Took two more salmon yesterday with the "Infallible" fly you sent me, and lost two others. Water high and good colour. Mr. L. has been getting fish every day.

FLY-FISHING FOR LEA DACE.

"HAVE you seen the dace round the island near the bridge at the Ferry Boat, Tottenham?" was the question put to me by a brother of the rod some fortnight ago. On my answering him in the negative, he replied, "Then you ought to, and get among 'em; with that whip of yours you would find plenty of sport." Passing that way a few days after, I took advantage of the opportunity to judge for myself the prospects of sport, and found that my informant had not exaggerated in the least, for the dace were there in shoals, not only round the island, but also right away down to the lower pool. I determined at once to adopt my friend's advice and "get among 'em with my whip,"

The following morning, having first tied a half dozen of my favourite flies, I start by my usual conveyance, viz., "Shanks' pony." It is a glorious morning, with every prospect of a fine day and also of sport. This, I suppose, puts me in such a good humour that I find myself humming the favourite lines of a boon companion, who, when we are trudging along to some favourite reach of the river where dace and chub most do congregate, will insist on dinning into my ears—

"That an angler's life is a jovial life,
No jollier fellow than he,
As, with pipe in his mouth and the wind blowing south,
He goes legging it down to the Lea."

And, on my remarking "Nothing new yet then, old fellow," will launch out into the praises of—

"Fishing for trout,"

until stopped by my cry of "Sour grapes," when he will immediately rush to the other extreme, and go on to say—

"Then we'll be jolly old souls and sit down by the holes
Which we've baited o'er night with fresh grains,
In the tail of the stream laying out for big bream."

But here I burst in with an emphatic *never*, so long as there is a dace or a chub left in the river to rise at a fly,

But this is digressing. Arrived at my destination I take my stand just inside the gate leading to the meadow, and opposite the island. My rod is soon put together, and having selected one of my finest drawn gut collars, and attached thereto a couple of flies, I am ready; but never having cast a fly on this particular part of the river before, I take a good survey of my surroundings, and find that it is not the most desirable spot for a fly-fisher, the trees, &c., forming the boundary of the garden are much too close to be pleasant; in fact, it is quite impossible to make a bold throw from over the shoulder. However, I discover an opening which, by keeping the point of the rod nearly on a level with the shoulder, allowed the flies to go back sufficiently far to make a cast nearly to the opposite bank, where the dace are lying. The first cast is made, and as the flies go sailing down there is a rise at the "stretcher," but I miss him. The flies are nicely dried, and again cast—another rise and another miss; and, as this is again repeated, I exclaim, "Halloa, old boy, the eye and the hand are not working together so well as usual; how is this?" And, having made another cast, and again missed the fish, I think it high time to examine the fly; and, on doing so, find the hook broken at the barb. Another fly is substituted for the disabled one, and it is no sooner on the water than there is a rise and I am fast in my fish—this is repeated again and again. I stick to this one spot the whole of the time. I am fishing, occasionally taking a rest for the enjoyment of a "quiet pipe," or to allow the disturbance of the water, caused by passing boats, to subside, and find that when yet early in the evening I consign my rod to its bag and count the spoils of the day, that I have close on seven dozen of the plucky silvery fellows, all good sizeable fish. I then take a stroll along the banks of the river, to see what the roach anglers are doing; and to my inquiries the answer is, "They are 'not on' to-day." So I adjourn to the house to replenish with a drop of "nut-brown" for the return journey. This done, I wend my way home, thoroughly satisfied with my day's sport, and fully determined to "get among 'em" again before the arrival of Jack Frost to notice them off to the deeps below. HACKLES RED.

THE "FOREST AND STREAM" ANGLERS' TOURNAMENT.—The proposed tournament, which is popularly called the fly-casting tournament, will, in consideration of the attention which will be paid to bait-casting for striped bass, be known in future as the Forest and Stream Anglers' Tournament. The committee of arrangements consists of many gentlemen who are prominent in the angling clubs of the country and in game protective societies. A feature of the tournament will be a contest for prizes to be cast with single-handed fly rods which weigh less than five and a half ounces, which will be given by the house of William Mills and Son, New York. In a few days a circular asking for prizes will be issued, and no doubt a fine list will be the result, as it is intended to make this contest the largest and best ever held in America. It is expected that it will come off about October 16, but the place is not yet decided upon.—*Forest and Stream.*

BARRISTERS FINED FOR ALLEGED ILLEGAL FISHING.

THE Hon. Claude Vivian, Mr. Stonehouse Vigor, and Mr. W. C. Bovill were summoned, on adjournment, at Liskeard Petty Sessions recently, for fishing without a licence. The Hon. Claude Vivian is the son of Lord Vivian, and is a barrister of the Western Circuit; Mr. Vigor is also a barrister of the same circuit and is Recorder of Penzance; and Mr. Bovill is the Clerk of Assize. The charge specific against the three gentlemen was, "That they, on the 28th July last, were fishing for trout in Glynn pond, in Lord Vivian's demesne, without licence," Glynn Pond being a body of water communicating, by means of a connecting stream, with the river Fowey, which forms the centre and gives title to a fishery district. The defendants did not appear in person, but were legally represented, Mr. Vigor by Mr. Borlase Childs, solicitor, Liskeard; the Hon. Claude Vivian by Mr. J. B. Collins, solicitor, Bodmin; and Mr. Bovill by Mr. P. Wallis, solicitor, Bodmin. The prosecution was at the instance of the Fowey District Fishery Conservators, who were represented by their solicitor, Mr. Pease. It was decided to take the three cases together, as the charge was identical in each. Mr. Pease, in stating the case for the prosecution, stated the cause of complaint, and produced the order of the Secretary of State as to the formation of the Fowey fishery district, as proof of the formation of the district; also, the certificate of the Secretary of State approving of the scale of licence for trout fishing, as a further proof that all the necessary formalities had been taken in respect to the Fowey district. He also produced the newspaper publication of the scale of licence, as a proof that due notice had been given that it was illegal to fish in such district without a licence. He then produced evidence in support of his case. P. C. Robert Pill, water bailiff under the Fishery Commissioners, was examined by Mr. Pease, and stated that on the 28th of July last, at four o'clock in the afternoon, he was at Glynn Pond, and saw three gentlemen fishing there with rod and line for trout. Two were in a boat and one on the bank. He asked the one on the bank if he had a licence for fishing, and he said "No," and that he did not require any licence there. Witness asked his name, to which he replied, "Mr. Bovill, Clerk of Assize," and he added, "This pond is ornamental water, and twelve months or two years ago a policeman spoke to some gentlemen who were here fishing, but it was decided that no licence was required here." Witness said it was a tributary of the Fowey river, and that he thought they should have a licence to fish there. To that Mr. Bovill replied, "It is all right. The other two gentlemen who were in the boat came to the bank, and witness asked them if they had licences; and they replied that they had not. They gave their names as C. Vivian and S. Vigor, and Mr. Vivian said, "There is no licence required here; a policeman came here two years ago when I was fishing, and I spoke to Mr. John Collins and Mr. Richard Collins about it, and they told me that no licence was required; so it is all right," and they went on fishing, and witness saw each of them catch trout.

Cross-examined by Mr. Borlase Childs: Witness said he was not aware that he had no right on the grounds where Glynn Pond was situate. Was not present at a meeting of the Conservators two years ago when there was some talk of prosecuting Mr. Vivian for fishing. Fish could not get upwards from the Fowey river into the pond. Did not know that that pond had been stocked with fish by Lord Vivian himself, but thought they came down from the stream above. They did not come from the Fowey river.

Cross-examined by Mr. Wallis: Even with a licence no one could fish in Glynn Pond without the consent of Lord Vivian. There were no salmon there. Did not know as a fact that Lord Vivian specially preserved trout there.

By Mr. J. B. Collins: Beyond being water bailiff within the district, had no other special authority for going upon this property. Knew the Assizes were on at the time and that the defendants belonged to the Western Circuit. Reported the matter to the District Fishery Conservators, and it was considered at a private meeting, no reporters being present.

Mr. Pease: In all cases when witness found persons fishing with rod and line for trout, he asked for their licences, and summoned those who could not produce them. In this case witness had not done anything different from his usual practice. This concluded the evidence in the case.

Mr. Childs, who appeared for Mr. Vigor, contended that Glynn Pond was a private pond and not a tributary of the Fowey, being surrounded on all sides by Lord Vivian's property, and that the trout being preserved his son and his friends had, therefore, the right of fishing without a licence.

The solicitors for the other two defendants concurred in arguing that no licence was required. The magistrates, after a short consultation, inflicted a fine of 6s. and costs on each defendant, but gave a test case on the point of law in the case of Mr. Vivian, which is to govern the other two cases. The case created great interest in the neighbourhood.

[This is another case proving strongly how much the Freshwater Fisheries Act of 1878 requires alteration. It ought never to have been possible to so interpret it as to apparently justify such an impudent invasion of private rights as is described above. We say *apparently*, because the magistrates inflicted a fine and costs, but we trust their decision will be speedily reversed and that the bailiff will be summoned for trespass.—ED.]

FACEACHE, TOOTHACHE, PAINS IN THE GUMS, NEURALGIA. —ADAM SMITH'S NEURALGINE is a Certain Cure. Bottles, 1s. 1½d., 2s. 9d. Post free from Proprietor, Chemist, Wednesbury. London Agent, W. EDWARDS, 157, Queen Victoria Street.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS

By L. B.

Re Thames Rights Defence Association. There are very few London angling societies of any pretension upon whose tables one or more copies of the anglers' organ, the FISHING GAZETTE, does not each week find a welcome place, and it is indeed strange if the good example set by our friends of the Waltonian Angling Society (a report of which appeared in last week's number) in voting a handsome donation, and, further, promising an annual subscription to the funds of the above capital association, does not find many imitators among London's from 160 to 180 angling societies.

A No. 2 District West Central Association visit will be paid the Sir Hugh Myddleton Angling Society, the Empress of Russia, St. John Street Road, Clerkenwell, nearly opposite Messrs. Carter and Sons' well-known fishing tackle establishment, on Tuesday evening, October 10th. The room is a very large one, and capable of accommodating a great number, so it is to be hoped the "bobs" will "come along."

A complimentary visit or house-warming and local visit combined, will be paid the Alliance Anglers upon the removal from the Old Red Lion, Warner Street, Clerkenwell, after being located there twenty-two years, to the Clerkenwell Tavern, Clerkenwell Road, on Friday evening, October 10th.

On the same evening, Friday, 10th, a meeting of the working committee of the West Central Association will take place at the Portman Arms, Great Quebec Street, at nine sharp.

Readings in angling societies. The long winter evenings are coming on, and it is worthy of consideration whether a regular series of readings, either among the whole of the London clubs or among such of them as are willing experimentally to try it, would not be a great success. The expense, principally for postage and stationery, would be very small indeed, and I feel sure would be readily subscribed by the clubs which joined in a trial of this kind. I may state that I am in correspondence with the secretaries of several angling societies at this end of the town (west and north-west) whose members would, I believe, readily support such a movement; and I certainly will not fail to report from time to time to the readers of the FISHING GAZETTE how we progress.

The usual monthly meeting of the United London Anglers' Central Committee was held on Monday evening last, at the Bald Faced Stag, Worship Square, Mr. S. Morgan presiding. A lot of business was got through, much of it relating to the river Lea. Messrs. Murphy, Wainwright, High, Ghurney, Manning, and others joined in the discussion which took place. The sum of £5 5s. was voted to the Thames Angling Preservation Society towards defraying the expenses of the recent Conference of Anglers at the Cannon Street Hotel.

CLUB REPORTS.

ALEXANDRA SOCIETY OF ANGLERS.

I beg to inform you that the members of the above society will fish a peg-down match at the Ordnance Factory on the river Lea, Sunday, October 15th. We had a most excellent show of fish on Sunday last, Mr. Chipchose, Mr. Wich, and Mr. Gripton scaling heaviest weights, from the Lea and Pulborough.—F. WAGNER, sec.

AMICABLE BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Holliday, perch; Mr. Howlett, roach and jack, 1 lb. 6½ oz.; Mr. Arnold, roach; Mr. Squire, one jack, 3 lb. 10½ oz.; Mr. Binks, perch and one jack, 1 lb. 14½ oz.; Mr. Larkman, bream, 1 lb. 14 oz., roach, 1 lb. 14 oz.—T. WORLEDGE.

Oct. 1.

ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 1st most of our members were out, but the takes were rather poor. The following members weighed in:—Mr, J. Bowling, bream, 10 lb. 15¾ oz., one bream scaling 3 lb. 13 oz; Mr. D. Davis, bream, 2 lb. 4¼ oz.; Mr. A. Shakel, bream, 7 lb. 6¼ oz.—D. DAVIS, sec.

Oct. 4, 1882.

BERMONDSEY BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this club fished for prizes at Amberley, but resulted in only two taking prizes, namely Messrs. Gafney first, with bream and roach, and Mitchell second, with bream. The next outing for daily prizes will be on Sunday, November 5.

BRENTFORD PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Only a few of our members have been trying lately with any success. I have had fair sport at Staines, with John Keene from Host Banfield's, with the barbel; Mr. H. White has also had a fair catch there, amongst the same fish. Mr. T. Waight weighed in some roach, one going 1 lb. I trust our members will show a little more activity than they have been doing for the last few weeks, and give me something more to report.—J. H. White, hon. sec.

N.B.—I have been to Stalham and Heigham Sounds, but with indifferent sport. Mr. Linstead and Mr. Field have been with me.

Oct. 4.

BURDETT ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had a good show of fish at this club on Sunday last. Mr. Lamb, roach; Mr. Coughland, rudd; Mr. Shervill, roach; Mr. Creffield, carp and rudd. The last-named gentleman had a very nice Prussian carp, weight 1 lb. 2½ oz.—T. G. WALKER.

Oct. 5.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Eleven of our members were pegged down at Amberley on Sunday to fish for five prizes, only two of which were taken. Mr. G. Pratt, first, winning a copper kettle given by Mr. Castell; Mr. Plumstead, sen., second, winning a well furnished tackle case, given by Mr. Perry, both weighing in bream.—CAS.

CLAPHAM JUNCTION ANGLING SOCIETY.

The annual dinner of the above took place on Thursday evening, September 28th, at their headquarters, the Lord Ranelagh, on which occasion about thirty members and friends sat down to a capital spread, provided by our host, Mr. Speed. In addition to which, Mr. Innes, as usual, sent his present of a basket of the finny tribe to add to the comfort of the members. Mr. Willoughby occupied the chair, and Mr. Innes the vice. After the usual loyal toasts were got over, success was drank to the Clapham Junction Angling Society, coupled with the name of the worthy secretary, Mr. E. Wilson, who read a statement of affairs, and concluded by saying that the society was never in a better condition than it was at present. The prizes were then distributed, the successful members being:—Messrs. Turner, Innes, Withers, Wakeford, Maslin, Welman, and E. Wilson. Some capital harmony followed, and the evening was brought to a close with a vote of thanks to the chairman for the able way in which he had presided. The following members weighed in fish on Sunday last:—Messrs. Valentine and Innes, barbel and perch, from Shepperton; Messrs. Wakeford and Maslin, jack and roach, from Kempton Park; Mr. Turner, jack and roach, from Weybridge.—E. WILSON, sec.

COBDEN ANGLING SOCIETY.

The third match of this young and prosperous society will take place on Sunday next, 8th inst., at Denham Straits. The prizes will be ten in number, viz., a handsome silver watch, two hand reading lamps, chromograph, new rod, landing net, jack line, bait can, cruet stand, and fishing box.—C. REEVES, sec.

Oct. 4.

CRESCENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

This society, which was formed on Wednesday evening, the 20th September, at the Giraffe Tavern, Newington Crescent, S.E. (proprietor Mr. James Collins) held its first quarterly subscription night on Wednesday the 4th inst., when a good muster of members assembled. Considering the short time (a fortnight) the society has been in formation, it may congratulate itself on its success, twenty-two fishing and four honorary members having been enrolled. Prizes to the amount of 4½ guineas, and one of Sowerbutt's best roach rods were presented as an encouragement for the first competition, which takes place on Wednesday, the 25th inst. Gentlemen wishing to join, or desiring any information may apply to the secretary, F. Pearson, at the club house. Meeting nights Wednesdays and Sundays, 8.30 sharp.

EDMONTON AND TOTTENHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 1st October the members of the above club fished for special prizes and a large sweepstake. The most successful were Messrs. Holdsworth and Stevens, roach and dace; and Messrs. Jones, Tracey and Morris with some fine jack.—W. G. GARDNER.

October 4.

GOOD INTENT SOCIETY.

There was a good show of fish brought in on Sunday last, Mr. W. Snook having a tray of capital roach and perch; Guntrip, bream; Haines, roach and rudd; Maybury, roach; Gadbury, jack; W. Hughes, jack; Huggett, bream. The members will fish at Boxwood on Sunday next for twelve prizes, the first £2 2s., five of £1 1s, and six 10s. 6d. prizes. We have also two special prizes for the month, heaviest weight of roach and heaviest weight of jack; and a splendid watch, given by Mr. H. Brookwell for the largest jack taken during the season.—R. MURPHY.

GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

The next general visit of all the angling societies will be held at the Robin Hood, Southampton Street, Pentonville, on Monday, October 16.—J. A. FITCH, sec.

GREAT YARMOUTH PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

This Society held its weekly meeting at nine p.m. last Monday, at the club house, when a goodly muster of members were present, including Dr. Mitchell, president; P. Courtenay, Esq., vice-president, who, I am sorry to say, has been obliged to resign that position, and whose services will be a great loss to this society, he being one of its first members, although we cannot but congratulate him on his promotion. Amongst other gentlemen present were Mr. Bennett, who weighed in on Saturday 14½ lb. of bream, Mr. Hamersley, who, I am sorry to say, finishes his stay in Yarmouth during the present week, and Mr. J. H. White, Brentford Piscatorial Society, and other gentlemen. After the usual business the secretary reported a jack, weighed in by Mr. Hewittson, of 7 lb. from Ormesby, and also that he had received several letters from London anglers promising their attendance and assistance at the forthcoming first annual dinner of this society, proposed to be held during this month, when the members from the country and other gentlemen will be invited to attend, and it is to be hoped that everyone who has the interest of this society at heart will help, to the best of their ability, to make it a success.—J. LARK.

IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Five special prizes were fished for in the Stort on Sunday last, the 1st inst. After a keen competition, the following was the result:—Mr. W. H. Mecham, first; Mr. J. Barnes, second; Mr. G. Manning, third; Mr. G. Bliss, fourth; Mr. H Auburn, fifth. As Mr. Auburn was in the act of throwing in his line, a moor-hen flew from the rushes close by, and seized the bait as it was sinking; after a game resistance, he succeeded in landing it, and it is now in the hands of Mr. John Barrett, of 11, Diss Street, Hackney Road, to be preserved. Mr. G. Bliss was again on Wednesday amongst the large roach; he had five, which weighed 3 lb. 14 oz., and which were in splendid condition.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our members were out last Sunday, and had capital sport. Mr. Hurwood again heading the list with a fine show of roach and perch; Mr. Scott, a fine show of roach and rudd; Mr. Keene, jack; Mr. Raine, roach; J. Evans, gudgeon; H. Moore, roach and perch.—W. H. EVANS, sec.

Oct. 5,

NORTH WESTERN ANGLING CLUB.

On Sunday the 1st inst. a few of our members fished at Pangbourne for three prizes, roach only to weigh. Mr. Hill took first, with 3 lb. 6 oz.; Mr. Hillier second, 3 lb.; and Mr. Wynn third, with 10 oz. Messrs. Stead, Holmes and W. Roxbee also had roach.—H.

October 4.

PECKHAM BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this society have been doing very badly as far as angling extends, the shows of fish being very small indeed. In vain has the hon. secretary tried his favourite swims at Staines, in vain has "Sloper" tried to draw the jack from the Lea. They both return with light baskets but heavy hearts, and have to console themselves with a mild and bitter at Host Reed's. The members will try their fortune at Pulboro' on the 8th for tbe "cup." Odds, 2 to 1 on the "Dotter," 20 to 1 against all others. The dinner, to commemorate the formation of this society, is fixed for November 7. Tickets, 2s. 6d. each, may be had on application to the hon. secretary.—W. H. PAGE.

Prince Albert, East Surrey Grove, Peckham.

PORTSMOUTH WALTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

There has been very little angling news to record in connection with this society of late. The contests and outings this season have been "few and far between" in comparison with former years. Whether the increase of rodsters has decreased the fish in their favourite "hunting grounds" at Chichester and the Rother (at Salem) is a question; but this is certain, that the insignificant catches and the small size of the fish have deterred numbers of the good anglers from pursuing their favourite hobby Salt-water angling has been very favourable for the past month, and very large catches have been obtained, both from the land as well as in boats—principally bass, mackerel, pollack, and pout. While I am on the subject, I may add that Mr. Ritchie, a member of the club, last week, fishing from Southsea Beach, near Lumps, hooked and landed a splendid bass, weighing 7 lb. 11 oz.—DAGGERWOOD.

RODNEY PISCATORIALS.

On the 24th of September the members had an open competition for four prizes, but the fish taken, although according to the Thames rules, failed to come up to the society's standard, and therefore the prizes were not taken. On October 1st the competition was again renewed on the same terms; this time Messrs. Smith and Luland succeeded in getting the first and second prizes with bream from Amberley. At the meeting held on the 4th, information was received that Mr. Hockley would present a tankard for competition, Mr. R. Grant a handsome lamp, Mr. Canton £1 1s., and Mr. Ball a dozen tins of lobster. On the 15th a competition will take place for Mr. Grant's lamp, the two prizes left from the last competition, and Mr. Ball's lobster.—PIXIE.

ROYAL GEORGE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several members of the Royal George Angling Society were out last Sunday, and had good sport. Mr. Trotter weighed in 7 lb. 4 oz.; Mr. Hughes, 4 lb. 14 oz.; Mr. Parsons, 4 lb. 6 oz., while Messrs. Chart, Palmer, Wood, Bernhardt and Mahoney had very good takes.—C. W. W. BERNHARDT, sec.

Oct. 3rd.

STOKE NEWINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

A competition for four prizes took place on Oct. 1, roach only to weigh. Very boisterous weather had the effect of diminishing the catches of fish, only three out of the four prizes being taken. Mr. T. Gretton won the first, Mr. A. Pring the second, and Mr. C. F. Robinson the third.—T. GRETTON.

Oct. 3.

SURREY PISCATORIALS.

On Wednesday next, the 11th inst., the members of this society will compete for the following prizes:—First, £2 2s., given by Mr. White; second, pair of boots (30s.), given by Mr. Nash; and third, £1 1s., given by Mr. Peters. Mr. Beckett and a friend visited Richmond on the 4th, and managed between them to get over 12 lb. of dace and barbel—the barbel weighed over 3 lb., and the dace were in splendid condition.—PIXIE.

Oct. 5.

THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

There was every indication in the attendance of members at the club room, Ashley's Hotel, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, at the weekly meeting on Monday evening last, that the holiday season was about over. Mr. David Goodger, an old and respected member of the society was called upon to preside, and there was this gratifying circumstance on the occasion, that the esteemed father of the club, Mr. F. G. Pearce, was present for the first time since January last, and after his long and tedions illness. It must have been very pleasing to him to witness the members as they came into the room making their way to express their delight with a hearty shake of the hands at seeing him amongst them again. There were also present Messrs. Thomas Gillatt, T. Huggett, R. S. Fenning, J. P. Wheeldon, W, H. Brougham, F. C. Hatfield, R. L. Pugh, H. B. Brown, H. Wilkinson, G. E. Latchford E. Russell, George Robinson, C. P. Wheatstone, E. Bennett, James Lander, T. Norman Harrison, E. Walker, &c. The special occasion was a Thames roach fishing competition of fish not less than six ounces, but as it is always late before the bulk of the competitors arrive, other business is previously transactea. The chairman advances the bnsiness element of the meeting, so as to give those who live at a distance the chance of getting away early, whereupon the houorary secretary, Mr. James Lander, reads his minutes of the previous meeting, which are unanimously confirmed. The presentation of a copy of "Beaten on the Post," by the author, Mr. J. P. Wheeldon, is highly appreciated, and on the resolution of Mr. T. Gillatt, seconded by Mr. C. P. Wheatstone, a hearty vote of thanks is accorded, to which Mr. Wheeldon gracefully replies. The scales are now at work in the weighing in room. The three first shows did not number more than a dozen each—then there was a momentary lull speedily broken by the announcement ot "a good basketful"—then the rejection by a mere shade of not unsizeable fish but unweighable ones. The evening wore on most pleasantly and harmoniously relieved by these occasional arrivals. Mr. F. C. Hatfield was heartily congratulated ou some of his recent piscatorial achievements Mr. George Robinson, the great roach fisher in the Avon, did not compete in the Thames, but was full of interest in the result of the present Metropolitan river competition. It may altogether be said of the meeting of Monday evening last that it went well, and Mr. Goodger conducted the duties of a chairman with his usual courtesy and spirit. The following is the result of the Thames Roach Competition of 1882:—Mr. Beasley took took the first prize of £2 12s. 6d. with 6 lb. 1½ oz. of fish: Mr. E. Foreman, the second prize of £1 11s. 6d, with 3 lb. 11½ oz.; and Mr. Walker got the special prize of one guinea for the best specimen fish, offered by Mr. C. P. Wheatstone, with a roach of 1 lb. 3¼ oz. There was a rejection of about 40 lb. weight of roach, which doubtless when caught would have weighed six ounces each, but in the room would not turn the scales. It should be mentioned that Mr. Thomas Dawson presented the society with four handsomely framed views of Boulogne. A cordial vote of thanks was passed at the close to Mr. Goodger, as chairman of the evening.—B.

TRAFALGAR ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this society had a nice show of fish on Sunday. Mr. Potter, roach from the Thames; R. Gaze and Mr. Richardson, roach and perch from the Wey; H. Wilson, roach from the Mole; Mr. Goldstine, rudd and gudgeon from the Medway; Mr. Humphries, 3 bream, 3 lb. 12 oz.; J. Gaze, 1 roach, 1 lb. 4 oz, 1 perch, 2 lb. 4 oz. from Amberley; Mr. Lord, roach from the Colne; Mr. Morris, bream from the Harp.—J. GAZE, sec.

October 2.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

On the 15th the members will compete for the following prizes:—£1 1s., given by Mr. Mawbey, and 10s. 6d. given by Mr. R. Cain, condition "go where you like" and fish how you like, all fish to weigh according to club rules. In regard to the October competition, all fish must be weighed in the club house the same day as they are caught. Mr. C. Bansback, jun., has been appointed to weigh the same in the absence of the secretary or any member of the committee. On the 24th September Mr. Bayley had some nice roach from Amberley, and on the 29th September Messrs. Evans and Boalch had some good sport among the dace at Twickenham.—PIXIE.

WESTBOURNE PARK PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

A "Go where you like" match took place to-day by members of the above society. Mr. Adeane, the secretary, took 1st prize with a very handsome show of roach from Godfrey's water, West Drayton, 12 fish, weighing 10 lb. 13½ oz.; Mr. Jines, 2nd prize of £1, with 3 barbel from Thames, scaling 8 lb. 4½ oz.; Mr. Garham took 3rd prize, 10s. 6d., with 4 lb. fish from Harfield. Messrs. Tapping, Buttery, Evans and Beatly also added to the display, which was the finest this season.—G. EVANS.

Oct. 3rd.

THE CAUSES OF THE DECREASE OF FISH IN THE THAMES.

IT would be difficult to connect the above subject with the science of ballooning, and yet we are not surprised to hear that the energetic Balloon Society of Great Britain has secured from the hon. sec. of the Gresham Angling Society, Mr. T Crumplen, the promise of a lecture on the causes of decrease of Thames fish. The lecture will be given on Friday evening, October 13, at eight o'clock, in the society's lecture-room at the Westminster Aquarium. Admission is by ticket only. We can promise all who are present on the occasion a very able and interesting paper, the subject being one to which Mr. Crumplen has given much attention.

PROPAGATION OF BLACK BASS IN OHIO.—A sportsman of Chagrin Falls, O., writes as follows regarding the efforts of the local club to stock the waters in that locality with the best varieties of game fish. The propagating pond built by the Chagrin Falls Fish and Game Club here last summer, and into which were placed six small-mouthed black bass (two of which died) last Fall, is now well stocked with little bass about an inch long, there being hundreds of them in sight around the borders of the pond. These little bass are to be used in stocking waters in this vicinity which do not contain this kind of fresh water fish. The experiment proves, what has heretofore been disputed, that small-mouth bass can be successfully propagated for stocking purposes in small ponds. In view of the success attained by the Chagrin Falls Fish and Game Club in propagating black bass, they will attempt the propagation of the other fine varieties of fish. The club has done much already in the way of planting the small-mouthed bass in waters formerly barred of this excellent fish, and in procuring and distributing German carp, through the kindness of Professor Baird, of the United States Fish Commission. They propose to push the work further and more vigorously than ever before, and desire the co-operation of the public in the work.—*Turf, Field and Farm.*

REMARKABLE BICYCLE RIDE.—The 24 Hours' Road Competition promoted by the manufacturers of the "Facile" Safety Bicycle, took place on Saturday last. The event has attracted great interest among bicyclists and others, and the start was made from Anderton's Hotel at 12 midnight on Friday, in the presence of an immense gathering of spectators. There were 26 starters, and the result of the race was as follows:—1st prize, value £10 10s., won by Walter Snook; distance ridden in the 24 hours, 214½ miles. 2nd prize, value £6 6s., won by W. F. Sutton; distance ridden, 198 miles. 3rd prize, value £4 4s., won by C. H. Cole; distance ridden, 189 miles. Besides the above, 14 riders are entitled to the gold medal, value £3 3s., having accomplished 150 miles, and two to the silver medal, value £1 1s. (128 miles). All the competitors rode "Facile" bicycles, varying in size from 36 in. to 44 in., and, taken altogether, the performance of the winner may be considered the most remarkable that has yet been accomplished upon the "silent steed." The whole arrangements for checking the race were in the hands of Mr. G. P. Coleman, official time-keeper to the Bicycle Union.

A MAN CHOKED BY A LIVE FISH.—The Hawaiian *Gazette* states that a native named Kehale, while fishing at Milako, came very near being choked to death by a small fish, which slipped from his hand into his throat, as he was attempting to kill his finny captive by biting it upon the head. The fish was removed from the throat with the greatest difficulty. American anglers will please take warning.

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

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RIVER REPORTS

MID-THAMES.

"Amongst the views of many, mine."—SHAKESPEARE.

The river is still very bright and fish difficult to obtain in satisfactory quantities In consequence of frosty nights perch are beginning to herd, and may be best had with a lively minnow on a fine gut paternoster. The use of a chumpy cork float above the paternoster is very desirable, as it keeps the tackle erect, besides enabling the eye, as well as the hand, to detect a bite. Those who try this style of perching will soon find out its utility. Chub and barbel are very shy in this clear water, but small roach may now be caught galore; the big ones, however, are still in the weeds, but surely will soon quit their odoriferous quarters for fresh fields and pastures new, as the weeds are rotting fast, and will soon be—where? "Why, down by the sea." Jack are now on the war trail, and anglers will have little difficulty in finding in them foemen worthy their steel. The Henley waters have recently been much disturbed by being drawn off, so I have no items from that quarter; but a Henleyite has taken three jack in the Hambledon district. At Medmenham, H. Rhodes, Esq., with Tom Street, on Tuesday got a pretty sample of roach, and Mr. T. Huggett, on Monday, got some 3 dozen roach, but could get few fit to weigh the Piscatorial Club standard of 6 oz. Marlow, Cookham, and Maidenhead reports all tell of decent sport amid the roach with an occasional jack or clinking perch to grace the baskets. The weather is delightfully autumnal, and old Father Thames just now, with his outside coat of many colours, is well worth a jaunt of miles to view.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Ancholme District.

Roach and bream have fed very well during the past week, and the water is in excellent condition for pike fishing. Trout fishing has been brought to a close. It is under contemplation to restrict some of the becks during the coming winter. The newly-established club at Grimsby is making headway. One match has already taken place, and it is intended to hold another on Saturday, the 21st of October, at Thoresby Bridge. Several valuable prizes have already been promised, and it is hoped that the list will be considerably increased before the eventful day. The annual dinner will be held at the Masons' Arms on Tuesday, the 31st inst —THOMAS FORD.

Chichester.

Sport during the past week has slightly improved, some good takes of small fish coming under notice. Perch have given fair sport, Mr. Young taking a good fish. Some good bream were taken after dark last evening by Messrs Young and Summers. Pike are disporting themselves in the basin, the first jack of the season being taken by Mr. Smith with live bait. To-day, with a north-easterly wind. several members of the Portsmouth Waltonians paid a visit to the canal, but, like myself, were unsuccessful, a few small roach and perch only coming to hand; in fact, until late in the day fish were entirely off the feed On the Rother, near Petworth, Mr. Moser recently landed some nice roach averaging 8 oz. The railway company having discontinued the Sunday train service to Selham, Midhurst, &c., Petworth and Pulborough will doubtless be the venue for future outings.—GEORGE F. SALTER.

Derwent (Chatsworth).

The weather during the past week has been very favourable for anglers, and the water never in a better condition than at the present time. Sport since my last communication, trout excepted, has been quite first-rate. Practically speaking, trout fishing on this river is now over, but angling for grayling is just getting to its best, and right up to December the ardent grayling follower will be busy, no matter how cold the weather may be. One gentleman during the past week has had some very good takes, having caught no less than 50 brace with the bumble and little blue dun.—WHEATSHEAF HOTEL.

Dove.

We have had an excellent water all the week, there having been what is known as a woodland tint in it, just the sort of shade our rodsters like to see. The dark October dun has been on the surface in myriads every day when the sun has set. I learn that the keeper of the Okeover length killed seven brace of trout on Saturday, which was the last day of the trouting season. Heavy dishes were also killed the same day below Norbury and Rocester. This week the speckles have been rising freely to the angler's grayling flies, but when taken they have, of course, but to be returned to the river. Coarse fish have been biting first rate at the maggot and worm, and rodsters at the lower parts of the stream have had famous sport daily. Weather still beautiful.—THE SPLODGER.

Eden (Armathwaite).

The water has been low; but on September 28 a good basket of trout was got by George Ferguson; on the 29th, Canon Whitmore and Mr. Steel each had a nice basket; and Mr. Crowther, four, averaging $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. each. Trout season finished on Saturday. The river is now in first-rate order, and salmon are coming up plentifully, so good reports may be expected next week.—SKIDDAW.

Exe (Tiverton).

The river continues in good order for salmon fishing, and fish are being taken daily.—WM. MUDFORD.

Kent (Westmoreland).

Our trout fishing season closed on Saturday last, and has, on the whole, been a fairly average one. Perhaps on the lower portions of the river fewer fish have been taken this season than during some previous ones, and this may be owing to the disease which two years ago, and again last year, appeared to almost decimate the fish down there. Trout have run to a greater average size than usual, and as there was an unusual amount of food on the water they were in capital condition. The previous mild winter would be instrumental in producing such a desirable state of affairs. There is at present considerable sprinkling of fish affected by *saprolegnia ferax*, both salmon and trout, but it is not so bad as last year. Considerable dissatisfaction is expressed at the trout nets being worked up to the end of the season, and this, too, when there are salmon and sea trout in the river. Who is to see that the latter are returned when caught? This also applies to Windermere. Two of a family of poachers the well-known Shepperds, were caught the other day at the river side with chloride of lime in their possession and a portion they had placed in the river. This was proved without a doubt, but after adjourning the case, the charge against the fellows was dismissed because no dead trout were produced! The thanks of all anglers are due to Mr. G. Teasdale, who followed the men and caught them in the act for which they should have been convicted. We have had some capital sea trout fishing at nights during this September moon, mostly on private waters. On Friday last the writer was fortunate enough to catch a very fine mort or sea-trout (*Salmo trutta*) weighing just 7 lb. This is the largest fish of the kind ever killed with rod on the Kent; it was rather a long than thick fish, but when cooked was capital both in flavour and colour. Two or three small salmon have likewise been taken lately, and the slight fresh of this week and the recent high tides should send plenty of new fish up the river.—SPRINT.

Leicester.

The week taken upon the whole has been fine, but the cold easterly winds have not been in favour of anglers. A good number of devotees have been out, and many have met with good success. On Friday, the 29th September, a pike weighing, $8\frac{1}{2}$ lb. and measuring 1 yard $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length was caught at Welford Reservoir by Mr. H. G. James, of Ribworth, and was landed with the assistance of Mr. T. Hardy, of Leicester, who was fishing close by at the time. The fish, after about twelve minutes' determined struggling, was landed, and has been sent to London to be set up in a case. Mr. Haddon, on the 30th, took a nice basket of roach, weighing 8 lb. Mr. Lewis, on the same day, also had 4 lb. of roach; Mr. Ridgway a couple of brace of pike, taken spinning; whilst Messrs. Bennett, Blockley, and Burgess have been fairly to the front with some good takes of roach and perch. At Aylestone roach and chub have been caught in larger quantities than has been the case for the past few weeks. From Barrow matters are reported as rather quiet, but, on the other hand, statements to hand from the Wreake are of a most encouraging character, and several Leicester anglers fishing these waters have returned home with good baskets of both roach, perch, and pike. To-day (Thursday) the weather has been fine, but cold, with the wind in the east, but little has been done. Waters fine and clear, but not in bad condition for angling.—ALERT.

Nen (Northampton).

The water is now in good condition, and I hope next week to be able to forward you some good takes of fish. As I told you in my last, the third-class members of the Nen Angling Club turned out in good force on Saturday to compete for their prizes, offered by local gentlemen. But the heavy rains on Friday morning caused the river to overflow its bank on Saturday, which was not favourable for angling, and not one could rise the stipulated weight, so the prizes will have to be competed for again. I noticed a number of the Northampton Working Men's Angling Club were out on Saturday. J. Seal caught a nice 8 lb. bag of roach and 1 pike $3\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; H. Smith 2 brace, largest $3\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; C. Eyte, 1 pike, $2\frac{1}{4}$ lb.; altogether a nice show of fish was on view at the club house, W. Rigby, Half Moon, Bridge Street. The members of the above club hold their next series of prize fishing on Saturday next, when prizes to the amount of £2 10s. will be competed for in the upper water.—THOMAS JONES.

P.S.—This day (Thursday) H. Smith and H. Hewlett, members of the above, had a grand day, killing $6\frac{1}{2}$ brace of pike in the lower water.

Ribble and Hodder.

The rivers are now in nice order for salmon fishing, but only two salmon have been caught just below Hodderfoot. Last Saturday one fisherman caught three morts and two sprods, and another three morts and four trout, in a clear water. We have had a gentleman from Liverpool staying here; on Tuesday he caught a very nice mort, and yesterday two mort, and hooked a salmon, but lost it.—E. DUGDALE.

Taw (N. Devon).

Water just right, and salmon and peel in abundance. Mr. Bradshaw and other gentlemen, fishing in the Mole, have done well, and landed some large salmon and peel, all with the Barnstaple minnow. Some gentlemen, who do not wish their names made public, have taken some salmon in the Lower Taw, I saw a dish of good trout taken on Saturday, for the wind up, and the fish were in good condition. A gentleman staying at Abbotsmarsh upon the Taw, I hear, got over thirty salmon and peel this year, and I am certain Mr. Bradshaw must have bagged over 300 peel and salmon.—RUSTY GAME.

Thames (Goring).

Water in good order for roach fishing. Roach biting well. Jack and perch not on much. My best day, 10 lb. of roach, four jack, and a few perch.—JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Hallford).

The river is very low and bright. Different gentlemen fishing with me since last week's report have had takes as follows:—First day, Mr. Valentine, three barbel and a perch, best barbel weighing 4 lb.; second day, two gentlemen, four bream and two barbel, altogether weighing $20\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; third day, Mr. George Palmer, four bream, three barbel, two roach, and a chub, altogether weighing 24 lb.; fourth day, Mr. Young, three barbel weighing 9 lb.—GEORGE ROSEWELL.

Thames (Richmond.)

The river is now in good fishing order; but the fish are not feeding quite so well as they did last week, though I anticipate a good report next week. All the punts here are out most days, and the patrons of the Richmond fishermen have had some good takes of roach, which have been of good size. The average takes have been from 10 to 16 lb. per punt for each day, all sizeable fish.—John Bushnell.

Thames (Twickenham).

Wind N.E. The rain we have had during the week has improved the river. I have had 29 punts out during the week, and yesterday (Wednesday) I was obliged to send some of my customers back to London without wetting a line for want of punts. I am pleased to say we are now getting some good fish, and everything looks promising for a good autumn fishing. I will again advise my customers, to prevent disappointment, they should write or wire in advance if possible. I should be taking up too much of your valuable space if I were to give you each punts taking in detail, but each punt will average from 6 to 10 dozen a day, of course some taking more than others. Jack Spong, with Mr. Eydman and friend, of the Acton and Ealing Angling Society, took a nice basket of roach and dace, fit to show anywhere; the same with Mr. Howes and Goodwin, of Dalston, and with Captain Martin 15 lb. beautiful fish, and yesterday with Mr. and Mrs. Pitcher, of Warwick Lane, Newgate Street, 25 lb. of splendid roach and dace. "Our Joe" has been fully employed, taking some roach weighing over 17 oz.; these were the finest roach taken here this season; also 2 barbel, but not of any size worth note, one weighing 2 lb. and one $3\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. Dick Moffatt and Farmer have both been well employed, Dick one day with Mr. Goodyear took 8 dozen good fish, and any amount under club size. I am sorry to hear that some of our Richmond brethren have stated that my reports are not truthful. If there is any further doubt I shall be pleased to send them the address of any of my customers whose náme I give in my report, and they will answer for themselves.—Alfred Perrin.

Thames (Windsor).

Thursday afternoon. The river is very low, for the rain we have had. I went up the river to bait for barbel with worms and greaves; saw nobody out; fish ought to bite well now if tried for, a few stray jack and barbel have been caught. G. Lumsden.

Teme (Ludlow).

During the last few days there has been little or no fishing here, owing to the state of the water, which has been very high and muddy; but it is now getting into good order for grayling fishing. In the latter part of last week, a fair amount of grayling were caught in the neighbourhood, one or two very good baskets being taken.—C. B. Marston.

Torridge (Torrington).

The river is in splendid order for salmon and peel fishing, and I am pleased to report good sport has been had, 9 peel falling to one rod yesterday. Many salmon have been seen sporting, 2 were hooked on Thursday, and after being brought almost to land, lost. A $2\frac{1}{2}$ inch bright Devon minnow has been the most successful bait in ensnaring 26 peel since last report.—John D. Bastard.

Torridge (Woodford Bridge).

River this week in capital order, a gentleman from Padstow has had some excellent sport. Mr. Borlase killed twenty-eight on the river Waldon, a small river running into the Torridge; some good sport also in the upper waters. For the last forty years I have not seen the fish in such excellent condition for so late in the season. Several dace have also been taken, the favourite flies being the blue upright, and red palmer, and the Devon minnow. —John Blake.

Trent (Newark).

The very heavy rains of last week caused the river to rise some two feet or so, but not much colour came with it; it is now getting in condition rapidly. By the time this is in print it will be in fairish condition for any sort of angling that can now be practised. Not much has been done this week, a few anglers have been out, but bags have not been very heavy. A few nice dace have been taken; gentles have been the most successful lure for those fish. A few small chub have also been had with worms for bait; in short, sport has been of such a meagre character this week that there is nothing worth recording as far as I could learn. At the time of writing (Thursday night, 7 p.m.) the prospects look a little better, despite the adverse state of the elements. Gentles and worms will be as good baits as can be tried just now, while the angler might try the roach with paste and creed wheat just for a change. Chub should soon get into their winter quarters, and revel in the luxury of pith and brains, and jack ought soon to reward the spinner by "hanging on" one of the triangles of his flight.—The Trent Otter.

Trent (Nottingham).

Sport during the week has varied a good deal. In the early part of the week the water, through rain, was much discoloured, and in some of the lower reaches bream fed freely, although, as a rule, the takes were not large. In the upper reaches some splendid dace have come to hand from Swarkestone, one that I saw weighing $10\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Mr. Field, at Weston, has caught a nice lot of barbel in the Severn below King's Mills Weir, but the season for these game fish is now almost at an end. A few cold nights will drive them in their winter quarters. At Kneeton, Mr. J. Theaker, fishing with Mr. H. Barton, has caught a nice bag of chub, and some of the same species have been shown from Shardlow.—The Man at the Clubs.

Wharfe (Yorkshire).

This river is now in good order for fly-fishing, and should no more rain fall there will, I expect, be some good sport among the grayling; the small willow fly, honey dun, bumble, water-hen, and orange and needle brown will perhaps be the best flies to employ; the weather during the past few days has been close and warm for the time of year.—Francis M. Walbran.

Wye (Bakewell).

The water is a little high for grayling fishing; it will be in good order by Monday if we have no more rain. There have been a few gentlemen out, they have killed some good grayling, but not many. Apple green and olive quill, furnace, and needle flies have been killing.—R. H.

Wye and Derwent.

Trout fishing closed with us last Monday, the 2nd inst., according to the Fresh-water Fisheries' Act, and I must say, taking the season on the whole, we have had a very good one in Derbyshire. Both rivers are now in excellent condition for either fly or bottom fishing, and I am pleased to say since my last report some good baskets of both trout and grayling have been killed fly and bottom fishing, and baskets from 5 to $10\frac{1}{2}$ brace per angler have been made. Both duns, bumbles, and furnace flies have all killed fish, the bumbles taking the greatest quantity. I have just received a letter from a gentleman, H. Cotes, Esq., of Manchester, who was fishing in the Tees last Saturday, with one of my bumbles—on drawn gut—he hooked a salmon of nearly 5 lb., and killed him, after having him on over half an hour. This is a wounderful performance for to kill a salmon on fine drawn gut, it only shows what fine gut will do if properly handled. Weather very close, and rain threatening to-night Thursday.—George James Eaton.

Yare (Norwich).

The high tide which prevailed the latter part of last week made angling in the lower parts of this stream of hardly any account, the majority of the disciples of old Isaak who were out returning with nearly empty bags; here and there was an exception, and in each case I note the successful piscators were those I should term "early birds who are out with the worms," and who know the water well; in each instance they have come up stream. On Saturday last, a well-known visitor at the Buckenham Ferry, took, with a friend, 84 nice roach. The same day at Brundall, 54 fine roach were taken in a short time by two rods, and this was the only instance of luck here as far as I can ascertain. A Sprouston angler caught early this week 109 roach, weighing $39\frac{1}{2}$ lb., the largest fish scaling 1 lb. 11 oz. I have heard of no other catches worth noting. I am very pleased to inform you that Mr. Thomas, the gentleman who wrote you with particulars of his sport and experiences of Wroxham Broad, has become a subscriber to the Yare Preservation Society, and should he visit this locality next year, it would afford your correspondent pleasure to be of any service to him. I trust more London brethren of the angle who visit our waters will follow Mr. Thomas's example. The water here is in good condition, and I hope for good sport during the next week.—Robert Moll.

Yore (Hawes).

The water here is in first-class condition, and will continue so for some days; in fact, fly-fishing for grayling could be carried on with advantage for a fortnight without more rain. However, should we have a fresh, say once a week, it would not retard, but add to the pleasure of those who love the "gentle craft." As the trout season has only just expired, little or nothing has been done in Upper Yore during this week very few of the natives availing themselves of the opportunity which the well-conducted association of Hawes and High Abbotside affords them, and of which Mr. Beck Thompson, of the Crown Inn, Hawes, is secretary, a gentleman who I can with confidence recommend, not only through his widespread hospitality, but the claim which he justly holds as being an undoubted disciple of I. Walton. As regards suitable flies for the upper part of the Yore, I should say black and red palmers, and any other bright or tinselled flies, in fact, any flies that are found to act well in any other part of the river; in a fresh, the small worm.—Cotton.

AN ENGLISH ANGLER IN AMERICA SINGS.

"As pants the hart for water brooks,
So do I pant to be
Once more an angler on thy banks,
My river bright and free.

"The summer winds, that tremblingly
Through reeds and flag-flowers quiver,
Sing thee a dreamy lullaby,
O, gentle angling river!

"Roll on, roll on, I shall not draw
A moral from thy race,
Enough for me, O, angling stream,
Thy pleasant banks to trace."

The Thames Angling Preservation Society.—We would be pleased to record the advent of an association in America similar to the Thames Angling Preservation Society, one having wide influence and power to check, if not entirely suppress, the illegal fishing which is openly engaged in upon many of the best lakes and streams at all seasons.

A Hint to the Angling Fraternity.—Those who are so fortunate as to cast their lines in pleasant places should carefully preserve the memories of angling days by the equally entertaining lines of the pen. Strangely enough, the angling fraternity is not so communicative through the medium of the press as the brothers of the gun; and this characteristic is commented upon by a contemporary as follows: "It seems astonishing that people who will talk about fish and fishing by the hour will not write about the same subject for a minute. As a rule, it is difficult to get much information from anglers for publication. They have their favourite streams, which they keep quiet about, and their favourite flies, which they keep secret. They will seldom take up the pen to write a few points which will be of interest to their fellow-sportsmen, yet these same readers will find fault if there is not plenty of fresh news for them."

Leading a Cheese.—Charles Matthews used to tell, with great glee, a little story of Charles Lamb, which he vouched for as authentic and believed to be unpublished. One evening Mary Lamb took a sudden and violent fancy to have some Stilton Cheese for supper, an article of which they had not a scrap in the house. It was very wet, and getting rather late; but Charles with that self-denial which showed itself in a life-long devotion to his sister, at once volunteered to try whether any could be got. He sallied forth and reached their cheesemonger just as the shutters were being put up. In reply to his demand, he was assured that they had some very fine ripe Stilton; and the shopkeeper proceeded to cut off a slice. As it lay on the scales Lamb's attention was forcibly arrested on the lively gambols of a number of maggots which came to the surface of the "fine ripe Stilton." "Now, Mr. Lamb," said the cheesemonger, "shall I have the pleasure of sending this home for you?" "No, th-th-thank," said Charles. "If you will give me a bit of twine I cou-cou-could p'rhaps l-l-lead it home!"

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

FISHING PLACES NEAR MANCHESTER.

Sir,—In reply to Mr. J. Brooks' enquiry respecting fishing places round Manchester, I enclose a list of those most frequented by our local anglers. Those marked "by permission," Mr. Brooks must join our local club, and by making good use of his time, will soon learn how and where to obtain permission; or if he prefers to communicate with me direct, you, sir, have my address, and I shall be pleased to give him all the assistance I can.

In addition to those named there are hundreds of private waters (locally termed lodges) where good rough fishing may be had, and in most of the canals there are good roach.

To aid others interested in Mr. Brooks' enquiry, I give names of places, stations, lines, distances, and class of fish to be found.—I am, &c.,

W. R. R.

[We beg to thank W. R. R. for the trouble he has taken. We give below the table.—Ed.]

Names of Places.	Station.	Line.	Mls.		Class of Fish.
Weaver	Halton	L. & N. W.	23½	Free	Trout, pike, bream, roach, graining, gudgeon and eels
Weaver	Northwich	Cheshire	20¾	Free	Trout, pike, bream, roach, graining, gudgeon and eels
Dane	Northwich	Cheshire	20¾	Free	Trout, bream, chub, roach, graining, gudgeon, and eels
Lostock Brook	Northwich	Cheshire	20¾	Free	Trout, bream, chub, roach, graining, and gudgeon
Lostock Brook	Lostock Graham	Cheshire	16½	By permission	Trout, chub and eels
Smoker Brook	Plumbley	Cheshire	17¼	2s. 6d. per day	Trout, chub and eels
Bollin	Heatley	Cheshire	11¾	By permission	Trout, chub, pike, roach, graining, gudgeon, eels, and perch
Pie Mere	Lostock Graham	Cheshire	16½	Free	Bream, roach, perch, eels and pike
Marbury Mere	Northwich	Cheshire	20¾	By permission	Bream, roach, perch, eels and rudd
Acke Mere	Delemere	Cheshire	28	By permission	Bream, roach, perch, eels and rudd
Newton Mere	Newton Bridge	L. & N. W.	15¾	By permission	Trout, pike, perch, roach, bream and eels
Woodhead Reservoirs	Hadfield Crowden	M. S. & L M. S. & L.	13 17¼	By permission By permission	Trout, perch, and char in one of them
Whaley Bridge	Whaley Bridge	M. S. & L	15	By ticket at — per day*	Trout, pike, roach and perch
Bury	Bury	L. & Y.	12	By ticket at 1s. per day	Trout, pike, roach and perch
Buxton	Buxton	L. & N. W.	25	By ticket at — per day	Trout and grayling
Miller's Dale	Miller's Dale	Midland	29½	By ticket at — per day	Trout and grayling
Nicholls' Pools	Altrincham	Cheshire	8	10s. 6d. per an.	Pike, perch, roach and bream

* This used to be 1s. per day.

THE SIZE OF EXE TROUT.

Sir,—I should not have thought it necessary to notice the letter by "Brobdignagian" and "Tivertonian" touching R. A.'s fishing, had not your editorial note thereon been in some degree spiced with incredulity.

"Brobdignagian" says he does not doubt my statements; his other observations are unworthy of reply. I shall therefore dismiss his letter at once.

I must confess "Tivertonian's" epistle puzzled me till I remembered that I had before heard that narrative of the "young gentleman killing seventy-one trout," &c. It is a tale that often appears in one individual's discourses—in fact, the King Charles that so often obtrudes himself in Mr. Dick's memorial—and, necessarily it discovers the writer. Why he objects to the introduction of any class of flies differing from his own is now sufficiently clear to me, and possibly outsiders may guess the cause. It is simply a matter of business.

While always happy to discuss flies and fishing, I prefer doing so with those who understand those subjects, and "Tivertonian" will, I hope, pardon my stating that having fished the Exe day by day for the last five seasons and never yet seen him fishing, that if he now lays claim to being himself an angler he is at all events not a very enthusiastic one, and that the circumstance of merely living on the banks of the river for any number of years will hardly constitute him an authority on the art. He must remember this is a progressive age. Insulation for a life time in Tiverton will not teach an angler all there is to be learnt. Strangers who have not seen the Exe a couple of times in their life have been known to visit Tiverton and kill with the fly heavy fish that those who had "fished the river for forty years" thought it utterly useless to try for.

I am perfectly aware that I expose myself to the criticisms of anglers of "forty years experience" stamp by advocating anything like a departure from the standard Exe flies, and it is satisfactory to me to find that "Tivertonian," who "knows the river so well," is sceptical of eight fish each above a pound in weight being taken by one rod in one days' fishing; it shows that his own flies will not do as much. Now, in addition to these fish being killed, there were also taken with my flies, on two consecutive days fishing, a basket of twenty-six fish weighing 13 lb., and another of between twenty and thirty fish (I do not remember the exact number) weighing 12½ lb.

These catches were all made during the season of 1881, and I shall be pleased to give "Tivertonian" sufficient proof of these statements if he will favour me with a call; and lest he should urge doubt of my identity as a reason for his taking no further steps, he will perceive that I affix my name and address hereto.

It was not, however, with any view of engaging in a controversy that I wrote my article on "fine" fishing; I wrote for general information, to add to that knowledge of the art for which the Fishing Gazette is invaluable in diffusing among piscators. If anglers prefer big flies and their coarser belongings, let them do so by all means, I have no objection; but I think it is scarcely fair or just, whatever may be the interests of one or two individuals, that in return for my pointing out the means by which I have been successful, that they should make me the object of a personal attack.

"Tivertonian" does not think that the orthodox flies will probably kill double these weights when the stickles are fished in the ordinary manner! I should scarcely think he would imagine it, notwithstanding his citing the instance of the "young gentleman who made a basket of 71 trout weighing 18½ lb., and not one fish being under a quarter of a pound." How marvellously of a size the fish must have run! But I think there was a sequel to this exploit that piscator has forgotten to mention. Did not an indignant remonstrance appear in the local press against such a slaughter of the innocents? This, however, brings me back to my original statement. Let an angler, by assiduously fishing the stickles all day, succeed in catching twice the weight of fish I do when dry fly-fishing, I hold that my day's sport, so far as the pleasure is concerned, is the best. The "young gentleman's" take, the best basket "Tivertonian" ever saw, is a case in point. I would much rather kill a couple of brace of pounders on fine tackle than any number of such troutlings.

Your own remarks, sir, as applying generally to the size of trout in the Exe are perfectly correct. A pound fish is the exception, smaller ones being the rule, although I am of opinion, and so are many other anglers, that the trout, while not so numerous, are running much bigger than they used to do.

But there are one or two spots in the river where the fish, in size and their modes of rising, are essentially different from other Exe fish, and one of those places is at the mouth of the river Lowman, where it runs into the Exe, immediately below Tiverton. There the fish may be seen congregated in large numbers and size, rising all day long if the weather be not too bright. Even at this late season the fish are there, for on Saturday last I counted thirty-seven rises in the brief space of three minutes. During the early spring months the larger fish are not so numerous, but as the warm weather approaches they push up from the pools below, and there are few people in Tiverton who in their rambles through the shaded paths of Collipriest have not observed what I state, even "Tivertonian" himself cannot deny it. You have therefore two facts before you, first that the fish are there, next that they are constantly rising and taking flies. The uselessness of casting over them (unless, perhaps, in the dark) the ordinary Exe flies had become so apparent that very few anglers wasted their time with them when passing down the river, and, as I before observed, I turned my attention to fabricating flies that have not only killed good baskets in that particular spot, but also in other places in the Exe where big fish are to be found.

When I wrote my article I think the fishing of last season had barely commenced, now it is over, and I am able to say what I could not then, that many other fishermen have used these flies successfully among the bigger fish, and if "Tivertonian" be still sceptical their testimony is ready to be given as to their success. These fabrications are simply imitations of the flies on the water, dressed as nearly like the originals as I can make them. They are dressed on superfine drawn gut, and a hook made to my special order with no superfluous metal about it to scare away a suspicious trout that has too often been pestered with a pot-hook wrapped around with staring tackle and flaunting dubbing, the colours of which the angler fondly deems to be attractive. The flies I have used are duns and spinners, and some of the lesser browns, together with crane flies and the black gnat, the latter dressed as a midge. With them I have repeatedly killed trout that had previously broken me and found my broken flies in them.

A practical angler like yourself will readily understand all this, although it puzzles some of the fishermen here; the lesson is as old as Tiverton itself. It was known in Walton's time, yet some here do not seem to remember it.

If the flies of which I write have any merit, as against those of the other types, you, sir, a practical angler, will be able to recognise it, and I should be glad if you would record your opinion in a future issue of the Gazette. For your inspection I enclose three I have just dressed, two duns and a spinner; they require a touch of varnish at the head; but being late for post, I must post them as they are; they will serve the purpose for which they are intended.—I am, &c.,

2, Angel Road, Tiverton, R. S. Austin.
3rd Oct., 1882.

[Never having fished the Exe lower down than two or three fields below the Carnarvon Hotel, near Dulverton station, we cannot say anything about the fishing below, except that we have often been told that the fish run larger as you get lower down. The flies sent us by Mr. Austin are nicely made enough and on very capital hooks, but we have seen flies quite equal to them, made for us by Mudford of Tiverton and Miss Arnold. In the spring the ordinary run of flies used by local anglers is rather larger than we ever use; but we could mention some Dulverton anglers who use smaller flies than those Mr. A. sends, when the water is low and bright. It would all the same be unfair to say that, *as a rule*, one can get such flies as these in Devonshire, unless specially ordered, or that Devon anglers use such flies. We cannot help agreeing with Mr. Austin that a basket of seventy-one trout, each fish weighing almost exactly one quarter-pound (four times eighteen is seventy-two) is even more wonderful as a single day's take from the Exe, than one of eight fish, each over a pound. We do not dispute either statement, being only too glad to hear such testimonials to a favourite river.—Ed.]

THE ANGLER'S CURSE.

Sir,—This association (Liverpool Angling Association) has recently acquired the right of fishing in a reservoir near Ruabon, North Wales, which is well stocked with fine trout averaging ¾ lb. each. Myself and two members were fishing it with the fly on Monday, September 25th, but although the fish were rising all over the pool and almost under our feet not a single one could we stir. I changed my flies time after time, but all to no purpose. I caught several flies that were about, but none of these would move a fish, although I cast, and the others too, over scores of "rises." In one case where a "pounder" was feeding right under my nose, I saw him come up and deliberately eye my artificial, and then quietly turn tail and disappear, although the very next moment he was at it again rising at something on the water, but what not one of us could make out. We only managed to land a 1 lb. 2 oz. fish all day, though there were hundreds of them plunging all about. This experience so exactly corresponds with your remarks under the heading of the "Angler's Curse," that I thought I would send this account to you for publication if you thought it worth the space.—Yours, &c.,

Liverpool. R. Woolfall.

THE "ANGLER'S CURSE" ON HAMPSHIRE RIVERS, &c.

Sir,—Concerning the "angler's curse," I had intended to write you precisely what I see your correspondent H. S. H. remarks at p. 473 of the Fishing Gazette. The "cuss" that we have been cussed with on the Anton and Test this past month or two has been a minute brown speck, any imitation of which is hopeless. You speak of having midge flies made on the smallest eyed hooks, but if I mistake not there are none made below the No. 1 size, none so small as the 0 and 00 of other makes. I do not care myself for eyed hooks for the very small flies, but I think for May flies—sedges, the coachman, large palmers, &c.—they are invaluable. It is such a convenience to be able to vary the thickness of gut to suit different times and rivers. With regard to the gut and hair controversy, it has always occurred to me that different people have very varied ideas as to what fine gut is. We continually read of large fish and even salmon (see the *Field* a week or two since) being taken on "the finest trout cast." Even Mr. Colquhoun, in the "Moor and the Loch," uses the expression, but in these cases I always fancy that the writers mean gut that on Hampshire rivers we should call very coarse. It is rather amusing, by the bye, to see "Herne the Hunter," that astounding son of a still more wonderful father, comparing the wariness of his six-inch trout with that of Hampshire three and four pounders! Your Test correspondent, September 23, speaks of the whole of the past season as having been bad. On the Anton, however, the fishing for the first two months was remarkably good; there was often even more fly than we wanted, and many good bags were made, but for the last three months there has been an almost total absence of fly, and no evening fishing at all. I have not taken a single fish this year with a large evening fly, though the river is full of fish. I send you herewith two or three of the flies which I have used lately, and should be glad to know whether the midge flies you mention in your note, p. 474, are smaller than these; also whether the fine drawn gut which you speak of is finer than the gut of these flies. The fly in the middle is what Mr. Cox, of Winchester, who made them, calls the "little cuss."—B.M.

[The flies B. M. sends are larger than those Mr. Hall sent on his eyed hooks and we should hardly call them midge flies. The spider, for instance, is the size usually fished by experts on the Wharfe. We are much obliged to B. M. for the sample of the "little cuss." It is a first rate pattern. The gut we refer to as the finest drawn gut is certainly finer than that B. M. sends, but then B. M.'s is not drawn gut; we never saw finer whole gut, and would give 16s. or more for 100 lengths of it for minnow-fishing and fly in a big spring water. We will send B. M. Mr. Hall's flies to look at. The eyed hooks are made in 0 and 00 by Messrs. Hutchinson. We are having some made now.—Ed.]

HAIR *v.* GUT.—IN FAVOUR OF HAIR.

Sir—Sarcasms 'aint argument Mr. H. S. H., nor is it quite fair of you to quote a portion only of a certain sentence of mine, when the remainder in a degree alters the meaning of the part you give. Nor are the members of our association only "restrained from a murder of six-inch innocents by a formulated rule of a club." Their sense of what is right would doubtless prompt them to return such undersized trout though the rule were absent. Argue fairly and we will not quarrel; but it is scarcely "good enough" for you to write as you do at the close of your letter last week. What would you say were I to suggest that members of your club were only prevented from stealing silver tea spoons because there is a law prohibiting the legality of such a proceeding? Yet, in a measure, this is similar to what you have done. This though has nothing to do with the matter at issue This is whether gut or hair is best for trout fishing with fly under certain conditions. I would never be such a fool as to assert that single hair is as a rule strong enough to kill these wonderful "sockdollagers" of the Test we hear so much talk about. Nor, so far as I am aware did Mr. Balderston ever make such a statement. The multiplicity of correspondents, as it were, put words into our mouths. I have a letter from Mr. Balderston, which says his hair is quite strong enough to kill fish of three-quarters of a pound weight. Hair I use is quite strong enough to kill a trout three pounds weight, under favourable conditions. But I would not use hair where there was much likelihood of hooking fish of such dimensions. One correspondent writes I talk of fishing for sea trout with hair, and condemns such a practice. Who, in the name of goodness ever suggested such a thing? I said I had killed sea trout up to a certain weight with hair, and so I have. But I never said I was fishing for them at the time. Trout were what I was after then. This is about a fair sample of the logic one has used against us. Not a word has been said against my arguments in favour of hair. "Ingleborough" writes as though I said gut could not be cast straight. I never said anything of the kind, for I can throw gut as straight as I can hair. The same writer alludes to hair curling. We have all heard of "curled hair," but all hair is not curled, neither does all hair curl. Any that does this must be discarded, such stuff should never be used. As I have previously written, where trout do not average more than from 8 oz. to 12 oz. each, I am prepared to prove that hair will be more successful in their capture than the finest drawn gut. I am surprised to find amid all this correspondence that no one has offered a single argument against those I advanced a fortnight ago; nor has there been a word forthcoming as to the soft, pulpy condition drawn gut gets into after being used for a few hours. I would be one of the very first to use fine drawn gut could it be procured to sail as well as hair, stand fishing and retain its stiffness as well, and be as free from entanglement when attached to a merry trout. My apologies are due to the "Southern Trout" if I libelled him, and I bend knees with all the abjectness required and in accordance with the penalty imposed for the commitment of so dire an offence. Trout are all brothers though they be from the Test or the Tweed—would that all anglers were the same—and I would as soon libel one of my own spotted fellows from the Kent as I would those from any other stream. And every one should know that I would not do the former. But really so much has been written respecting the obese proportions and gigantic dimensions of these south country trout, and a like amount about the half starved lilliputians of our northern streams, that I need be excused for the unintentional libel. From what I have read and from my own limited experience, I not unnaturally come to the conclusion that trout in rapid streams are more powerful than those in sluggish ones. Nor am I yet convinced of the contrary, for it is but reasonable to suppose that fish living in water so rapid as to make them require an amount of muscular exertion to procure food, are more likely to possess greater strength than fish which reside in spots where there is no current to stem, and where a *dolce far niente* sort of life enables them to wax fat and toothsome. I can quite appreciate the difficulty of keeping a big trout out of a bed of weeds, but if he is a big 'un, and he will go, he will go, despite the strongest drawn gut. The other night I had a 5½ lb. grilse on thin gut and a No. 4 hook, Kendal measurement—but not as this is erroneously given both by Francis Francis and Foster. This fish was hooked at dusk right amongst weeds and I landed him safely—but it was as much by good luck as good management. The smallest hooks of the Kendal make are 0 0, and the higher the number the larger the size. Imagine the effect of doing what one writer tells us, to dress a midge fly on No. 14 hook, Kendal size! Such a hook is used for an ordinary sized salmon fly. I shall be delighted to have from you, Mr. Editor, specimens of the midges you allude to in your note, and if we have any flies for our rivers in Westmoreland which you would like to possess, I will be most happy to return the compliment. Only please do not let your correspondents put a wrong construction upon what one writes. I am perfectly willing to be responsible for what I write and say, but not for what is often said one says and writes.

I am, &c., Sprint.

[It is a great pity the hook makers cannot agree to have one uniform list of sizes of hooks instead of the present horrible confusion. "Sprint" considers that his arguments in favour of hair have never been answered. Surely enough has been said in favour of gut! But, perhaps, next spring, on the Eden or Kent we can thrash this matter out; at any rate, there will be no fear that one of us will be rushing about to see if the other is cheating or has taken fish with him to pretend they are fairly caught!—Ed.]

HAIR *v.* GUT FOR BOTTOM FISHING.

Sir,—Some lengthy articles have appeared at different times in the columns of the Fishing Gazette, and among the number, a series on "The Theory of Flies." These articles and letters were signed by R. Balderston, "The Raven," &c., and as a sort of a finale to them a challenge was issued, signed by "Herne the Hunter." Now, I read all these articles with a good deal of interest, and somehow or other I could not help thinking that R. Balderston, "The Raven," "Herne the Hunter," &c., were one and the same person. "Verily," said I to myself, after reading the challenge of "Herne the Hunter," and using the words of one of old: "The hands are the hands of Esau, but the voice is the voice of Jacob." It appears now from recent correspondence that I was right in my conjecture as to the authorship of the articles in question.

At the outset, I am not going to say that hair is useless for the purposes of sport. If I lived in the neighbourhood of a water that only contained roach and fish of a similar size, where a half-pounder is a good one, and a pounder met with only very rarely, and after careful trial I found that hair was the best for that place, I should certainly use it. But I have had very considerable experience with both hair and gut; and I found that, generally speaking, hair turned out a delusion and a snare. What may be the merits of hair in fishing a burn or beck, or a small mountain stream (I mean fly-fishing for trout, where the fish run about half a dozen or so to the pound), I cannot say; for I have had no experience in that kind of thing. But I will just look at the question from a plain common sense point of view as a bottom-fisher, and look at the merits and demerits of gut and hair as it would have to be used on the Trent by an ordinary bottom-fisher. When I used to make my bottom tackles for roach out of hair, and use them in paste fishing, I cannot find on reference to my note book that I was more successful then than I am now with gut, using them under the same conditions of water, wind, and weather. Indeed, I believe that gut has the decided advantage, both as regards weight and number of roach taken. In the first place I used to find that the hair tackle had a tendency to break close to the shank of the hook, just at the termination of the silk whipping, sometimes before I had it in use five minutes.

In the next place, hair is porous, and is liable to stretch. A pound roach is hooked and landed, the hair tackle is stretched to its utmost tension by the process, and the very next fish you hook, if a tidy sized one—and you play your fish ever so carefully—results in the breakage of the hair and the loss of the fish. I have found it so, and I rather pride myself on my ability to play a fish with a delicate hand. Sometimes it is necessary to fish for roach with a big pelican quill float that will carry a dozen fair sized split shots, for the water may be fourteen feet deep and a moderate stream. You are, we will suppose, fishing from a boat, and your float travels down the stream moderately fast. If you had a light float, with only three or four shots on the tackle, your bait would not reach the bottom until it had got to the extreme end of the swim, even if that same swim was thirty yards long. A heavy float and tackle is necessary under those circumstances in getting your bait to the bottom as quickly as possible. Where would a hair tackle be under those conditions? Why smashed at the very first stroke. You have a lot of line out, your bait is fourteen feet deep, a smart stroke is necessary to fix the hook in the jaw of a fish, and well, in short, hair would not stand it at all; indeed, I have known it necessary to fish for roach with ordinary chub gut under those circumstances, as fine drawn gut would not stand the wear and tear of that work for an hour. Again, you perhaps are fishing for roach with a hair tackle using for bait tail end of maiden lobworms; and one of those big bream or barbel (for which certain parts of the Trent are so famous) would insist on taking your bait, and with it, of course, your hook and some of the hair tackle, for the chances are against you killing and landing your fish under those circumstances; or, again, you are fishing with gentles or a wasp-grub for roach, and a vigorous chub that had strayed into the swim, attracted by the ground bait, would close his hard leathery jaws on the bait, and the result would be a broken tackle, for nine out of ten hair tackles would not stand the strain, especially if they had been a day in use. Extra fine gut is now made to such perfection that I find no difficulty in killing a three-pound chub with it, when I get hold of one. Hair is a great deal thicker than this fine gut; and this gut does not magnify in the water as some anglers say it does, especially if it is stained a light blue colour. Some of the old fashioned school of anglers still persist in using hair for their bottom tackles for roach fishing, and will not be persuaded to use a gut tackle, be it ever so fine. They have a lively recollection of the gut of their younger days, which was very coarse and very unequal; and so they refuse to keep pace with civilization in its onward strides; indeed, one old angler (who has now gone over to the majority) told me that in his younger days gut was so coarse and bad that he preferred to make his barbel and chub tackles out of copper and brass wire. We know that there are certain of these old school anglers about at the present day. They refuse to listen to the voice of reason, let her talk to them ever so kindly; and I am sadly afraid that some young anglers are following in the footsteps of their elders in this respect. The angler of fifty years ago is not like the angler of to day; then every bit of his tackle from the rod down to the hook was of an unnecessary weight and strength. Now, the angler tries how lightly he really can fish; then an angler, more observant than his brethren, would, perhaps, discard the coarse gut and wire in roach fishing, and use the hair despite its disadvantages; and as time passed on, and improvements came out in gut and hooks, he still stuck to his time-honoured hair, even if he saw anglers using gut doing better than he was with hair. The fine drawn gut of the present day (I mean the very best) is as near perfection as can be, and only half the thickness of hair, with three times its strength. It is much pleasanter to use than hair, for no matter what fish in the ordinary bottom fishers' list you may happen to hook, you stand a good chance of landing him, if you exercise only ordinary care. Taking all things into consideration, after careful practice and observation, I am forced to the conclusion that gut is superior to hair in Trent bottom fishing. I don't want to set myself up as the best bottom fisher out, nor yet as "the son of the best bottom fisher in the world." I only fish for a little amusement during my spare time, being very fond of the study of fish life. I would not recommend anything to anglers that I should not think of using myself; and for ordinary bottom-fishing on the Trent gut is far away before hair; my notebook proves the fact. But I am afraid I am encroaching on too much space, and drawing this letter out to a tiresome length. Just one word about the match between Mr. Marston and Mr. Balderston. I have known Mr. Marston now for some years, and I know him to be incapable of doing the mean tricks that Mr. Balderston would insinuate. I am sorry Mr. Balderston wrote that letter to Mr. Marston after his defeat; it would have been more manly had he acknowledged he had met his superior, or sent an apology after his mind had calmed down, if supposing he wrote the letter in question during a period of mental blindness.—I am, &c.,

THE TRENT OTTER.

THE MANCHESTER AND DISTRICTS AMALGAMATED ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

SIR,—Enclosed please find copy of a resolution passed at the last quarterly delegate meeting of the Manchester and Districts Amalgamated Anglers' Association, held on Saturday, July 22, 1882, and issued about a week ago to the various clubs. Now, sir, the motion by Mr. Ridgway was made in consequence of a member of the Salford Club having caught a trout in January last and weighed it in for a prize, as the rules of that club allow fish to be weighed in all the year round. I don't know what your London societies would say to a ruling of this sort, but it certainly does seem funny for a large association like ours to say that if one district likes to allow its members to weigh fish in during close time, it may do so, forgetful of the fact that the law prohibits catching them. I hear our district secretary is going to retire from office after November next, for, as he says, he is not going to interfere with the dealers selling fish during close time while the clubs, encourage catching them. Hoping you will express your opinion on this matter, I am &c,

TROUT.

The following is the resolution as moved and seconded and passed:—

"The notice of motion given by Mr. W. R. Ridgway at the last meeting, viz., 'That no club belonging to the association shall be allowed to weigh in salmon, trout, or grayling during the close season,' having been fully discussed, it was proposed by Mr. Cribb, and seconded by Mr. Smith, that each district make their own bye-laws as regards the weighing in of fish canght by their members."

[In our opinion no club or association of clubs ought in any way to countenance the taking and "weighing-in" of fish of any kind when out of season.—ED.].

SALMON FISHING.

SIR,—First let me thank your correspondent, "Silver Grey," for his exceedingly courteous and kindly criticism of my late lucubrations anent salmon, and secondly permit me to ask him whether he has not made a small "boggle"? I have not got a copy of my salmon paper by me, but surely I never put it upon record that "the easier a winch goes the better," and there stop. Was there not some such addenda as, "so long as there is sufficient tension, or resistant power, to the sudden rush of a fish as to obviate overlapping." If not, why then I plead guilty at once to a "big boggle," only adding, as an extenuating circumstance, that I certainly meant there should be.

I fancy I said somewhere in the course of that paper that I did not intend, so far as my gossip went, to purloin any one's ideas and then foist them upon the FISHING GAZETTE readers as my own. I notice that not a few writers upon piscatorial topics do this kind of thing very freely, thus easily earning a spurious reputation among the many, while the few good judges shrug their shoulders, and, like that immortal parrot, say not much perhaps, but think a good deal. Now, practically my personal experience of salmon counts for little in comparison with other branches of the art. More's the shame and pity, but then when people will not write and say, "J. P., old fellow, come and catch a fish," how, in the name of fate, can I help it? Some day—ah, some day—I mean to have a salmon river all to myself, and then I'll only ask "Silver Grey" to come and try his hand. I shall get a rise out of exclusive proprietors then, if I don't out of the fish, always supposing there are any. But, as it won't come to pass just yet, I must ask "Silver Grey" not to pack up the portmanteau immediately.

Thus, therefore, I left off at the precise point where I felt myself competent to give advice of my own origination. But as to striking? Come now, "When you see the boil and feel the pluck," says Francis Francis, "what then? Why, when you do so you are all right, and may raise your rod smartly and with a fair tug over your shoulder." In this I entirely agree, and, although I have heard good salmon fishers say over their grog o' nights, "You should never strike," I have nevertheless seen them at work the next morning and watched them administer a palpable tug at the instant a salmon turned down with the fly, Then have I said, "Hallo, skipper, how about striking now?" and the answer, in the case of certainly my chief opponent, was, "Oh, that was not striking, man alive; that was simply a draw to drive the hook home." So far as I can see, it was a distinction without a difference. The effect was the same nevertheless, and in a general way, I fancy if anglers would content themselves with a backward draw, instead of an upward and diabolical jerk, there would be fewer fish lost.—I am, &c., J. P. WHEELDON.

October 2.

CAPTURE OF A LARGE SALMON WITH ROD AND LINE ON LOCH LOMOND.

SIR—The following letter may interest your readers:—

Messrs. F. T. Williams and Co. Oct. 1, 1882.

I think it right that I should inform you of my success in catching the largest salmon ever taken out of Loch Lomond with the rod on Thursday last. He was 3 feet 7¾ inches in length, and weighed 31 lb. 2 oz. and I was 2 hours and 7 minutes killing him.

I used your 16 feet green heart rod, large reel and line, and one of the salmon casts you sent me in August last. The fly, a sea trout fly, I obtained here.

The boatman's name is John Mac Pherson, and it is rather curious that he was also boatman when the next largest fish in the loch was killed. It was 22 lb.

When the salmon was safely in the boat, the rod had a very bad set, but next day it was all right, and yesterday I fished with it all day, and it is not a whit the worse of the severe test it underwent on Thursday.

Only a really good rod and tackle would have stood the heavy strain of such a fish. In one of his runs he left me only about ten yards of the hundred on my reel, and it was only the good management of the boatman who rowed rapidly, after the fish, that saved a break. For the first half-hour he was very violent, and it taxed all my skill and patience to keep command.—Yours, &c., H. MAXWELL.

(We beg to point out that such a practical testimonial as this may go some way to prove that those makers who charge an enormous price for their goods are not the only ones (as some anglers imagine) that can make good rods and tackle.—Yours, &c., F. T. WILLIAMS & Co.

10, Great Queen Street.

[It is quite true that while there is no greater mistake an angler can make than to buy cheap tackle merely because it is cheap (*i.e.*, appears cheap), it is equally true that rods equally good in every respect can be had at one place for just half the money charged at another place.—ED.]

CATCHING A WATER-RAT.—THE ALEXANDRA FLY, &c.

SIR,—It may possibly interest your readers to hear of two curious captures I have recently made when angling.

The first was that of a water-rat with the Alexandra. I noticed him swimming down the run I was fishing, which was too heavy for me to see just where my fly was, but did not think he was near the fly till I felt him hooked. After a little play I landed him, and found him hooked in the outside of the upper lip, and the body of the fly bearing marks of his teeth. It may have been an accident only, but I incline to the belief he had snapped at it; whether from curiosity, spite, or appetite I cannot decide. The second was that of a jack of a pound or so, which took the bare hook, a "Francis" snap, just as it was nearing the surface.

He was fairly hooked inside the mouth, and had, no doubt, taken it intentionally. The hooks were not bright, and the hour was dusk of a dark day, so there was no glitter to account for it, and he must have taken it simply because it moved.

With regard to Dr. Brunton's theory that trout take the Alexandra as a fly, they certainly do sometimes seize it at the first fall, with wings expanded, when I think it is taken without reflection as a brilliant fly; but when worked against stream I cannot see for what it can be taken except for a small fish. In fact, I have noticed roach fry in the sunshine whose green backs and silvery bellies have irresistibly reminded me of the appearance of the Alexandra when compressed by the stream.

The way in which trout take it and sometimes follow it for yards, is exactly as they do with a spun minnow.—I am, &c,

W. T. S.

Burslem, September 28.

[We have only once caught a water-rat on a fly line. He swam across the cast, got hooked, and the instant he got to land went two or three feet into some old woodwork at a weir with the line and flies. We have no desire to catch another. Jack will frequently take a big fly such as Alexandra, palmer, coachman, &c. Dr. Brunton often gets them with the Alexandra, so does Mr. Jardine.—ED]

A BIG PIKE.

SIR,—As an item of fishing news, I beg to inform you that this week my son took a pike out of a private water in Kent, measuring 3 ft. 8 in. in length. It has now gone to be preserved, and I shall be pleased to show it to you or any brother anglers when finished—I am, &c., W. HOLLINGSWORTH.

Sept. 29, 1882.

[What was the weight?—ED.]

THE CATCH OF YARMOUTH HERRINGS.

SIR,—I drove down to the fish wharf this morning, which was indeed a sight, the pavement being covered with baskets of beautiful fish just landed, and the clerk at the wharf kindly informed me that the sale to last night was over 1200 lasts more than in 1881, or 174 millions at 13,200 fish to the last; the catch up to this time being over 4600 lasts.

They have begun in earnest to alter the aquarium at last. There are many visitors remaining, the weather being still so lovely. I often think those who can should stay for this month, the most charming of all.—I am, &c.,

R. R. B. N

A COMPLAINT.

Sir,—They have a very convenient way at Sunbury of getting rid of the refuse from dust heaps. I was there last Saturday and Sunday fishing, when I came across a large heap of bad-smelling rubbish close to the river's edge, only waiting for a rise of the water to wash it away. Anybody can see it; it is nearly opposite the Flower Pot Hotel, down a little incline, where they land sand and gravel. I think anything of this kind could be prevented, for I am sure it does not improve fishing, let alone the water we have to drink. If you would kindly insert this in your valuable journal it may lead to stopping this sort of thing.—I am, &c.,

Blanc.

Brixton.

ANGLING CLUB WANTED.

Sir,—Will you kindly give me the name and address of an angling club, as near here as possible, that I could join? Same must be composed of gentlemen, and the meetings not held on a Sunday. Further particulars I could obtain for myself.—I am, &c,

Keppel H. Gifford.

Victoria, S.W., Sept. 29, 1882.

WEIGHT OF TROUT.

Sir,—What would be the weight of a trout in good condition measuring in length 18½ inches?

I caught one of the above length in Llyn Coron on Saturday weighing only a little over a pound. The general opinion among those who saw it was that, if in proper season, it would have gone over 3 lb.

Fish are rising better now in the lakes, several fish over a pound have been taken, principally with the March brown. I find they rise best in the middle of the day.—I am, &c.,

E. Gosling.

[The weight of trout in comparison with its length depends very much on the river it comes from. A good feeding river (such as the Colne, Itchen, Test, &c.), produces fish of 18 inches which would certainly weigh between three and four pounds. In a river flowing through a poor country the trout are not nearly so thick when of the same length as their southern cousins.—Ed.]

THE GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this still growing society held their meeting on Tuesday last at Masons' Hall Tavern, Basinghall Street, E.C., to which they have now permanently removed. The handsome cases of stuffed fish forming the nucleus of the society's museum had been tastefully affixed to the walls by Captain Alfred (curator), who had in addition lent several of his excellent paintings, which gave the meeting room quite an artistic appearance. Mr. Wheeldon was warmly applauded on taking the chair, and opened the proceedings by congratulating the society on its change of quarters, similar sentiments being expressed by several other speakers. Captain Alfred was then called on to read his paper on "The Science of Barbel Fishing," which proved to be a very clever and amusing essay. The paper was interspersed with a variety of humorous anecdotes, adding considerably to the interest occasioned by the practical information it contained. In advocating the use on all occasions of fine tackle, the lecturer recounted how, in 1850, he took twenty-six barbel in one afternoon from the Thames, fishing fine, whilst an "old hand" in the same punt, with coarse tackle, took none. In his opinion there were immense quantities of small fry in the river, not only of roach, dace, and other white fish, but also barbel, in spite of the disturbance occasioned by steam launches and other enemies of the fish. The Thames puntsman was one of the most conservative of men, and would persist in going to the same swims year after year, so that the swims became exhausted and good takes rare. He concluded by suggesting that, if the artfulness of the young barbel increased in proportion to that already possessed by their parents, it would require the very wisdom of a Solomon to circumvent the cunning of the progeny of those of the old Thames type. Mr. Jardine criticised the paper in his usual able manner in a somewhat lengthy address, noticing that the paper made no mention of "clay-balling" for barbel, which was much practised at Sunbury, and adding that he would recommend barbelling when the water was a little thick, fishing of course in the margin of eddies, where the fish knew food was sure to be carried. Mr. Frost followed with a very practical speech, correcting Mr. Jardine in one or two particulars, and relating some of his adventures when barbelling. Mr. Alfred Nuthall considered clay-balling more useful in roach fishing than in strict barbelling, and narrated his recent experience on the Thames at Kingston, where he had taken as many as twenty barbel in one morning. Mr. Nuthall advised anglers not to trust to any puntsmen, unless a well-known man, but to use their own judgment and select their own swims. Mr. Wheeldon, in calling on the members to move a hearty vote of thanks to Captain Alfred, said he would not detain them by a speech of any length, for they all knew the lecturer as a thoroughly practical angler, who gave them not so much the result of reading as experience. Mr. Crumplen, in supporting this, said he was sure the society would not only return thanks for such an admirable paper, but if anything could add to their obligation it would be the fact of the arduous labour their curator had voluntarily undertaken in consequence of the society's removal to Masons' Hall Tavern. Their collection had been admirably re-arranged, and Captain Alfred had also lent them the valuable paintings displayed round the room. The vote of thanks having been very heartily carried, Captain Alfred made a suitable response, replying to several little points urged during the debate following his paper. The chairman said they were always glad to welcome as visitors members of other societies, and he was pleased to find they had with them Mr. Clench, of the Richmond Piscatorials, besides representatives of the Piscatorial Society, the Walton and Cotton, Highbury, De Beauvoir, and other associations of anglers. Mr. Clench addressed the society in reference to the abolition of netting between Richmond and Kew Bridge, and his views seemed to meet with general approval. The health and prosperity of the chairman, Mr. Wheeldon, was then given with special honours, and very kindly replied to, after which the musical portion of the evening commenced, the chairman, according to "good old custom," as he said, leading off with the first song. The evening closed harmoniously, and probably a more truly pleasant meeting was never passed by any angling society. Among the company were Messrs. Austin, Bentley, Brett, Beningfield, Bryant, Dr. Theodore Cash, Callaghan, Cartwright, Clench, Crumplen, Dr. Defriez, Frost, Godwin, Jardine, Ghurney, Morgan, Nuthall, Parker, Wheatley, and many others. Mr. Crumplen (hon. sec.) is announced to deliver a lecture at the Royal Aquarium, Westminster, on Friday next, at 8 o'clock, "On the Causes of the Decrease of Fish in the Thames." The fish weighed in lately have been more limited than usual. A perch of 2 lb. 14 oz. has, however, been taken by Mr. Edward Bennett (Gresham and Yarmouth societies) from public water at Ormesby Broad. Now that the society has such an excellent meeting-room, there can be no doubt the attendance will largely increase, and its influence, great even as it now is, will be sure to grow in proportion. We must not omit to mention that Mr. Wheeldon presented a copy of his last novel, "Beaten at the Post," as a souvenir of the occasion, and Mr. Ghurney brought a framed tablet relative to that deserving institution the Anglers' Benevolent Society, the claims of which on all true anglers have never been forgotten by the Gresham.

THE GREEN FISHERMAN.

Sam Davis, of the Carson (Nev.) *Appeal*, tells the following, which though funny, is very true. Those who have done much fishing have often seen the green fisherman.

On Sunday last there was about a dozen of Carson's crack fishermen at the Mexican dam. Mr. Gilligan and Gus Lewis headed the crowd. There are many persons who never think of casting their lines without first getting the opinion of Lewis and Gilligan as to the best locality. On Sunday, just as the two experts were getting ready to fish, an old waggon drove up, containing an old farmer and his family. He tied his horses to a tree, and then pulling out a crooked hickory rod, proceeded to tie a line to the end.

"Wonder if the old coon is going to come here and scare all the fish away by splashing water?" said Lewis.

"If he does our sport is all gone for to-day," said Gilligan.

Suddenly an idea struck Gilligan; he told Lewis he would get the man anchored near some stagnant pool, where a trout would never think of coming, and thus keep him away from the good places The man was just getting his tackle in shape as Gilligan strolled slowly up.

"Going to try yer luck?"

"Thought I would."

"Ever fish much?"

"Back in the States about twelve years ago, for bull-heads, suckers, and such."

"You can't catch anything with that pole; where is your reel?"

"Never use 'em; I jest yank 'em right over my head."

"Your hook is big for the season."

"All I got."

Gilligan hated to see a man fish with such poor tackle, and offered him some hooks and leaders; but the old fellow said he would be sure to bust them, and he would rather use old tackle he was used to. He tied a nail to the line and then got out a box of worms.

"You can't use worms here, on a day like this, you must use a brown hackle fly with a little red on the body," said Gilligan.

"Don't go much on your new-fangled flies. Worms is my best hold."

"That is not a bad place," pointing to a spot where there was not a ripple or any sign of current.

"Just the place I was going to tackle," said the man.

Gillligan went down and told Lewis he had got the old fellow fixed where he would not get a bite in six months.

"It amuses me to see those green fishermen bring their old-fashioned lines and hickory poles, and fool away their time expecting to catch fish. Thunder! If he hasn't landed one a foot long!" exclaimed Lewis.

Sure enough, he had his fish on the bank, and it was a two-pounder. Probably he would not happen to do that again in six months.

The two experts continued to fish, wondering how a trout ever strayed into such water, and in about five minutes another trout described a half circle over the old man's head.

He threw the fish on the bank above him, and his wife took it off the line and baited the hook, and then he just slammed the tackle into the water as if he was threshing wheat. He kept this up for a couple of hours, and when he wound up his line he had thirteen fine trout, while the others had failed to get a nibble.

"You were right about that place, stranger," he said to Gilligan. "I have got some worms left, if you think you need them. How've you been gettin' along up here?"

"We ain't after trout," said Lewis, "we are just catching minnows to bait with this evening."

Lewis's Penny Readings.—Literature and Commerce.—There are numberless trade journals in existence, so that a definite alliance between commerce and literature has been established; but we have to note an entirely new relation which has been promoted by one of the largest of our great mercantile establishments. The house known as Lewis's, whose extensive stores and warehouses in Market Street are one of the attractions of Manchester, has just issued a marvellous publication under the title of "Lewis's Penny Readings," consisting of a handsome well-printed volume of about 130 pages, containing admirable selections from the famous prose writers, poets, orators, and humourists of the last three centuries. Its title is appropriate, for it is not only eminently suited for those entertainments usually called Penny Readings, but the price of it is only one penny. 2½d. in stamps to Lewis's will secure a copy on the day of publication.

George James Eaton, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers, A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether the may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices : Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[Advt.]

A WRINKLE FROM AN OLD FLY-FISHER.

"Among the earliest of Charlie Ebdy's lessons to me was this, that I should always note, not only the kind of fly on which the fish were feeding, but also the side of the river on which they were chiefly gathered. Sometimes he would point out that the wind being gentle the flies merely dropped from the bushes, and were quietly borne down the stream by their side; while on other occasions he would remark that the wind had blown the flies from one side of the river to the other, and that at the latter was the only chance of sport; and in these views I never knew him to be wrong. He had also a theory that it was well when beginning angling at, say 8 a.m., to try first the quiet, easy flowing water at the foot of the streams, and then as the morning advanced fish the upper portions more carefully, till at mid-day the top of the stream should be fished. After a rest of an hour or more, the afternoon was to be devoted to the shallow dubs. This theory, based on careful observation, was peculiarly his own, and long practice has led me to conclude that here, too, my Mentor was right."—From "My Life as an Angler," by Wm. Henderson.

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Tickets will be issued at the following rates by G. J. Robinson, Esq., Roundstone, via Galway. Tickets for the whole season £50, tickets for the lunar month, £8; ticket for the week, £2 10s.; ticket for the day, 10s. Tickets are to be paid for when taken out, and are not transferable. The price of a ticket includes the use of a boat, but not the wages of boatmen, which are not to exceed 2s. per day each.

Applications for tickets will be treated according to priority, but a preference will be to applicants for "season tickets." Boats for angling and stands on the river will be allotted by the head keeper, and no angler will be permitted to use a boat or fish a stand that has not been so allotted. Superior accommodation can be had on application to Mr. T. Mullarkey, at Glendalough Hotel, Recess, Galway. Anglers are requested to take out their licences in the Ballynahinch district, as by doing so they increase the fund for the preservation of the district.

No men can be employed as boatmen except the Water Bailiffs as arranged by head keeper.

Application to be made to

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which has the most extensive circulation in the neighbourhood of these rivers.

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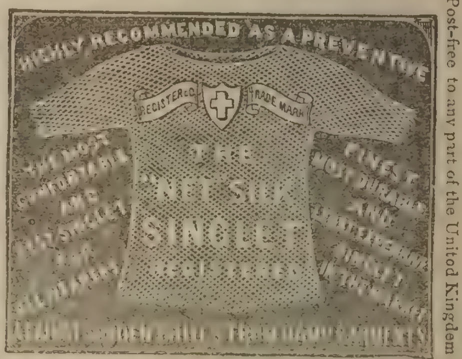

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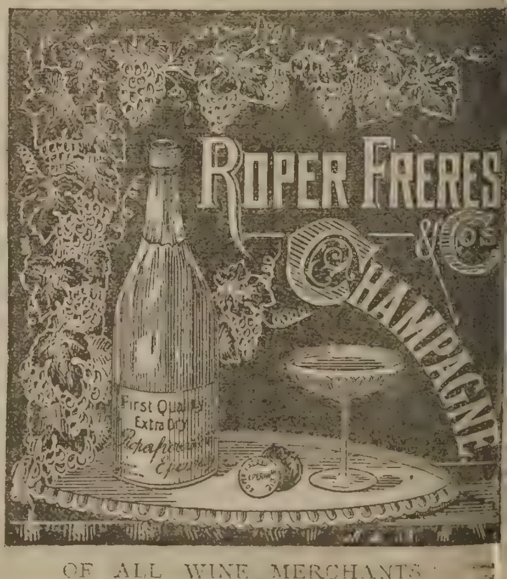

OF ALL WINE MERCHANTS

The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1882.

IN MEMORIAM.

Oct. 9, 1882.

IN the early dawn of a beautiful autumn morning, there passed into the silent land, the dear, loving helpmate of one whose home is held in reverence by all true followers of Isaak Walton.

An unselfish, sympathetic soul, whose delight was in ministering to the wants of others, and in furthering the cause precious to her husband. She ungrudgingly laboured, uncomplainingly bore with the troubles and cares of a large household in order that she might be "unweary in doing good."

The wife of Philip Geen was one of those bright examples of English womanhood, who are a "crown to their husband." She felt that there was something worth living for in this world besides self. She forwarded every good cause. She listened to the voice of the poor and distressed, and in her immediate neighbourhood in the hour of misery and trouble she came as an angel of mercy. There are few who have enjoyed the hospitality of that now saddened home who will not remember the smiling face, the cheery voice, the keen interest, and the almost infallible belief that there was no other sport than angling, and no surer passport to her home and family than the reputation of a good sportsman. And her sympathy with the most hardened transgressor was proverbial, always ready to extenuate their conduct and to plead for mercy for their unfortunate wives and children.

There are those who stand round the open grave to-day, fellow labourers in our little world—men who have borne the heat and burden of the day—whose work is seen in the prosperity of our cause, who have felt her genial influence, and to whom her memory will be cherished as one of those bright souls whose lot in life was to cheer the weary, and the whole angling world of London will sympathise with the distressed husband and father, hoping that in this dark hour of his misery he may be cheered by the knowledge that many hearts are full of sympathy and he may rejoice—

Life's race well run,
Life's work well done,
Life's crown well won,
Now comes rest.

Fred. C. Clench.

AVON (LOWER).

THIS river runs through the counties of Wilts, Somerset, and Gloucester. It rises in Estcourt Park near Shipton mill-head, one mile south of Tetbury, not far from Minety (station G. W. R)., in the district of Braden Forest. Braden Pond hereby is the largest sheet of water in the county, being three-quarters of a mile long by half a mile broad. The Avon, after quitting the park, flows on to Great Sherston. Not far from this, to the south, is Castle Combe, lying deeply embosomed among steep romantic and wooded slopes, in an angle of one of those cleft-like valleys, which intersect and drain the range of limestone hills called the Cotswolds, and which extend southward as far as Bath. A small but rapid stream runs through the village of Castle Combe, and after some miles joins the Avon, near the village of Box (G. W. R.), whence it is known as the Box stream. At Castle Combe, William Scrope, the author of "Days of Deer Stalking" and "Days and Nights of Salmon Fishing" resided, the manor before and after him belonging to his family. Our stream, after flowing through Pinckney Park (W. H. Cresswell, Esq.), and by Easton Grey, working in its course several mills, reaches Malmesbury (inns, King's Arms and George), where the surplus waters from Charlton Park ponds join the Avon on the right bank. Here the Avon, which, having run almost due east, takes a southerly direction, passing Cow Bridge and Mill, King's Mead Mill, near Little Somerford, then round by Great Somerford, where the river divides for a while into two, at Dauntsey. Just before this some straggling streamlets combine from Milbourne Bridge, Garsdon, Sunday Hill, Somerford Common, and Fritters Well, serving Crab Mill and entering the Avon by two inlets.

Between Great Somerford and Dauntsey on the left, an important streamlet, composed of several feeders, enters. It is formed by Thunder Brook, which rises near a mill-pool four miles north of Wootton-Bassett, supplies three or more miniature broads waters several farms, and flowing under Idover Three Bridges, enters the Avon.

We now arrive at Dodford, between which and Seagry and its mill, a streamlet joins the main river from Dauntsey Green, which formerly had a good reputation for trout up to 1½ lbs. Then we push on to Christian Walford and mill and Avon village, next to Kellaways and mill, below which the river Marden enters from the east, touching Calne on its way, previous to which this effluent works three mills, coursing by Stanley Abbey and its woods.

At Chippenham (G. W. R.), (inns, Angel and George), where we now are, the Avon, after flowing south-east, suddenly turns back towards the north-west, and takes a straight line along one side of the town, and then as abruptly starts off almost due south, making an acute angle, which embraces at least two-thirds of Chippenham. Mrs. Kemble, of Barton Hill, is the owner of one bank of the river for a long distance between this and Malmesbury. At the apex of this angle, a brook, which rises on the south-east, waters Huish Park and passes Land's End, joins the river.

About three-and-a-half miles from Chippenham south-east, is Bowood, the magnificent seat of the Marquis of Lansdowne, with its splendid lake and cascades, the redundant waters of which escape by Fisher's Brook into our river, as well as the effluent from Corsham Park Lake.

The Avon now courts the company on its left bank of the Wilts and Avon Canal (in which are plenty of fish, including trout of a large size), shamefully poached by letting off the water under any trivial excuse, between lock and lock, and facetiously termed by the despoilers "taking poundage." Lacock Abbey is close to this (the seat of W. H. Fox Talbot, the inventor of the Talbotype). The hill which rises from its site commands most glorious views.

Melksham is our next halting stage (inns, King's Arms, and Bear). We now ramble by Broughton Gifford, where the Avon takes up a tributary from the west, at Whaddon, one from the east, and arrives at Bradford-on-Avon, (Wilts and Somerset Railway) inn, Swan. This town is most delightfully situated, and the angler can find comfortable lodgings in the suburbs, not far from the river, in the hollow, or on the steep slopes and terraces up which the houses straggle in picturesque disorder, and which, being built of grey stone, have a cleanly and cheerful appearance.

"From Bradford the railway follows the course of our river. The valley soon becomes very narrow, hemmed in between hills, in some places rising almost precipitously, clothed with hanging woods and orchards. The scene is strikingly picturesque, and the traveller may well feel regret at being hurried so rapidly through beauties that might make him wish to linger repeatedly. Happily the frequent stations give him opportunities of halting and examining the country more leisurely. . . . The Kennet and Avon Canal accompanies the river through the whole of the valley, and crosses it by an aqueduct below Moreton Combe." (*Murray.*)

The Avon at Bradford is joined by the Biss, an effluent from Trowbridge. After this, the river passes out of the county of Wilts There is an angling association here, which preserves the water for 3 miles, annual subscription, £1; monthly, 2s. 6d.; weekly, 1s. 6d.; day ticket, 6d. Quitting Limpley Stoke (station), a romantic village, with hanging woods and gardens, and Freshford, with its station on its borders, and about a mile from Box Station, enters the county of Somerset, touches the demesne of Claverton, where "the Avon's silver sheen" gives life and light to its beautiful valley, then by Warley House (H. D. Shrine), on to Bathford (station), where the tributary Box in Wilts comes down through Castle Combe, before alluded to, another effluent succeeds at Batheaston from the valley of Catherine, and a third from the heights of Lansdowne, after which we reach Bath (station); hotels, York House, Pump Room, Castle, Greyhound and Royal, close to railway. The river almost encircles this fine town. Here the Avon becomes navigable. At Newton Park (W. H. Gore Langton, Esq.), the river winds through rich green meadows; and below this is Saltford (station), a neat village where stands the ancient mansion of the Rodneys, with park-like pastures stretching down to our river. After Kelveston, the Avon divides Somerset from Gloucester, in which county the first town is Keynsham (station); inns, Lamb and Lark and Crown. Bitton (erroneously spelt Britton in many guide books), a pretty village close to this, through which flows a tributary called the river Boyd. It comes down from Dyrham Park, below, augmented by the Feldham Brook from Pucklehurst, and then combined, flows on through "the Golden Valley" to the Avon below Swinford, and supplies water-power to some paper mills, and forms a small lake before entering the main channel. There are several streamlets about this, the most important of which is the river Chew; its many feeders spring from the spurs of the Mendip Hills, and the angler cannot fail of testing their piscatory work. The Avon after this for some distance flows between rocks, when we reach Bristol (G. W. R.) Inns, Royal Hotel, College Green; White Lion, Broad Street; Vincent Roche Hotel; Queen's Hotel, Dowry Square; and the York Hotel. The Avon is now tidal, and from the muddy nature of the water presents no attractions to the angler.

The river Froome pierces Bristol from the north, rises at Dodington Park, in Gloucestershire, and after forming a lake in the grounds, (with carp and tench only,) flows in a western direction by the town of Chipping Sadbury. A mile further the stream is increased near Frampton Cotterell by the Laden, from Wickwar and Tytherington, and changes its course to the south, passing the village of Hambrook. A little below Stapleton it enters Bristol, and there loses itself in the waters of the Lower Avon. Sir Gerald Codrington is proprietor of the Froome stream. There are but few trout found in it. The Lechmere water follows.

There are many brooks which feed both the Avon and the Canal to which we have made little reference, although they mostly contain fish, the trout being of small size; but we have found them, while better sport was to be had in other directions, scarcely worth visiting, as they are likewise often dry in the summer, and shallow without holes at the best of times, being only minnows, stone-loach, and millers-thumbs to occupy the shoals. Occasionally, however, an adventurous trout will venture up, and, with dorsal fin scarcely covered, attract by its wake the poaching proclivities of the cowboy, who, from early habit knows how to make the wanderer an easy captive, before it reaches the haven of the next mill-tail, or can fall back and recover the last deeper water of a mill-head.

GRAYLING FISHING IN MONTANA.

MONTANA is a name not very familiar to English ears and still less so is the Big Hole or Wisdom river (as I see it is called in all English maps of the United States of America), but as Montana, the territory through part of which the Big Hole runs, is somewhat vague, containing 150,000 square miles, it will be of interest to locate more accurately the Big Hole river, and to explain how it is really the head waters of the father of rivers, the Mississippi. A glance at the map will show you that the Big Hole and Stinking Water rivers form the Jepherson river, which, together with the Madison and Gallatin rivers join the Missouri, which again, after travelling 2000 miles, in its turn falls into the Mississippi at St. Louis.

If my readers will patiently follow me for a thousand yards along the banks of the Big Hole, I can show them lovely scenery with timber rising in unbroken stretches for miles and miles, a bright blue panoply overhead, and the clear green waters of the river at my feet. Nothing else meets my eye, unless it be the kingfisher skimming along the water with that royal grace which its name denotes, or the parting of the waters for a few brief seconds whilst the fish rise to partake of some particularly dainty morsel.

Quantity not quality, may be the verdict imposed on the results of my fishing, but still I hope that some few persons will agree with me that there is some satisfaction and fun in filling a basket in an hour's time with forty or fifty grayling, running from ½ to ¾ lb. in weight. Half a dozen finer fish would doubtless look prettier, and give many people far more satisfaction, but I for one, am contented with the more humble specimens, and it is not for me to complain that the fish in the Big Hole are not bigger.

Fishing and rumours of fishing had been dinning in my ears for some weeks past, and eagerly but patiently had I waited for the spring floods to subside, and the water to lose that pea-soupy thickness and colour so fatal to any wishing to try their luck with the fly. With persistent obstinacy, the waters of the Big Hole this year, owing to a prolonged winter, maintained their dusky hue, and it was not until late in July that there seemed much hope of enticing the wary fish to regale themselves with the humble fly. On the 23rd of July, however, I had my first opportunity of trying my luck in the now becalmed waters of the Big Hole, and of testing the superiority of fly-fishing over the common Western mode, viz., with a very long and strong pole, to which is attached still stronger cord, and a hook cunningly disguised by the live bug. (Here I must pause to explain in this respect the Western vernacular with regard to the word "bug," a word which I know bears not a pleasant sound to the English ear. "Bug," in the West is a class name for most insects, and includes, in addition to those specimens known as bugs in England, grasshoppers, flies of all sorts, mosquitoes, crickets and beetles). The species grasshopper of the genus bug, was used on the present occasion. The Western fisherman goes more for blood than for sport (though of course, there are brilliant exceptions) and with a mighty jerk the unfortunate fish is hurled over the head of his captor.

I had been camping near a creek from which there were two roads to the Big Hole, one leading ten miles further up the river than the other. My friends, who had made this their main camp, immediately struck out up the mountains in pursuit of a mythical squadron of bear, and had very kindly placed at my disposal their wagon, horses, man-servant, and good wishes. Within six miles from the creek there was a lake, through which the creek ran, reported to be full of large salmon trout, so my readers will now see that I had within easy distance three different fishing grounds, *i.e.* two points of the Big Hole river and the lake. I determined to fish first in the Big Hole at the lowest point, where the road joined it, and to this place I was driven in the wagon on the morning of the 23rd of July. I did not get to the river till after eleven o'clock, and then found myself so hungry, that I spent a few minutes in devouring part of the provisions we had brought with us; after which I put up my rod, and having made my casting line ready, first tried two small dark flies, the English brown-palmer and an American fly, rather larger, with red body and brown hackle. The fish that rise most freely in the Big Hole at this time of the year are grayling, which run from ½ lb. to 2 lb. in weight, and for these it is necessary to fish with a wet fly, leaving the fly under the water about four inches. There are many trout in the river, but you do not get them in any numbers until later in the year. From the middle of September to the end of October is, I am told, the best season for them, when the grayling are creatures of the past.

Looking at the river, with my rod and line all ready, I was forcibly reminded of the poet's words when I saw the fish in countless numbers, for the river was now very shallow and beautifully clear:—

> I wind about and in and out,
> With here a blossom sailing,
> And here and there a lusty trout
> And here and there a grayling.

I began fishing, and I was soon thinking, not of Tennyson, but of fish, and fish only. In half-an-hour's time I had caught fifteen, principally with the palmer, so I then changed my other fly, putting on a very small one with grey hackle and body. This seemed to be a dainty morsel, and the fish greatly appreciated my catering for them; and as they now almost entirely repudiated the darker fly, I changed it for another grey-hackled morsel with yellow wing. I fished away with these two steadily for two hours, for certainly not more than 600 yards along the river bank, and in that time caught seventy-three, forty of which I threw into the water again, as they were under ½ lb. in weight. On six successive occasions I had two rises simultaneously, and thus landed two fish at once, there being generally a large fish on the tail-fly and a little one on the dropper. I have since discovered the reason for this, viz., that the big fish go for the fly which is deepest in the water, and only the small ones rise to the dropper, which I used to leave on the surface. The man who had driven me down had toiled with his pole and bug and had landed thirteen grayling and two white fish, as they are called, a fish almost exactly resembling the English dace. On this occasion, in the match of fly versus bug, or more properly of artificial versus natural bug, the former came out by long odds the victor. Being a novice in the art of fishing, I was greatly delighted, and have no hesitation in saying that an experienced fisherman would have in the same time and water caught many more. The fish were not large, the largest being ¾ lb., but when you find two fish on your line at the same time, you have some fun in landing them, if fishing, as I was, without a landing net. About four o'clock we returned home, and after cleaning and scaling the grayling, made an excellent supper off them, and although the lusty trout is doubtless a far more gentlemanly fish and requires much less trouble in preparing it for a meal, yet for delicacy of flavour and sweetness, commend me to a Big Hole grayling in preference to a Big Hole trout; but, as I have only caught a few of the latter, my opinion may seem warped.

On the next day, about 10 a.m., I set out with the servant and an old miner camping close to us, who was to act as guide, in search of the lake I mentioned above. As the country was rough and very thickly timbered, we were obliged to go on foot, and our walk was a lovely one, shaded as we were the whole way by the pines, and with no sound stirring except the gentle soughing of the wind in the tree tops, and the continuous chattering and babbling of the creek, from which we were never any great distance. After two and half hours' walking we found ourselves at the lake, and I immediately scanned it from a fishing point of view. In the first place it was much smaller than had been represented, and there had recently been a landslip, so that the tops of dead trees were visible just above the surface of the water; moreover, the timber grew quite close to the water, which was deep right up to the banks, thereby preventing wading, and the banks themselves rose about three feet above the water, making the landing of a large fish, without a net, a matter of some difficulty. There was a breeze blowing, and for the first time I felt that the arguments of my friends were correct when they told me that the natural "bug" in a lake of this kind would prove more deadly bait than the artificial fly.

I meant to try the fly for all that, and so after bathing, and lunching off bread and bacon, partaking "plus satis quam sumptus," for we were very hungry after our walk—and what does not taste good in that lovely mountain air? I got ready my rod and line and started once more in the match of Art versus Nature, leaving my companions to the old "pole and bug" game. It was difficult to throw the fly, owing to the wind and timber, but I managed somehow, though not very cleverly, to get my three flies well out into the lake. This time I was using three grey hackled flies of various sizes and shades, and in the first half-an-hour I caught three little trout, weighing not quite ½ lb. each, but the fish did not rise at all freely, so I made up my mind to fish quickly all round the lake, and to be thankful for all I got. After an hour's fishing without a single rise, I caught two in two successive throws, both fine ones, weighing nearly 1 lb. each, and I had nearly finished my circuit of the lake, when I saw a big fish rise about ten yards from me. I threw my flies right on the spot, and immediately had a rise and landed successfully a small but nice-looking trout, just under the ½ lb. This was not the fish I had seen rise, so I threw again, and this time the big fish went for my tail fly, and must have run out nearly thirty yards of line before I fully realised my position. I saw that the fish was dangerously near some stumps in the water, so I took in as much line as I dared, and the next run I was thankful to see in the opposite direction. It was fully fifteen minutes before I had brought him really close to land, and I then saw how difficult it would be to land him, as the hook was very small, and the fish was not very well hooked. My comrades I could not see, so, after a little deliberation, I took more line in, and laying my rod on the bank, pulled the fish gently up. I had just got him on the bank—a fine trout well over 1 lb., with beautifully pink skin—when he gave a jump, got unhooked, and thus I lost sight of him for ever. It was most disappointing, and the more so as I have only myself and my stupidity to thank for it. I consoled myself with another bathe and with my six fish returned to my comrades, one of whom had caught one fine trout thirteen inches long and the other nothing. About 5 p.m. we started home, and on our way saw some very fresh track of moose and bear. For the first half-way we went along right merrily, but when three miles only from home, the miner our guide, declared that he knew a short cut that would take us home in half-an-hour. I hate short cuts myself, and am a believer in the "more haste less speed" proverb (more so now than ever), but as the miner was our guide, I thought that it would be ungraceful to make any remonstrance. When we had trudged along for an hour in a direction which appeared to me to be at exact right angles to our right way, I mildly remarked that my friend's conception of half-an-hour was not very accurate.

Once, I am sure, after completing a circle in our wanderings, we came within a few yards of the point from which that long short cut had originated, but once more our guide, with persistent obstinacy, took us again at right angles, and we followed on and on until it became so dark, that not wishing to spend the night in the forest, we determined to make for the nearest opening. Both the servant and I had ordinary walking boots on without nails, and the soles had acquired the most beautiful polish from walking over the dry grass, so that we were unable to proceed as quickly as our guide. We got out of the timber just as the sun set, and then found to our dismay that we were still eight miles away from our camp. For the first time that day I was thankful that I had not got a heavy basketful of fish to carry. We soon came across a wagon-road and got into camp about 10.30 p.m., very tired, and vowing never again to take short cuts. After cooking the trout and some bacon, we supped, smoked the pipe of contentment, and slept soundly, until I am ashamed to say what hour in the morning. My comrades of the preceding day were very footsore, and did not feel inclined to try another days' fishing in the Big Hole till the morrow, so after breakfasting very late, I went down to the creek to fish, not for pleasure so much as for food, as we had nothing but bacon and bread for our supper. This time I made a compromise, putting a live bug at the end of my line and an artificial fly I used as a dropper. In three hours' time I caught seventeen fish, and bringing them to camp, cleaned and cooked them, and making an early supper turned in at sunset, intending to have on the morrow a long day's fishing in the Big Hole.

(*To be continued.*)

DEATH OF MRS. P. GEEN.

Every one of the thousands of anglers who know Mr. P. Geen, will join with us in expressing the sincerest sympathy with him and his family in their recent and almost sudden loss of one, who was so very dear to them, and so respected and loved by all who had the pleasure of knowing her. It seems only the other day that she was present at the Second Fishing Gazette Tournament, taking the warmest interest in the proceedings, and remaining to the dinner afterwards, the only lady present. In the name of all our brethren of the rod, we tender heartfelt sympathy to Mr. Geen and his family. Mr. Fred. Clench has most truly described the amiable qualities of the deceased in his "In Memoriam," notice in this week's Gazette.

MR. BALDERSTON'S LIBELS.

It having come to the knowledge of Mr. R. B. Marston, editor of this paper, that Mr. Balderston is circulating statements to the effect that Mr. Marston cheated in his recent fly-fishing match with Mr. Balderston, Mr. Marston again states that these accusations are utterly and totally false, and that Mr. R. Balderston has printed them in order to explain away his defeat. Mr. Marston feels that he owes it to the readers of this paper to make this statement and he can with the utmost confidence leave them to decide for themselves between him and Mr. Balderston; he would be sorry to think that this paper was read by a single angler who believed that its Editor was capable of acting in the unspeakably mean and dishonourable manner asserted by Mr. Balderston. Had Mr. Marston imagined for a moment that Mr. Balderston could act in the despicable way he has done, he would never have condescended to fish with him; he only regrets that he did not insist on the fishing being in the presence of witnesses as he suggested, but which Mr. Balderston would not agree to.

Mr. Marston begs to thank the numerous readers of his paper, including many gentlemen entirely unknown to him, who have written to him expressing their disgust at the treatment he has received from Mr. Balderston.

ELSTREE RESERVOIR.

Notice.

In consequence of the scarcity of water, no fishing will be allowed in the above reservoir until further notice. By order of the Proprietor. J. Hill.

EDUCATION OF FISHES.—TRANSFORMATIONS OF THE MAY FLIES.—HOW THE LOBSTER SHEDS ITS SHELL.—SALICYLIC ACID AS A FISH PHYSIC.—A NEW WAY TO CATCH DUCKS.

Your correspondent "Hampshire" seems to have been much more unfortunate on the Test than we have been here on the Itchen, and I really lament with him, if his complaint, "I don't know what trout fishing will come to in a few years, they (the fish) are becoming so cunning and difficult to catch," correctly describes the case. But is it on the face a genuinely reasonable grumble? Of course the fish are susceptible of education, like any other animal—it is only a question of degree. Look at the present tackle, as compared with that figured in the "Boke of St. Albans," published in 1496. Why, that tackle now-a-days would scare a shark, much less a delicate-minded "lady" grayling, or ancient Test trout of almost vulpine cunning. Yet, without doubt, it caught fish in those days, when angling clubs were not, and hooks were "enarmyned wyth yren" like a butcher's hanger. "The old order yieldeth place to new," and now the closest imitation of the "fisherman's curse" (as pointed out last week by Mr. Marston) it is possible for human art to manufacture, on the most invisible of "gossamer" gut, is often unequal to snaring the thick-backed chalk-streamer, I wot so pleasantly of. But is this a fault to grumble at? So much the greater victory if ye fox his wily troutship.

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As to the May fly's period of embryoship, "Hampshire" is quite right in fixing the time, as one year, in the case of many of the *Ephemeridæ*, such, for example, as the duns. The large drake (*Ephemera vulgata*) must be excepted for a certainty, however. The larva of this fly has been kept by an entomological friend in an aquarium for over two years, and is now there. Of course, climatic and other agencies may have been at work to retard development, but there is the fact. Bye-the-bye, a very interesting history of the transformations, etc., of the Mayflies, is given in Pennell's "Fishing Gosssip," by Mr. Pinkerton, and every fly-fisher should see it. The emergence of the pseudoimago into its imago stage has no parallel throughout Nature.

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This is the method of its accomplishment. After being released from the pupa state, and making use of the expanded wings for flight—sometimes to some distance—they fix themselves in a vertical position on some object, and withdraw every part of the body, even legs and wings from a thin pellicle which has enclosed them as the glove does the fingers. "It is easy to conceive," says the author of the article on the May flies, in Cassell's "Natural History," "how the body, and even legs can be withdrawn from their cases; but it is not so easy to imagine how the wings, which seem as thin, as much expanded, and as rigid as those of a fly, can admit of having any sheath stripped from them, much less how they can be withdrawn as they are through a small opening at the base of the sheath." Here, however, is the probable explanation. The fact seems to be that, though the outer covering is rigid, the wing enclosed in it, notwithstanding it is sometimes more than twenty-four hours before the change ensues, is kept moist and pliable. In proportion, therefore, as the insect disengages itself from the anterior part of the skin, the interior, or real wings, become contracted by a number of plaits, into a form nearly cylindrical—perhaps like a lady's closed fan—which readily admits of their being pulled through the opening mentioned. As soon as the insect is released from its envelope, the plaits unfold and the wings return to their proper shape and dimensions.

By-the-way, can Mr. Gosden or any salt water naturalist tell me how it is a lobster sheds his shell entire? I think the late Mr. Lloyd, of the Crystal Palace Aquarium, explained the matter once in print, but I can't for the life of me tell where. Can any reader say; it was either the *Field*, *Country*, or *Land and Water*.

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Salicylic acid—an application for fungoid diseases of fish—is certainly not a new remedy. I remember trying it when the antiseptic qualities of the drug were so loudly extolled some half dozen years—more, I think—ago. When you paint a trout with it in solution, it does not, it is true, seem to distress the fish, but I cannot say; it destroys the white fungi, of the saprolegnia or salmon disease order, with undoubted surety, especially if the mycelium be long. What the black fungoid disease, referred to in your note, may be, I do not know. Mr. Frank Buckland's remedy has been most successful with me—a weak solution of perchloride of mercury painted on rapidly and the fish instantly returned to a running stream of water. However, the salicylic acid is a very potent arresting agent in putrid diseases of all kinds, and might be usefully experimented on.

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Mr. Henderson's episode about catching a tom cat with hook and line, reminds me of a fair catch of a couple of ducks in a similar way. I had been paternostering and inadvertently left the minnows on the hooks, as I stood the rod by the door side, preparatory to taking refreshment at mine inn. Tame ducks and other fowl abounded, and I was just in the act of bathing my thirsty throat, when such a clatter reached me, accompanied by quackings of a most vociferous character. Rushing out, we saw a couple of ducks firmly hooked, and energetically playing at "pull devil, pull baker." Needless to add that they broke the gut and waddled away, each with a length and a No. 4 hook fixed in their crops. They didn't seem much the worse, and really I forgot to enquire if any operation was performed, except the all necessary one, before eating them.—Chub Chavender.

NOTTINGHAM REELS.—THE "GREEN" FISHERMAN.—PATERNOSTERING WITH FLOAT.—SNATCHING JACK.—COOKING JACK.—ITS HISTORICAL CULINARY VALUE.—THE FISHERMAN'S "CURSE."—GRAYLING, ETC.

"Idle Esox," in your last issue, asks several questions relative to the Nottingham tackle for jack spinning, amongst which I notice that anent the best material for Nottingham reels. I have certainly found the common make of wood reels warp and have had to take them to pieces, grind down with sandpaper the warped part, and blacklead the whole interior—this is by far the best lubricant. The winches Mr. D. Slater, of Newark on Trent, has made me with spring detaching and check arrangement, have never served me the trick. The outer wooden plate is kept rigid by means of cross brass bars, and the reel turns very easily on a steel pivot-axle. I have fished years with one of the same pattern, and it is now as workable as ever. You say, Mr. Editor, in your footnote, that ebonite is best, I prefer boxwood as against ebonite; but unless the outer plate, whereon the handles are placed, be very thin, both these materials are much too heavy for bottom fishing.

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Apropos of "The Green Fisherman," given in your last week's issue, I know of an equally curious circumstance, in which all the beautiful tackle and unquestionable skill of the angler were unable to take fish, whilst an old, worn out and dilapidated bellows mender caught them as he liked with a rod made of superannuated umbrella sticks, and a line of some material resembling whip cord, to the bait.. We were fishing for perch during the early winter of '72, at Walton Sale, and could get nothing, till after we noticed the procedure of the old boy aforesaid. We had fished with minnows and paternoster, the bait, of course, being off the ground; he was fishing with gigantic lob-worms, on an eel hook, and on the ground, the bait being held there by means of a ledger, weighing, roughly speaking, about a quarter of a pound. Immediately we had recourse to similar tactics we took fish, indeed our ultimate sport was a very good basket of "pearches."

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Perch fishing, by-the-bye, ought now to be prominently on the anglers *tapis*. "Marlow Buzz,"—of whose piscatorial exploits and knowledge I can bear high testimony from personal experience—advises the use of a "chumpy" float in paternostering, as an aid to eye and hand. There is much to recommend the float to all *dilletante* anglers, but I for one, especially in perch fishing, prefer its absence. One might as well fish with a gorge hook and float as combine float fishing with paternostering. Miss your fish rather, say I, than encourage a laxity of attention to the sense of feeling which should, in the good fisherman, unerringly indicate a bite. Besides, I question whether more fish in the end would not be missed when using the float than when the sensitive wrist measures the value of the tug, tug, of the perch. However, I don't want to say Mr. B. is wrong. Opinions differ, and we both, if I mistake not, graduated on the same river.

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Talking of winter fishing, the jack are now in fine condition here (Hampshire). Of course, in the trout rivers he is a wretch of a fish, and must be destroyed ruthlessly. I wired one yesterday, of half-a-dozen pounds, whose stomach was literally gorged with small trout—Itchen fish. And what a pretty little game she led me before the collar was safely placed round her neck. Remain in one place she would not, but, thanks to the crystal clear water, we "copped" her at last. I climbed a tree overhanging to get at her with my fifteen feet spruce pole, and incontinently fell out of it into the water, whop! splash! She then darted across the stream and ahead, and remained at the tail of a brilliant branch of green tape-weed, looking as handsome, with her suit of emerald, as the water foliage itself, and not very distinguishable from it. However, my assistant worked her down, and I, keeping my own eyes fixed on her villainous orbs, gently lowered the wire noose over her head, and down gently, gently, beyond the pectoral fins, then, with one terrific pull she came to land—as thick and deep a female as I have ever seen. I had her cooked, and the flesh was as firm and toothsome as many a trout I have tasted. Of course, her food had been of the choicest.

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I fancy in this connection hearing some of my London angling readers venting their indignation at the device termed "snatching," which I confess to having employed in the capture of the above fish. Let me increase your anger, dear reader, to apoplectic point. I wired twenty-three jack in three days last week, and mean to do as many, if they remain in my trout river, during the next three. Why, trout has no chance with them when the former are small, and surely then, this "jackicide" is justifiable. "Slay all and spare none," is the motto of this child, so, "Johns" of all sizes, ages, and denominations, I warn you to beware.

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I said the 6lb. jack was good when on the table. This is how I cooked it to make it so. First it was filleted and boned, and then dipped in egg and bread crumbs, and fried, or rather boiled, in pure olive oil. The oil must be quite smooth before the fish is placed in it, and in order to tell if it (the former) be boiling, a thin sippet of bread should be dipped in it. If it comes out a light brown colour the oil is "fit." I forgot to say that after filleting I always sprinkle a little salt over the piece to extract the superfluous juices.

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Mr. Manley, in his "Fish and Fishing," I think it is, who compares a pike done with spice, to a "water souchy of blotting paper," but really, such a verdict against this fish is contrary to traditional report as well as my own experience. True, it is that Ausonius (author of "Mosella") in the fourth century, tells us how the Luce is scourge and terror of the scaly brood, and is unknown at friendship's hospitable board, smoking only midst the coarsest food of the tavern:—

> "Lucius obscurus ulva lacunas
> Obsidet: His nullos mensarum lectus ad lusus
> Fumat fumosis olido nidore popinis."

Nevertheless, in a feast given by Archbishop Neville to Edward IV., 608 jack formed a part (rather considerable) of the banquet. In the thirteenth century few could afford to buy it, its price being about ten times that of either turbot or cod. In Henry VIII. time they were double as dear as a house-lamb in February, and a "little un" was as valuable as a fat capon. Ods bodikins, don't I wish the market in my part of the country was as good now!

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Talking about the fisherman's "cuss," did any of my readers ever try the following formula given by Jesse? He says, "The only thing I ever found to succeed for the wings or legs is the feather of the tern or sea-swallow, the body of the same coloured dubbing mixed with a little yellow." I have seen Mrs. Cox's (of Winchester) "cusses," and they are certainly capital, but I should like to look at one made after Jesse's directions.

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This fly is perhaps one of the very best for grayling, the capture of which will, I suppose, begin directly in earnest. What a pity it is that this "lady" of the stream, as Mr. Francis terms it, cannot be cultivated more extensively. What is the secret of its aristocratic exclusiveness? Why will it not grow, and why is it not found in Somersetshire, Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Herefordshire, Wiltshire, or am I misinformed as to this? Will some good reader enlighten on one and all of my questions?

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And it is a fish of very respectable antecedents. Doth not the oft quoted German naturalist, Gesner, say of the fat of the grayling "being set with a little honey a day or two in the sun, in a little glass, is very excellent against redness or swarthiness or anything that breeds in the eye?" And doth not our sainted patroness, the Dame Inlyans of St. Albans, tell us "The grayllynge, by another name called umbre, is a delycyous fysshe to mannys mouth?" Even, indeed, in that quaint book, "Dialogus Creaturam Moralizatus," published some sixteen years before "The Treatysse of Fysshynge with an Angle," there is an imaginary dispute between a grayling and a carp, which being referred to Judge Dolphin, is summarily ended by his worship swallowing them, saying, with great and ponderous gravity—

> "No one ought himself to commend
> Above all others lest he offend."

—Chub Chavender.

[The grayling is found in all the counties named by C. C. except Somerset. If C. C. kept his jack alive he would soon find customers; some one advertised in the Fishing Gazette this or last week for live jack, but we did not think he would get many. Who sells them?—Ed.]

George James Eaton, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether the may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[Advt.]

A DAY WITH THE WITHAM ROACH.

By The Trent Otter.

The River Witham, as it flows past the little village of Dry Doddington, Lincolnshire, is a stream of not much consequence as regards size—a dozen yards being about its extreme width; but as it contains a fair quantity of good roach, dace, chub, perch, and some extraordinary specimens of the bleak tribe, or "whitlings," as they are locally termed (a bleak caught in the Witham a short time ago turned the scale at 3¼ oz., a rare, very rare size), it is a stream of some little importance in the eyes of an angler. Hill and valley, woodland and meadow, give the surrounding country a variety of surface; while the river itself, flowing along through a place rich in natural beauty and picturesque spots, in this particular locality, winds about wonderfully; and the many rows of willows that line its banks add to the beauty of the scene.

Approaching Doddington Bridge from the Great North Road, and a few hundred yards above the river, the first object that catches the eye is a very queer and quaint-looking old church, that seems to stand in solitary state on the brow of the hill. The village of Doddington itself is nowhere visible from that standpoint. It is just over the hill, as though it had retired modestly into the background, having no wish to strike the beholder with awe by a sudden display of too much magnificence. The nearest railway station is Claypole, on the Great Northern line, and then the angler has a couple of miles to walk. It is about five miles from Newark, in a south-easterly direction; and on this particular day, I decided that my means of locomotion from Newark to the Witham should be on "Shanks' Pony." I had made my preparations the previous night—that is, with regard to my ground bait—for I am wonderfully particular about my ground bait when I go a roaching. I will tell you how I make my ground bait, or, to put it more correctly, how the "missus" makes it—(as the old lady in the Police-court said, "though I say it as didn't ought to say it," —Mrs. M. very much prides herself in the concoction of this particular ground bait). In the first place, I had given orders several days before that all refuse bread and crusts should be carefully saved. In the next place, on the previous night, I sent up to the nearest grocers for a pound of twopenny rice, and to the bakers for a pennyworth of bran, dividing the rice into two equal parts and putting them loosely into two pudding bags—I said loosely for this reason, the rice must have room to swell to its utmost size (the angler can gauge this to a nicety after one or two operations)—and then dropping the bags into the kitchen boiler, I left them to cree all night. The bread crusts in the meantime must be put into a small receptacle, and then boiling water poured on them, sufficient to cover them; a plate or something is then put on the top to keep the steam in, and allowed to stand all night. In the morning we are up betimes, the bags of rice are fished out of the boiler; they are creed beautifully, the bags are swelled out to nearly bursting point, and each separate one looks nearly big enough to fill your hat. Untying the bags and turning the rice out into an earthenware puncheon, we proceed to squeeze them to pieces. All the water is now drained and mixed from the bread, and it and the rice well worked up and squeezed together, taking particular care that no lumps are left in, because these lumps would rise to the top of the water and swim away, instead of sinking to the bottom and keeping there; so my advice is, don't be frightened about spending a little time in well working up and squeezing your ground bait. The bran is now added, and the whole again well mixed together, until it is a very stiff pudding. When I go a bread or paste fishing that is the sort of ground bait I take with me, and I know it is right, for I have proved it to my own satisfaction over and over again (I might just remark, *en passant*, that when I go after roach with creed wheat and malt for the hook bait, the ground bait is the same as just mentioned, with just a slight addition, and that is a couple of handsful of creed malt, well crushed up, is mixed with it). This ground bait will lick brewers' grains into a cocked hat, and the quantities I have given are quite sufficient for a day's roach fishing in a slow swim; the cost is only trifling.

Some anglers don't believe in ground bait, they wax quite eloquent in the defence of their system; but if they were to come to the Trent and say they were going to catch a bag of roach without using ground bait, say during the months of August and September, they would probably get laughed at. I have read that in some districts anglers use a ground bait that is as filthy a mess as can be concocted; "bullocks' blood, grains, clay, boiled greaves, &c., &c." being some of the ingredients used. Pah! the very thought is enough to turn one's stomach; but to return to my tale. The paste for the hook has now to be made, and here again the services of the good lady is required, for the bait must be made with clean hands (and the hands of a woman are naturally cleaner than those of a man who has to work every day for his living), for this, a piece of white bread about a day or so old, and about four inches square and one inch thick is taken, and dipped in cold clean water, and then squeezed until you get all the water out of it you can; it is now worked up with the fingers until it is a very tough and pliable paste. It is then wrapped up in a piece of damp white rag, and stowed away in the basket; I am very fond of that sort of paste, it is very seldom I use anything else in the shape of pastes, although I know that certain anglers use and recommend all sorts of scented and coloured pastes, the plain bread is good enough for me; but if the angler would like to know about coloured and scented pastes, &c., &c., I have given several recipes for making them in my new work on fishing; (I shall have to try "King's Natural Bait" for roach, for I have heard such good accounts of it). Let's see! I was going fishing a little time back, but if I go on at this rate I shall never get started. My ten ounce roach rod is now reached down, the reel with its eighty yards of the very finest of Derby silk twist is put in the basket, and the trusty old tackle pouch goes after it, and let's hope the "grub" and the flask is not forgotten; and if you are a smoker, the tobacco pouch and pipe. Let me caution you with regard to the latter; don't mix your tobacco ashes among your paste, nor roll up a pill of paste just after you have used that same finger as a "bacca stopper." You will very soon find out that if you like "bacca," the roach don't.

The reader must now suppose that I have traversed the five miles that lay between Newark and the place mentioned in the outset of this article, and am now standing on the bank of the Witham. It is a glorious morning in the first week of August. The stream here is only very slow, at the best of times only running about a mile an hour, and sometimes not even half that; the swim that I have chosen is among a lot of willows, and where there is a nice little opening, just big enough to strike and land your fish comfortably. Just below me a willow projects over the water two or three yards; the twigs and leaves kissing the stream as they are gently swayed up and down by the breeze. I decide to "peg" for them (the roach, I mean). There is four feet of water, and now just opposite me, about two yards out, I throw in two or three handsful of my carefully prepared ground bait and watch it as it sinks down and breaks up into little tantalising fragments. The tackle is now put together, and for my bottom I have one of the very finest drawn gut ones I can lay my fingers on, with a No 10 round bend Carlisle hook on the bend; a very light goose quill float is on the line that requires some half dozen very small split shots to weight it nicely; the landing net is laid handy, a pill of paste is put on the hook, and I am ready for any amount of roach. Throwing my baited tackle in it works gradually down to the twigs of the willow mentioned above, and then held stationary (this is called "pegging" for roach). I fish for half an hour, and am not rewarded by a nibble. I throw in another handful or two of ground bait, and another half hour passes without a fish. "They are a long while making up their minds this morning," thinks I, when my float gives a bob. I respond on the instant. "Missed him, by Jove," says I, and as I pull up I find my bait has gone. My float has scarcely time to settle before bob it goes again. I again give that roacher's turn of the wrist, but the fish is not on the hook. "Oh!" says I, to myself, "that's your little game is it." I now take off the No. 10 hook I am using and put on a No. 12, and have another try. In about five minutes the float gives another bit of a tilt, and, "Ah!" says I, "my boy, I have yer this time," as a three-quarter pound roach is pulling for life and liberty. After changing my hook I only felt one more fish that I did not land. The roach that day were in one of their peculiar biting moods, and required a good deal of persuasion before they would "hang on," but, however, to make a long story short, I that day, out of that one place, took thirty-one roach, that weighed altogether seventeen pounds; a nice level lot of fish, not one of them a pound though several went very near it. If I should be asked the question, "How do you account for so many fish being taken out of one swim?" I should say, "Ground bait did it." It is all moonshine for anybody to say that ground bait is no good. If one bag of fish is taken without the use of ground bait the angler might go a score of times before he had similar luck again; but, however, I suppose anglers will have their own way, so I will say no more, only just remark that if this little article proves of any practical value to any angler I shall be well repaid for my trouble in writing it.

NOTICES OF BOOKS &c.

Art and Letters.—We have received from Messrs. Remington the October number of *Art and Letters*, which commences a new volume. The list of contents reads as follows:—A Declaration of War (frontispiece), Frans Hals (with three illustrations), Pompeii and the Museum of Naples (with four illustrations), The Fan: its History and its Use (with five illustrations), Modern Landscape (with six illustrations), La Fortunina, Chapters XVI. and XVII., &c., by Mrs. Comyns Carr, and Art Notes. It is a cheap and very elegant publication.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The weekly meeting of this society was held as usual at Masons' Hall Tavern, Mason's Avenue, Basinghall Street, E.C., on Tuesday last, Dr. Lloyd presiding. The river reports were all favourable, Bartholomew, of Goring, reporting several good takes. Mr. Young weighed in four barbel, which averaged about 3½ lb. each, taken with Rosewell at Halliford. Intelligence of Mr. Wheeldon's great take of roach was received during the meeting, and was a source of much pleasure to the members. Several good takes have been reported during the week, but have not been officially recorded. Mr. Hill, secretary of the North Western Angling Society, was present as a visitor, and very cordially welcomed. Following Mr. Bentley, who last week brought some excellent microscopes, by Steward, with sundry interesting objects (some of which were shown by polarised light), several members will shortly lend their microscopes, with specimens of subjects interesting to anglers, and a very enjoyable evening may be anticipated. Mr. Callaghan having made some interesting remarks relative to the fishing experience of himself and friend, a very cordial vote of thanks was passed to Dr. Lloyd, and the proceedings terminated, so far as business was concerned. The members afterwards indulged in a little harmony, and some excellent solos were given; Messrs. Young, Jardine, Clarke, Callaghan, and other gentlemen taking part.

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

"Amongst the views of many, mine."
—SHAKESPEARE.

The Thames is now in prime autumnal order for roach, perch, jack, and chub. Excellent takes have been had of jack and roach at most stations from Staines upwards, and those fishermen who cannot do the frosty weather should now put in some good time, as the fish are biting, the water in prime fettle for all round work, and the tints of surroundings enough to make a piscatorial or other artist's back hair curl, or a bishop's lawn sleeves crimp without clear starching or goffering irons. At Maidenhead a Mr. Frost has had 14 lb. of roach, and at Cookham Goddin and other celebrities have been busy with roach, perch, and chub At Hurley, on Tuesday, Mr and Mrs. Brooksbank had 9 lb. of fine roach in a few hours, and at Hambledon G. Neal on the 8th had a fine jack of 12 lb. The Henley reports show a decided improvement, Mr. Russell getting a 10 lb. jack near Regatta Island; Mr. Phillips, with Harvey, some splendid chub, best 4½ lb.; Mr. Paton, with Parrot, three jack and two monster chub on one occasion, and nine chub and a 7 lb. barbel on another; Mr. G Arlet, a jack, 8 lb.; Mr. Bolton, with Vaughan, a 7 lb. jack and two smaller ones; Mr. C. D. Johnson, four pretty jack, live baiting. This is an improvement for Henley. In the Kennet last week Mr. Goodhind, with Holdway, thirteen barbel, chub and perch, 80 lb. together, best barbel 7¼ lb. Wind south-east; weather fine; every prospect of good all-round fishing during ensuing week.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Ancholme District.

Few notes are to hand this week from the main river, but I had the pleasure of inspecting a nice beck on Monday last, belonging to a local nobleman, and have the order to amply stock the same from the Manor Fishery during the coming winter.—THOMAS FORD.

Chichester.

The water here in the upper reaches, although a good colour, is still very low, large fish seeming shy and off the feed. Any quantity of small fry may be taken with maggot or paste. A competition was held a few days since by a few members of the Chichester Society. The lower reaches better, principally patronised. General Stokes took first prize with some fair roach; Mr. Rogers second. Weather fine. Wind northerly.—G. F. S.

Derwent (Chatsworth).

The weather during this week has been rather unfavourable, and in consequence there has been but few anglers out, but the river still remains in first-rate condition Grayling have been rising pretty freely all the week, and the few who have been out have had some very good takes, baskets averaging from seven to ten brace. Fine weather is the only thing that is required. The flies killing continue the same as in my last report, namely, bumble and little blue dun.—WHEATSHEAF HOTEL.

Dove.

Weather very unsettled, and there has been a good deal of rain this week, which has brought a lot of colour into the river. Grayling, since I last wrote, have been rising well, both on the public and preserved waters. There is a multitude of insect food on the surface, more perhaps than at any previous part of the season, and I attribute it to the fact that we have had one of the finest and mildest autumns on record. The takes this week have averaged about six brace per rod—on the preserved lengths more. The club fishers have been busy with pith and brains, and a few barbel have daily been captured with the worm. The season for the last named fish is, however, now rapidly approaching its end, as they will soon retire into winter quarters.—THE SPLODGER.

Eden (Armathwaite).

The river is now in good order for fishing. On Saturday, the 7th Thomas Bird caught a fish in the Castle water, weight 20 lb. On Tuesday George Ferguson got one 20 lb., and on Wednesday another 26 lb., in the Armathwaite Club water. They have been coming up the stream in numbers the last few days.—SKIDDAW.

Eden (Carlisle).

Last week there was not much of interest to report. There were a good many more salmon showing, but they were apparently too busy "running" to trouble themselves with a "Jock Scott" or any other gaudy fly that was worked over them. Last Thursday, however, a few fish were brought to bank, also on the following days, especially Saturday, when several local anglers had one each, one had two, another three. I hear that Captain Galagher, fishing in Sir Frederick Graham's private water in the Esk at Netherby, killed four on Friday and six on Saturday, some of them scaling 27 and 28 lb. But this stretch of water is an exceptionally good "lie," and very little fished. This week the water has been in fine order, but the weather very calm and sultry, and blanks have been the rule. There is now a fair show of fish, perhaps about half the number there were this time last year.—SILVER GREY.

Exe (Exeter).

The season just closed, in spite of the ever-changing winds, frequent storms, and heavy rains, for trout fishing has been a most successful one, the catches having been invariably good and the fish themselves of a superior quality, and for size extraordinarily fine. It is true the season commenced badly, and continued so for some time, although the weather at that time was fine and favourable. The run of the fish have surpassed many previous seasons. I do not recollect seeing so many fine trout in any one season before. Of the last thirty fish, shown me by various anglers, none were under 1 lb. each, and three others turned the scale thus—4 lb. 2 oz, 4 lb. 4 oz., and 4¾ lb. These fish measured from the eye to fork respectively 19 inches, 18½ inches, 21½ inches. This latter fish was rather narrowly made and a very dark brown, with large black spots on the gill covers, and dorsal fin. These figures may probably be of service to your correspondent E. Gosling, to whom I am also well known, who I observed in last week's "F. G." asked what the weight would be of a trout in good condition measuring 18½ inches in length. In addition to the above, numerous creels have produced two and three dozen per diem varying from 6 oz. to ¾ lb. each. Salmon are as plentiful as ever, and the upper water fishermen are doing well, and several fine fish have been taken between Cowley Bridge and Salmon Pool. Pike, perch, carp, and tench are giving very good sport, and for which Mr King's "Natural bait" comes in for some very creditable remarks, the following being taken from several others. Mr. J. A. Kelly, whom I met in the city, actually trying to soften some of the bait he had mixed the day previous, which was left unused, and I fancied he did not think much of it, since which he has had another package and reports the "Natural" bait a most enticing one for roach, tench, and carp, the latter especially taking it ravenously, as instanced by his taking two weighing respectively 4¼ lb. and 2¾ lb., while the third one broke his tackle and escaped. Mr. Carnell fishing with common paste and gentles for roach on Wednesday, six roach only. King's "Natural" bait on Thursday, five dozen fine fish. Mr. Thomas on Tuesday six dozen roach and perch. Two friends from London fishing some private water just out of Exeter 18 lb. weight of various kinds, and Mr. Snooks seven dozen roach, dace, and a flounder or two from the river; this gentleman was rather dubious about the bait, but is perfectly satisfied now, as well as the above-named gentlemen. For my own part, I cannot speak well enough of it; the results have been grand when fishing for coarse fish, either in the river, the canal, or ponds; it surpasses all other paste in its tenacity on the hook and attractive scent. As Mr. Blake was feeding his carp in the Aquarium he placed the remainder on the table, but missed it immediately. There was only the cat handy who must have taken it; so mixing a fresh piece, pussy walked up and helped herself, as before, and now looks out regularly for her share when the fish are fed. Anglers should take the hint, and not leave the paste ready mixed if there are cats about. Eels are very scarce—we generally get a moderate supply at this season. Plaice and flounders are plentiful in the estuary—the former especially, which has not been the case for many seasons. Lobsters and crabs falling off. Prawns have not been so plentiful this season as last.—FRANK GOSDEN.

Exe (Tiverton).

The river is of a brownish colour, better known as moorwater, but still in good order for salmon fishing; several have been taken with the fly during the past week.—WM. MUDFORD.

Ilfracombe.

There has been good fishing from the rocks and boats this last week. Thursday evening Souch brought in 21 lb. whiting, 6 conger, weighing 70 lb. The other boats had from 16 to 20 lb. of whiting pout and pollack. A lad fishing from the jetty hauled up a shark, it measured 6 feet 9 inches in length, and two men fishing from the flat rock off the Capstone, one hooked a large conger and had to call the other to help pull him in; when landing him on the rock he broke his hold and disappeared; they consider his weight to be from 40 to 50 lb. Friday and Saturday conger and whiting very plentiful. Monday, 21 large conger, one ling 20 lb., a large skate, one hake, and a lobster weighing 2½ lb. were caught with ground lines. Four boats from Clovelly, herring fishing, one caught 8½ maize, the others about five maize each and a quantity of whiting; several pollack and eels have been caught from the rocks. Thursday evening a small seine was set at Woolcomb Sands; they hauled 17 mullett, weighing 1½ lb. each, a quantity of salmon peel, some weighing 3 lb., several bass from 3 to 4 lb. each, and some brill and turbot, weighing altogether 130 lb. Friday night the seine was again set; a lot of peel, bass, turbot, brill, &c., were hauled, weighing 140 lb. Weather at present mild.—E. COMER.

Irt (Holmrook).

During the last week or ten days the rivers in this district have been low for salmon fishing, and although bright and clear several sea fish have been caught. On Friday last W. B. Addington, Esq., along with a friend, succeeded in hooking a splendid salmon, which fought him hard for nearly forty minutes. As the river was so clear those gentlemen did not think it necessary to take either landing net or gaff, which gave them little hope of ever landing their fish; but not to be done, a happy thought struck Mr. Addington's friend, and as quick as thought he succeeded in cutting down an ash sapling and cutting all the boughs off but one, and that the length of six inches formed a gaff, and with the greatest activity succeeded in landing at the very first click a most splendid salmon in the pink of condition, and weighing over 12 lb. weight, killed with fly and fine tackle. To-day we have rain, and if it continues till to-morrow the river will be in good order.—A. BROCKLEBANK.

Lake Currane (Waterville).

The fishing has improved since last report, one boat killed three salmon, the largest being 23 lb. There were about three dozen trout killed also by the same boat. The lake has been in nice condition for past couple of days; fair prospects of fishing next week. No boats could venture on the bay this week, weather too boisterous for sea fishing.—M. ELLYOTT.

Lea (Ware).

Good sport was had here on Sunday last among the roach, several takes amounting to 12 lb. and over. Several jack were also taken, and two fine chub weighing about 4 lb. each; these were taken near the "Boom." On Monday, the roach were again on the feed, but only a few anglers were out. The rain that has fallen the last three days has caused the water to rise a little and coloured it well, being just in the pink of order.—LION AND WHEATSHEAF.

Medway (Tonbridge).

The water is rather clouded, but still in first-rate condition for all kinds of angling. Good sport has been had during the week. Amongst other takes recorded were Mr. F. W. Hancock, a brace of pike weighing 7¼ and 8¼ lb; Mr. Morley, 3 pike, and Mr. West a brace of pike and a brace of carp from the Powder Mill Lock. The latter were taken with a lob, and weighed 7 lb. 7 oz., two very handsome fish. At the Ballast Pit Mr. R. A. Dallas Beeching has had pike and bream, while further up the river Mr. T. Elliott and other angler have been busy amongst the jack, which are this year found to be numerou and in first-rate condition.—YE MEDWAY WATER RAT..

Nen (Northampton).

Sport during the past week has not been satisfactory, the roach and perc being dead off the feed in this part. I have heard of one or two gentleme taking some nice pike. On Monday, G. Wright killed a nice fish of 12 lb.; o the same day, H. Smith killed 1½ brace pike. The members of the Northampton Working Men's Angling Club turned out on Saturday last to compete for the prizes offered by the club, but the takes of fish were very small. T. Turner, first, 15s.; A. Cook, 10s, second; F. Chambers, 5s., third; G. Miller, 4s., fourth; the following members taken the minor prizes: Messrs. Smith, Billingham, and Seal, sen. At the time of sending the report the river is rising fast, and I do not think there will be any chance of angling for a few days.—T. JAMES.

Severn and Teme (Worcestershire).

These streams are now in prime condition, and some good sport has been the reward for anglers who can use the fly or bottom tackle. Mr. Phillips and friend got amongst the trout the last day, near twenty brace of good fish being taken. Mr. James Deakin showed me a brace of good trout of over 2 lb. on September 30; Mr. E. D. Davis caught a splendid lot of grayling last Thursday; Mr. A. Bosworth landed two dozen of roach; Mr. C. Watkins, seventeen fish, in fact, I could name many who have returned from the river with from 2 lb. of fish up to 20 lb. in their baskets. I am quite convinced that our rivers are better stocked than has been the case for years. The flies I recommend for grayling are as follows:—The pale blue for the end fly, the dark willow next, the hare's ear or red ant as No. 1 drop. With these flies I landed five and a half brace and three and a half brace respectively, the pale blue was first favourite.—JOHN A. GRIFFIN, Portobello Inn, Worcester.

South of Ireland.

CLOSING OF THE ANGLING.

The Angling season of 1882 closes to-day, and in reviewing its results we may say that it was fully up to the average of previous years. The opening took place on the 1st February, a fortnight earlier than in the previous three years. Contrary to expectation, anglers captured a fair proportion of Spring salmon in the Lee during the month of February. The river appeared to be then fairly stocked with Springers, owing to the heavy floods in January, but it was not until the months of March and April that the real sport commenced. Some few unpleasant incidents marred the sport in the early part of the year. Farmers having fisheries on the river insisted upon exercising their right, and in a few cases had to be brought to book by their landlords, who were put to the trouble of proving that the rights of fisheries were reserved. In one fine fishery however, the tenants and their friends continued to angle despite of all remonstrances, and four gentlemen who had the right to fish from the lessee were obliged to abandon the privilege rather than run the risk of being assaulted. The fishery afterwards became a commonage, and those who had deprived the legitimate persons of their sport were themselves unable to grapple with the host of trespassers who soon overwhelmed the banks, and carried off the largest share of the sport. It was a commentary on the character of those men that four of them were recently fined £4 each and costs for strokehauling salmon. The peal fishing turned out a blank; the weather being dry, the river was too low to enable the peal to ascend to the upper waters. The net fishing was fairly productive throughout the season, and a steady average price was maintained. The opening prices in February were 2s. per lb. This price was maintained with slight variation until after Easter, when it dropped to 1s. 6d., and during the peal season to 1s. and 1s. 3d. The closing price to-day was 1s. per lb. Mr. Geo. Haynes made about the best individual bag for the season, having taken fifty-six springers and some peal.—ANGLER.

Thames (Chertsey).

I am sorry I missed the post last week, still my report is not heavy. Three days fishing last week as follows: First day, 4 bream, 1 barbel, and 1 perch; second day, 3 bream and 1 barbel; third day, 2 barbel and 1 chub. This week's report 2 barbel, 1 chub. Two days with Mr. Spreckley, 2 bream, 6 lb., 2 barbel, one 1 lb roach, 2 trout, one trout, 3 lb., swallowed the bait and died; the other fish, two feet long, all right; a fine fish; what would one give to get a fish like that? but I am glad to say the fish went back to his native element in the same place where Mr. Hatfield took his trout some time back. There is one thing about it, it shows there are fish in the old Thames—JAMES HASLETT.

Thames (Goring).

Water a little thick, in good order for roach fishing; jack and perch not on much. Roach have been biting very well. Have been out four days roach fishing; best day eight dozen of roach and a few very good perch.—JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Hall ford).

The river is now in good order for all seasonable fishing. Different gentlemen fishing with me since last week's report have had takes as follows:—Mr. J. C Inuis, three barbel, largest over 5 lb, and some good roach and dace; second day, Mr. Deacon, four barbel; third day, Mr. Abrahams, six nice barbel, largest 4¾ lb.; fourth day, out with Mr. Palmer three hours, took three barbel, largest 4 lb., and a nice chub.—GEORGE ROSEWELL.

Thames (Richmond).

The river is now in excellent condition for fishing, the recent rain having just coloured the water to a nicety, and the roach and dace are feeding well. All the punts have been out each day, and all the patrons well satisfied with their returns for the day, as the fishing has been good all the week.

P.S.—I was much surprised at Mr. Perrin saying that some of his Richmond brethren doubted his report. It would be better if Mr. P. would name the person, as each fisherman in Richmond is his own master. They are as follows:—Kit Brown, G. Howard, E. Brown, H. Howard, Job Brain, H. Wheeler, H. Platt, and John Bushnell, all men that have served an apprenticeship to the water, and who would hardly call Mr. Perrin a brother or one of them, and as each man has as much work as he can do, I don't think it would matter much what reports Mr. P. sends.—JOHN BUSHNELL.

Thames (Shepperton).

Since the rain the water is in much better condition for fishing. Fishing prospects are much better than they have been. F. Purdue, one day, 4 dozen gudgeon; H. Purdue, one day, 2 dozen roach; a gentleman and his son, fishing in his own boat, took 6 bream, weighing 12 lb., the largest weighing 4 lb; a young man from Weybridge caught a carp near Shepperton weir weighing 6½ lb. Ledgering myself, three days, 9 dozen roach and dace, 1 chub of 1½ lb., 4 perch, one weighing 2 lb., one 1 lb, the other two smaller—W. ROGERSON.

Thames (Twickenham).

Wind N.E. The water has greatly improved since the rain last night, and the takes to-day (Thursday) have been much better than any other day during the week; but I have not been quite so busy as last week. However, had 24 punts out during the week, and since I last wrote have been again honoured by a visit of Royalty: H.R.H. Princess Mary (Duchess of Teck), accompanied by H.R.H. Princess Victoria Mary, H.R.H. Prince Francis Joseph, and H.R.H. Prince Adolphus of Teck, attended by the Rev. Matthew and Mr. Freeborn. Jack Spong and "Our Joe" were the fishermen in attendance. But I regret to say it was the roughest day experienced this season for angling, the wind due east and extremely cold. Nevertheless, H.R.H. most graciously expressed her satisfaction with the whole arrangement, and said she had much enjoyed the sport.

N.B—I take this opportunity of thanking the officers of Thames Angling Preservation Society, coupled with Thames Conservancy, for the very efficient manner in which they have protected our waters during the recent holidays.—ALFRED PERRIN.

Thames (Windsor).

Since my last report nothing at all has been done here. I tried the barbel three days, but could not get them at all, nor are we likely to have any sport unless we get a thorough good run of water or some frost. The late rain has risen the river considerably. The jack should be going at the spinning bait.—G. LUMSDEN.

The Rother.

Weeds are now rapidly disappearing in the river Rother here, and with heavy rains this week the water is in good condition, and angling prospects greatly improved. Some fine dace taken this week.—J. A.

Torridge (Torrington).

We have been having some heavy showers, which have risen the river, but it is now getting in order for fishing, and should we have no more rain good sport may be looked for. Three salmon and nine peal have been taken since last report. S. Jackson, on Thursday last, took a salmon of 12 lb., and on Friday one which I weighed, 19 lb.; B. Rudd also took one on Thursday, 6½ lb. Many salmon and peal were seen yesterday trying to leap the weirs.—PRACTICA ANGLER.

Torridge (Woodford Bridge).

The river on Monday and Tuesday was in good order, and some good dishes of fish taken. Since then the water, by constant rain, has been high and muddy, with little prospect of anything more being done for some days.—JOHN BLAKE.

Trent (Newark).

Taking all things into consideration, sport has been a little better this week than last, for swims that can only be successfully fished in a very low water were in good trim, and some fair bags were made out of them. I hear of a good catch of barbel being taken at Stoke during the latter part of last week. I had a day on Monday, and got 16 lb. of bream and roach, but nothing very "tall." Biggest roach 1 lb. 1 oz. and biggest bream nearly 2 lb They took a deal of persuasion before they would "hang on." Tail end of maiden lobworms have been the most successful lure. Several nice bags have come under my notice, and in nearly every instance worm was the taking bait. I got my fish with only about an inch of the tail end of the reddest maiden lobworm I could find. The deepest swims have been the most successful as a rule this week. Mr. J. Chatterton got three nice jack on the 6th inst., live baiting, I think, weighing 5lb., 5½ lb., and 7 lb. respectively. Heavy rains have fallen this last day or two, which has caused the river to rise, and a bit of colour with it. I am afraid sport will not be very good for the next few days, for the water is still rising, and all our best swims out of condition. Worm fishing on the slopes or in quiet corners might be tried, as the fish have not yet got packed in their winter quarters.—THE TRENT OTTER.

P.S.—I have been informed that Mr. D. Slater and Mr. J. Chatterton, while out pike fishing last Monday, had the good fortune to land one each, the former a 25-pounder and the latter an 18-pounder. I naturally wanted to see them, but was told they had gone to Cooper's, London, to be "stuffed." I don't know whether the fish in question really went to get "stuffed," or whether they (my informers) were only trying to "stuff" THE TRENT OTTER.

Trent (Nottingham).

The river in this district rose several inches on Thursday through heavy rain which descended on Wednesday, but the rise will not be unacceptable to the majority of the bottom fishermen. A rise, in fact, was required, as the bed of the stream had become thickly entangled in weed, especially in the upper waters. On Wednesday afternoon Mr. C. B. Cox, of Hazleford, succeeded in taking three splendid chub in greaves, the largest (weighed in at the Wellington Association) turning the scale at 4 lb. 2 oz. So far this fish heads the chub list, and the club closes with the termination of the present week. From Weston news reaches me that on Monday and Tuesday Mr. A. J, Field and Mr. T. Wood caught, amongst other fish, two salmon weighing 15 lb. and 11 lb. respectively. Both took the worm, and many others were seen in the same neighbourhood endeavouring to surmount Kings Mills Weir. Thursday's influx will materially assist them, and the rise could not possibly have come at a more opportune period.—THE MAN AT THE CLUBS.

Tweed and Teviot.

Towards the end of last week the takes of salmon in the Kelso district of the river were more numerous than they had been for some time previous. On Thursday, the 5th inst., Mr. Alfred Denison, London, angling on Birgham Dub, was successful in killing an 18 lb. salmon and a grilse of 7 lb., and on the same day Mr. Brunlees, C. E., London, hooked and landed a fish of 16 lb. on the Sprouston water. On the Hendersyde upper water, on Friday, Mr. F. L. Roy, of Nenthorn, secured two grilse weighing 7 lb. each, while he also captured a salmon of 17 lb. on the Sprouston cast the same day. Mr. Brunlees caught a salmon which turned the scales at 18 lb. At Birgham Dub, further down the stream, Mr. Denison had a couple of fish for his share. Mr. Kermack, Edinburgh, fishing in the Sprouston lower water on Saturday, landed a salmon of the handsome weight of 22 lb., and on the same day on the Hendersyde water Mr. Pringle Elliott was successful in securing two fish. On Birgham Dub a pair also fell to the rod of Mr Denison. Owing to the heavy pluvial descents of Saturday night and Sunday, both Tweed and Teviot came down in flood, and on Monday morning the index at Kelso Bridge registered a rise in the river of nearly three feet. Angling was consequently put a stop to for that day. Large numbers were observed making their way up the river when it became flooded, and prospects are entertained of angling being yet productive of good sport. On Tuesday various casts were tried at different parts of the stream, but I only heard of two fish being captured, one of which was credited to Mr. James Kerso, who fished the lower Hendersyde water. On the Birgham water on Wednesday Mr. Denison killed three salmon, averaging about 18 lb. each, which was decidedly a good take. On the Cornhill water ten miles below Kelso on Saturday Mr. Henderson landed a salmon of over 20 lb. weight. During the past week trout angling has been prosecuted to some purpose. On Tuesday Mr. J. M Kie, Edinburgh, killed a basket of 8 lb on the Teviot, the principal tributary of the Tweed, and on the Eden on Monday Mr. R. Newton killed 6 lb. Other anglers have obtained baskets weighing from 3 lb. to 7 lb.—Maxwell.

Wharfe (Yorkshire).

This river is now very low and clear, and not much has been done with fly. S. Suttle, of Otley, on Monday, killed five nice grayling, with a small black fly; but other anglers that I have met with have only had poor sport. It is too soon yet to fish the worm for grayling, but a sharp frosty night or two would soon being them on the feed. Thunder has been hanging about, which may perhaps account for the poor sport.—Francis M. Walbran.

Witham (Boston).

The season for pike angling in the Witham and contiguous drains is setting in in a very promising fashion. At Tattershall some very nice pike have been taken, also at Burdney, at Chapel Hill, and at Dogdyke. At the first-named place, amongst others, Mr. Sherwin caught one $8\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; at Bardney the best was about 6 lb. Near to the Hermitage some good fish were landed up to near 6 lb., and at other points there have been sizeable captures. On the larger drains some remunerative sport has been experienced. Mr. Short has caught five at Cherry Corner, the best being one of $7\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; Mr. Allis, at Eastville, two, with a perch $1\frac{3}{4}$ lb; at Leake some Sheffielders had several, two securing them and losing two between them; and at Fishtoft there were others landed. These latter were all from the Hobhole. From the Mount drain Mr. Sykes took three, the best being one of 5 lb. along with a decent basket of roach, From the Forty-foot a lot of pike have been taken. Mr. Heath got one of 10 lbs.; Mr. Porklington, three; Mr. Gilmour, one; Mr. Wray, one; Mr. Day, one, &c. These gentlemen had also good takes of roach and rudd. On the same water Mr. Latham caught four perch, 1 lb. to $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. each; Mr. Barnes over 30 lb. roach; and Mr. Spencer a well-filled basket of the same fish. Other roach fishers on this water that have done well have been Mr. Brown, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Henwood, &c. Among the luckier anglers on the waters here mentioned a gentleman visiting from Nottingham, who got on a shoal of good bream at Chapel Hill, several of those he landed weighing 3 lb. upwards, one $3\frac{3}{4}$ lb., and also a tench $2\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; and Mr. Jones killed 17 lb. of rudd and roach at Eastville. The water is in excellent condition almost everywhere, and the prospects of pike fishing are daily improving. Weeds are a nuisance in many places, but these are dying down and floating out at the flood doors.—The Yellow Belly.

Wye and Derwent.

We had a very great quantity of heavy rain fall yesterday (Wednesday), which has caused both the above rivers to have nice little flushes on them, which has quite put a stop to fly-fishing for a few days. The bottom fishers on the Derwent no doubt will do well now with both maggots and worms. Sport both on last Monday and Tuesday with both fly and bottom was very good, and baskets averaging fully 6 brace per angler was made. The killing flies have been bumbles, red ribbed with gold twist, and furnace flies, the duns have also killed a few fish. Both the Wye and Derwent ought to be in first-class condition for grayling fly-fishing by Monday.—George James Eaton.

Yare (Norwich).

Sport on this stream has been very fluctuating on account of the unsettled state of the weather and the prevalence of east wind during the past week. On Thursday a gentleman from Norwich took at Buckenham four nice jack with a spoon, though the water was thick and not at all favourable for spinning. On Saturday last Mr. Hubbard (of Sprowston) with the "constant visitor" at Buckenham Ferry took 100 good roach, many of them being very fine. I was at Buckenham with a friend, same afternoon, and only took between 20 and 30. The condition of the fish was first-rate, very few having the parasites to any extent. The same day a member of the Champion Angling Club (Mr. Stannard) with another angler, took at Brundall over three stone of large roach, but the reports from this station are not good, a stone being looked upon as a good take; next day at Buckenham Hubbard with one rod killed 89 roach, weighing $2\frac{1}{2}$ stone, and a jack $5\frac{1}{2}$ lb. yielding to the allurement of a live bait. The same angler, with Mr. Robert Harvard, jun., of this city, was out on Tuesday at Buckenham, and succeeded in killing 86 good roach at a spot near Strumpshaw Dyke, proving that (as last week) up stream was best; they scaled over 2 stone, so were fair sizeable fish. I might say that bread and bran has formed the Staple ground bait, and that gentles have proved the only temptation to which the shy ones have yielded. On account of the weather, prospects for the coming week are not bright.—Robert Moll.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS

By L. B.

Mr. P. Geen has for many years so closely identified himself with—nay, always taken a foremost part in every movement having for its object the advancement and protection of angling interests, that it is no exaggeration to say his name has become a household word to thousands, not merely within but far beyond the metropolitan area, and I therefore feel sure that anglers all over the country will hear with feelings of deep regret of the irreparable loss his children and himself have sustained by the death of the most devoted of mothers, and the best and most loving of wives—and that all alike will sympathise with them in their great bereavement (though many, perchance, will do so in respectful silence).

At the meeting of the executive committee of the West Central Association of London and Provincial Angling Societies, held on Friday evening, October 6th, two new clubs were enrolled, viz.:—

Crescent Angling Society, held at the Giraffe Tavern, Newington Crescent, Newington, S.E., secretary, Mr. Pearson; and the Rodney Piscatorials, the Albion Tavern, Rodney Road, Walworth, S.E., of which our old friend Mr. J. Hotham, takes the secretaryship. In each case not only were the usual questions "Do your rules provide for the strict observance of the close season and the return of undersized fish?" satisfactorily answered, but the said rules which were willingly submitted to the committee, were in all other respects capitally drawn up and certainly are in many respects among the best I have perused for a long time.

Owing to the extreme lowness of the water fishing has, in the interests of anglers themselves, been stopped at Elstree reservoir. Last Sunday, 8th, being announced as the last day until the—not only here but everywhere else—long expected and much needed push of water sets things right for what, let us hope, may prove a successful winter season.

An angler and friend recently fished out of the river Thames at Bourne End, with the help of a landing net, a well-conditioned female trout of about 5 lb., apparently dead only a few hours, and full of spawn. A careful dissection, it seems, tended to confirm the opinion formed by the finders at the time that the fish had come to an untimely end through being struck by the screw propeller of a steam launch.

A return visit will be paid the Great Northern Brothers' Angling Society, the Robin Hood, Southampton Street, Pentonville Hill, on Monday evening, October 16th.

There will be no meeting of the Anglers' Benevolent Society's committee on Friday, 13th; but a special general meeting is announced for Wednesday evening, October 18th, when business of importance will be dealt with. Rumours of fresh poaching comes from the river Colne on Staines Moor. One gentleman assured me that on a recent occasion "some netting vagabonds succeeded in a very short time in taking *out* three bushels of fish of all kinds, and wound up by chucking a keeper *in*."

The following occurs in a recent letter received from my friend, Mr. R. W. Hobden, of the Hammersmith United Angling Society, and as it may prove of interest to the readers of the F. G. I have reproduced it in Mr. H.'s own words.

"On Thursday last, I made my first acquaintance with Shiplake. The wind was north-east, and blowing a hurricane all day long, pleasantly varied with occasional calms and copious showers of rain. By dotting about from spot to spot my friend got a few perch and a nice chub; and in the afternoon I dropped across a few good roach. I fished in a little eddy by the side of the first weir, in about 16 feet of water, and my punt rod being only about 9 feet long, you can guess my troubles in getting out and landing my fish off a bank 6 feet high. I found that all these roach were feeding on the silk weed on the stones of the weir.

"I should think Shiplake a good fishing locality, and the pool of the first weir is a fine piece of water for size and depth, 10 and 12 feet close in to the bank. Our punt was above the lock, and my friend Arnold, 'of ours,' had put all his kit, rods, &c., and dinner, into the punt, which the lock-keeper proceeded to take down and through the lock; luckily, we were not in it, neither were my properties, for in emptying the lock the end of the punt got fixed in some way, and not being able to fall with the water, got filled therewith, and half of it sunk, completely submerging all Arnold's goods. You can imagine his dismay, also that of the lock-keeper, as a steamer was fast approaching to come up the lock. However, we managed to lead the punt out and prevent its entirely sinking, and rescued Arnold's soddened tackle, macintosh, and food. The lock-keeper soon rigged him out with dry food and macintosh, and we proceeded to our fishing. Walters, 'of ours,' told me last night that, fishing in the Colne on Thursday, he hooked good fish twice running, and on each occasion got round a sunken post, and each time went in to get the fish and also his tackle, but only succeeded in securing the latter, the fish escaping. What do you think of his exploit?"

A No. 2 District West Central Association visit was paid the Sir Hugh Myddleton Angling Society, the Empress of Russia, St. John's Street Road, on Tuesday evening, October 10th, and though the exceptionally large room was by no means crowded, there was a very fair attendance indeed. The chair was filled by Mr. W. Fowler, Mr. Mason facing him in the vice. Among the gentlemen who obliged with songs and recitations, several securing encores, were Messrs. Fowler, Toplis, Duncan, Beckwith, Raymond, Walsh, Steel, Barrett, Stephens, Thorley, &c. The roll was called shortly after eleven by Mr. L. Bonvoisin, the district visiting officer, when it was found the following societies were represented:—Amicable Brothers, City of London, Globe, Odds and Evens, St. John's, Sir Hugh Myddleton, Star, and Trafalgar; also the following societies not included in No. 2 district—Hoxton Brothers, North Western, Bostonian, Buckland, Eustonian, King's Cross United, Little Independent, Great Northern Brothers, Waltonians, and the Highbury, making a total of eighteen societies. During the evening, Mr. R. Ghurney, the secretary of the Anglers' Benevolent Society, spoke a few seasonable words about the steady progress of this capital institution, pointing out to all present, whatever their social position, the necessity of supporting so deserving an undertaking. A cordial vote of thanks to the chair and vice-chairman brought the evening's entertainment to a close.

Election of Conservators for the River Suir and its Tributaries.—The triennial election of conservators for the D division, Waterford district No. 3 was held at Clonmel court-house on Monday. Mr. F. Massy, Suir Castle, was moved to the chair. Five candidates were proposed for the three vacancies, and, a poll being taken, the following were declared duly elected by a large majority:—Major Mansergh, Ardmagh House; Mr. Michael Keating, Cahir; and Mr. Richard Bradford, Clonmel.

CLUB REPORTS.

ALEXANDRA SOCIETY OF ANGLERS.

On Sunday last we had a good show of fish from Amberley and Pulborough, and the Stort. Mr. Wilts the heaviest weight of roach, bream, and dace; Mr. Chipchase, roach bream, and dace; Mr. Gripton, roach and bream; Mr. Wilson, roach and bream. Several members from the Lea did not get a fish; this does not look promising for our peg-down match on Sunday, the 15th.—F. Wagner, sec.

October 12.

AMICABLE BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Medcalf, 1 jack, 1 lb. $5\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; Mr. Shury, roach, 3 lb. $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz., bream, 2 lb. $7\frac{1}{2}$ oz. from the Arun. Mr. Arnold, roach, 3 lb. 4 oz, dace, 4 oz. from the Thames; Mr. Tinson, 1 jack, 1 lb. 5 oz. from the Lea; Mr. Binks, 1 jack, 1 lb. 4 oz.; Mr. Farebrother, roach and dace from the Thames; Mr. G. Carrington, roach and bream, Amberley.—T. Worledge.

October 8.

ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Sixteen of our members fished a roving match at Hatchett, on Sunday, the 8th inst., but owing to the bright state of the river none of the prizes were taken. The same will be fished off on Sunday, the 22nd, at Hatchett Albert Bridge to the lock. The prize, taken by A. Shakel at Pulboro, on Sunday, the 1st, can be seen at the club house.—W. Davis, secretary.

11th October, 1882.

ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Since my last report, I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of £1 1s. from "Kuss," of the Gresham Angling Society. I shall be pleased to acknowledge many more such Kuss's.—R. Ghurney.

Oct. 12.

CHAMPION ANGLING CLUB

The members of this club held their annual dinner on Thursday 11th inst., at their club, "The Champion," Mr. S. F. Howitt, vice-president, in the absence of the president, presiding, Mr. G. G. Whincop occupying the vice-chair. A most excellent and well served dinner was provided by Host Chettleburgh, abundance and quality being equal. After all had done justice to the inner man, the chairman gave the usual loyal and patriotic toasts, and song and toast followed in quick succession as per programme. In responding to the toast of "The Champion Angling Club," proposed by the vice-chair, Mr. Moll pointed out the desirability of each member making angling a study, and endeavouring to become proficient in all its minor but still important details, so that the club might not only be composed of jovial anglers, but of thorough intellectual piscators which would place them second to none in the city. The committee was proposed by the chair, and responded to by Mr. G. G. Whincop and Mr. Hunt in very able speeches, each tending to advance the interests of the society. Mr. Moll proposed "The Yare Preservation Society," coupling with it the name of Mr. C. J. Greene, the esteemed honorary secretary, who in responding pointed out the benefit this important society had, and still was conferring upon the locality by its efforts. Norfolk and Suffolk were left out of the Bill introduced by Mr. Mundella, and lovers of the gentle art are thus enabled to go abroad all the year round without interference, and seek health and pleasure by the river side whensoever they choose. The society has just appointed a new river watcher in the place of Hewitt, and the committee trust he may prove as good a servant, and secure convictions of offenders on all possible occasions. He trusted that London anglers generally who visited these waters would support this society. He was proud to be a guest of this club, every member of which was a subscriber to the Yare Society. The toast of "The Ladies," ably given by Mr. Randall, and responded to by Mr. Sidell, brought a most enjoyable evening to a close.

CLAPHAM JUNCTION ANGLING SOCIETY.

On October 4th, Mr. E. Brewer weighed in a nice pike of $13\frac{3}{4}$ lb. Mr. J. Innes, 3 barbel, one weighing 4 lb $10\frac{1}{2}$ oz; roach and dace, 10 lb. $10\frac{1}{2}$ oz. On Sunday last members competed for several prizes at Weybridge, and were all taken by the following members:—Mr. W. Maslin, first; Mr. Boisseau, second; Mr. E Wilson, third; Mr. R. Wellman, fourth. Takes were small, the heaviest weight only being 1 lb. 15 oz.—E. Wilson.

CROWN PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

One of our members, Mr. Willcockson, had 9 lb. of handsome rudd on the 8th. Several others out but returned with very little sport. The first half-yearly supper of this flourishing society will take place at the club house, the Crown Tavern, Clerkenwell Green, on Monday, October 23rd, 1882, at 8.30 sharp. Our worthy host, Mr. Caddell, has promised to well ground bait the swims. The chair will be occupied by Mr. Willcockson.—W. H. Burwash, jun., secretary.

October 11, 1882.

DUKE OF NORFOLK ANGLING SOCIETY.

At a special general meeting of the above young and prosperous society it was resolved to remove the club to more commodious premises, viz., Mr. George Grey's Ledbury Arms, Ledbury Road, Kensington, late of the Reform Anglers, held at the Jolly Coopers, Clerkenwell Close. Other clubs please take note of this, when we shall be pleased to see them, our host, Mr. Grey, having just taken possession.—J. Avon, secretary.

GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

The next general return visit will be paid to the above society on Monday, October 16.—J. A. Fitch, jun., sec.

October 12.

GREAT YARMOUTH PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

This society held its weekly meeting as usual on Monday, under the presidency of A. Mitchell, Esq. This meeting was numerously attended, both by Yarmouth and London anglers especially, many well-known anglers being present. The chief business of the meeting was to elect a vice-president in the place of Mr. Courtenay, and we have much pleasure in informing friends that a well-known Yarmouth gentleman was duly elected in his stead, viz., Mr. J. Etheridge. Also several gentlemen were enrolled as new members. The society has caused, by its success, another one to be formed, called the Friendly Anglers' Society, which, I am pleased to inform you, has been offered any assistance that they may require, respecting information, rules, &c., from the Piscatorial Society. I forgot to mention that the jack referred to in my last report, caught by Mr. Hewetson, was caught on a single gut hook, and required a great amount of skill and tact to bring him to the landing net. Mr. Bennett also caught a very fine perch, $2\frac{3}{4}$ lb., at Ormesby, but the best fish was presented to the secretary by Mrs. Barber, of Regent Street, caught by her near St. Bennett's Abbey, weight $3\frac{1}{2}$ lb., a perch, 15 inches in length from centre of eye to tip of tail. The fish has been taken by our local naturalist, Mr. Lowne, of Fuller's Hill, and will soon adorn the walls of our club-room, and it is to be hoped that before the season is over some more specimens will be taken by our members and presented to the society.—James Lark, sec.

GOOD INTENT SOCIETY.

The members of this club to the number of fifty-four fished at Boxmoor on Sunday last for twelve prizes, but only five were taken, in the order named—Mr. Devon, 1st; Beale, 2nd; Raynor, 3rd; G. Bates, 4th; Howe, 5th. The members have decided to fish at Waltham on Sunday, the 22nd, for twelve prizes, pegged down. Tuesday last, being quarterly night, there was a full attendance of members, and a large amount of business was gone through.—R. Murphy.

HAMPSTEAD ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several of the members were out on Sunday, when the following members weighed in: C. Messenger, W. Messenger, W. Chiel had some very fine roach and dace.—W. Broom, sec.

HEARTS OF OAK ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above society fished for a series of prizes at Pulborough last Sunday, three only of which were taken, by Messrs. A. Fish, H. Cook, and W. Rider respectively. I am sorry to announce the death of an old and respected member, viz., Mr. J. Carrington. I might mention that a benefit will take place for the widow and seven children, who are left totally unprovided for, at the Dolphin, Church Street, Shoreditch, on Monday, October 23. —C. J. Millie, sec.

HIGHBURY ANGLING SOCIETY.

Although the trays of our society have not lately been so well furnished in comparison with times gone by, still we have to congratulate our members upon their energy and perseverance in pursuing their favourite pastime, in order to keep the ball rolling. The result on the 8th was most satisfactory, the principal takes being contributed by Mr Highley with some capital perch and jack, the heaviest of the former scaling nearly $2\frac{1}{4}$ lb., as also Mr Wells, with a nice jack weighing 6 lb., while Messrs Anthony, Payne, Arnold, Ballard, and others produced a splendid assortment of roach and dace from the Thames and Lea.

HOXTON BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above society will have their first outing for prizes this season on Sunday, October 22nd, at Bourne End, when eight prizes will be competed for. The next return visit of the clubs on the Eastern District Visiting List will be paid to the Hoxton Brothers, on Monday, October 23rd. On Monday next, October 19th, a concert will take place at the Cherry Tree, Kingsland Road, for the benefit of the widow and children of the late M. Agombar, many years a member of the Hoxton Brothers' Angling Society. A benefit will take place on Monday evening next, October 16th, at the Bald Faced Stag, Worship Square, Finsbury, on behalf of the widow and four children of the late George Oram, many years an energetic honorary bailiff of the River Lea.—R. Ghurney, sec.

IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

A good many of the members tried their best for a show on Sunday last, but only three had fish worth notice. They were Messrs. T. Dennison, senr., G. Wood, and T. Ward. Mr. T. Dennison, senr., was out again on Wednesday, and had a tray of nice roach and dace. Mr. T. Dennison, senr., wishing the members to patronise the new water at Harefield, will give a prize value 10s. 6d for the heaviest weight of any kind taken on the Wednesdays during November. Mr. T. Dennison, jun., will give a prize value 10s. 6d. for the heaviest weight of any kind taken on the four Sundays in November.

November 12, 1882.

LEEDS MARQUIS OF GRANBY ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

The members of the above association fished their first angling competition on Monday, October 2, 1882, at Benningbrough-on-Ouse, by the kind permission of the Hon. Payan Dawnay. This being the first competition of the society, which has only been established three months, and numbers eighty members, every one worked hard in securing minor prizes from friends, and exerted every effort to make it a pleasant, agreeable, and successful day. The competition was open to all England, £25 being given in money, besides twenty minor prizes, some of them valuable ones, consisting of handsome coloured album, tobacco jar, set of fireirons, fly-rod, Nottingham reels and lines, fishing panniers and books, knots of patent gut, &c., &c. The weather was everything that could be desired, the heavy rain on Saturday and Sunday caused the water to rise about 2 feet, and being slightly coloured a good catch of fish was anticipated. Seventy anglers left Leeds Station for York at 9.10, arriving in York at 9.55. They proceeded to Tendal Bridge, where a steamer was waiting to convey them to Benningbrough, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles up the river. On arriving at the fishing ground we numbered 140 fishermen from Leeds, Sheffield, Harrogate, Stockton, Otley, Thirsk, York, and outlying districts. The ground was staked out under the superintendence of Mr. Arnett, of York, allowing each man 15 to 20 yards to angle in. The drawing commenced at 12.30, every man being strictly searched as he passed up the ground. One man, named Parker, of Bramley, was found with 15 oz. of roach concealed in his basket, and was at once disqualified, wisely taking himself off the ground, or he would probably have been gently ducked in the river. Fishing commenced at 1 and closed at 4 o'clock, the weights of fish were as follows:—1st. £8, W. Darley, Sheffield, 3 lb.; 2nd. £5, R. Spill, Sheffield, 2 lb. 12 oz.; 3rd. £3, A. Whittam, Marquis of Granby Club, 1 lb. $12\frac{3}{4}$ oz.; 4th. £2, J. Gresham, Marquis of Granby Club, 1 lb. $12\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; 5th. £1 5s, J. Isherwood, Marquis of Granby Club, 1 lb. $12\frac{1}{4}$ oz.; 6th. £1, J. Stevenson, Bramley, 1 lb. 8 oz.; 7th. 16s., A. Owen, Marquis of Granby Club, 1 lb. $7\frac{3}{4}$ oz.; 8th. 14s., F. Thompson, Leeds, 1 lb. 6 oz.; 9th. 12s., H. Kirby, York, 15 oz.; 10th. 10s. 6d., W. Hirstwood, York, $14\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; 11th. 10s., A. Croft, Sheffield, 13 oz.; 12th. 10s., F. Scatcherd, Marquis of Granby Club, Leeds, $11\frac{1}{4}$ oz.; 13th. 7s. 6d, J. Ward, Rothwell, 11 oz.; 14th. 7s. 6d., G. Grant, Leeds, 10 oz.; 15th. 7s. 6d., J. Duce, Leeds, 10 oz.; The prizes were distributed at Mr. Smith's, Haymarket, York, who catered for the Leeds' anglers in an excellent manner; the day closing with singing, reciting, &c.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our members were out last Sunday. Our trays were not so full as we should like them to be. Mr. Petrie, jack and roach; Mr. Thompson, roach; Mr.

Hurwood, roach and gudgeon; Mr. Humphreys, dace and gudgeon. The great Northern Brothers paid us a visit on Wednesday last, and a jolly evening we spent. They gave us some handsome prizes to be fished for.—W. H. Evans, sec.

October 11.

NORTH WESTERN ANGLING CLUB.

On Sunday, the 8th inst., Mr. Bonvoisin weighed in chub, Mr. Stead chub and roach, one of the chub going 3 lb., and Mr. Hill roach. A visitor also showed 18 lb. of roach from Twickenham —H.

October 12.

ORIGINAL ALEXANDRA ANGLERS.

We had a good day's sport yesterday, amongst those weighing fish being Mr. High with a good show of roach; Mr. Hewett with roach, dace and bream from Amberley; Mr. Dymond, sen., had a fine show of jack, Mr. Dymond, jun, had also jack, and Mr. Towndrow had some good perch.—E. Dymond, sec.

October 9.

PECKHAM BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

The match for the "cup" at Pulboro' was won by Mr. Lang; Messrs. Williams, Stidolph Page and Otjan also had fish. Mr. Matthews, in company with Mr. Cox, fished the Roden, and brought home three nice perch and one jack. The largest perch was sent to Needham for preservation.—W. H. Page, hon. sec.

PORTSMOUTH WALTONIANS ANGLING SOCIETY.

A few of the members of the above society paid a visit to Chichester on Thursday last, the 5th inst., to compete for prizes in connection with the club. On their arrival at the canal many of the old rodsters who had filled their creels in days "lang syne" shrugged their shoulders in seeing the miserable state of affairs. The water has never been known to be so low as at the present time—the deepest parts barely three feet—occasioned, it is said, by some defect at the end of the Birdham Locks. At all events, like good and true brothers of the angle, each went in for the "glorious uncertainty," and after four hours of hard and patient work—for several went in for jack, spinning with the spoon bait, but to no effect in the basin—only four of the members took fish, viz., Messrs. Bracey, roach; Dyer, perch; Harris, perch; and Smith, roach, Thus ended one of the most miserable outings the Waltonians have experienced for many a time. This will be their last competition for the year 1882; and now the members will be looking forward to the cozy gatherings at their club-room during the long and wintry evenings.—Daggerwood.

PRINCESS OF WALES' ANGLING SOCIETY.

Important Notice.—The Go-where-you-Please Competition.

The committee of the Princess of Wales' Angling Society beg to state that the competition for the marble clock on November 12th, 1882, will be under the following conditions:—All fish, bar jack, to weigh, their respective sizes being—roach and perch, 7 inches; dace and rudd, 6 inches; carp and tench, 8 inches; bream and grayling, 9 inches; chub, 10 inches; barbel, 13 inches, all tip to tip. All competitors to fish from the bank. No competitor to fish any private water (W. C. A.'s waters excepted). All competitors to weigh in at the Prince of Wales, Great Barlow Street, High Street, Marylebone, W., and to be in the room on the night of competition by 10.30; the weighing-in will commence at 8.30. Each competitor to pay an entrance fee of 1s. After the expenses are deducted, all the overplus will be given in money prizes. A brass watchstand has been added to the prizes by the kindness of Mr. R. Fellowes, of the Golden Barbel Angling Society. The clock is on view at the Prince of Wales, Great Barlow Street, where tickets can be obtained at any time of the day of Mr. Hodges, the landlord, and on Sunday and Thursday evenings of Mr. F. Robson, the secretary. The prizes will be distributed on the following Thursday evening, when a statement of accounts will be read.—H. J. Robson, chairman.

RICHMOND PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

At the Richmond Piscatorial Society's meeting on Wednesday Mr. F. C. Clench, informed the members, with deep regret, the loss our friend and honorary member of this society, Mr. Geen, had sustained by the death of his wife, a lady devoted to angling and a true friend to all anglers. Mr. Terrill proposed that a vote of sincere condolence with Mr. Geen be forwarded by the secretary, which was very feelingly seconded by the vice-chairman, Mr. H. Dickinson. Messrs. Houghton and W. Abbott weighed in two trays of nice roach and dace from the Thames. The water has been very bright, but will improve beyond doubt with the late rain. The next competition will be for a prize given by Mr. Little, of Fetter Lane, to the amount of five guineas—either a sterling silver cup, fishing tackle, or money prize, at the discretion of the winner, on condition the same be fished for in the Thames between Teddington Lock and Richmond foot-bridge, for roach and dace only; one rod, time 8 a.m. till 5 p.m., weighing in at society's rooms not later than 8 p.m. Punt wells not to be used on this occasion, each competitor to use his own bag or basket as if bank fishing. Mr. Lucas (R.P.S.) has kindly promised a second prize. The entrance fees of 1s. each will constitute a third prize. A unanimous vote of thanks was accorded Messrs. Little and Lucas for the prizes offered. A very interesting discussion on roach fishing and general piscatorial topics occupied the greater portion of the evening. During the week, Mr. A. J. Little weighed in one bream from tidal waters, 2 lb. 6 oz.; Mr. Terrill, 9 lb. 16 oz. roach and 11 oz. dace; Mr. Houghton, 7 lb. 13 oz. roach and 18 oz. dace; Mr. W. Johnson, eleven barbel 31 lb. 8 oz., two jack 6 lb. 12 oz., one roach 10½ oz., one chub 1½ lb., all taken from the Thames. There were present:—Mr. F. C. Clench, chairman; Mr. H. Dickinson, vice-chairman; Mr. Houghton, treasurer; Mr. Gaynor, curator; Messrs. Terrill, A. J. Little, J. Dunn, R. East, Wm. Abbott, H. S. Giles, J. Munro, G. Hester, F. J. Hayward, A. P. C. Percival, E. Powell, W. C. Wells, W. Cockburn, J. Neville, H. Davis, H. Lucas, F. A. Crew, &c.—John H. Gaunt, sec.

RODNEY PISCATORIALS.

On the 8th we had an excellent show of roach, about 30 lb., all in splendid condition, weighing from 12 oz. to 1¾ lb. each; several of the best fish have been sent to be preserved and the rest were distributed among the members and their friends. Several members visited Pulborough, Ponder's End, and Tottenham. From the latter place Mr. Diggins succeeded in getting a nice plump jack, about 4 lb.; he only fished a short time in the afternoon. Members are requested to attend on Wednesday next, for the purpose of passing several rules. Members not attending will have to conform to the rules passed by those who do attend, and therefore must not complain afterwards, as this is to be considered as sufficient notice to all members.—Pixie.

ROYAL GEORGE ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday last a somewhat novel gross weight competition for six unknown prizes, presented by Mr. Millard, was fished by the members of the above society, with the following result:—Mr. Word, 5 lb. 10 oz.; Mr. Hughes, 3 lb. 1 oz.; Mr. Trotter, 2 lb. 5 oz.; Mr. Holden, 1 lb. 13 oz.; Mr. Chart, 1 lb. 4 oz., and Mr. Parsons, 1 lb. The same day witnessed the conclusion of the competition for Mr. De Quincey's two prizes, given for the heaviest gross weight and the heaviest specimen fish, which were awarded to Messrs. Trotter and Wood respectively. The presentation of the unknown prizes on Tuesday evening caused considerable merriment. The lucky ones having been requested to vacate the room, six brown paper packages of various shapes and sizes are placed upon the table. The prize winners are now called in, and instructed to make their selection in succession. No parcel may be opened until all are taken. To touch a parcel is to choose it. The first choice is soon made—the gentleman taking the nearest parcel. Now the next—hesitation. Shall it be the one which strongly suggests a frying pan, or the bottle. Alas! in another instance the charms of the latter are fatally seductive, and the bottle is chosen, Champagne! The string is cut and the enveloping sheet of brown paper removed disclosing another string, and another paper—the bottle is unaccountably shorter. Yorkshire relish! This covering removed and another is seen. Bottle still shorter. Seltzer! Again a cover removed and a cover discovered. Bottle shorter yet. Blacking! Many more papers are unfurled, small card boxes are opened, and carefully wrapped in cotton wool is the kernel of this nut. The heart of the mystery is disclosed. This prize is "no bottle" at all, but consists of a small uninflated balloon. The prizes are not all however, of this character, as among the six are found a handsome, electro-silver engraved salver, a pound of tobacco, pouch, &c., and a silk handkerchief. The members fish a gross-weight sweepstake in two prizes next Sunday, go where you please, but fish from the bank only; also, for two subscription prizes, under the same conditions. A handsome 8-day clock, presented by Mr. Trotter, will be fished for on the three following Sundays; and a prize is offered for the largest chub taken this month. The return visit from the No. 1 District Association will take place at nine o'clock on Monday evening next.—C. W. W. Bernhardt, hon. sec.

October 12.

SIR HUGH MYDDLETON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above society were out on the 7th for three cash prizes—£1, 15s., and 7s., go where you like. It was a splendid day, and hardly a ripple on the water. We anticipated having some good takes. I regret to say that the majority of the competitors had to put up with very poor takes. I will give the takes as follows:—1st prize, Mr. E. Smith, handsome tray of chub, 13 lb. 3 oz., Thames; 2nd prize, Duncan, a nice show of roach, 7 lb, 10 oz., Thames; 3rd prize, John Allard, 1 jack, roach, and dace, 2 lb. 3½ oz., Ouse; Caborn, roach, dace, and perch, 1 lb. 5½ oz,, Iver; Billings, chub, 1 lb. 3½ oz., Thames; Jeffreys, bream, roach, and dace, 1 lb. 1 oz, Wey; Sanders, gudgeon, 11½ oz., Thames; Taconville, roach, 11 oz., Thames. The first three gross weights took the prizes in rotation.—G. Caborn, sec.

October 9.

SOUTH LONDON UNITED.

The clubs forming the South London United District Visiting List will fish their sweepstakes at Amberley on Sunday next, October 15. It will be a pegged-down match.—Wm. Allen, hon. sec.

Oct. 11.

STANLEY ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

Our members have been this last week very busy among the roach, in consequence of which our trays have been graced with some good shows of very handsome roach. Mr. D. M. Humby, sixteen roach, weighing 5 lb. 10 oz.; Mr. W. R. Humby, thirty-eight, scaling 13 lb. 8 oz. and thirty-eight for 13 lb. 14½ oz., also half a dozen good dace; Mr. H. Rose, dace and thirty-four roach weighing 11 lb. 2½ oz.; Mr. Walker, twenty roach, 7 lb. 9½ oz. All the above being one day's take from the Thames. Mr. Wheatstone, fishing two days, had a splendid take of roach, 122 fish, weighing 42 lb. 8 oz., the sample of all the shows was very fine, the average being not quite three to the pound. Mr. Wrightson exhibited a nice jack 3 lb. 12 oz.—G.E.W.

SURREY PISCATORIALS.

The members of this society had an open competition for the three prizes I mentioned in my last report of this society on the 11th inst. The following is the result: Mr. Beckett, out with C. Brown at Richmond, won the first prize, with some very nice roach and dace; Mr. F. Griggs came second, and Mr. Murray third. The next competition will take place on November 8, for the undermentioned prizes: 1st., a sewing machine, given by Mr. Harris; 2nd, a dressing case, given by Mr. Martin; 3rd, clothing to the amount of £1 1s., by Mr. Sutcliffe; 4th, a leg of mutton given by Mr. Harris.—Pixie.

THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

At the weekly meeting on Monday evening last, at Ashley's Hotel, Covent Garden, Mr. Marsden weighed in three tench, from the Avon, scaling 9 lb., the largest 3½ lb.; Mr. Walker, two perch, weighing 4 lb. 6 oz., the largest 2 lb. 7 oz. The Annual Pike Competition on the Thames for Shentonian prizes takes place on Monday next, October 16, and there is one excellent arrangement in this contest, that no fish under 3 lb. will be allowed. On the following Monday evening, the anniversary supper will be held, in the club room, on which occasion it is expected that Mr. F. G. Pearce, the father of the society, will preside, which will make it more than usually attractive. The courteous manager of the hotel, Mr. Bass, who is an excellent caterer, has promised to do the entertainment properly, therefore a good muster is anticipated.

WALTONIANS.

Mr. Skeats headed the list with a mixed take of jack, roach, bream, and perch, about 12 lb. (one roach scaling 1 lb. 9¾ oz.), from Lowestoft. Mr. Bowering had a barbel 5 lb. 8 oz, taken ledgering with cheese paste. Mr. Phillips had a chub 4 lb. 7½ oz., another small one, and a few roach. Mr. Burton had roach 5 lb.; Mr. Togwell had roach 3 lb. 1¾ oz.; Mr. Waltham, roach 3 lb.; Messrs. R. Dodge, Malcom, and Marriott, also weighed in.—A. J. Marriott.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

TENCH IN THE THAMES.

Sir,—I have always been led to believe that there were not any tench in the Thames, but I find that I have been misinformed, as one of our members (last Sunday, Oct. 1st) helped a native of Bourne End, Bucks, to land one weighing over 4 lb., also a splendid perch about 1 lb., which the native gave to a gentleman from London of the name of Armstrong. Do you, or any of your readers, know of any other cases where tench have been taken from the Thames? If so, let me know through your paper, and oblige yours very truly,

R. Knight,
Chairman of the
Marylebone Angling Society.

[It is certainly a rare thing to hear of tench being taken from the Thames, but there is no doubt it holds a few; indeed, the T.A.P.S. have put a good many in within the last few years if we are not mistaken —Ed]

SIZE OF EXE FISH.

Sir,—From information received, and from the pointed remarks in Mr. Austin's letter, I am credited with writing that letter signed "Tivertonian" in your issue of the 30th ult. I beg to deny having written, or having anything whatever to do with it; but I can endorse the truth of the statement respecting the basket of 71 fish weighing 18½ lb. As regards size, they were just about one size, and caught in one pool; there was not a fish above 5 oz. amongst them. The local press Mr. Austin refers to was an Exeter paper (not a Tiverton one) which never saw the fish, as it said "We will suppose so many were 12 oz., and so many 8 oz., see what an average the remainder must have been," and they protested against the wholesale slaughter of such little fish; "and if parties wanted to make sensation baskets they had better not state the weight."

I am glad Mr. Austin acknowledges the authorship of the letter in question, as it confirmed my opinion, notwithstanding his denial of it at the time it appeared.

Wm. Mudford.

Fore Street, Tiverton,
October 10th, 1882.

P.S.—I have been requested to send you the enclosed letter for publication—

Sir,—A report having been circulated in Tiverton by Mr. R. S. Austin, of Angel Hill, in this town, that I saw the eight fish which he mentions in his report to the Fishing Gazette—viz., one of 1 lb. 14 oz. and the remainder each over 1 lb., I most flatly deny that I ever saw such fish, or anything approaching it, in his or any other shop in my life caught with the artificial fly in the Exe.

Levi Saunders.

Leat Street, Tiverton.

[Mr. Austin's article seems to have created quite a stir in Tiverton. We never pay attention to "rumours" and "reports", and Mr. Mudford is responsible for the above letters; if Mr. Saunders is not the person referred to by Mr. Austin, Mr. Austin will doubtless say so, and bring forward someone who did see his fish, if he thinks it necessary.—Ed.]

MARKET DEEPING.

Sir,—Whilst spending my holidays at Bourne, Lincolnshire, I visited this grand fishing station on the Welland.

My brother and I drove to Deeping, seven miles, and had some fine sport; unfortunately it came on wet; but as "Gudgeon," of *Bell's Life*, says, such dace, and I can add such roach, you very seldom see; the maggot was the bait used. The landlord where we put the horse up told me his nephew caught a bream 4½ lb. only a few days previous, so there are some good bream, if not many of them. There were several London rodsters staying in Deeping at that time, so your clubs should soon get the necessary information Should any one staying there fancy a change of river they have only to go to Fre land Mills, on the Glen, about 3½ miles away, where, by asking Mr. Chatterton, the miller, who never refuses, you can catch roach, dace, trout, chub, pike, &c.; in fact, it is a grand little river, I fish it annually. Any one thinking of trying it, writing me, shall have all the information I can give them.

I will enclose the day ticket I received at Deeping, the N.B. below the rules on the back thereof I think will amuse you —I am, &c.,

Wakefield. S. S. B.

P.S.—What is the greatest weight dace attain?

[Dace rarely exceed 1 lb. in weight, though heavier specimens have been recorded. In fact, if we are not mistaken, one London club has a specimen from the Colne said to have weighed nearer 2 lb. than 1 lb. The Yore, at Tanfield, holds more fine dace than any river we know.—Ed.]

THE UNITED BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

Sir,—Mr. T. Hoole has received the following letter from the above Society:—

"When the scheme for the propagation of coarse fish was first taken in hand it was proposed and carried unanimously, that upon the formation of a society for the above purpose we should contribute an annual sum of £1 1s. in addition to any sum paid by members individually, our members thinking the small sum proposed to be charged each holder of a privilege ticket would not be sufficient to do any great amount of good, taking into consideration the number of anglers who fish the metropolitan waters, and hoping that if some club set the example others would soon follow, and thus allow the sphere of action to be greatly extended."

Bravo ye "United Brothers." That's the right spirit to take the matter in. What do you think, ye grumbling, mean beggars, who are not content in refusing to pay the extra paltry 1s., but must do all you can to get others to follow your bad example?

Hail "Brother, well met" will not apply to some people, unless they mend their ways.

I am sure there are members amongst those three clubs who refuse to take the fishery tickets, who would be ashamed to own they belonged to them did they know the full facts of the case; but the few persons who are their leaders, and whose game it is to sow seeds of discord, take care the true state of things shall not come to light if they can help it. Well, by and bye, they will find, when too late, that they are not in the "hunt."

I heard Mr. Hoole say a few nights since that he would visit these three clubs and fully explain the whole working of the "Fisheries Society," and if he does you may bet there will be no pleading ignorance of facts afterwards, and it will be quite as well, if mis tatements have been made, to correct them as soon as possible; for those who made them may find Mr Hoole's remarks rather too close to the point to be pleasant.

How it is possible for an angler to object to pay a paltry 2s. per year for a ticket which permits him to travel cheap, and another that permits him to fish free, I cannot conceive. Are you anglers, or are you pothunters? If you are anglers you have been misled; if pothunters, I would advise you to take to something else.

Let me ask you who object to pay your fair share of the necessary expenses, do you think it honest to take the benefits that your fellow members have worked for years to gain without helping to pay? Do you think all these benefits can be gained and upheld without funds? If you cannot afford 2s per year you cannot afford to go fishing. To stop at home is my best advice —I am, &c.,

Thrasher.

THE MANCHESTER AND DISTRICTS AMALGAMATED ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

Sir,—I am pleased to see, in your last issue, the remarks of "Trout" on—what in my opinion, and must be the opinion of every fair angler—one of the most disgraceful transactions that has occurred in connection with any anglers' association. That an association like this, having over 2000 members, should pass a minute to allow, if not to encourage its members to poach—for no other term can I use, the three species of fish in question being protected by law—is far beyond my comprehension. What are the individual clubs about that send delegates who pass minutes of this description? No wonder "Trout" hears that his district secretary is going to retire. It will surprise me greatly if there is an officer left. Let us trust, Sir, that the members of the association will not allow this slur to remain on them, but that we shall hear that they have rectified this awful blunder at their next meeting.—Yours, &c., Lex.

HOW TO PREVENT WOODEN REELS FROM SWELLING IN THE RAIN.

Sir,—"Idle Esox" complains of his wooden reel swelling by the wet on it. I can give him a remedy which I have proved to be effectual. Let him take the best purified spirits of naphtha, add gum mastic, make a very thin varnish, take his reel to pieces and paint inside and out with this thin varnish, which the wood will readily absorb; give several coats of the varnish, taking care to let each coat be thoroughly dry before applying a fresh one. He will see by its appearance when there is sufficient varnish on it. For the last coat make the varnish a little thicker; he will not complain of his reel swelling after this treatment.—I am, &c., J. Garle Browne.

Oct. 10.

FISHING AT SHARNBROOK.

Sir,—Could you give us any information whether there is any public or subscription fishing at Sharnbrook? An answer would greatly oblige.—I am, &c.,

W. Broom.

[There is good fishing in the Ouse there; but if free or not we cannot say.—Ed.]

CAPTURE OF AN OTTER AT MAPLEDURHAM.

Sir,—While fishing with a friend at Mapledurham last week it was my good fortune to witness the capture (by Edward Shephard, the fisherman there) of a fine female otter full grown. The traps had been set under water, and the otter was caught by both its fore legs, a trap on each, which held it under water, drowning it. It weighed between 15 and 16 lb., measuring from nose to tip of tail 3 feet 7½ inches.

I believe the otter has since I left been purchased by Mr. Pugh from Shephard, who, I hope, will shortly have another to dispose of. This is the seventh he has killed, and speaks well for his energy in the interests of anglers. All anglers who fish this beautiful part of the Thames will rejoice at the capture.—I am, &c., Geo. E. Walker.

NETTING THE MOLE.

Sir,—I take the opportunity of mentioning through the valuable medium of your columns a fact that may interest some of your readers who are in the habit of fishing the river Mole. Whilst in a draper's shop within a few yards of my residence, I happened to open up the subject of angling, and I was informed by one of the assistants, who said that he resided at Leatherhead, "that he was in the habit of netting the Mole in that quarter every week when he went home, and that he knew of a first-rate hole where he could depend upon getting fish, and took out of it last Saturday two jack a little over a pound each, and several trout of 1 lb. each or more." While such a scandalous state of things as this exists, what hope have legitimate anglers of success in that river?—I am, &c. Cyril Barton.

3, Bramber Road, West Kensington.

Gregory's Spinning Baits. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[Advt.]

LINCOLNSHIRE FISHING GROUNDS.

MANY lovers of the angle are equally good with their gun, and fishing and shooting to them become kindred sports. I have been visiting some of the fishing quarters on the Great Northern Railway during the past month, and filling up intermediate periods with following the gun, the exercise of the latter far exceeding anything connected with the rod. I have, at a previous time, given a descriptive account of the fishing at Sleaford, Grantham, and Peterborough; but in these days of progressive angling, there is always something to learn, and a visit to each of these places is by no means unprofitable. On that account, and with a view of keeping up a connection with some of the piscators at each place, I determined to have another turn round as a kind of inspection, and, if necessary, another wake up for the good folks at Sleaford, where there is such a fine trout stream, and no association to use and preserve it. I started from King's Cross Station for Grantham, by the ten o'clock "Special Scotch Express,"—which was due at 12.9, but preceded that time by about three minutes; a most enjoyable run. I first of all made my way to Sleaford, but with about three hours to wait, I went into the old and capital town of Grantham, and it was market day. I called upon my friend, Mr. Ogden, the proprietor of a first rate fishing-tackle shop, whose son is the leading planet in the Angling Association, and has become a bright star in the piscatorial art. I was informed, upon enquiry, that the Association is going on most prosperously, and the members have been getting better sport; but, as I am reserving Grantham for the last, I will first of all give a bit of opinion on Sleaford, and only wish the Editor of THE FISHING GAZETTE was there to show his masterly skill in fly-fishing and evidence a tangible and practical result. The river Slea runs through the very heart of the town, and on the bridges which span the streets, the sight of the spotted beauties is lovely beyond description. I am not a fly-fisher, or I should have sought permission from the Marquis of Bristol's agent, who, I am told, is very nice, to have got amongst them. No successor has been found to the late Mr. Boutel to manage the affairs of a local association. The new line of railway which is worked unitedly by the Great Northern and great Eastern companies between Spalding and Lincoln, opens out fresh and additional neighbourhoods. There are plenty of wealthy residents both in Sleaford and the outlying districts, and I am still informed the agent would give every facility to any association that would preserve and use the river. There is, therefore, nothing wanting except two or three kindred spirits to resuscitate the old association, and if only some one could be found to take the position of honorary secretary it would soon revive, and, I am assured, find plenty of supporters. I have for the last two years been endeavouring to stir up the anglers of Sleaford through the columns of the FISHING GAZETTE, and I am not without hope that something will yet be done. I was invited to spend a day with the shooters, and eagerly accepted the invitation; but the day proved to be most unfavourable. The three shooters Mr. J. L., Mr. J. C., and Mr. F. B., however, turned out for a chance in the pouring wet rain, and in the comparatively short time of one hour and a half returned like drowned rats, their bag in that time containing nine brace of birds and nine hares. Had the weather been right I am sure there would have been a result of at least forty hares and forty brace of birds. Anglers can fish and protect themselves from a heavy rainfall and feel at their ease in a punt; but that is in direct opposition to shooting, where walking through muddy stubbles and full-grown turnip-tops is a striking contrast. My friends felt it to be useless to think of going out again, and sought refuge in-doors, consoling their disappointment under the refuge of the whist-table, which they did not quit until six o'clock in the morning, excepting the time spent in discussing a capital dinner and some good old port, for which the better class of Lincolnshire farmers are known to be famous. I now come to my more immediate sport, the science of angling, and my thoughts concentrated in the movements of the Grantham Angling Society. It happened to be the day of the annual fishing match in the canal, for which some fifty members had given in their names as competitors. They started at a tolerably early hour, having a few miles to travel to get to the scene of active operations. In the most systematic manner the ground was measured, and a certain space allowed for each competitor. Unlike the day of shooting, the weather was all that could be desired, and all were soon heart and soul in the work; the worthy secretary evidencing all activity in conducting the entire arrangements until the end of the day came. The sport was not perhaps equal to some of the previous contests. The heaviest take was about 13 lb. weight, and, of course, all the rest receded from that point in the scales. It was a pleasant day, and all enjoyed it; and on their return to Grantham they spent the evening in their customary quarters and partook of their annual feed; my good friend, Mr. Ogden, sen., discharging the duties of chairman in a thoroughly efficient manner. What struck me most in connection with the contest was the liberal support that was accorded to it by nearly every prominent tradesman in the town of Grantham, each contributing a prize of some useful article, whilst the patrons and vice-patrons subscribed money prizes in addition, which were, of course, made the leading ones of the day, there being between forty and fifty prizes offered. The Grantham piscators are ardent lovers of the sport, and the association, conducted in good form, has become a conspicuous success. The committee have made themselves popular, as will be inferred by the support of the tradespeople, and long may the Association continue in its present good state of prosperity. My duties in London necessarily curtailed my visit and compelled my attendance there to take my position in the deputation that was formed to wait upon the Board of Thames Conservators, in reference to some objections that had been made to their proposed new bye-laws for the whole of the Thames, and which I am sanguine enough to believe will be agreed to and complete a great triumph. There are in Lincolnshire some good fishing grounds, and plenty of available private waters, easily approached by the Great Northern Railway. Anglers should make headquarters at Grantham, where Mr. Ogden will supply all possible information, and give permission to fish in the Association waters. A thorough sportsman is the proprietor of the George Hotel, and he is a first-rate caterer. A clerical friend of mine in the neighbourhood has had some good fly fishing for trout at Great Ponton, the next railway station to Grantham. I had intended visiting Peterborough; but the demands for my presence in London intervened, and I have left it for another time. I was only away for a few days, and if I had been a day or two longer I should have been in the "Hue and Cry." However, my return was hailed with satisfaction.

B.

THE HERRING CATCH AT YARMOUTH.—Quantity delivered during week ending October 11, 1236 lasts; quantity for this season to date, 6283 lasts; quantity last year, 4754 lasts; largest catch this week (*Sneafell*), 14 lasts. About 430 boats delivered this week.

HOTELS, INNS.
ANGLING QUARTERS & WATERS.

ROACH & BREAM FISHERS

Should try a day's fishing in the 350 acres of water strictly preserved, belonging to

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1882.

GRAYLING FISHING IN HAMPSHIRE.

By R. B. Marston.

" . . . . You know the Test, one of the finest trout streams in Hampshire, and of course in England; when I first knew this stream, twenty years ago, there were no grayling in it. A gentleman brought some from the Avon, and introduced them into the river at Longstock (about two miles above Stockbridge). They were for two or three years very abundant in that part of the river; but they gradually descended, and though they multiplied greatly, there are now scarcely any above Stockbridge. There were, four years ago, many in the river just below; but this year there are very few there, and the great proportion that remains is found below Houghton. I ought to mention that the water is particularly fitted for them, and they become larger in this river than in their native place, the Avon, some of them weighing between 3 and 4 lb."– From *Salmonia, or Days of Fly-Fishing*, by Sir H. Davy (1828).

"Lower down the Test, near Stockbridge, a society has been formed, called the "Houghton Club," by a party of gentlemen, and the water is well preserved. They meet early in the spring, and I believe it may be truly said they are a band of brothers, for one of the club infomed me that he had never seen a shade of temper or heard an unkind expression from one to another since he had been a member.

"I have been so fortunate as to have seen their common-place book, in which every member is expected to narrate the events of his day's fishing, his triumphs, miseries, &c. I was highly delighted and amused with the gaiety and good humour I found in this witty and curious miscellany. The book is also embellished with original sketches by members and visitors, of caricatures, scenery, &c.

"In my introduction to this work, I have attempted a defence of the 'art of angling,' and should I have there failed, I am quite sure the following list of names forming this Stockbridge club will alone be a sufficient answer to the sneering and prejudiced caviller, or to the morbid sensibility of those who contemn the 'gentle craft.' The members for the year 1838 were :—

The Earl of Hardwicke.
Lord Saltoun.
W. H. Whitbread, Esq.
Henry Warburton, Esq.
Edward Barnard, Esq,
G. W. Norman, Esq.
Sir Hussey Vivian, Bart., M.P.
The Rev. F. Bendon.
Francis Pepham, Esq.
Sir Francis Chantry, R.A., F.R.S.
Colonel Mudge.
Colonel Long.
John Jarratt, Esq.
Richard Purn, Esq.

"When a fly-fisher visits the Test he must provide himself with mackintosh boots, as the river is bordered with 'water meadows,' that is, sluices admit the water from the Test for the purpose of irrigation. The clearness of the stream requires fine tackle and rather small flies."—From *The British Angler's Manual*, B. T. C. Hofland, Esq. (1839).

" . . . . The matter that is of consequence is that the grayling suits many of our streams, and would suit many more if it were introduced to them. It is found in the Teme, the Lugg, the Wye and their tributaries, wherever they are found to suit it. It is found in the Yorkshire rivers, the Yore and the Swale especially. It is found in the Derbyshire streams, as the Wye, the Derwent, and the Dove. It is found in the Hampshire rivers, the Avon, Itchin, and Test, where they run to a large size. I have caught them in both Itchin and Test up to 4 lb. weight; but here we know that it has been introduced. They were formerly few in the Test; but at the Houghton Fishery, formerly belonging to the celebrated Stockbridge Club (thanks to the encouragement extended to them by the proprietor, Dr. Wickham), they now abound there."—From *A Book on Angling* by Francis Francis (1867).

" . . . . . I have lately been fishing below Winchester, down by Twyford, and the increase of store fish there too—trout and grayling of half a pound—is amazing. I got three and a half brace each day of capital fish, where there used to be but a poor show three years ago. I wound up with a day upon the Itchen Valley Fishery (Mr. Chamberlayne's), and I had a capital day—indeed, I never have fished that water when the weather was anything like favourable that I have not had good sport. It is one of the finest waters on the Itchen. You can fish either the barge stream or the river, according as the wind suits; and there is splendid grayling fishing on most of the waters. It happened to be a capital day when I was there on the 28th, and the fish rose at intervals all day. The water, unfortunately, was terribly overgrown with great bunches of weed, with streams between, in which the fish rose. In the open water by your own bank the fish knew all about it, and were wary; in the waters further out they took well, but then you had to drag them over the weeds. I lost quite two-thirds of my fish dragging them over the weeds, and the number of fish which bolted into weeds, and the number of flies I lost, I should be sorry to say. It was a day of great exasperation and some strong language. I got out five brace, however, three of them were between 2 lb. and 3 lb., the rest $1\frac{1}{4}$ lb. and $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. It was as handsome a dish of fish as I would wish to see. Only twice before have I bettered it on that water, once getting seven and a-half brace there; but that was in the Mayfly season, and they averaged over 2 lb. each fish—a very big average. These, however, were mostly taken with the smallest dun. I ought, with luck and a fairly clear river, to have bagged at least fifteen brace of fish instead of five; but what I want to note most was the great increase of nice half-pound fish, both trout and grayling, which I saw and took out and returned to the water. This speaks very well for the future, and here again is distinctly visible the benefit of clearing out the pike. Some rare big ones have been slaughtered there—there would not have been all these store fish had there been many pike about. . . . . Very small dun, quill body and light wing and hackle, has been the favourite fly on, though a lot of grayling have been killed by a new kind of Wickham, tied by Mrs. Cox. The Itchen grayling take it savagely, and even of large size, which is a great advantage in fishing for grayling, as you lose fewer with a big hook, their mouths being soft. If the weather only keeps open and fine, there will be some first-rate grayling fishing to be had on the lower reaches of the river, and though some people despise grayling, I do not. These Itchen grayling, to my surprise, fight as well as their Test friends. They do not all fight alike, but some of them show an amount of vigour, activity, and stubbornness, which even a trout does not equal."—Francis Francis, in the *Field*, Oct. 7, 1882.

"The Test.—The Houghton trout season terminated on the 30th ult., and may be classed as one of the windiest that has occurred for many years. The wind certainly was from the right quarter, but raged so violently that it was far worse than light airs from the north. A fair average of trout was made altogether, amongst them a goodly number of 1 lb. and $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. fish, which is a very good sign, whilst very few big black ones were caught. Except on one portion of the fishery (Black Lake), the Mayfly was almost absent, which perhaps is not such a great disadvantage after all, for, if the Houghton trout had a regular annual feast of Mayfly, they would be almost uncatchable afterwards—certainly in the day time; and evening fishing has been getting worse year by year, simply because there has been so little fly for them to rise at. The grannom came on about April 10, but bad weather prevailed nearly all through the month, and the fly being a fine-weather one, little was done with it, and I really believe that, if one stuck to the hare's ear ribbed with gold, from March to the end of May, one would get more trout than by changing one's flies. We now have the grayling season with us, and, of course, a strong northerly wind. The fish rise very well in the forenoon, and again in the evening with quiet weather, but the difficulty has been to get the right fly. The grayling is a very capricious fish; at times he will take almost anything; on other days he won't look at a single fly you may offer, although he be rising hard everywhere. It has been so lately. At this time of year "drifting" (especially in the evening) is almost more killing than casting up to your fish; but—as Mr. Francis warns us—beware how you strike. Six choice flies were given to me the other day, four of which were left in grayling on striking. It is the most difficult strike to make I know, for, of course, there is slack line floating down behind the fly, and it has to be straightened and the fish hooked at the same moment, and, if you "hit" the least bit too hard, your fly is gone to a certainty. Where grayling are rising freely, I invariably sit down on the bank just so far from its edge that I can fish above and below me with the rod close down to the water; the reason for this being that the grayling are wandering fish, and occasionally come right in under the bank, not more than a rod's length from you, where they will rise well for a minute or two. To catch these fish, you must keep the rod close down to the water and pitch a short line up, without letting your point get above you. In recovering your line you must do so by bringing the line under the rod without raising the point, and be careful not to take the line off the water with a jerk, for as often as not a grayling will let the fly go past him, and then turn down stream and take it greedily at your very feet. For flies now a very good one is a small sandy body and hackle with starling's wing. With that, or a small hare's ear, you cannot be far wrong. The fish now apparently are taking something under water, as they make "bulges" more than rises. It may be the willow fly, of which there has been any quantity about; but hitherto I have utterly failed to get anything tied that even faintly resembled that insect. The average of grayling taken now is about two brace of sizeable fish per rod, but not large ones, usually from 12 in. to $1\frac{1}{4}$ lb. As the season advances, so the larger grayling seem to seek the deeper water, where probably they feed on the bottom. The mill pools at Houghton are full of huge grayling, but they seldom come to the surface, and the only way to get them is with a biggish fly well sunk, and allowed to go where the eddies carry it. Weed-cutting will probably commence next week."—South West, in the *Field*, Oct. 7, 1882.

The above extracts give a most interesting picture of grayling fishing as it was and as it is in Hampshire. I need hardly tell my fly-fishing readers with what pleasure I looked forward to a visit to the Houghton Club water. I happened to mention to my friend Major T. that I wanted to have a turn at the Hampshire grayling this season, he gave me an introduction to Dr. Wickham, and that gentleman very kindly sent me a permit for two days, with the hope that I should "kill some good ones."

Leaving town by the 5 o'clock train, I had plenty of time during the slow journey to Andover to recall many a pleasant day with the grayling, which I have had during the last twenty years. Days on the Lugg, the Teme, the Clun, the Severn, the Derbyshire Wye, Dove and Derwent, the Yorkshire Yore, Wharfe, Rye, and Derwent. Which river do I like best? Well, it would be difficult to say, some are better than others; but then each river has some peculiar charm of its own, making it seem ungracious to praise one above another; perhaps someday I may give my experiences on each of them. But here we are at Andover Junction; the ride from Basingstoke had been shortened by a very pleasant chat with a gentleman who lives at Andover, and who gave me some interesting particulars of his fishing in the Anton there. He told me he had taken thirty brace of trout, fishing from his own garden, which runs down to the water and affords him room for a cast of two (otherwise the fishing is all preserved); among his fish were several ranging from two to five pounds. "But Clatford is the best place for trout; I never saw so many fish together as in the mill stream there, it is always full of good fish." I made a mental note of Clatford and its mill stream with a view to future possibilities. I told him I wanted to catch the 7.20 train to Horsebridge in the morning and by his advice went to the Railway Station Hotel at Andover, as although perhaps not quite up to the White Hart, it would suit me better, as being only a minute's walk from the train. I found the Station Hotel very comfortable indeed; there was a cheerful fire in the smoking-room, local celebrities kept dropping in, everybody knows everybody else in these small country towns, and we had quite a lively evening. I was particularly amused at the account Police-serjeant Chuck gave us of his manner of dealing with the gipsies, who frequent the fairs held in the neighbourhood. Mr. Chuck was a wiry, thick-set individual, who certainly looked quite equal to doing all he said. "There's only one way to treat a gipsy, you must stand no nonsense from him, knock him down and he will respect you, but treat him gently and he will smash your skull in or put a knife into you. I knocked twenty of 'em down once, one after another." "Come, come, serjeant, that's rather strong, eh?" said one of his audience. "It's true, all the same, and not much to boast about either," said the serjeant. Of course, he was asked to tell the story. "Well, it was about eight years ago, when ——fair was on, I was stationed at———, it was late in the evening when an order came to send all the force available to ——, as the gipsies had taken possession of the corn booth and were fighting and playing the very deuce of a game. We went off at once, and sure enough there was a row going on! Twenty or thirty of 'em mad drunk and fighting like wild Irishmen. I sent a party of our men into the tent and told 'em to pitch the gipsies out and I would settle 'em at the door, and then as each was tumbled out the scruff of his neck, I knocked him down with a whack on the head. You see it was pitch dark outside, and what with the glare of the light and being so drunk they were quite dazed. The best of it was not one of 'em knew where the blow came from, and if you had seen the utter astonishment it gave them you would have roared; they were as quiet as lambs after that. It's the only way to treat 'em, they're worse than soldiers, I won't say but what they aint worse than raw militiamen!" I have met gipsies in wild parts of the country at all hours of the day and night, and I must say I never found them troublesome; though once when fishing in Berwickshire and returning late at night I noticed that two men left a gipsy encampment and followed me—one on one side of the stream and one on the other—for nearly a mile. I did not feel perfectly easy as to their intentions amongst those lonely Lammermuir Hills, and after lashing the joints of my rod together with a bit of the winch line and leaving the winch on, I put them, with the bright steel spike showing, over my shoulder as ostentatiously as possible. Seeing that I had observed them they dropped behind, and then one took a short cut behind a fir plantation and struck the stream in front of me and waited. I lit a pipe to consider what to do; whether to go through the plantation or past the man in the open, and decided on the latter. It was just light enough to see that the fellow was an ugly customer to tackle, and there was not much chance for a run with a basket of fish on my back and wading stockings on. When I got level with him he said, "Can you tell me what time it is, Sir." It flashed across me that this was only a dodge to see if I had a watch or not, and so I told him I thought it must be somewhere about half-past nine. I went on and saw nothing more of either of them; but I never had such an unpleasant walk before or since, expecting at each dark corner to see a galaxy of stars through the medium of a big knob stick. I pictured to myself the gipsies supping off my trout, while I was slowly coming to myself again, sans teeth, sans purse, sans watch, sans everything! It is not a pleasant sensation either to come round a corner in the dark and find two or three gun barrels pointing at you; whether they are held by keepers thinking you are a poacher, or poachers thinking you are a keeper is equally unpleasant, as I know from experience.

"Your chop is quite ready, Sir," reminded me that I was hungry, so I said good night to the gipsy feller and the rest and walked into the parlour, the chop, and some beer. Before retiring, I made an elaborate appeal to the landlady to have me called in good time to have breakfast and catch the first train. "All right, Sir, you can make yourself quite easy; going fishing, I suppose?" "Yes." When I awoke next morning, it was with a sensation as though forty gipsies had been jumping on me, and I made a solemn vow to avoid Andover whiskey for the rest of my life. On looking at my watch I was horrified to find it was nearly seven o'clock. There was a bell-rope on the wall, if I pulled that hard or not I leave to the inmates of the hotel to say. Fancy having to dress, shave, breakfast and catch a train in twenty minutes! It meant a loss of half the day if I missed that train. How I did it I hardly know, but I did it, and was soon rattling along through the charming valley of the Anton, past Clatford to Fullerton where the Anton joins the Test, and then along the valley of that fine stream past Stockbridge to Horsebridge, there I put up at the inn close to the station. To my enquiries as to whether I could have a bed the good landlady gave me to understand that it was just within bounds of possibility; but evidently she thought I did not deserve it for not letting her know beforehand that I was coming. There was equal uncertainty about getting any dinner. "You see, we have nothing in the house, and the nearest town is Southampton." I apologised for my want of thought, and intimating that anything would do and that I should be back soon after six, I got her to direct me on the right way to Houghton. "Go over that bridge over the river, and then it's about half-a-mile until you come to the mill."

"My word, what splendid trout!" was my exclamation on looking down from the bridge into the wonderously clear water of the Test. It did not take me long to walk to Houghton mill, and after asking the miller a few questions as to the extent of the Houghton water, for it was my first visit to it, I commenced fishing in the main river just above the mill. It was a bright day, as hot as a June day, and of course I knew that nothing but the finest tackle would avail. Close to the mill is a sluice gate which carries off the surplus water, and I was afterwards informed by Mr. Francis that in the pool below there are many very heavy grayling. Being uncertain as to whether this pool belonged to the club or not, I did not then fish it, greatly to my regret now. I fished up the right bank, which for some hundreds of yards is higher than the meadow behind it, so that it is not a very difficult matter to get your fly over rising fish, but you must keep well down or you will see them move off in that quiet, business-like manner which shows they are aware of your presence, but do not intend to hurry themselves. I began with three flies, just to see if it would answer at all. There was a fine fish rising in mid-stream, I threw a couple of yards above him, and let my end fly swing round just over him; a swirl in the water, a gentle tightening of the line, and then my running line came away, leaving nearly three yards of gut and three flies attached to the fish. The cause of this mishap was apparent on examining the single link of gut remaining, there was a minute curl in the end of it. The fact is that it is quite possible—as I have before noticed—to sacrifice security to neatness in making up a very fine gut casting line. It is not safe to cut the ends at the knots quite so close to the knots as is generally done, the consequence often is, as in this case, that though while dry the line feels strong, directly the gut gets soft and limp the slightest pull is sufficient to make one of these knots slip apart. Nor is there the least necessity for cutting the ends so very short, the sixteenth of an inch left on the ends after tying makes all the difference between perfect security and a very probable slip. I have so strongly advocated the use of these extra fine drawn gut lines that I must point out this little matter to the many anglers who are using them through my suggestion, in order that they may not blame the gut for what is really merely an error in making it up into lines.

While putting on a fresh collar I noticed two or three grayling rising about twenty yards up stream; creeping up opposite them and making myself as small as possible, I saw that they were feeding on a small cock-wing dun, apparently an olive dun. I put on a beautiful little quill-bodied olive and sent it well up stream, so that it might float down unconscious-like among its natural prototypes. It floated in this way half-a-dozen times through these rising grayling. They would take the natural so close to it that one felt almost sure it was taken, but no, there it is still floating and dancing on the ring of the rise. Then one by one the fish began to move off, as much as to say, "Well, if you cannot see we are not green we must go, but its a shame to stop us rising when that lovely olive is on." Finding that the fish on my side were evidently well acquainted with the difference between feathers and steel and the real thing, I fished farther out, the open ground making it an easy matter to throw a long line. I found this plan answer beyond my expectation, for in the next bend, well over on the other side, I got a splendid rise and then for the first time in my life was fighting a Hampshire grayling. Test and Itchen trout I have a grear respect for, but for its size I never killed a gamer fish than this grayling. His first act was to leap clean out of the water! "pretty well, that, for a grayling," I thought, "but doubtless that was only an accident and he will come in quietly now." Never was I more mistaken. With the rapidity of lightning he was ten yards down stream, then he dashed into a bed of weeds, going through them and rushing up stream again, nothing seemed to tire him, and it took me quite five minutes to get him up to the top and draw him into the net. Of course, you can never put as much strain on a grayling as on a trout, but I have often killed trout as heavy with half the strain I had to put on this fish; it weighed twenty ounces thirty hours after it was killed, and was in splendid condition. I did not know that these Hampshire grayling are noted fighters, but I can now quite endorse Mr. Francis's remarks on this point in the extract given above. The Test thus far—that is from the mill to the island below Sheep Bridge, has a gentle current, in fact, it forms the mill dam. It reminded me forcibly of that pretty stretch of the Colne at Harefield, between the Horseshoe Bay and the weir below. I caught a brace of about ½ lb. fish below the island, and returned a few under the eleven-inch standard. Above the island there is a broad flat which holds many grayling. I had crossed the bridge and fished the capital ford below it, getting and returning a trout of about 1½ lb., and was fishing down the left bank when a gentleman hailed me by name, from the opposite bank. It was Major Carlisle, the secretary of the club, who was going to the mill for his rod. He asked me what sport I had had, and gave me some useful hints as to the best places and flies, and also said that Major T., the gentleman who had got me the permit, had met with a bad accident. It appears he was shooting with a friend over broken ground, when his friend in firing at a rabbit, managed to send some shot from his 20 choke bore into the Major's face, one shot striking an eye and seriously endangering the sight. This was sad news to hear of any one, but for such an ardent rod and gun sportsman as Major T. to be knocked off his legs in the middle of the shooting season, is doubly hard. It ought to be voted bad form to use a gun of the above description when shooting in company, it is a moral impossibility to tell where the shot will go—much farther than it is always possible to distinguish a brown shooting-jacket among autumn leaves.

Finding that the olive-dun was "off," I put on a Derbyshire red tag, one of three (dressed, I think, by Eaton, of Starkholmes) which Mr. Walbran had kindly given me when I was fishing with him on the Wharfe. I put it over a fish which had refused the "olive" and he took it instantly. I then got another brace of fish with it directly. All the fish fought splendidly, and I now entertain the highest respect for Test grayling as well as trout; of course, all grayling fight better in the colder months, but most certainly at no time of the year do any grayling in England fight so well as those in Hampshire, though they are not by any means such good table fish as their Northern brothers. A little below the lower end of the island a fence divides the water meadows, and through an opening in this fence I saw a good fish feeding close to the edge, amongst some long pointed reeds. There is a tree at the end of the fence, and my only way to get the fly over this fish was to make a side cast over the fence. I managed to get the fly in above him and let it sail between the reeds, he had it in an instant, and I fortunately kept him on while I got over the fence, and after a capital bit of sport killed him; he was just over a pound. Had a trout been feeding in such a spot, he would have been off as soon as I approached the fence.

My next move was back across the bridge and up the right bank. The water here is much faster, in fact, for a hundred yards above the bridge it runs in as pretty a stream as one could wish to see. This stream is full of big and little trout and also holds many heavy grayling, but the rise was now quite over for a time. Above the fishing house I met another member of the club, using a double-handed rod and fishing the dry fly up stream with long line. This gentleman told me he had only taken one fish. I happened to mention that I had left my pipe behind and he very kindly sent his lad off to the village for a couple of clays and some sealing wax, the latter to make a mouthpiece when part of the long stem was broken off, for I doubt whether the most ardent lover of a "long clay" could use one when fly-fishing! Thus through the kindness of a perfect stranger, I obtained the only thing wanting to the perfect enjoyment of my first day on this lovely and famous water. This gentleman told me that though there were grayling here and there all up the river for another half mile or more, the best grayling water was that I had fished over. After lunch I went down to the bridge again and there saw Major Carlisle landing a grayling of about ¾ lb.; he had taken another previously, both with the "apple green." He showed me the fly, which appeared to be made with starling wing, green wool body, ribbed with gold twist. He said it was a standard favourite of his for grayling at this season. Crossing Sheep Bridge again, I went to the end of the island, and then waded out so as to cover the water below it. I ought to have mentioned that, as Hofland says, waders are a necessity on the Test, as the banks are often half under water, especially in this lower part. The wading is good where the bottom is clear of weeds, but beware of stepping off the banks on to a weed bed. I incautiously did so once or twice and thought I should never stop going down. I had put on a mulberry bumble for a change, and soon caught a fish or two with it, though there was no fly on the water and consequently no rise. I found that the fish took the bumble under water.

The sun was sinking, making the autumn foliage look redder than ever, and after fishing the Sheep Bridge stream and getting only two trout, one a splendid hen fish, apparently in perfect condition, the other a male, long and thin and as black as a nigger, I fished back to Houghton mill with a view to trying the sluice-pool. It was almost dark when I got there, and it very soon was too dark to fish. I got a small trout and a decent grayling, and then put up. On getting back to my inn I found that dinner was laid for three, and the landlady informed me in an injured tone, that she had just previously received a telegram from London, to say two gentlemen would be down by the train about seven. If gentlemen would come without letting her know she could'nt help it. But in spite of her injured feelings, there was such an air of neatness and cleanliness about the place that I felt no fear of having to go to bed supperless—besides, every now and then there came such an appetising aroma from the kitchen as was truly comforting to a hungry angler. On turning out my creel I found I had five brace of grayling from ½ lb. to 1¼ lb. I had got through the best part of a pipe of tobacco when I heard two voices outside in the passage. "Here we are, and now let's see Mrs.——" I knew that voice well enough, but could not remember the owner for a moment. "Hullo, Mr. Francis!" "Hullo, Mr. Marston! Well that is rum, we're always turning up together unexpectedly at out of the way places." Mr. F. then introduced me to his friend Mr. C. Our hostess now appeared on the scene and looked as if she would eat the lot of us. Could Mr. F. and his friend have beds? "No." Anything to eat? "No." Leastwise, if gentlemen would come without letting her know, they must put up with what they could get, and the nearest town was Southampton. Mr. F. was quite ready to put up with anything, and it was really of little use for Mrs.—— to stand there and tell hungry men there was nothing to eat with such an almost digestible odour of roast chicken and boiled bacon rolling into the room. The upshot of it all was that in a very short time we three were seated in a comfortable room with a comfortable fire, enjoying a very comfortable dinner indeed. A tender roast chicken done to a T—a Bath chap, of delicate flavour—bread sauce, three kinds of vegetables, a damson tart and good bread, butter, and cheese, and a clear, brisk glass of ale to wash them down with! (Oh ye 'grand' hotels, gilded sepulchres that ye are, go and take a lesson at a wayside inn!) Mrs. —— was going to apologise again for the dinner when clearing away, but our protests were so strong that she did not get so far as Southampton this time. After dinner we had a very jolly evening. Mr. F. is splendid company, and from his long and varied experience of men and things can always pull out an amusing story or rich joke. Even if I possessed the Boswellian art it would not be quite the thing to retail after dinner stories, but for the benefit of my shooting readers I must give the bones of one of them. We had been talking about Major T's accident. "Bad thing that, very bad, very sorry to hear it," said Mr. F.; and from that we got on to shooting generally. "Did you ever," said Mr. F., looking across the table at me, "hear about Mr. S. and the hare?" "No." "Well, you ought to hear old G—— tell it. S. had made a pot of money in the beer line, and retired, took no end of a fine place in the country, with a lot of shooting, could'nt shoot a bit, but somehow or other he did kill a hare one day. Next day he came up to town and happened to meet G——; very proud of his skill, he began telling G—— that he had shot a hare. 'You shot a hare, did you?' said G—— 'Yes, Sir, I shot a HARE!' 'Did you now,' replied G——, 'what a d——d unfortunate hare!'"

Mr. F., who is a member of the Club, told me I ought to consider myself very fortunate to get five brace of fish, as two and a half and three brace had been the average recently.

Next day found us all three early on the water. I was there first, and getting into the stream from the road fished the sluice pool up carefully and did not see a fly on it and only had one rise loosing the fly, a "red tag" in the fish. I never expected to see that fly again! It is by no means always "the early bird that catches the worm," for when I met Mr. F. an hour or two later at the Sheep Bridge he told me that when he got to the sluice pool the grayling were rising all over the place at the badger fly, and that he had lost no less than four "big" fish, regular "busters," of 2 and 3 lb. weight. We fished opposite each other for an hour or so, just above the bridge; the grayling were rising here and there, and enormous trout would every now and then make big waves as they dashed at each other—for, like bucks, they get terribly jealous as the pairing season comes on. Mr. F. goes in for a big double-handed rod and makes every inch of it do its work too. I shall never forget seeing him fish that stream from the bridge to the fishing house; it was done by inches, every bit of water was searched by his single wee fly, dried well between each cast, and so fine was the gut casting line that I could rarely see where it fell on the water. Mr. F.'s fishing opened my eyes to one thing, and that was, that it is possible to fish as lightly with a double-handed as with a single-handed rod, and of course more water can be covered. Nevertheless, not being of quite such a big build as Mr. F. I shall stick to my light ten-foot rod. There was a small gnat on the water and the fish would not look at our flies. I got two grayling, and Mr. F. had a fine bit of sport with a $2\frac{1}{2}$ lb. trout in this stream. "Sprint" ought to have seen this trout fight. Twenty yards of line went out at the first rush, then he was in the air, then off down stream. Every ruse was tried for a long time, but in vain, he was landed and returned. But my paper is getting too long, I fear, and I must wind up. Mr. C. joined us about lunch time, he had taken a brace of grayling, not large, and I left him with Mr. F. flogging away above the bridge and went to Houghton mill in the hope that Mr. Devereux might be at home, and that I could get permission to fish on his water, but he was away for the day. However, I walked down his water. What a lovely stretch it is! and as for fish, well, it is fairly crowded with them. When I got back to the fishing house I found Mr. F. had been taking it easy and Mr. C. had done nothing more. I got a pounder in the ford and then walked up half-a-mile just to see the water. It is the very perfection of a "chalk stream," and the big trout seem more numerous than the small ones, but I saw no grayling rising. Mr. C., when I got back, told me he had lost a little red tag I had given him in a big grayling, and another fly in the same way. Mr. F. in a very philosophical way considered he had had his chance in the morning and lost it, and could not fairly grumble. It was getting late, or rather dark, for six o'clock can hardly be called late, and we went back to dinner, which in spite of Mrs.—— laments, was as good as anglers want. Another pleasant hour or two's chat and I had regretfully to leave for town, wishing my friends good sport on the morrow. That it was not a vain wish the following note will show.

Dear Mr. Marston,—I got $3\frac{1}{2}$ brace of grayling on Wednesday, besides two or three trout, one $2\frac{1}{4}$ lb., and lost a bigger one above the hut. Yesterday I got six brace of grayling, and three good trout; the biggest grayling was $1\frac{3}{4}$ lb., the next $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb, and so on down to 12 inches. C. got $2\frac{1}{2}$ brace, losing several, and one he got out had one of your red tags in his jaw. How you caught 'em with that I don't know; it's double the size we use, and I have tried the red tag several times, as it is a "top sawyer" with me in Derbyshire. I should have had a rattling day, but at 2.30 a big black cloud came over the sun, and a strong north wind came down stream, and I only got one keepable fish after.—I am, &c.

Francis Francis.

The red tag Mr. Francis refers to was one of those I mentioned as having been given to me by Mr. Walbran. It was certainly one of the largest flies I tried. For my part I do not think it is bad policy to put over the fish something different from what they have been criticising daily for many seasons past, and I have always found it answers. Some day I hope to get that big grayling I have promised Mr. Bonvoisin for his club room. My six and a half brace when I got home weighed over ten pounds; but I should not think of offering him anything much under three pounds.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I have received my red tag back from Mr. C., with the following note:—

Dear Sir,—You were good enough to give me a "red tag" the other day at Houghton. I can't return you that one, but I enclose one of its brothers, which I took from the mouth of a grayling I caught in the little pool by the mill. It was a very decent fish. As it seemed an odd coincidence, I thought you would like to know it. We had very good sport, but personally I was very unlucky, getting broken a good deal, but Mr. Francis did very well.—I am, &c.,

A. C.

On examining the fly I see it is made thus, body green peacock herl, hackle strong red from cock's neck, and a little bit of magenta coloured wool, as a tag or tail. I also use some very much smaller red tags, made somewhat differently by Mrs. Cox, of Winchester.

R. B. M.

[Owing to a pressure on our space we are compelled to hold over the continuation of the article "Grayling Fishing in Montana," until our next issue.—Ed.]

The Scottish Fisheries.—The report of the commissioners of the Scottish fishery board for last year, shows a total of 14,809 fishing boats, manned by 48,121 men and boys, with apparatus valued at £1,398,461. This is an increase over the previous year of fifty-eight boats, 990 individuals, and £109,853 in value of boats, nets, and lines. The report shows a falling off in the quantity of fish cured and exported. The decrease in the number of barrels of herring cured was 362,445, and 264,000 barrels less were exported. Cod showed a proportionate decrease.

FACEACHE, TOOTHACHE, PAINS IN THE GUMS, NEURALGIA. —Adam Smith's Neuralgine is a Certain Cure. Bottles, 1s. $1\frac{1}{2}$d., 2s. 9d. Post free from Proprietor, Chemist, Wednesbury. London Agent, W. Edwards, 157, Queen Victoria Street.

A DAY IN PRIVATE WATERS.

Whenever I get permission to fish in private waters, I always give my friends the benefit of it, and I frequently wish I had more permissions to meet the demands I have for them, as it is to me one of the most disagreeable things I have to do, to be compelled to say: "I am unable to do it." Most of my friends know that from an accident I had nearly twenty years ago, I am not able to use these permissions myself. At that time I was on a visit to a friend who was then living at Middleham, and as he did a little grazing of cattle, I assisted him one day to drive some Irish beasts out of a field, when, quite unexpectedly, I was savagely attacked by one of them, but with sufficient thought to take the animal by the horns. Twice was I thrown down, when some friends came to my help, and got the infuriated animal away. The result was, that with the strain from the fight, my muscles gave way, and I have no power left in my arm to hold a big fish. It will be in the remembrance of most who read this, that the morning of Saturday last gave every indication of a charming day for jack fishing—on the evening previous the spiders' webs were streaming in the air, a sure sign of an approaching fine day—and so it proved. It was arranged that my visitors on this occasion should be Captain Hanwell, Mr. St. Martin and Mr. Pasha, all agreeing to meet at one particular place, the nearest station to the private fishing ground, and at one particular time. I had the first start, and at one of the intermediate stations I alighted in order to call at a favourite hostelry for a friendly visit. My friends were at breakfast, and I was invited to join them, but as I had previously performed that duty at home, I had some peppermint and gin instead, and not a bad thing either, though some may laugh at the idea. I had not been there long, but one of the visitors left the breakfast-table to catch his train, but he was too late, the train had gone. The worthy host, sharply turning the corner from the bar into the bar-parlour, sent my glass of peppermint and gin flying off the mantelpiece, destroying the contents, and breaking the glass into a thousand pieces. I exclaimed, "Here is an unfortunate start," but I was cheered with the remark, "Bad beginnings make good endings." The time came for me to meet the train with Mr. St. Martin and Mr. Pasha in it, which I did, and found them there; but following up the series of unfortunate commencements, I discovered they had no bait with them, and on ascertaining the reason, it appeared a can of six dozen of dace was to meet them at a certain station, but the train they went by was not a stopping train, and they had just time to call to the man to follow by the next train, but there was no other for over two hours, and that a slow one. On our arrival at the railway station near the fishing ground, which was close to a river, Mr. St. Martin, who is equal to any emergency, went amongst the punts, and by hook or by crook possessed himself of about a dozen small bait, principally gudgeons. Here Captain Hanwell joined us, and then we quickly drove to the scene of our angling operations, the conveyance putting us down close by a favourite swim, which a facetious friend of mine has designated "Cabby's Hole." Instructions were then given for the conveyance to meet the 10.45 train, and to bring the man with the baits as quickly as possible. The driver of the conveyance who brought up the man, was a good type of the Wellington build, and on witnessing four or five jack lying on the grass, exclaimed in somewhat military style, "What splendid fish! Are they salmon?" I did not answer his question then, but afterwards he repeated the enquiry. "Are these splendid fish what you call salmon?" Fancy an old veteran of three score years and ten, knowing no better, and in this piscatorial age. I imagine when I said, "They are jack," he did not believe me, but that was of very little consequence. Going back to the time of our arrival at "Cabby's Hole," Mr. St. Martin, who made himself the working man of the party, put all the tackle together, and without any necessary haste, it was soon ready. I told Captain Hanwell to throw right across the water to the opposite bank, but he only got it half over. "Never mind," I exclaimed, "your float has gone, and you have got a run." Mr. Pasha directly followed suit, and away went his float. Mr. St. Martin was now full of excitement, and the keeper put in an appearance with the assurance, "The water has been all alive with fish this morning." It was very clear they were well on the feed, and the attention required to the two anglers gave my good friend, Mr. St. Martin, no chance of putting his rod together, although the captain exclaimed he would not go on unless he did. No sooner were fish landed and the bait again in the water than there was the cry, "The two floats are both under water," and a more exciting time it would be impossible to describe. The game continued for nearly three hours, and I firmly believe if the bait had been there at the start instead of using the comparatively useless ones, we should have had a more splendid result. At mid-day the fish left off feeding, and we all thought it was time for us to feed, first stopping for half-an-hour at the lawn swim and landing three or four more fish. The punt and provisions were sent round to the summer house, and the anglers crossed the lawn in a much nearer direction than by water. Here Mr. St. Martin entertained the party with a sumptuous luncheon, and no man has better capabilities of doing it in a thoroughly complete style. It has always been usual to put the lines out opposite to the summer house during the process of feeding, but the anglers were so satisfied with their morning's work, they decided upon having their mid-day meal in peace. In discussing the merits of the repast, no small praise was due to Mrs. St. Martin, for the excellence of the cooking portion of it. There remained only about three hours to continue the sport, but it soon became evident the fish had fed so well in the morning they were in no hungry mood in the afternoon, and the result was the piscators added very little to their stock of fish. It was somewhat remarkable that Mr. Pasha, who comes from Egypt, and who was to return there on the following Wednesday, whilst professing himself no angler, had the best of the sport all day, and during the most excitable part of it, there were the repeated exclamations of "The fish are all going to Egypt," and "Egypt again," so that Mr. Pasha possessed the main portion of the jack. I never remember a morning of much greater excitement, and the fish, though running usually small in this water, were a decided improvement on previous years, and the anglers lost some really good fish, which was clearly indicated by the marks they left on the bait. After returning some fish to the water, they brought away with them fifteen of the best fish, and Mr. St. Martin did not forget the porters at the railway station, who were monstrously pleased at being presented with a nice jack each. Our day was terminated with a thick tea at the snug hostelry close by the station, and what with beautiful weather and satisfactory sport, it was, as Mr. Pasha remarked, "The end of a very pleasant day." B.

THE FIRST ANNUAL "FOREST AND STREAM" ANGLERS' TOURNAMENT.

THE following account is from *Forest and Stream*—it will be read with much interest by English anglers. There is every prospect that the Tournament will be a grand success, and that President Arthur, himself a keen and clever angler, will be present.

During the next fence months, we hope to get up some tournaments between our leading angling clubs by offering prizes.—ED. FISHING GAZETTE,

"THE 'FOREST AND STREAM' ANGLERS' TOURNAMENT.

"The Commissioners of Public Parks of the City of New York having kindly placed the Harlem Mere at the service of the committee of arrangements, the first annual 'Forest and Stream' Anglers' Tournament will be held there. The only postponement will be on account of rain, when it will take place the first fair day following.

"This tournament will be the best one ever held in this country, and will give people a chance to see what a beautiful art it is to cast the fly to a distance and to do it with delicacy. It will draw the attention of anglers to this style of fishing, and no doubt will add many recruits to the ranks of those who use the fly in preference to baits. Should the day be fair, many ladies are sure to be present; and as there are a few ladies who cast the fly with skill, there are no doubt others who would like to do so, and here they will have an opportunity to observe the contestants and note their different styles without leaving the city to do so.

"Below we give the adopted rules which govern the contests, and a partial list of the prizes—a list which will be completed next week. It will be seen by a glance at this that many valuable prizes are to be contested for, and that the amateurs have not been forgotten. The amateur class we regard as the most important one on the list, being designed to bring out new men, and as this class will be called first, it will give the leading ones an opportunity to enter the other classes if they wish. Many arguments were held at the meetings of the Committee of Arrangements in regard to the rule, especially in regard to the rule, which is held in other tournaments, requiring the contestant to recover his line after casting. It was decided to leave this regulation out of the present rules, the argument being that it was a useless requirement, and one that was impossible of enforcement when automatic reels are used. Certainly a person who can cast his line can retrieve it; but all do not do so. Another departure is in making no allowance of distance for length of rod. This, we hold, is the correct principle, for if a man cannot cast with a short rod as well as with a longer one, let him provide himself with a tool that he can use. Besides this, abolition of allowance will tend to show what length of rod is the best. There are anglers who talk of a rod "fitting a man," meaning that a tall man can use a length of rod that a short man cannot. We do not believe this, nor do we believe that a tall, long-armed man has any advantage in casting for distance. We think that a man may be "fitted" with a rod of a weight to suit him, but weight does not always express the drag that comes on the muscles of the arm. Leverage is a more powerful factor, as Mr. Van Siclen has shown, through the figures of Mr. Michell. We recently had two rods of exactly the same weight shown us, but the weight was so differently distributed, that one felt to be nearly twice the weight of the other.

"There are many questions regarding fly rods which can only be settled at tournaments where the casts are measured and comparisons can be made, and, as a means of educating the public in the beauties of our art, and of training the rising generation of anglers in the way they should go, these contests are of the greatest value.

"Two meetings of the Committee of Arrangements have been held since our last issue, and Mr. James L. Valloton, president of the Pasque Island Club, has been added to the committee. They have decided to consider delicacy and accuracy in the awards of fly casting; but a scale of points, with their value, has not yet been made. Next week we will give the full prize list and the entrance fees.

"RULES FOR FLY AND BASS CASTING.

"SINGLE-HANDED CONTESTS.

"(1) No rod shall exceed eleven feet six inches in length, and it shall be used with a single hand.

"(2) Any style of reel or line will be allowed, but a leader, or casting line of single gut, of not less than eight feet in length, to which three flies, one stretcher and two droppers, shall be attached.

"(3) No allowance of distance shall be made for difference in length of rods.

"(4) Persons entering these contests shall draw lots to determine the order in which they will cast, and will be ready to cast when called by the judges.

"(5) Each contestant will be allowed five minutes to cast for distance, and will then stand aside until called in his turn to cast for delicacy and accuracy, when he will be allowed five minutes for this purpose.

"(6) The distance shall be measured by a line with marked buoys stretched on the water, said line to be measured and verified by the judges at least once each day of the casting. A mark shall be made on the ground from which the buoy line shall be measured, and the caster may stand with his toes touching this mark, but may not advance beyond it. Should he step back of it, unless directed so to do by the judges, the loss in distance shall be his.

"(7) The stretcher fly must remain at the end of the casting line in all casts. The others are not deemed so important. A contestant may claim time for repairs, which shall be allowed by the judges. Or the judges may order the next on the list to cast while repairs are made, in their discretion

"SALMON FLY CASTING.

"(1) The foregoing rules shall govern, except that the rods shall not exceed twenty feet in length, and may be used with both hands, and that only one fly will be required.

"HEAVY BASS CASTING.

"Rods shall not exceed ten feet in length, any reel may be used, but the line shall be of linen not less than twelve threads. The casts shall be made with sinkers, weighing two and a half ounces. (These will be furnished by the committee). The casts shall be made in lane formed by the buoy line and a line parallel to it, and distant twenty feet. Each contestant will be allowed five casts. His casts within the lines shall be measured, added, and divided by five and the result shall constitute his score.

"LIGHT BASS CASTING.

"The above rules shall govern except that the sinker shall be one ounce, and there shall be no restriction as to lines."

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS

By L. B.

THOSE who attended the Westminster Aquarium—at the invitation of the Balloon Society—on Friday evening, and heard Mr. Thomas Crumplen read a capital paper on "The Causes of the Apparent Diminution of Fish in the Thames, with some Remedial Suggestions," had reason to be well pleased. Written in an easy, pleasant style, delivered in a manner that emphasised point after point, without any apparent effort, but simply as the result of a thorough mastery of the subject, Mr. Crumplen held his audience deeply interested, among whom were a number of ladies—right through to the closing words of his paper, which was greeted with rounds of applause.

Among the many points enlarged upon by the reader were pollutions, steam launches, swans, poachers, the taking of undersized fish, the inefficiency of certain preservation societies in the past, &c.

Mr. Wheeldon followed with a few remarks entirely in support of Mr. Crumplen, and relieved his feelings by having a good go in at those abominations, steam launches and spawn gobbling swans. Mr. Sachs, who occupied the chair, Messrs. Ghurney, Bonvoisin, and several other gentlemen, whose names I did not catch, also adding a few words.

During the evening it was announced from the chair that Mr. J. P. Wheeldon had promised, on an early occasion, to read a paper, or perhaps I would be more accurate if I said address a meeting, as Mr. W. does not read on those occasions, but speaks extempore, on the "Science of Angling." Premising that I am one of the individuals favoured by the hon. sec., Mr. Lefevre, with a ticket of admission, I wouldn't miss that little treat for a trifle.

Mr. F. Hill, the worthy secretary of the North Western Angling Club, and myself, after the meeting had a march round the building to inspect the tanks, the whole of the representation of the liquid element seem of the freshwater species, jack, perch, trout, tench, carp, bream, barbel, chub, dace, bass, eels, roach, &c., some of them giants, and no doubt once mighty fish worthy of an angler's steel. Now, alas! in only too many cases blind, covered with fungoid growth and otherwise unsightly.

This (Friday) evening will be held the usual monthly meeting of the West Central Association of London and Provincial Angling.

The Fisheries Society now rent the Weybridge water by deed under seal, and boards defining the limits of the fishery, sizes of fish retainable, &c., have been duly posted in prominent places.

Re readings in angling societies. I have received very kind offers of assistance from several quarters. I thank all these gentlemen, and hope that we shall be able to call upon them shortly and avail ourselves of their services.

I have before me a copy of the FISHING GAZETTE of October 7, and under the heading of "Fishing Places near Manchester," I find a carefully-compiled table, wherein it is mentioned that rare fish "graining are to be caught in the rivers Weaver, Dane, Lostock, and Bollin Brook." At the risk of appearing ignorant, I must confess to never having seen one of these fish. From description, however, I believe they are not large, and very much resemble dace. Would it be asking too much if I asked your correspondent W. R. R. next time he catches or come across one to let me have a specimen of this fish. I will gladly pay expenses of carriage, and I know the members of the society I belong to would certainly have so uncommon a fish either stuffed or preserved in spirits, according to size, and would be grateful to W. R. R. for such a gift.

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THE GREAT INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION.

Important Notice.

We again draw the attention of all British manufacturers of fishing rods, tackle, &c., that applications for space must be sent to the secretary of the Exhibition, 20, Haymarket, London, during the present month.

American competition will be very strong indeed. The improvements in the American hexagonal machine-made split bamboo rods have placed them far ahead of anything of the kind yet made in this country.

RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

"Amongst the views of many, mine."
—Shakespeare.

The exceedingly heavy downpour of rain during the past eight or nine days has had the effect of raising the Thames to flood height and rendering it clay coloured and all but unfishable. In the Dorchester district during the past fortnight, excellent takes of roach, perch, and chub have been had, also some grand tench, many of the fish scaling over 4 lb. In the Sonning and Wargrave waters, roach and perch have been rewarding bankers, and a Mr. Partridge has nailed a 7 lb. jack trailing; this is an unusual size for this lazy method of angling. From Henley I have the following:—On the 13th, Mr. Hazeltine, 5 jack from near Marsh Lock, weight $19\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; same day, John Swiney 4 jack, largest 6 lb.; and Mr. Cook, the hon. sec. of the Henley Angling Association, a fine basket of chub, several of which bumped the scale at 4 lb. On the 15th, Mr. Paton 9 chub, 16 lb. altogether. At Medmenham on the 15th, Mr. T. Huggett with "The Boy," got over 3 doz. perch, only two or three of which came up to piscatorial weight of $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. The following day Mr. Huggett essayed the jack for the piscatorial competition, but not a fin would wag to the enticements of live bait, dead gorge and spinning the most silvery of dace. In the Hurley waters, Mr. Bergie has had some chub, a 2 pounder being the best; and two bankers, staying at the ancient "Bell," on Sunday got 17 lb. of roach. A patron of Townsend's on Monday, entered in the piscatorial jack Thames competition, got a nice fish of about 7 lb.; the angler was anxious to have it weighed ere the day was out, and unfortunate Townsend, in returning from this errand to replace the fish in the well, slipped into the water and lost his prize, to his own chagrin and the intense mortification of the angler, who, with such a fish in the cruel state of the elements which prevailed, had every chance of taking first or second honours from Henrietta Street. At Marlow, Bourne End, and Maidenhead, punts have been busy amid roach, but decent jack seem conspicuous by their absence.

Thursday Evening. As I write it is raining fast, but the glass is going steadily up and the river steadily down, and will, I opine, be in fine trim by Sunday, especially for worm fishing in the eddies.—Marlow Buzz.

Ancholme District.

The water has been in very fine condition for pike-fishing during the past week, but the weather is becoming quite cold and winterly. Some spinning and trolling have been done, both with naturals and artificials, and some fair pike have been taken. Two large ones were hooked by one local angler, but owing to weak tackle they both got away. I have not yet heard of any one in this neighbourhood, except myself, fishing for these gentry with pike flies, with a good two-handed rod, as in salmon-fishing. I opine they would find it tolerable sport, and withal invigorating.—Thomas Ford.

Bure (Horning Ferry).

Visitors staying at this famous fishery station during the past week have had very fair catches all round, but especially jack. Two gentlemen out last Monday landed six good fish, spinning. With the disappearance of the high tides which have prevailed lately, the water is now in a very favourable condition for spinning or live baiting; for my own part, I at present prefer the latter mode, as the weeds are still very troublesome. Host Thompson, who is a thorough sportsman himself can always be depended upon to make visitors to his quarters thoroughly comfortable, and also to assist them in their angling. I consider the prospects good for the next few days.—Robert Moll.

Camel and Inney (Cornwall).

Much rain of late and good fishing has resulted from the state of the waters. Many peel and salmon are coming up and are near the town. One fisherman, E. Stott, took a beautiful basket of trout containing five dozen fish, together with a peel and a salmon weighing 7 lb. Several other fine fish have been hooked but missed. Large worms are the best bait for big fish; Devon and brass minnows will also kill. Ordinary trout flies dressed large are good for peel.—H. O. Pengelly.

Chichester.

Jupiter Pluvius has in a great measure placed a veto on angling pursuits, the past week, the rain falling in torrents at intervals. What few rodsters have braved the elements fared badly. The jack fishermen have taken some good eels with live bait, one taken by Mr. Smith weighing $3\frac{1}{2}$ lb. The members of the Chichester Angling Society held a competition on the 15th, nearly all patronising the lower water. Small takes were the order of the day, some rodsters from early morning till dewy eve coming away fishless. Mr. Stokes again secured first prize, with $1\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of roach, while Mr. Summers took second prize—a spinning minnow presented by Mr. J. Harding—with $13\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Sixteen members competed These rains will greatly benefit the canal, and on clearance of the weather good sport may be anticipated. The next competition is fixed for the 22nd, the canal the *venue*.—George F. Salter.

Dove.

After the heavy rains of last week had raised the river to an abnormal height, the water rapidly receded, and on Monday it was in fair fishable order, a great deal of the decayed weed having since Friday been swept away into that bourne whence probably no weed ever returns to trouble the irrepressible piscator. The effect of the rise has been to give the fish a jolly good stirring up, and this was just what they wanted, pike especially, as they have been lying idle and off the feed far too long to please rodsters. Since Monday we have had many devotees at the river side, the weather having been all that the most exacting could desire, considering the time of the year. Grayling have been rising best in the middle of the day, and the duns and bumbles have "fetched" them best. The baskets have averaged $6\frac{1}{2}$ brace per rod. Chub are taking pith and brains best, while some few barbel have fallen victims to the roseate attractions of the lobworm.—The Splodger.

Eden (Armathwaite).

The river is now getting too low for fishing. On Friday, 13th, Thomas Bird caught two salmon, one 20 lb. the other 10 lb; had hold of another which gave him good sport, but managed to escape. On Tuesday he got one weighing 19 lb. in the castle water.—Skiddaw.

Exe (Exeter).

"Roll on, thou dark and deep blue *river*, roll." These words have been more than verified during the past week. To have seen the commotion and turbulence of the Exe since Saturday last, one would almost imagine it unequalled by any other in the country. First, the leaves came down in such abundance as literally to put a stop to anything like comfortable fishing, although of fish there was no lack. The brewing storm seemed to have excited them to more than ordinary liveliness, and salmon were seen doubly busy in their progress upwards, scorning even to glance at the tempting minnow or the gaudy flies, since which the river has overflowed in many districts and locomotion has been carried on by means of boats instead of shanks s pony or otherwise. Trees, apples, gates, and debris of various kinds, also sheep and pigs have been brought down with the flood. Sad havoc has been perpetrated, and destruction brought upon the finny tribes. Several pike and large carp have been drawn from the river in terribly mutilated condition, thus showing much rough usage in their passage down stream after death. It is still pouring in torrents, which no doubt will spoil the last few days, of the rod fishing for salmon. Trout are very fine and plentiful (like crows on a Sunday) now the season is closed. But if the weather should be moderate during the latter part of the year, we may expect, when viewing the royal domain and homesteads of the salmon and trout, to see more than the usual quantity in their preparations for the birth of their progeny, and see the ova in countless thousands deposited in its gravelly bed. "To be or not to be?—that is the question," I mean with regard to large pike-fishing this season. Latterly they have been very small, in fact, for some seasons past; but I have been told some very large ones have been seen fighting with the stream. No doubt they have had, by aid of the flood, some sharp-practice service served upon them, and they have to quit rather unexpectedly. So we may be fortunate to find them more widely distributed, and their destruction more evitable. Previous to this freshet, some splendid roach, rudd, and perch were taken from the river, and a few tench from the ponds. Canal fishing good, but very small: but no doubt when the water subsides sport will be A 1.

P.S.—I am in want of a brace or two of fine carp. Should like them alive, but should not object to one or two brace just killed.—Frank Gosden.

Exe (Tiverton).

The river has been in flood all this week (owing to the continued downpour of rain), and will not be fishable for a day or two should we have no more rain.—Wm. Mudford.

Ilfracombe.

Sea fishing has been very good this week for big fish. Saturday, P. Redmore brought in 175 lb. of conger; J. Davie, three ling and one conger, 30 lb. Monday, some large conger were caught, one weighed over 50 lb., others from 20 lb. to 30 lb. each. Tuesday, one large cod and a quantity of conger, weighing from 20 lb. to 40 lb. each. Wednesday, the sport again was very good, each boat having some fine conger, three weighed 126 lb.; and some good baskets of whiting pout were also caught. Friday night, a seine was set at Combe's Gate, near Barracane, they hauled five bass, weighing 5 lb. each, and eighteen mullet, 2 lb. each. Saturday night, two seines were set on Woolacomb Sands, they had several bass, from 4 lb. to 5 lb. each; mullet, from 2 lb. to 3 lb. each; and a quantity of salmon peel, turbot, brill, and three thornback, weighing altogether 180 lb. I see several strings of fish have been caught with rod and lines from the jetty. Thursday morning, one boat only out, drifting for herrings—they hauled sixty-one. Weather wet and squally.—E. Comer.

Irt (Holmrook).

This river for ten days or more has been low, but to make up for that there has every day been a splendid breeze, which has made the fishing pretty good in the tidal waters. I have before named to you Mr. Richard Harrington, a blacksmith, and almost my nearest neighbour, as a most successful fisher of sea fish; he yesterday succeeded in hooking a most splendid salmon, and although in a very difficult place for landing succeeded, after nearly an hour's play and excitement, in gaffing and landing a very fine fish weighing over 19 lb., and in the pink of condition. This, I believe, makes over 140 sea fish Mr. Harrington has killed this year. To-day we had a tremendous storm, which will immediately put this river in splendid condition for fishing. Rod fishing in the Irt, Esk, Eden, Bleng, Mite, Calder, &c., all adjoining rivers, continues open till November 14.—A. Brocklebank.

Lea (Ware).

Rain having fell incessantly, with slight exception, since my last report, the river here is highly coloured; still it has risen but very slightly. Very few anglers have been out, except on Sunday, when several fair takes of roach were recorded, two members of the Reform having about 6 lb., whilst several others belonging to the Bloomsbury Brothers and other clubs were equally successful. Several runs were had with jack, but none were landed, the fish evidently not being in a feeding humour. I was shown by a gentleman fishing near "Tumbling Bay' no less than four fine baits which had been killed and much disfigured, without his having had the slightest chance of striking his fish. With reference to the trout weighing 12 lb. I reported as having been taken by Mr. Webb at Stanstead, I have been asked by that gentleman to state that instead of the fish being of the weight reported, it actually weighed 16 lb. 5 oz, and its measurement as follows:—Length, 2 feet 6 inches; girth, $28\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Mr. Webb informed me that the club he belonged to was the King's Cross United, and no doubt this magnificent fish will shortly be seen in the room of this club. Rain still falling at time of writing.—Lion and Wheatsheaf.

Ouse (Littleport).

I thought, after the rain last week, I should have had a good report, as the roach came on for the first time on Saturday, when Mr. Hewitson, of London, had the pleasure of taking the first bag of any account that has been taken this season, a nice one of 12 lb. This catch Mr. J. Cole, of the St. John's Wood Piscatorials, followed up on Sunday with a bag going 10 lb. good roach. Two Cambridge gentlemen also had a fair show; two pike of $4\frac{1}{2}$ lb. and 3 lb. were taken at the Branch by Mr. Harper Ely. Monday and Tuesday the cold east wind took them completely off the feed again, but they showed up at intervals again on Wednesday, when Mr. J. Cole again got 11 lb. nice roach. I hope to have something better to report next week.—C. South.

Ribble and Hodder.

The rivers are both getting too low for salmon-fishing, and there has not been much sport during the last week. A salmon, $14\frac{1}{2}$ lb., was caught at Hodder-foot on Friday, and one about 6 lb. caught above the House in Ribble, and another hooked on Saturday. It is raining, and the water rising. If it comes a fresh now there will be good fishing till the end of the season.—G. Dugdale.

Severn and Teme (Worcestershire).

Since last I wrote these streams have been flushed and quite out of order for angling. The eel traps have paid for attention, some of them having taken several hundredweight; but when the eel is running down to the coast but few are taken with the line; they seem not to feed when going down to spawn. Grayling fishing is out of the question for at least three or four days; if we get fine weather by then, there will be some good sport to be had with the gentle a few days before the flush. Mr. Samuel James had a fine run of grayling, some scaling $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb each. There are some good fish at Knightwick, Martley, and Stanford Bridge. On the Teme Knightwick is 9 miles from Worcester on the Worcester and Bromyard line. You can get leave to fish it from the inns at either place. To fish it properly you should wade, as the best fish are to be caught in the deepest part of the stream. The water bailiff has seen some large salmon going up to spawn; he calculates them at from 30 lb. to 40 lb. a fish. The largest fish taken last season weighed over 50 lb., it was taken in the Severn below Worcester. The roach are feeding, and many are taken with the paste; some make it with new bread, add a little water, and press it in the hand until it becomes tough, then take a piece as large as a pea, use a small hook, about No. 10 short in the shank, a fine gut line, a small quill, and strike quick, but not hard, when the float moves, or else your bait will be taken off. If you go in for fly fishing you cannot do better than use the flies I recommended last week.—John A. Griffin.

Taw (N. Devon).

Rivers much swollen over their banks, but on Monday Mr. Connop got an 18 lb. fish, Mr. Haddon two salmon, Capt. Palisser a fine peel. Water will not be fishable for two or three days. All the fish are taken with the Devon minnows. I hear of fish far up the river which run into the large streams. A gentleman fishing in the high Torridge told me he saw and heard of six salmon caught last week. Just heard of six more fish taken in Taw. Mr. Hynam, Mr. Bradshaw, and Rev. Wilson have taken fish this week (Monday).—Rusty Game.

Thames (Goring).

Water now very high and thick, a flood prospect at present. Looks bad for the next few days. It will take a week, if fine, to get the water in good order for all-round fishing. Sport during the week has been some good takes of roach, 15 lb. some days; each punt will average 10 lb. or 12 lb. of roach per day. My best day was 15 lb. of roach, the largest 1 lb. 3 oz.; one jack of 4 lb. and a few perch.—John Rush.

Thames (Hall ford).

Owing to the late heavy rains, the river has come down very thick, and by the time this is in print it will be in first-rate order for all seasonable fishing. Since last week's report, I have been out with different gentlemen three times. First day, Mr. Matthews, fishing with me, took four barbel and nine roach. Second day, Mr. Innes, two barbel, largest $5\frac{1}{2}$ lb; Mr. Ellis, barbel and chub, largest $3\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Third day, Mr. Reynolds, two barbel and three perch.—George Rosewell.

Thames (Twickenham).

Wind, S.W. I am sorry to say we have not been doing much this week; the heavy rains have caused a rise of water, but if we are favoured with fine weather we hope to have some good sport next week. "Our Joe," with Messrs. Jacobs, of Covent Garden and Borough Market, took 12 dozen good fish, amongst them some very fine roach. Jack Spong, with Mr. Walker, 8 dozen good fish; other days have averaged about 5 or 6 dozen of fish. Mr. Johnson, of Cross Deep, has been getting some fine roach in the Deeps.—Alfred Perrin.

Torridge (Torrington).

River has been in flood most of the week, and it is rising now. Thirty-two peel have been taken since last report. I have not heard of any salmon being taken with the rod near here. P. Bremridge, Esq., took a salmon last Saturday on the Taw with the fly. Salmon are very plentiful near the estuaries, and are selling at 6d. and 7d. per lb. retail.—Practical Angler.

Trent (Alrewas).

The late rains have brought down a good fresh in the river, and there is now plenty of water, but too much discoloured for any chance of sport. A few good roach were taken last week, but no quantity worth speaking of. Before the fresh, and while the water was clear, grayling were giving excellent sport with the fly, one angler getting as many as ten brace of fair fish in one day. Burtonwards I hear that the roach have been feeding at the "sewage hole," and I also learn a fine trout 5 lb. in weight was captured whilst spinning for pike at Rugeley; but whether it was kept or returned to its native element as being out of season the "deponent knoweth not." Pool fishing has been almost a dead letter. I made a start pike fishing last Saturday week, with the president of the Birmingham and Midland Piscatorial Association; the fish run fairly well the early part of the day, but only three-pounders, which were marked and returned to grow larger. I landed a nice fish for the president 10 lb., and he returned the compliment with one of 6 lb. The afternoon, although beautifully fine, was all against pike fishing, and we made tracks for home at an early hour without any further good luck. Weather to-night (Thursday) very unsettled, and the chance of fishing the next few days out of the question.—James Gregory.

Trent (Newark).

Owing to heavy and long-continued rains the river has been very high and thick all the week, and angling at a standstill. To-day the water has been going down a little; but it has been raining very heavily all day, so I expect the water will again come on. Prospects look very bad under the present circumstances. Anglers had better stay at home and mend their tackle or rig up a few pike traces, for I am sure angling will not be worth the candle for a week at least. Nothing has been done in the way of sport, or even attempted, this week, as far as I can learn.—The Trent Otter.

Trent (Nottingham).

The Trent during the week has been running at a great height, and on Thursday, when we expected a subsidence, rain fell rather heavily. Sport has varied. On Tuesday at Weston Mr. Theaker caught a splendid lot of dace and roach, and higher up, namely, at Willington, some magnificent dace were taken with the cockspur worm. Two gentlemen fishing in the Dove, near the Trent, on Saturday, succeeded in taking upwards of 50 lb. of barbel, chub, roach and dace. The barbel were killed with the maggot, and the chub with the worm. Some coarse fish have been taken in the Rolleston length and a big take is reported from Collingham, bream, in this instance predominating.—The Man at the Clubs.

Tweed and Teviot.

Since our last the takes of salmon on these river have been very fair, all the casts having been angled on. On the Maxton and Rutherford waters the Hon. H. Brougham has killed 4 salmon, the largest turning the beam at 32 lb. On the Birgham Dub, Mr. Alf. Dension, London, has had very good sport, on Thursday last killing 3 salmon, averaging 18 lb. each. Owing to a rise in the river little was done, owing to the river having risen fully 7 inches. On the same day, however, on the Hendersyde water Mr. P. Elliot, Kelso, killed a brace of grilse, and on the lower Sprouston water, Mr. Kermack, Edinburgh, got one very good sea trout. Mr. Cockburn, London, on the Makerstown water, has had fair sport, killing three fish and running several others. On Friday last the Hon. H. Brougham killed two of 18 lb. each, and on the same day, at Birgham Dub, Mr. Denison had a brace of the same weight. Mr. Bayliss, C.E., London, on the Sprouston water had one salmon of 18 lb., and on the Hendersyde water, Sir G. W. Griffiths killed a brace, 17 lb. and 24 lb., respectively. Mr Bushfield, Edinburgh, on the Sprouston water, got one. On Friday, on the Rutherford water, Col. Trotter, Charterhall, had one of 23 lb, and Mr. Denison, on Birgham, had one of 15 lb. On the Sprouston water, on the same day, Mr. Kermach, Edinburgh, got one fish. Saturday, nothing was done; and the rain of Sunday and Monday occasioned a flood of $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet, which has now had the effect of stopping angling ever since. Trout angling, however, was prosecuted on Monday, with good success, three baskets weighing 25 lb. and many small baskets were got, ranging from 3 lb. to 7 lb. No salmon fishing to speak of took place on Monday, and on Tuesday; Mr Denison killed one fish of 19 lb on Tuesday, on Birgham Dub, and that was all that was done that day. No fish have been caught up to this time (Thursday) on the the Floors Castle water, and the same may be said of the Ednam House water.—Maxwheel.

Witham (Boston).

There has been rain almost every day since last report, with cold N.E. winds. Higher up on the Wolds there has been much wet, consequently a fresh is coming down the Witham, and at the moment it is not fishable. The weather is now brightening, and if no more rain falls the river will be in a fair state for angling by Saturday. The net men have been doing well among the eels at the Sluice, some of them being very large. Good sport is had just now in the haven, among the butts or dabs. The fish are of good size, some running up to 2 lb or nearly so. Before the fresh came some good sport was had on the river among the pike. Several were landed on Saturday at Bardney, the best $7\frac{1}{2}$ lb., and at Kirkstead there were also several taken, running up to about the same weight. Some good eels were also taken in the same locality. At Chapel Hill pike were taken, one taken by Mr. Howard scaling $6\frac{1}{4}$ lb. From the drains some capital roach takes are reported, as well as pike. At Leake, on the Hobhole Drain, Mr. Jones caught 29 lb. roach and rudd and a 4 lb. pike. Some of his rudd were fine, running up to 2 lb. On the Forty-foot some good roach bags were made by Messrs. Barnes and Enderby; and on the Mount Drain pike were caught up to 5 lb., as well as a lot of roach. Some good perch were taken at Kirkstead.—Yellow Belly.

Wye and Derwent.

We have had a great quantity of rain fall to-day (Thursday), which has discoloured both rivers a little. This rain will quite put a stop to fly-fishing for a short time. Sport with the fly since my last report has been but very middling, and only small baskets have been the order of the day; in fact, grayling for the last two or three days have risen remarkably short, and been rather particular in their choice of fly, there being such an abundance of flies on the water of the smallest species. The small ash dun, bumble, and dyed hackle flies, ribbed with gold twist, have all killed fish. The bottom fishers have done fairly well with both worms and maggots, killing both grayling and coarse fish.—George James Eaton.

Yore (Hawes).

Trout are now busy ascending the runners preparatory to spawning. Grayling well on the rise, the "daddy long-legs," blue dun, and cow-dung being the best killing flies. Every appearance of a fresh. Splendid fly water at present. Grayling fishers scarce as yet.—Joseph Corry.

George James Eaton, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether the may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[Advt.]

CLUB REPORTS.

ACTON AND EALING ANGLING SOCIETY.

Following my last report of Sept. 30, Mr. Cook on seven occasions has weighed in fish, principally roach and dace, with a few perch; Mr. W. Eydmann, roach and dace four times; Mr. Simpson, three times roach and dace; Mr. W. Howell, roach and dace twice; Mr. A. Eydmann, roach on one occasion—all fish from the Thames. Messrs. Cook, Eydmann and Simpson have on several occasions seen snatching going on lately at the Drain at Surbiton; it seems it is now practised from a boat instead of the bank, as formerly. Cannot the T.A.P.S. or some of our Kingston friends stop it?—perhaps some of them know Butcher. It may interest some of your readers to hear of an incident coming under the notice of one of our members—Mr. Simpson—who while roach fishing lost a fish in the morning through a defect in the tackle. Some hours after he foul-hooked his line and recovered the same with the fish attached, proving that the fish had remained in the same locality after being hooked. We have a competition coming on the last day in this week, and three days in next, so as to suit all parties, if possible—of course only one day's take to weigh. Bank only; any fish to weigh; any water if public. First prize, pair of fishing boots; second, tackle case; third, silver-plated fruit basket.—Black Bag.

ALEXANDRA SOCIETY OF ANGLERS.

Nineteen of our members contended for eleven prizes, at the Ordnance Factory, on Sunday last, Mr. Harry Shaw being the only successful member, taking first prize, with roach only. The members intend fishing the remaining prizes off at Amberley, on Sunday next, Oct. 22. Mr. Chipchase weighed in 8½ lb. of roach, dace, and bream, from Pulborough.—F. Wagner, sec.

Oct. 19.

AMICABLE BROTHERS' ANGLING TOCIETY.

Mr. Larkman, one roach, 1 lb. 8 oz.; Mr. B. Chevalier, roach and bream; Mr. Shury, roach 3 lb. 4½ oz., bream 1 lb. 11 oz., dace 3½ oz.; Mr. Arnold, roach 6 lb. 1 oz,, dace 3½ oz., bleak 3½ oz.; Mr. Howlett, one jack, 4 lb. 4 oz. and one roach; Mr. Farebrother, roach, 2 lb. 14½ oz.; Mr. Lewis, roach and perch.—J. Worledge.

ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several of our members were out on Sunday, the 15th inst., but the takes were rather poor, only the following weighing in:—Mr. J. Ferguson, bream 6 lb. 13 oz.; Mr. J. Bowling, bream 3 lb. 4½ oz.—D. Davis.

CHICHESTER ANGLING SOCIETY.

At the fortnightly general meeting held at The Globe on Tuesday, Mr. S. Young gave an able and practical sketch on bream and bream fishing in Chichester waters, for which a warm vote of thanks was accorded him. On Tuesday the 31st, Mr. G. F. Salter will read an article on "Pike and its Capture."—G. F. Salter, sec.

CRESCENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

This society held its usual meeting on Wednesday evening, the 18th inst., when a good muster of members attended. Since our last report we have enrolled eight fishing and three honorary members, so that, by a special resolution, the full complement has been raised from thirty to fifty. Next Wednesday, the 25th inst., the first prize competition takes place, and over twenty members are expected to take part. The conditions are:—"Go where you please, gross weight," winner to have choice. Gentlemen wishing to join, or desiring information, can attend the meeting or write to the Secretary, F. Pearson, at the club house, Giraffe Tavern, Newington Crescent, S.E.

DUKE OF CORNWALL.

The members of the above club had a very successful day on Sunday. Messrs. Kettle and Hyde had a good show of roach, the former some very nice ones; while the other members had a roving match for five prizes, but only two were taken, Mr. Mann the first and the secretary second.—J. Heckford, sec.

Oct. 17.

EDMONTON AND TOTTENHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday last, this young and flourishing club had a magnificent show of jack, by Messrs. J. Collyer, W. Sellwood, and B. Lowin. Mr. A. Warner had some fine roach, and Mr. W. Aimes perch. Wednesday last, Mr. W. Jones, a beautiful jack. Notice to members—Wednesday, November 1, is quarter night.—W. G. Gardner.

Oct. 19.

GREAT YARMOUTH PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The above society held its weekly meeting on Monday, the 16th inst., when more new members were duly elected, it having been decided that all gentlemen visiting Yarmouth angling, and who are members of angling societies or clubs, shall be admitted as visiting members at a fee of 2s. 6d. each. This was introduced by a well known angler visiting Yarmouth for the jack fishing to the notice of the Society, and I am sure no one will ever regret its becoming a bye-law; and we trust that next year that we shall have waters preserved to ourselves to send them to. Our jack fishing has now set in in earnest. Mr. Bennett has again weighed in two jack of 5½ and 4¾ lb., caught by a single gut hook on a paternoster. The water is now in good condition, and the report now is fish are well on the feed, especially at Ormesby, where Mr. Bennett will, no doubt, secure more jack by the next meeting. A most encouraging letter was read by the president from Mr. Birkbeck, M.P., in reply to an invitation to preside at our inaugural dinner, regretting through pressure of business his inability to attend, as Parliament meet on the 24th., but wishing the society every success. It was resolved to fix the dinner for Thursday, the 2nd November, at the Victoria Hotel, and it is to be hoped that as many of our London friends as possible will attend the first Yarmouth piscatorial meet to inaugurate the formation of the society in question.—J. Lark, secretary.

IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. J. W. Morgan had a nice day's sport in the Thames on Wednesday, Oct. 11, 1882, having 46 lb. 9 oz. of barbel, chub and perch, three of the heaviest barbel, weights as follows:—8 lb. 10 oz., 7 lb. 4 oz., and 7 lb. 1 oz., are in the hands of Mr. J. Barrett for preserving. The shows of fish on Sunday last were small, Mr. W. Mecham, had bream and roach; Mr. H. Butt had roach. Mr. G. Bliss had another one of his beautiful trays of chub and roach on Wednesday, Mr. T. Dennison, sen., had roach and dace; Mr. T. Dennison, jun., had roach on the same day. In addition to the two special prizes announced last week, Mr. C. Green will give a prize to go with the one given by T. Dennison, jun., for the heaviest weight of any kind taken on the four Sundays in November; members to choose their own fishing water.

NORTH BRITONS ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

The half-yearly supper in connection with the above association was held on Monday evening at Mr. Fred. Matthews, the York Castle, Northgate Street, Leicester, when nearly the whole of the members sat down to an excellent spread. The good things provided having received ample attention, Mr. J. Greenwood was called to the chair, Mr. J. Wiggington taking the vice chair. The usual loyal and patriotic toasts being given, the chairman called upon the secretary for his report, which was found to be of a satisfactory nature. Prizes, consisting of various useful articles, were presented to the following successful anglers:—Messrs. J. Wiggington, Clarke, Gask, Cave, Noon, Paterson, Greenwood, Burrows, Farrow, Lumb, Debrex, and Ward. A vote of thanks, proposed by the chairman to the officers of the association and committee of management for their services, was carried unanimously, and Mr. A. Ward responded. Other toasts being duly honoured, the remainder of the evening was devoted to song and sentiment, Messrs. Noon, Burrows, Ward, Cave, and Greenwood contributing in no small degree to the evening's amusement.

NORTH-WESTERN ANGLING CLUB.

On the 15th inst., Mr. Wynn weighed in a nice jack, from the Harp, 5 lb.; Messrs. Marshall and Hillier, roach, from the Thames, the former a good tray of 12 lb. I regret to have to report the death of Mr. Harry Smart, a late esteemed member of the above—one respected by all who knew him.—H.

Oct. 19.

ORIGINAL ALEXANDRA ANGLERS.

Our members were out yesterday. Mr. Blackledge had a fine show of dace, Mr. Newton had some good perch; Mr. Dymond, jun., jack; Mr. Towndrow, roach; Mr. W. High, jack; and Mr. Stanton, our country member, jack from the Thames.—E. Dymond, sec.

PORTSMOUTH WALTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

The above society has been presented through the president, Mr. A. L. Emanuel, with a very fine female otter, trapped by keeper John Barry in the employ of E. Goble, Esq., of Fareham, who is the curator of the Titchford and Fareham preserved waters. This is the second that has been taken this year, which accounts for the scarcity of fish in these popular trout streams during the past season. The animal is in splendid condition, weighing over 16 lb., and measuring from nose to end of tail nearly 4 feet. It has been sent away to be stuffed, and will make a welcome addition to the many cases of fish which adorn the walls of this club.—Daggerwood.

RODNEY PISCATORIALS.

"Oh! I should like to have a take like that." "What sport it must have been." "I fancy I feel the knock at the end of my 20 foot pole, and can almost feel the thrill run through me as I try to land that big joker," and any one present could have seen a gleam of delight in the eyes of the last speaker as he imagined he was struggling to land a big roach that laid among some 50 or 60 lb. of roach and jack, taken by Mr. Hughes and a friend, and exhibited in the club house of the above society on the 12th. I must say that they were beauties. Our members competed for prizes on Sunday last, Mr. Diggins succeeded in winning the first prize, a handsome bronze lamp, given by Mr. R. Grant, with some nice roach from Tottenham. The following prizes:—1st, 4 lb. of tea, given by Mr. Diggins; 2nd, £1 1s. box of fireworks, by Mr. Marsh; 3rd, bottle of gin and 6 tins of lobster; 4th, money prize; 5th, six tins of lobster. All to go to Walton and fish from the bank.—Pixie.

ROYAL GEORGE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed in on Sunday last:—Mr. Chárt, with 6 lb. 15 oz. roach; Mr. Bernhardt, 5 lb. 5 oz. roach and dace; Mr. Wood, 5 lb. roach; Mr. Holden, 4 lb. 10 oz. roach and dace; Mr. Parsons, 1 lb. 13 oz. roach; and Mr. Hughes, 1 lb. 6 oz. roach. The gross weight prizes for the day were won by Messrs. Chart and Bernhardt. Several members fished a sweepstake in two prizes, the successful ones being Messrs. Chart and Wood.—C. W. W. Bernhardt, hon. sec.

Oct. 18.

SOUTH LONDON UNITED.

The angling sweepstakes in connection with the above came off at Amberley on Sunday last, October 15th, and was a great success for a first effort—everything went off well, except the pistol. Mr. Jones, Angler's Pride, 1st prize, £1, 3 lb. 11½ oz.; Mr. Bowling, Anchor and Hope, 2nd prize, 10s., 3 lb. 5 oz.; Mr. Glass, Anchor and Hope, 3rd prize, 7s., 2 lb. 15 oz.; Mr. Wall, Anchor and Hope, 4th, 3s., 2 lb. 8½ oz.—Wm. Allen, hon. sec.

STANLEY ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

During the week, since my last report, the following fish have been weighed in at our society's room:—Mr. J. Duncan, 2 jack, 5 lb. 5 oz., 34 roach 11 lb. 10 oz., dace 9½ oz.; Mr. Wheatstone, jack, 2 lb. 12 oz.; Mr. D. M. Humby, 30 roach 11 lb 12½ oz. and a perch of 5 oz.; Mr. W. R. Humby, 27 roach 10 lb. and 1 dace 5½ oz.; Mr. Scull, 22 roach 8 lb. 4 oz.; Mr. Walker, 24 roach 9 lb. 3 oz. Most of the above were from the Thames, but it is to be feared that the recent heavy rains will spoil sport among the Thames roach for a few days.—G. E. W.

STALYBRIDGE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above society held their annual dinner on Saturday, 14th inst., at their club-house, Back Grosvenor Street. Mr, Henry Abrams, the president, occupied the chair, supported by Mr. Wm. Jackson, as vice. A most excellent and well served dinner was provided by the worthy host, Mr. David Shaw. After the removal of the cloth the chairman gave the usual loyal and patriotic toasts, and song and toast followed in quick succession throughout the evening. In responding to the toast of "The Society," proposed by the vice-chairman, Mr. Thomas Pilling (father of the anglers in this district) said he was always happy when he was amongst such a jovial company as was congregated together on the present occasion, and he was happy to see the progress that was being made by the young anglers in the district. Mr. William Wardle, on behalf of the members of the society, presented the secretary, Mr. Jas. B. Udale, with a gold pencil-case, as a token of respect for his services for the twelve-months. Mr. Udale, in thanking them for the way in which they had received his services, and said he hoped every angler in the district would take the same interest in the gentle art as he had done. The secretary then read out the names of the successful anglers in the heaviest for each class. David Shaw, pike and roach; Samuel

Wood, bream; David Shaw, chub; Wm. Jackson, perch and eel. The remainder of the evening was passed in singing and reciting by the members and their friends. The Act of Parliament put an end to one of the most jovial meetings that has been held for a long time in this district. The usual vote of thanks to the host and hostess closed the meeting.—Udale.

THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The pike competition of this year came off on a most unfavourable day, as during the whole of Monday last there was a pitiless rainfall, and although anglers as a rule are unmindful of the weather, it required a very brave piscator to go on the chance of catching fish. Mr. Edward Foreman was the only competitor that put in an appearance with fish at Ashley's Hotel, Covent Garden, on Monday evening last, and he is entitled to no small amount of credit for the splendid show of jack which he made on that occasion. Regardless of the rain he commenced fishing with his regular fisherman, Ned Andrews, below Bray Lock, and continued, like a thorough angler, all the day. After rejecting all fish under 3 lb., he weighed in 27 lb., the largest fish 6¼ lb. Mr. Foreman remarked that his fisherman, Ned Andrews, was out on the previous Saturday with Mr. Stanger and took ten fish, weighing over 30 lb., thus proving that the prevailing idea that there are no jack in the Thames is a delusion. The Rev. J. E. Vaux occupied the position of chairman for the evening, and the announcement of Mr. Foreman's success was received with much approbation, and he was warmly congratulated by his brother members in producing so fine a display of fish on such a miserably wet day. Mr. W. B. Adlington gave a very interesting account of his capture of a 12 lb. salmon in Cumberland. In spite of the bad weather outside, the evening was pleasantly spent; and previous to the close the energetic honorary secretary, Mr. James Lander, called attention to the anniversary supper in the clubroom on Monday evening next, expressing a hope they would all make a point of being present, especially as their good friend and father of the society, Mr. F. G. Pearce, would occupy the chair. The new card contains a design of three fish, artistically grouped by Capt. Alfred, and it was much approved. Votes of thanks were accorded to Mr. E. Foreman, Mr. W. B. Adlington, and the Chairman.—B.

THE WALTONIANS.

On the 15th Mr. R. Dodge had roach 5 lb. 10½ oz.; Mr. Starr roach, 5 lb. 8 oz.; Mr. Togwell roach, 3 lb. 15¼ oz.; Messrs. Dodge and Rushbrook also weighed in, and I weighed a barbel 2 lb. 12 oz. taken at Bourne End from the bank.—A. J. Marriott.

TRAFALGAR ANGLING SOCIETY.

She members of the above society had a good show of fish from the Thames on Sunday. Messrs. Potter, Wilson, J. Gaze, Richardson weighing roach, and J. Humphries bream; Mr. Abington roach from Pulborough. The members will fish a pegged-down match at Taplow on Sunday, October 29th. for three prizes: Mr. Foley, a fly rod; Mr. Cooper, a roach rod; Mr. Goldstine, 10s. 6d.—J. Gaze, sec.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

The result of the competition that took place on the 15th among the members of this society is as follows:—Mr. Weatherhead, 1st, and Mr. Delehaye 2nd; Messrs Delehaye, junior, Hawkridge, and Beale also had fish. The October competition is going on pretty fairly; but the excitement is not quite so keen as it was last year. Messrs. Dale, Bansback, Cain, Delehaye, senior and junior, have weighed in fish for it. Mr. H. Dale weighed in on the 14th 9 lb. of very nice fish. On the 12th a challenge was received from the South London to fish 12 members of this society at Sawbridgeworth on the 12th November for a supper for 24, the losers to pay the bill. Gentlemen wishing to take part in this competition are requested to attend the society on Thursday evening next, the 26th. Mr. Delehaye, junior, informs me that a short time ago he was fishing at Weybridge in the association water, and he was much surprised to catch with his line a stout night line, much to his disgust, as he thought such style of fishing was not allowed in that water.—Pixie.

Oct. 19, 1882.

WESTBOURNE PARK PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The next match (Thames only) will take place on the 22nd inst., when the following prizes will be contended for:—1st prize, £2 10s.; 2nd prize, £1 10s.; 3rd prize, 2 chromos value £1 1s., presented by Mr. Morrison; 4th prize, 18s. 6d.; 5th prize, 15s.; 6th prize, 10s. Result next week.—H. Adeane, sec.

WOOLWICH INVICTA ANGLING SOCIETY.

W. C. Watkins, of the above society, took on Sunday last, while live-bait fishing at Dagenham lake a very fine perch weighing 3 lb. 8 oz., which has been sent to Messrs. Cooper for preservation. Length, 19 inches; girth, 14¼ inches. Also Messrs. Foster, Jones, King, and Latham, with roach and perch.—C. Foster, sec.

Black Bass for England.—Mr. W. T. Silk, the well-known fishculturist, of England, in charge of the fishcultural establishment of the Marquis of Exeter, arrived here on Saturday last in the *Germania*. Mr. Silk has tanks on board in which to take back black bass. He desires very small ones, of two or three inches long, if they are to be obtained. He called on us and we referred him to Mr. W. O. McDowell, of Greenwood Lake, who will probably assist him to some large specimens, if not small ones. Mr. Silk has taken over these fish in former years, and tells us that both he and Mr. Marston of the Fishing Gazette, have taken the fish in English waters from the former plantings. We wish him success both in obtaining the fish and in their transportation.—*Forest and Stream.*

[The cost of the experiment has been undertaken by Lord Exeter, Mr. R. B. Marston, Mr. W. Oldham Chambers, Mr. Carrington, and one or two other gentlemen, and the fish are to be divided according to the amount subscribed. —Ed.]

Gregory's Spinning Baits. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[Advt.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

PEGGING FOR ROACH.

Sir,—I very much enjoyed reading "A Day with the Witham Roach" in your last issue, a truly admirable article by "The Trent Otter." A friend of mine says he should like a description of "pegging" for roach, and I am sure we should be all greatly obliged if "The Trent Otter" would favour the angling public with a wrinkle or two on the subject.

To an angler who has not indulged in this scientific and killing style, the term is one likely to occasion considerable perplexity.

To those who thoroughly understand it there is no occasion for the "Otter" to dive into the stream of explanation; but merely after a simple reference to it to say to a complete stranger to this style, this is called "pegging" for roach, dace, or barbel, as the case may be, the stranger is all abroad.

In the interest of the unsophisticated, I would venture to ask:—

(1) What length of line is best to use between the top of the rod and the float?

(2) Which is the best way to hold the line, do you recommend it to be held round the fingers, or not?

(3) What kind of strike is the most successful to send the hook home? Is not a very quick, peculiar strike necessary?

(4) Will the "Otter kindly explain if it is not absolutely necessary to fish much deeper than the stream to allow for the work of the water on the shot and bait, the bait, I imagine, being on the bottom.—I am, &c.,

Mark Antony.

[We thought it would save time if we got the "Trent Otter" to answer these queries in the same number, and feel sure he will kindly do so.—Ed.]

Answers.

In the first place, I must beg Mark Antony's pardon for omitting to describe this "pegging" more at length. I forgot for the moment that every angler, perhaps, does not understand fishing with divers kinds of tackle.

(1) "Pegging," or, as it is known in the vernacular of this district, "stret pegging," is the most deadly method of roach fishing that is practised by the Nottingham school of anglers; it is principally practised with paste baits, and in a slow swim—a swift, rattling stream is no use for it. We will suppose an angler has "set his stall out," and elects to "peg" for roach, just over a row of flags, &c., &c., and he wants to be as near the bank as possible; he throws in his baited hook, with his light goose quill and some half-a-dozen small split shots on his tackle—(I might just say that the angler ought to sit as low down on the bank as possible with this method)—and the slight stream works the bait down below him to any distance he likes, from two yards up to twenty, according to circumstances. I prefer to have the float about ten yards below me, if possible; but, of course, the angler must be guided by the circumstances of the case. I have seen splendid roach hooked time after time when the float has only been a foot from the bank, and fifteen yards or more below the angler. I think that is an answer to the first query.

(2) Which is the best way to hold the line? I should certainly not hold the line round the finger, but simply hold the line close to the rod (immediately above the reel), with the right hand, the same that holds the rod.

(3) I do not know that any peculiar strike is necessary to drive the hook home, a great deal depends on the biting mood of the fish. Sometimes it is necessary to be at them the very instant the float tilts, while at other times it is best to wait about half a second; experience alone can teach the angler the best method of striking. We will suppose the float to be ten yards from the rod point, and only about a yard from the bank—of course, the slight stream is sufficient to cause a tight line between rod point and float—the float stands in a slanting position, with the tip end towards the angler; the rod point is only about a foot or so above the water; the float gives a bit of a bob, caused by the bite of a roach. If I have hold of the rod, on the very instant this occurs, I just give the rod point a bit of a twitch in the opposite direction to the flow of the stream, a hard stroke is not necessary, a short twitch of the rod is all that is required.

(4) With regard to this query, a good deal depends on the stream. If the stream is very slow, an inch or two more line between float and hook than the depth of the water is all that is required: while in the swiftest stream that this method is tried in, six inches is all that is required. As I said before, a slow stream is the best; in fact, do not operate on a swift stream if you can help it when trying this "pegging" business. So you will see by this that "pegging" is merely fishing with a stationary bait, with the float held tight, below you, according to the circumstances of the case.

In my new work on fishing I have treated roach fishing in all its branches most fully, from p. 76 to p. 98. My spare time is always at the disposal of the readers of the Fishing Gazette, and I shall be always happy to answer any queries. I have been advised to keep a stock of rod, reels, lines, and tackle, suitable for fishing in the Nottingham style—and I think I shall. See my advertisement in next week's Fishing Gazette.—The Trent Otter.

HAIR *v.* GUT.—IN FAVOUR OF GUT.

Sir,—As my Fishing Gazette for October 7 has only reached me to-day (October 13) I have been unable to notice "Sprint's" remarks before now. I wish to make my peace with him, and assure him that I did not intentionally suppress any part of his letter with a view of giving point to what he is pleased to call my "sarcasm." Of course he is not likely to see the thing exactly in the light in which I do, but I only intended to give a spice of humour to my remarks about 6-inch fish. From my point of view "Sprint's" last letter seems to contain more than one sentence of covert sarcasm or irony; but I am quite willing to give him the benefit of any doubt in the matter, and acquit him of having "rote sarkastic," as Artemus Ward used to say.

One word as to the game qualities of trout in rapid streams, as compared with those in the slower, deeper streams of the south. I often think a fish seems gamer in a rapid stream because the play of the rod and strain on it is more brought into action, not because of any marked constitutional strength and activity inherent in the trout of rapid rivers. By way of contrast to this, many people must have noticed how wonderfully strong and game a pound trout is in a Scotch loch. Even with a big fly and stoutish gut you can't do what you like with such a fish and haul him into the boat until he has had his fight out. The longest and most stubborn fight I ever had with a trout was on a lake. The fish was between three and four pounds, on a largish fly and moderately fine gut. It was a long and fairly exciting tussle; but I felt from the beginning that, barring accidents (or some egregious blunder on my part), it was simply a question of time, and not of skill. Many a score of 1½ lb. fish have I killed in Hampshire, which required far more skill and judgment; and my conviction still is that it is harder to basket a big fish on a chalk stream than it is to land one of equal weight on a rapid northern stream. This brings me back (for the last time) to the points I have contended for all through.

(1) That a big fish (from a pound upwards, we'll say) is, as a rule, shyer and takes far more killing than a half pounder.

(2) That flies tied on hair won't rise the big fish of Hampshire streams. They are shy of the finest drawn gut, but still shyer of hair.

(3) Shy as they are, with all their years of experience to suggest prudence and caution, the three or four pounders do repeatedly fall victims to a seductive fly on fine gut. And this in streams which, in their perennial clearness, will vie with any in the kingdom.

(4.) What is good enough to tempt to his doom the shyest, the most cunning of old, wary, experienced trout is certainly good enough for fish which average less than half a pound, and to make a good bag under adverse circumstances it can never be necessary to resort to hair. As a matter of convenience and comfort there may be two opinions, but on this side of the question I have never ventured to give an opinion at all. But I shall never be convinced by any man who uses any such argument as this, "Oh, yes, drawn gut—great deal of nonsense talked about it, mere fad of you unskilful southern anglers, not to be named in the same day with hair, you know—at least, in the hands of a skilful man who can fish; may kill three or four pounders on the Test, perfect Schouvaloffs in cunning; all very well for that sort of cattle, but not at all suitable for the lively little denizens of our rapid streams, where a half-pounder is an exceptional fish, a pounder rarely met with; while as regards the fortunate captor of anything still larger it would not be inappropriate to quote from Lewis Caroll:—

Oh frabjous day, Calloo, Callay,
He chostled in his joy."

But I must say no more, or I shall be accused of sarcasm; anyhow, I don't fire my last shot at "Sprint," or any one in particular, I merely sum up the impressions left on my mind by all this lengthy correspondence. There is one which I have not mentioned. Is it possible that some people still use hair because it is "the thing to do" in their part of the country, because they like to be able to say they've killed big fish on a single hair? Young Sheridan said he meant to go down a coalpit. "Why go down a coalpit?" said Sheridan the elder. "Merely to be able to say I have been there." "You blockhead," replied the high-principled sire, "what is there to keep you from saying so without going?"

These are my last words; on no condition whatever will I write another single line on the Gut *v.* Hair question, or the other side-issues which have cropped up during the discussion.—I am, &c., H. S. H.

[Some of our correspondents the other day said that fine drawn gut got tangled and twisted by grayling. All we can say is that we have never found any trouble of this kind; for instance, fishing for grayling in Hampshire last week we killed on one and the same drawn gut-line thirteen grayling, weighing over 10 lb., besides also catching with it and returning two or three good trout and some half-dozen grayling just under the 11 inches limit. The line was practically as good as new after the two days' work, only one link requiring to be replaced.—Ed.]

TENCH IN THE THAMES.

Sir,—Mr. Knight, the chairman of the Marylebone Angling Society, asks in last week's Fishing Gazette if any of its readers "know of any cases where tench have been taken from the Thames." The sluggish and muddy parts of the river abound with tench, but they are seldom specially fished or baited for. The reach of water from Spade Oak Farm to the wharf at Bourne End contains many a thumper yet, although I and others have had at least fifty therefrom within a few years. At Marlow, during the past week, Mr. Hoddenott has had some excellent tench, and Mr. Brooksbank last season in the Hurley waters took 26 tench, averaging 3 lb. per fish. In the Dorchester water last week, several tench of over 4 lb. have been had. Likely spots should be carefully baited. Tench are splendid eating and afford grand sport on fine tackle.—I am, &c., Marlow Buzz.

Oct. 19, 1882.

TENCH IN THE THAMES.

Sir,—Mr. Knight will see, if he looks at "Greville F.'s Upper Thames Report in last Saturday's *Field*," that tench cannot be so scarce in the Thames as he thinks. Mention is made of two catches, one of five tench, and another of two, near Dorchester; and I think I have read before now of other takes thereabouts.

I have never heard of many elsewhere. Fishing for many years at Goring I have only taken one (of 3 lb.) which came from a well-baited deep hole at Basildon, and I have not heard of others being more fortunate.

My fisherman, John Rush, tells me he has sometimes found one in his eel-wheels.

I fancy that, as you descend the Thames they get more and more scarce.—I am, &c. W. P. H.

P.S. I enclose the report referred to.

Oct. 16.

SIZE OF EXE FISH.

Sir,—Having read the correspondence in your paper concerning the size of Exe fish, which was commenced by the very interesting article of Mr. R. S. Austin a few weeks since, fair play induces me to corroborate his assertions, and give my experience in the use of R.A.'s midge flies. I have seen him kill as large fish as he states, and moreover I have in an evening's fishing killed several trout over a pound each repeatedly with those flies, in places, and at times when I knew from experience that ordinary flies were worse than useless. I may add that R.A. was the first to introduce these flies on our part of the river. Some four years since, on a fine evening in the month of June, while fishing that part of the Lowman which runs below the town of Tiverton, with the artificial minnow, I met R.A. for the first time; he was then fishing with a six-feet gut cast and a single midge fly. He showed me his tackle, and I smiled a sickly smile as I thought of the apparent absurdity of trying for these big fish, which never take the artificial fly; when, to my utter astonishment, I saw him raise and kill fish after fish, most of them over a pound in weight My own experience of Exe fishing extends over many years, ever since I was a small boy, and without egotism I may say with a very fair amount of success. I do not write this in ignorance of the merits of ordinary Exe flies, as for years I have spared neither trouble nor expense in breeding the best blue game fowls which are so necessary to produce the true colour of our great variety of blue flies.—I am, &c.,

Fore Street, Tiverton, Oct. 14. William Payne.

SIZE OF EXE FISH.

Sir—I can vouch for the truth of Mr. Austin's statement as to the size and number of trout he has caught with the artificial fly in the Exe. I not only saw him catch several composing the dish he alludes to, but saw the fish laid out afterwards when he brought his basket home. Living on the land and renting the fishing opposite that particular portion of the Exe where Mr. Austin fishes, I have had frequent opportunities of seeing him kill large fish and have myself used the flies he describes, with great success. I may add that at the close of the present season I took from the same spot four fish weighing five pounds. On referring to my diary I see that in April, 1879, I took three fish with the artificial fly, one weighing 3¼ lb, another 2¾ lb., and a third 2½ lb., two from the Exe and one from the mill-stream adjoining, which is a part of the river. I know several gentlemen who have had catches almost as good as the one that Mr. Austin alludes to, and no doubt if they see your valuable journal will send you a description of the same.—I am, &c.

Tiverton, Oct. 17, 1882. Fredk. W. Whitney, M.R.C.V.S.

SIZE OF EXE FISH.

Sir,—Whether Mr. Mudford wrote the letter he refers to, or whether it was written by any of the people about him, is to me a matter of indifference, since, in the absence of proof to the contrary, I am satisfied of its source. This, however, has nothing to do with the question whether my own statements regarding Exe fishing are correct or not, and letters verifying them and calculated to enlighten Mr. Mudford as to the capabilities of the river will, I believe, reach you before you go to press.

The writers, not hiding behind any *nom de plume*, are both Tivertonians, well known anglers, and second to none on the Exe, and I question if even Mr. Mudford will not hesitate before he impugns their veracity.—I am, &c., R. S. Austin.

Tiverton.

MONSIEUR JARDINE ET LES BROCHETS.

Sir,—Last Saturday, induced by the weather, I opened the campaign of this season against *Esox Lucius*. The day was cold, with enough wind to make a nice ripple on the water. My friend, Brett, accompanied me; the water was fine and clear, but by using gut traces we had capital sport, capturing twenty-four pike, of which we kept fourteen, weighing together 80 lb. Two large fish were feeding well I invited each to lunch off small dace on "snap-tackle," they accepted my hospitality, and, after some "coquetting" on their part—being females—were handed ashore by my friend, who gently "chucked them under the chin" with his gaff; their weights being respectively 18 lb. and 14 lb.

In addition to some handsome jack, my friend caught several roach and perch; he returned many to grow larger. Weeds are decaying and disappearing fast.

The pike are at present inhabiting the deeps, where they will be found during the remainder of the year. In January and February fish the shallows and quiet corners. In March pike retreat to "rushy-beds," on nuptial cares intent, to propagate their scaly broods.—I am, &c., A. G. Jardine.

38, Old Change, Oct. 17.

THE MANCHESTER AND DISTRICT AMALGAMATED ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

Sir,—In answer to your correspondent "Lex," I am sorry to inform him that at the delegate meeting held on Saturday last, Mr. Bailey, of Hulme, having proposed to rescind the resolution passed at the last delegate meeting (copy of which appeared in your issue of Oct. 7), it was outvoted by a majority of 8 to 6 exclusive of the officers. So that the awful blunder still remains a blot on the association. Hoping that some more able pen than mine will prescribe a remedy.—I am, &c. Trout.

THE GRESHAM SOCIETY AND GROSS WEIGHT.

Sir,—A few weeks ago there was a deal of preaching from the above young society about taking only a few fish, keeping the specimen fish and returning all the rest to the water. I beg to enclose you a puff which appeared in *Ye Cripplegate* this week. Please notice the slaughter by a well-known member of their society, viz., 80 lb of roach, taken on Saturday, October 7. Why, it is as much as the best Lea cracks weigh in at their clubs in the nine open months. Well, it is amusing to see how quickly practice alters theory. I guessed how long their specimen rage would last. What have Messrs. Crumplen and others to say now?—I am, &c., A Roacher.

[We wish that gentlemen who make attacks of this kind would sign their names. "A Roacher" is a respected member of a well known London angling club, and sends us his name and address. On a public question of this kind he has a perfect right to demand space in this paper. We think we can say with certainty that no personal spite prompts him to attack a most prominent member of a most prominent club. That he will get a "Roland for his Oliver" is highly probable.—Ed.]

FISHING AT SHARNBROOK.

Sir,—In reply to Mr. Broom's enquiry, I can inform him that the fishing between Sharnbrook and Felmersham has recently changed hands. The present owner makes a charge of 3d. per diem to the villagers, or 1s. to strangers, and gives the proceeds to the infirmary, No tickets are required, the money being collected at the river side. Roach and bream fishing are good; jack fishing, unless considerably improved within the last year or two, very moderate From Sharnbrook to Bletsoe, downstream, the river is in other hands, and not open to the public.—I am, &c., Bedfordian.

Bedford, Oct. 14.

FISHING AT SHARNBROOK.

Sir,—Mr. Weston, at the Old Swan, Sharnbrook, gives permission for some portion of the waters to visitors staying at his house. From what I hear at Wellingboro', whence I have just returned, permission to fish the waters near to the railway station is not difficult to obtain. No Sunday fishing. The river is now in flood. A. J. Marriott.

POACHING AT THE WELSH HARP.

Sir,—Will you kindly give publicity to the following? On Sunday last a friend and myself went to the Welsh Harp to fish. While there we saw a piece of unfair angling. We saw an angler catching young bream. The first took the bait in the middle of his back, and the next in the belly! On asking him how it was that he caught them in that peculiar manner he said, "Oh, I have been fishing three years; I always get plenty. This is how I do it: I well bait a spot, then I put a bare hook into the water, and so foul the fish." But I discovered, on looking more closely at his tackle that he had about seven naked hooks on his line!

On my remonstrating with him, and asking him if he was going to use them as live bait, he made use of most abusive language. I said he was fishing unfairly, and so got myself into a row. I do not profess to know the technical terms of angling, but I think it is very unfair that fishing of this kind is permitted. I have been angling now five weeks, and have only taken one roach 8½ inches. Surely if this state of things is carried on much longer (especially if there are two or three more at the same game), what a nice state the fishing will soon be in. Perhaps you or some of your readers will hint at a suggestion, and oblige yours, &c., Fair Angler.

[We advise "Fair Angler," and any other anglers who catch men "snatching" fish to get Mr. Warner to wait on them. We are quite sure he has no idea such poaching is going on in his splendid fishery. We hope he will put up notices offering a reward for their detection, and make an example of the first scamp he catches.—Ed.]

SNATCHING AT SURBITON.

Sir,—Cannot something be done to stop the snatching pursued by some poaching fellows at the mouth of the drain in the Thames at Surbiton. On several occasions within the last three weeks some of our members have seen the same two men, in a boat at the mouth of this drain, fishing with a flight of hooks on their line, and only baiting one hook, and at every swim snatching their line, and nearly all the fish landed were foully hooked.

One of our members called on them to desist last week, and he was only abused for his pains. He then called the attention of the constable on duty on the Parade to them, and he told them if he caught them again he should take proceedings against them. I may say they soon left off, and I expect went somewhere else to pursue their work.

As our members are often fishing in that locality, we do hope you will bring your powerful organ to bear upon this unsportsmanlike pursuit, and try and put a stop to it, as it is quite impossible to catch any fish near these fellows, who of course get the best swims.

In conclusion, I may say that this is, in my opinion, another one of the reasons that the fish are decreasing in numbers in the Thames.—I am, &c.,

Acton, Oct. 17. W. Eydmann,
Of the Acton and Ealing Angling Society.

[The only remedy we can suggest to Mr. Eydmann is the very simple one of giving the men in charge for breaking the law, and the local magistrates would then soon put a stop to such practices. But anglers must lend a hand themselves if they want the thing done.—Ed.]

GRAYLING FISHING WANTED.

Sir,—Will you kindly inform me if you know of any good grayling fishing within fifty or sixty miles of London; also the best time of year to take them with a fly? Is it too late now?—I am, &c., Constant Reader.

[Grayling fishing is in its prime from September to March. You will get no grayling fishing much nearer than the Dove. Go to the Izaak Walton, Ilam, near Ashbourne, and you will often go again.—Ed.]

HOW TO PREVENT WOODEN REELS FROM SWELLING.

Sir,—I find I said, "use gum mastic with the naphtha." It should have been "gum shellac."—I am, &c.,

October 16th, 1882. J. Garie Browne.

GENERAL ROD OR SPECIAL ROD.

Sir,—Will you kindly advise me on the following point:—I am thinking of purchasing a new rod for next season. I have hitherto been used to bottom fishing, but next summer I wish to try what I can do with the fly. To avoid carrying too many rods, &c., do you think a "best general rod"—say with three tops—would answer my purpose, or whether I am compelled to buy a regular fly-rod?—I am, &c., Richard James.

New Swindon, Wilts, Oct. 16.

[A "general" rod is a general nuisance, in our opinion. The mere altering the top joint will not turn a good fly rod into a good pike rod. A "general" rod is generally too heavy for bottom fishing, too weak for pike fishing, too stiff and heavy for fly fishing, in fact, it is like a "jack-of-all-trades"—not really good at any one of them. The fly rod should be used *only* for fly fishing. An ordinary strong bamboo with a variety of tops will answer fairly well for bottom fishing and spinning.—Ed.]

THE ACME FLY LINE, &c.

Sir,—Can you oblige by letting me know in the next issue of Fishing Gazette where I can get the Acme fly line; also the tackle book mentioned in the "Scientific Angler," by Foster? What is your opinion of this Acme line? Is it suitable for an amateur? Is all the tackle mentioned in that book procurable at one establishment?—I am, &c., J. B. R.

[The Acme line is a very good one indeed, and we often use it, especially in windy weather, as it casts better against a wind than any other line. It can be obtained of the makers, Messrs Foster, of Ashbourne, and also the other tackle mentioned in the "Scientific Angler."—Ed.]

Gilpin's "Forest Scenery."—Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston and Co. are about to publish a cheap edition of the illustrated re-issue of Gilpin's *Forest Scenery*, edited, with notes bringing it up to date, by Mr. F. G. Heath, author of *Autumnal Leaves*. It is a curious fact that the existence of the third edition of *Forest Scenery*, which was revised by Gilpin himself, and which forms the text of Mr. Heath's reprint, was unknown to Sir T. D. Lander, first editor of this famous work, and there is no copy of it even in the British Museum.

THE GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this society met at Masons' Hall Tavern, as usual, on Tuesday last, J. Callaghan, Esq., in the chair. After confirmation of the minutes, the usual river reports were read, that from Goring intimating that there would probably be no good fishing there for the next week or ten days, consequently on the effect of the rain. The secretary made a report as to the fish taken since last meeting. Captain Alfred had four nice barbel, Mr. Edward Bennett, at Ormesby Broad, took two pike, both on single gut paternoster, one going 5½ lb., the other 4¾ lb., when weighed by the Great Yarmouth Piscatorial Society. An extract from a letter by Mr. Bennett was read to the meeting, advocating that country members, not competing for prizes necessarily, should be allowed to weigh in at the nearest local society, so that the total taken by Gresham members might be recorded, and his letter was very favourably received. Mr. Crumplen and his younger son, fishing with Bartholomew, of Goring, had a good take of roach from the Thames, and, after returning a large number, brought home some 14 lb. of well conditioned fish, several of which went ¾ lb., and all averaging about ½ lb. each. Messrs. Brett and Jardine reported an enjoyable day's "piking," in which they took fourteen fish weighing near 80 lb., one of 14 lb., another of 18 lb. falling to Jardine's rod, Mr. Jardine giving the society an extremely humorous account of the adventures of himself and Mr. Brett on the occasion, as well as of the hospitality extended to them by their host, who gave them permission to fish his water, which except by Mr. Jardine had not been previously fished for very many years. All these fish, and others returned to the water, were taken with snap tackle and paternoster on gut traces. Mr. Wheeldon described his recent day's roach fishing on the Avon, where he had a great take—20 of the fish weighing in all 30 lb.

The chairman said the society was indebted to all the gentlemen who had that evening entertained them by a description of their fishing exploits, and he was sure he expressed the unanimous feeling of the meeting in tendering them very hearty thanks. The ballot for new members was previously taken, and Mr. R. Parker duly elected. The names of four other gentlemen appear on the society's notice board as candidates for membership, and will be balloted for in due course.

Mr. R. Stebbings, secretary of the Central Association, and Mr. H. Howse, secretary of the Walthamstow Angling Society, were present as visitors, and received a cordial welcome. The formal business being concluded, the members indulged in a little harmony, Mr. Wheeldon singing "The Wolf," with even more than his usual ability. Mr. Jardine sang several songs; Messrs. Young, Crumplen, Parker, and also the chairman aiding in the musical portion of the evening. Mr. Winterbottom, whose talent is so well known, gave an admirable pianoforte solo. Mr. Brown accompanied throughout the evening, and sang also "The Death of Nelson" in a very effective manner. The proceedings, after a very cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Callaghan, terminated with the National Anthem.

GREAT MARLOW THAMES ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

General Meeting and Dinner.

The Annual General Meeting of this Association took place on the 7th inst. at five o'clock, p.m., at the Complete Angler Hotel, between the Suspension Bridge and the fine Marlow weir pools. A committee meeting preceded at four p.m. Mr. W. Ritchie, in the absence of several of the leading members of the association, was called to the chair. There were present Messrs. T. S. Chapman, A. C. Faulkener, R. F. Jackson, T. Wright, C. M. Foottit, W. J. Stockbridge, C. Sturgiss, Owen Wright, and Major Simpson Carson, hon. sec.

The minutes of the previous general meeting having been read and confirmed, and other routine business gone through, a correspondence was read respecting the appointment of bailiff from Mr. James Englefield and Mr. Howard Vyse. Hereupon the committee's report as to its decision upon this subject was given, and which confirmed the recommendation of the appointment of bailiff for the ensuing year. After a lengthy discussion, as the question has been the cause for years past, the meeting decided to leave the matter entirely in the hands of the committee.

The treasurer being absent, it devolved upon the hon. sec. to lay the following items before the meeting.

Balance in treasurer's hands, March 31, 1881				£19	8	1½
Subscriptions, year ending March 31, 1882				52	5	0
Expenses				55	10	10½
Balance				16	7	3
The current year now entered upon, 1883, to 6th Oct.—						
Balance brought forward	£16	7	3			
Subscriptions	52	5	0			
Cash in treasurer's hands	19	8	1½			
				88	0	4½
Expenses incurred to date				60	0	1½
Balance				27	0	1½
Unpaid subscriptions to date	18	18	0			
Liabilities to March 31, 1883	22	0	0			
				40	18	0

The hon. sec. informed the meeting that this year the stewards had supplied seventy trout to the open waters; that 271 good-sized trout had been bought from Mr. Davis, of High Wycombe, for the Association's waters; and the chairman stated that the hon. sec., Major Simpson Carson, had most generously contributed, at his own expense, nearly eighty good-sized trout to their pools. Indeed, during the last season, that at least fifteen trout had been captured in the association district, thirty-two of which had been retained, and the remainder restored to liberty.

The meeting then occupied itself in the election of officers for the ensuing financial year. President, Mr. G. H. Vansittart. Vice-presidents, Messrs. Somers, Cocks, J. P. Ellams, Major-General Owen Williams, M.P., Mr. L. W. Wethered, Mr. J. T. Knowles, and Mr. Howard Vyse. Treasurer, Mr. T. O. Wethered. Joint Hon. Secretaries, Major Simpson Carson and Mr. R. F. Jackson. Committee, Messrs. P. Borgnis, J. Englefield, A. C. Faulkener, W. Ritchie, J. Shone, T. Wright, A. K. Wright, O. Wright, and, in addition to the Vice-presidents, Lieut.-Col. Wethered and Mr. C. M. Foottit's names were added to the committee.

A vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.

There was a dinner in the evening, placed upon the table in the usual elegant style for which the hostess, Miss Compiere, has gained so high a reputation; and amongst those who sat down, besides those above named at the meeting, were the Rev. Arthur Fearon, Vicar of Marlow, Mr. T. O. Wethered, Lieut.-Col. Wethered, Mr. Arthur Butler (hon. sec. of the Reading Angling Association), and others.

THE DECREASE OF FISH IN THE THAMES.

At the usual weekly meeting of the Balloon Society of Great Britain, at the Royal Aquarium, under the presidency of Mr. Sachs, a paper was read by Mr. T. Crumplen, the hon. secretary of the Gresham Angling Society, on "The Causes of the Decrease of Fish in the River Thames." The lecturer stated that at the present moment there were not far short of 180 angling societies in London alone, boasting some 8000 members, and at many of these societies papers on fish and fishing were regularly read. After referring at length to the fact that only a century since salmon, trout, perch, roach, dace, eels, flounders, and other fish could be caught in the Thames in abundance at London Bridge, whilst hundreds of fishermen earned their livelihood in the heart of the City by the very fecundity of its waters, he remarked that whatever might be said for or against the good old days in other matters, there could be no doubt of their reality so far as angling was concerned, and no less doubt that, for the present at least, they had passed away. What applied to the Thames also applied in a greater or lesser degree to all fresh-water fisheries, which were undoubtedly failing. For the most part fish had disappeared from the river running through the metropolis, and in the upper waters of the river they were neither so numerous nor large as they used to be, and were being gradually overtaken by the fate that befell their metropolitan *confrères* two generations ago. What he might call the fisheries of Old London succumbed only as docks, factories, and gasworks multiplied, the noxious refuse from which was turned into the Thames, there to mingle with the sewage of a great city, the whole being stirred up or battered by the iron or copper bottomed steamboats. These or similar causes were now in operation, in a minor degree, in the non-tidal waters of the Thames, and just in proportion as these causes increased, so would the stock of fish inevitably diminish. A great question for consideration was that of protecting the spawn, as, if proper harbours were provided for fish, and Nature given a fair chance, she would stock the river with more and healthier fish than could be raised in any other way. A step in the right direction had been gained under the new Thames bye-laws, making the minimum size of fish allowed to be taken uniform from Oxford to Richmond Bridge, instead of a lesser scale, as formerly, beyond the City Stone at Staines. He hoped during the next Session of Parliament to see an improvement on the Mundella Act, and the fence months more adapted to different fish, as, if they had fence months, it was most desirable they should be adapted equally to all kinds of fish, otherwise they disturbed what might be termed the balance of power in the river, and by upsetting the natural equilibrium unconsciously defeated the object they had in view. Pursuing the subject of destruction further, the lecturer proceeded to demonstrate that the chemical refuse discharged from paper mills and artificial manures destroyed great quantities of fish, though another and more serious evil on the Upper Thames was the prevalence of steam launches, which, if they did not altogether mar the sylvan beauty of the river, would in time denude it of its fish. The wash from these vessels, beyond the question of danger and destroying the banks of the river, dispersed and spoiled vast quantities of spawn. He hardly knew what remedy to suggest, short of their entire abolition in the non-tidal waters, but being, as they were, used almost exclusively for pleasure parties, the matter might perhaps be compromised by allowing them to run at a regulated speed during the months of August, September and October, so that they should not interfere with the chief spawning season. Another enemy to fish was the swans, but this might be got over by feeding them judiciously in spawning time. The lecturer referred in somewhat strong terms to the laxity of the various preservation societies in the past, though he believed that they were now endeavouring to benefit by past experience and keeping the interest of anglers in view. In this they might rely on being supported in the manner they deserved. Thanks were due to the Thames Preservation Society for what they had lately done in helping to restock the river, and the endeavour to stop all netting between Richmond and Kew would, he hoped, be successful. In conclusion, he said let them follow as much as possible in the footsteps of Nature; impose no needless artificial barriers to the stream; keep the river from pollution; let the preservation societies combine and take not merely a police, but a scientific view of their duties; let the angling clubs of London forego the capture of small fish and act in the true Waltonian spirit; then there was yet time to arrest the destruction going on, and to restore a strong and healthy progeny to the Thames (hear, hear).—A discussion followed, in which Mr. Wheeldon, Mr. Clench, and other gentlemen took part, and a resolution pledging the meeting to support the Fisheries' Exhibition of 1883 was unanimously agreed to. Votes of thanks to the lecturer and chairman closed the proceedings,

Fishing Contest at Ilkeston.—An annual fishing contest, in connection with the Gladstone Angling Association, meeting at the Gladstone Inn, East Street, Ilkeston, took place on Saturday afternoon, in the Erewash Canal, at Gallows Inn. Prizes to the value of over £10 were given by the gentry and tradesmen of Ilkeston. Forty-five competitors put in an appearance, but the weather was not in favour of heavy takes. Fishing commenced at 2.30, and was brought to a close two hours later. The following is a list of some of the competitors, and the weights of their baskets:—H. Shaw, 1 lb. $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; R. Hunshaw, 10 oz.; J. Trueman, $6\frac{3}{4}$ oz.; O. Bostock, 6 oz.; W. Robinson, $5\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; S. Manners, $5\frac{1}{4}$ oz.; H. Smith, $5\frac{1}{4}$ oz.; E. Waters, $5\frac{1}{4}$ oz.; J. Pritchett, $4\frac{1}{4}$ oz.; W. Slater, 4 oz.; A. Baker, 4 oz.; H. Thompson, $3\frac{3}{4}$ oz.; J. Pollard, $3\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; A. Wildgust, $3\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; J. Hunshaw, $3\frac{1}{4}$ oz.; W. Freeman, $2\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; E. Eaton, $2\frac{1}{4}$ oz.; J. Manners, 2 oz.; J. Aram, 2 oz.; S. Shaw, $1\frac{3}{4}$ oz.; S. Shaw (No. 2), $1\frac{3}{4}$ oz. Eleven others took less than $1\frac{3}{4}$ oz., and the remainder were not successful in bringing a single fish to bank.

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Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., must be addressed to the Editor of THE FISHING GAZETTE, *No.* 12, *Fetter Lane, London, E.C.* and should reach the office not later than Tuesday morning.

Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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All communications respecting advertisements must be addressed to the Manager of THE FISHING GAZETTE, *No.* 12, *Fetter Lane, London, E.C.*

N.B.—All Remittances must be sent, and all Cheques and Money Orders must be made payable to Messrs. SAMPSON LOW, MARSTON AND CO., the Proprietors.

The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1882.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

THE GREAT INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION LONDON, 1883.

WE again beg to remind all those who intend to exhibit at the above exhibition and who have not sent in their applications for space, that no applications can be received AFTER NOVEMBER 25.*

Secretaries of angling clubs are particularly requested to take notice of the above. Every club which possesses cases of stuffed fish should endeavour, as a public duty in the interests of angling, to be represented at this grand exhibition. Every fishing rod, winch, fly, or other tackle maker who has any desire to improve his business, should have a case at this exhibition, which will be visited by hundreds of thousands of anglers from all parts of the world. No charge is made for space, and it ought to be unnecessary for us to point out that such a splendid chance as this of improving a business has never been offered before and may never occur again. Applications for space should be made at once to the secretary of the exhibition, 20, Haymarket, London.

GERMANY AND THE LONDON INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION, 1883.

IT is with great regret we learn from Circular No, 7 of the German Fisheries Association, that up to the date of that circular (October 10), the applications for space from Germany had not been numerous. Here is what the committee of the association say :

"As our readers are aware the London International Fisheries Exhibition will open on the 1st of May next year. Participation in it appears to be general, and in the department of sea fisheries especially promises to be on a grand scale. Only from Germany, as we learn, are the applications for space few at present.

"No one would pretend that by sending an exhibit to the London Show Germany would secure any direct gain to any appreciable extent. At the same time, nearly all the concessions made by the State for many years have been given on the principle that—whenever it is a question of the representation of great fields of labour, of the improvement and elevation of the arts and industries, of competition with civilised nations—whenever it was a question of any of these, it was not reasonable for Germany to remain at home, much rather is it her duty to take her place in the first rank of the combatants.

"We shall, therefore, deeply regret if before the end of the time during which applications for space can be made (*i. e.*, up to the 25th of November) a brilliant number of patriotically-minded German fishery and fishing devotees do not announce their intention of participating in the exhibition.

"The German Fisheries Association will most willingly supply information and advice. At its office prospectuses of the exhibition together with lists of prizes can be obtained. We trust that the prize of 12,000 marks. offered for the best form of life-saving boat, will induce some of our German ship-builders to enter the lists.

"An imperial German subsidy must NOT be looked for. Nevertheless, we live in hopes that through the goodwill of our Government an adequate representation of German Exhibitors in London, both before the commencement and during the exhibition, as well as reports on its results after the close will be provided."

GRAYLING FISHING IN MONTANA.

(*Continued from page* 490.)

AFTER making our usual meal off bacon and fish in the morning, we started quite early in the wagon and drove to the highest point at which the road joined the river. We got there in two hours' time, and found the horse-flies and mosquitoes so troublesome, that we had compassion on the horses and made some "smudges," the smoke of which successfully drove away the flies. (In case any should be ignorant of the meaning of "smudge," I will at once tell them that it is a small fire giving out the least possible amount of blaze, with the greatest possible amount of smoke). The day was lovely, very hot and still, and I could see by the manifold circles on the water's surface that there were many hungry fish eagerly waiting to be fed. I put on three grey hackled flies, exactly similar to those I had used when fishing in the lake, and about 12 o'clock made my first throw. Three fish immediately rose, one to each fly, and in five minutes time 2 lbs. of grayling were lying in my basket. In exactly forty-two minutes' I had caught fifty fish, therewith filling my basket. I always had two simultaneous rises, and generally three, and the fish here ran much heavier than they did ten miles lower down the river. Once I had three fine fish on together and they gave me quite a nice little amount of fun and must have weighed all 2 lb. I caught a very small percentage of small fish compared with last time, and the white fish were conspicuous by their absence After fishing for two hours longer we counted our bag. The man had caught 39 and I had before me 129, and had thrown back again 34. The voraciousness of the fish on this occasion was most astounding, and if I had had a longer casting line, I should have liked to have tried six flies at once, for I verily believe that five out of the six would have been taken immediately. To illustrate the greediness of the fish. On more than one occasion, when I had three simultaneous rises to my fly, I lost one of the fish, and before I could land the other two, a third fish had taken the vacant fly. There was hardly any cessation in the rise, although at 10 o'clock, for a few minutes, I only landed one fish at a time, which at other times was the exception, not the rule. The man who was fishing with me, was surprised to see me catching the fish so plentifully, for on coming back I fished over his water and found the fish rise very freely, although he had carefully fished with his bug over the same water not ten minutes before. We fished for exactly three hours and in that time I had caught 163 and the man 39. Better, *i.e.* finer fish, I can well conceive, but more plentiful I cannot imagine, and I only hope that when the trout come in September that they can be caught as plentifully.

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* As will be seen from the advertisement on the back page of our present number the date has been altered from the 1st to the 25th of November.

Wishing to be in camp early, in order to welcome back the hunters whom we expected that night, by 4.30 p.m., we had harnessed the horses, and putting the fish in a sack on the wagon, drove home in the highest spirits. The horses were very much troubled by flies, and seemed as anxious to get to camp as we were. As the road was rough, the wagon at times jolted horribly, and we laughed merrily each time at our attempts to sit tight on the seat, but nothing happened before we were within half a mile from home, at the top of a steep hill leading into some timber. I could see that the horses were pulling hard, and I shouted to my companion to mind the trunk of a fallen tree which lay in our path but—all too late,—the wagon went over it and jolted in the most threatening manner, giving me all I could do to stick on. I was laughing heartily at the jolt, but on turning round, imagine my horror and dismay to see my comrade, who had been driving, on the ground, being dragged by the reins which were twisted round his leg. The horses were dreadfully frightened, and were going as fast as they could. In vain I shouted for the reins, so I determined to stay in the wagon as long as Fate would permit. About twenty yards the horses tore along and left the road entirely, but after that one of them went on one side of a tree, and the other on the other side, and I heard a crash, and felt myself flying through space at a most uncomfortable rate of speed. I was thrown on my right side, just clear of the wheel and tree, and immediately jumping up caught one of the horses, who, in the most wonderful manner, without breaking the traces, had turned right round and now faced the wagon. Joe, the servant had caught the other horse. We each asked the other if we were hurt, but beyond a few bruises and a huge tear on an unmentionable part of my clothing, we had escaped. We congratulated ourselves, and proceeded to inspect the damage done to the horses and wagon. The former were unharmed, but not so the latter, for the tongue was splintered into small pieces and the double-trees were broken, the wagon box was also broken in places, but not seriously at all. Here the Western handiness proved very useful, for Joe, taking a hatchet out of the wagon, cut down a small fir tree, and after improvising out of it a new tongue and double-trees, he lashed them together with picket ropes, and after patching up the harness, which was not greatly damaged, we put the horses once more in front of the wagon, with Joe driving and myself leading, We managed to get into camp about 8.30 p.m., or two hours later than we had intended. The hunters had not returned, so we lighted a huge fire to serve them as a beacon in case they should be late, and after eating a dozen of our fish, turned in with the unpleasant thought that the next day must be devoted to the repair of the wagon, which had to carry us twenty-five miles before we could get a fresh means of conveyance. Joe declared that I kept on shouting "whoa, whoa, there," in my sleep, but that I do not remember. All I do know is that I had had a perfect day's fishing and a very narrow and lucky escape. We had fish again for breakfast, and then proceeded to cut some red fir, the stoutest timber to be found on the spot, and after heating the irons and hammering them straight on a smooth stone for an anvil, and a hatchet for a hammer, we burned holes in the rough wood in which to put bolts. Joe, with, I am afraid. very little assistance from me, put the wagon into quite good repair, although, as the Americans would say, it was not quite such an "elegant" article as that in which we started. At 5 p.m. I began salting and dressing my fish, and had completed nearly sixty when the hunters returned very hungry, and in the highest spirits, one having killed a very fine mountain goat and the other a black bear. Very jovial were we that night as we smoked round the camp fire and related our various adventures, and I only hope that my readers will find as much interest in the account of them as we did ourselves. On the next morning we started home again, and before concluding, I must tell you that I gave 75 of my fish to the old miner, who was fond of short cuts, that he salted them, and said they would last him for a month, and that the wagon carried us beautifully, up hills and along plains, and through rivers. Unfortunately we just missed the train which was to take us home to Butte City, so we stayed for that night at a ranche, and the next morning got into Butte in a luggage train, about 1 p.m., and right glad we were to get into respectable and clean clothes once more, and to vary our diet of fish and bacon, bacon and fish.

GUPPY.

[The grayling of North America is a superb fish; equal in all respects to our European variety, and exceeding it in beauty of colouring. This interesting account of its capture is by an English gentleman now roughing it "out West."—ED.]

ANGLING IN NAVARRA, SPAIN.

AS a very humble follower of Izaak Walton, and a constant reader of the FISHING GAZETTE when in London, I am aware how welcome is a description of a good day's sport to the subscribers of your journal, and however amateur my style may be in such narrative, I am wishful of imparting to my brother anglers my experience with the rod in this part of the world, apologising in anticipation for all non-professional expressions and terms.

The province of Navarra, North Spain, is one of the Biscayan Provinces, and is on the French frontier; and it will be remembered by many of my readers of historic tendency, that it was here where Don Carlos made his greatest stand against the Imperial army, and it is in this province that he has his greatest supporters and admirers. Why, it is beyond my "ken" to say. Pamplona, the capital of Navarra, where I am at present residing, is a very ancient city, and to the lovers of antiquity many days of real pleasure can be had, but as my purpose is solely piscatorial, I leave antiquarians to their own resources, while I impart my experiences in a day's fishing in the Arga.

This river runs just outside of the fortifications of Pamplona, and is sluggish and shallow, with deep holes here and there. Having obtained a licence, which the municipal government enforces rigorously here, for the sum of five pesetas (about four shillings) and the loan of a rod and line—the latter of the most primitive class—I left the city about 6 a.m., and after a walk of twenty minutes, reached a spot in the river in appearance "fishy." I tried with red worm with a depth of about four feet, and in about an hour landed seven speckled beauties, averaging about a pound each, the largest going 1 lb. 3½ oz. Truchas (trout) here are a dark description of fish, beautifully marked, but I must say, yet write it with pain, without the "go" of our English fish. I next fished a deep hole in the bend of the river, where a spring ran from the mountain side, with the same bait, but from float (a quill) to bait quite ten feet, and was rewarded in about forty minutes with five handsome yet small barbel (bardo in the Spanish language) of about 2 lb. each. Walking on a little further up stream I tried some shallows, with silk line and small bright grey moth, caught by side of river, and landed in a short time about twenty madrillas with six small trout—the former a small river fish unknown in England and about the same size as the small trout, viz., 5 to 7 oz. I returned to the river the trout, with as little damage as possible done to them, but in consequence of my having only large sized hooks, my attempts at tender handling did not meet with the success I wished for. I then returned to my barbel hole, which I had taken the precaution to bait, by throwing a couple of handfuls of chopped worms with clay, and before twelve o'clock was rewarded with a "pile." The number, including the small fish, returned very tenderly, must have exceeded at least twenty-seven fish, the heaviest, two hours after, going 5 lb. I broke away twice, through my own stupidity or unwieldiness of rod, and had no opportunity of ascertaining the size and weight of fish lost, although the latter mishap must have been caused by a fish much larger than any I had had the fortune to land.

The sun being too hot here to allow of remaining in the unshaded open after 1 p.m., I bagged my fish and trotted on towards home; but on my way encountered a friendly Spaniard who good naturedly imparted to me many "wrinkles" as to the whereabouts of the fish. Thinking I might with profit spend yet an hour at my favourite sport, I took his advice, and tried the river again at some bushes, opposite a small cottage on the other bank, and was again rewarded with seven handsome trout weighing, (and I weighed them separately) 11 lb., besides some small fry returned to their element. I was thoroughly satisfied with my first attempt in the Arga river, and as my stay here will extend over a long period, you may rest assured of my determination to again try my luck for Pescado Espanol, accounts of which I will duly advise you of.

I regret to say that on passing through the market here, I was grieved to find on sale a large quantity of small trout, the majority not scaling 4 oz., some much smaller. If the municipal government would only take as much trouble to prevent the sale of undersized fish, as it does to enforce the licences, the residents in

Pamplona and the lovers of the gentle art would be much benefited thereby.

The natives here eat the barbel—I cannot say that they take my fancy. To my taste they are even more insipid than the English fish; the madrillas also have little taste, however carefully cooked, but the trucha (trout) is "real fine." W. C. K.

NOTICES OF BOOKS &c.

THE NEW EDITION OF THE "BIBLIOTHECA PISCATORIA."

THE last portion of this long expected work by Messrs. Westwood and Satchell, has been for some time in the printer's hands, though it is not likely to leave the Press before the end of the year. It will form a volume of nearly five hundred pages, and contain some new features of interest to the book-loving fraternity for whose behoof it has been prepared. The size of the present edition, which is more than six-fold that of its immediate predecessor, is to be accounted for, in part, by the more precise and minute mode of treatment now adopted, and more largely by the very great increase in the number of books registered. While the first English "List of Angling Books," for which we are indebted to Sir Henry Ellis, contained but 70 distinct works, the next by Pickering 180, that by Dr. Bethune 300, by Russell Smith 204, and by Westwood 650, the present edition contains nearly 2100 works in above 3000 editions. In five cases out of six, the titles and dates of all the books enumerated have been obtained from an actual examination of them by Mr. Satchell, either in the famous Denison collection, which has contributed no fewer than 1685, or in the British Museum and the various private collections to which access has been granted. The Fisheries Section, in addition to a large number of scarce pamphlets, has been enriched with a list of all the Parliamentary papers (570 in number), and by the Acts of Parliament, of which there are nearly 400, that have dealt with the encouragement and regulation of the fisheries and the preservation of fish from the time of the Plantagenets to the present day. This will probably incite, as it will assuredly aid, some competent hand to give us a more complete account of this interesting chapter in our domestic history than has yet appeared. The Fish-culture Section, though treated neither so exhaustively nor with the bibliographical precision of the other portions of the book, includes the principal works on the art in English, French and German, and treats the earliest essays on the subject with special attention. An interesting collection of citations from old English authors, on angling and fishing, has been added in an appendix by Mr. Westwood. A voluminous index completes the work.

"Reports on the Condition of the Fisheries of the German Empire, Austria, Hungary, Switzerland, and Luxembourg." Compiled for the German Fisheries Association, by Max von dem Borne. Berlin; W. Moeser, 34 and 35 Stallschreiber Strasse.

THESE most valuable Reports comprehend a complete survey of the waters of the above mentioned countries. The plan followed by Herr Max v. d. Borne is to take a principal river (such as the Elbe, Rhine, Danube, &c.), to describe its varied nature thoughout its course, its fish, and the localities in which they are most abundant, the present condition of the fisheries, the effects of contaminations from mills, factories, &c., what is being done in the way of fish culture, &c. Then he takes the tributaries and treats them in a similarly exhaustive manner. Nor are the lakes omitted. Particular descriptions are given of the nature of the soil forming the bed of the water—whether river or lake. As a specimen of the work we translate the following from the description of the Elbe:—

"The Elbe rises at Elbbrunnen (Elbe Springs), at the eastern base of the Hohen Rad in the Riesengebirge range, and after leaving the mountains below Aarnau, flows through the Shanklin sand of the upper chalk formation to Raudnitz. It there breaks through the basaltic and tertiary strata of the German Mittelgebirge, and at Tetschen with a broad valley again enters the sandstone, and as far as Pirna continues its course through this characteristic rock formation of Saxon Switzerland. At Meissen the Elbe flows over granite and syenite, but leaves the rocky strata at Riesa, and enters the North German lowlands, which it flows through in a N.W. direction to empty itself into the North Sea at Cuxhaven; the Elbe is a tidal stream as far up as Geestadt, above Hamburg.

"The principal kinds of fish in the Elbe are distributed as follows:—In Bohemia, according to Fric, the trout is found from the head waters down to Aarnau, the barbel from above Aarnau, the bream from above Pardubitz, and probably as far as Königgrätz, inasmuch as the Adler river flowing in there contains both bream and barbel. In the Saxon Elbe both barbel and bream are common. After the Elbe leaves its rocky bed and enters the diluvial plains of North Germany, the barbel can no longer so generally hold its own. Only at Torgau, Magdeburg, and Lanenburg are barbel and bream equally plentiful; in the whole distance between Riesa and Hamburg the barbel gives place to the bream, and in the districts of Stendal and Osterburg the barbel is only found in small numbers. At Hamburg it disappears entirely, and the bream becomes rarer, but in solitary specimens is found as far down as Stade. Indeed, below Hamburg the fresh water fish generally become scarce, their places being taken by flat fish, smelt, and the migratory fishes.

"The perch is common all along the Elbe, and only disappears below Hamburg.

"The pike-perch is found everywhere with the bream, but only in solitary specimens.

"The pope is very common in Bohemia and Saxony, and below Hamburg as far as Stade; it appears to be less general in the middle Elbe. Burbot are found everywhere in the bream district; the wels (silurus or sheat fish) according to Fric, ascends as far as Elb-Teinitz, and is frequently caught at Magdeburg. The carp is more plentiful in Bohemia and Saxony than lower down; Crucian carp and tench are only found in mud-bottomed, quiet reaches, and old back waters which once formed the river's course. The zärthe (*Abramis vimba*) is very common in the Elbe below the trout district, and is found occasionally as low down as Stade. The white bream is mentioned as being found in quantities only at Magdeburg and Genthin; bleak are plentiful everywhere from Bohemia down, while the tailor (*Alburnus bipunctatus*) is much less common in Bohemia, and not found at all below. The rapfen (*Aspius rapax*) is a common fish; it is found in almost all the larger rivers of Bohemia, occasionally of the weight of 15 to 20 lb.; it is often caught at Dresden. The ide (*Idus melanotus*) is found in Bohemia at Melnik and Lissa, also at Stendal and Bleckede. Roach are common in the whole bream district; rudd are not so common. Chub are plentiful in the barbel district, more in the upper than in the lower Elbe. The dace is much rarer than the chub. The pike is found everywhere, from the trout district down to Hamburg, and is caught up to 25 lbs.

"Below Hamburg the fish-fauna is quite different.

"At Hamburg smelt and eels are most plentiful; sturgeon, zärthe, flounder, lamprey, ide, bream, and roach, are plentiful; salmon, perch, pike, pike-perch, burbot, shad, schnapel (*Salmo cœruleus*) and cray fish are also found.

"At Ottendorf, near the mouth of the Elbe, the water is brackish and the tide very strong. In the spring the smelt appears there, then come sturgeon, shad, bream, flounders, ide, plaice, rapfen, zärthe, carp, burbot, lamprey, and shrimp.

"The schnapel ascends the river in September and October to spawn. The smelt goes up about 20 miles above Hamburg.

"The salmon ascends the Elbe as far as Bohemia, but is not nearly so plentiful as formerly.

"Sturgeon also ascend as high as Bohemia, but their numbers have also greatly fallen off; in 1834 3000 sturgeon were caught at Magdeburg; the annual catch there now is only from 40 to 100 fish.

"The whole course of the Elbe, from Bohemia to the sea, is free from any obstructions to the ascent of fish.

"The nature of the river is eminently favourable for fish.

"The chain-boats, which are used as high as Bohemia, are said to be prejudicial to the fisheries. At Riesa the Elbe is polluted by refuse from an oil factory, and at Gröba by tar and gas water from an iron factory, to such an extent as to be visible beyond the Prussian frontier; the chemical works at Neustadt and Dresden are also prejudicial to the fishery. There are complaints that from Torgau to Werben the improvements in the navigation have done injury; at Magdeburg the river is polluted by sewage from the town and its factories; dynamite and *coculus-indicus* are employed there to take fish.

"At Torgau, Dessau, Genthin, Neuhaus, Boitzenburg and Werben, otters do much damage. Herons are very common at Dessau and Neuhaus. Porpoise and seal destroy great quantities of fish (eels, burbot, sturgeon, &c.) in the estuary. But the greatest damage is done by the universal system, on the lower Elbe, of using nets of such small mesh, that even the smallest fry cannot pass; the young of all kinds of fish is destroyed in this way, to an enormous extent, and in some cases is used for feeding pigs and for manure. To this reckless destruction must be attributed the decline in the salmon, sturgeon, and other fisheries."

The above is only part of the description of the Elbe fish and fisheries, and the tributaries are treated in the same way. The work, which extends to 300 quarto pages, is a most valuable one, not only from an economical, commercial, piscicultural, but also from an angling point of view, forming as it does a complete guide to the rivers and lakes of Germany, Austria, Hungary, Switzerland, and Luxemburg. The index shows that about four thousand rivers, lakes, brooks, and other fishing waters are referred to by name and described.

We congratulate Herr Max von dem Borne on his work, which we shall have bound for reference, and any of our readers wanting particulars about fishing in the above mentioned countries will know that we can supply it.

"The Wheelman."—Messrs. Iliffe and Son, of 12, Smithford-street, Coventry, send us Part I of the above American magazine, devoted to bicycling and tricycling, which is to be published monthly. We give it a very hearty welcome. It is thoroughly well got up from beginning to end—well edited, well written, well illustrated, and well printed. We need not say more to introduce it to the notice of English "wheelmen"; they will recognise its merits just as quickly as the general public has those of the two leading magazines of the day—viz., Harper and Scribner. We know many anglers who are enthusiastic "wheelmen" also; in fact, they find that the silent steel steed is a capital aid in getting to their fishing quarters. They will see at a glance that this new magazine will just suit them.

"Leve and Alden's American Tourist Gazette." London Office: 48, Fenchurch-street. This is a monthly Gazette, published by a firm in America who seem to occupy a similar position to that held by Messrs. Cook and Son here. Their Gazette must be very useful to tourists, and especially to English tourists in the States.

THE "FISHING GAZETTE" PIKE TRACE.

MESSRS. J. GILLETT AND CO., 40, Fetter Lane, London, have just brought out from our pattern a trace for pike fishing (both spinning, live baiting, &c.), which will be appreciated, we think. It consists of a yard of the best and strongest twisted dyed gut, on which are three brass swivels, and with loops at each end, one of the loops being large, and made of gimp for attaching the spinning and other flights to. We maintain—after using a trace of this kind for many years—that for pike fishing it is in every way preferable to gimp. It is stronger, more durable, and far less visible in the water. The object of using brass swivels is to avoid rust, which decays the gut in contact with it in time. The gimp loop can be renewed when necessary, say once a year, as gimp soon gets rotten. Messrs. Gillett only charge 1s. each for these twisted traces (equal to two yards of salmon gut), and we think pike anglers will eagerly secure them.

THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

THE forty-sixth anniversary of the establishment of this society took place in the club room, Ashley's Hotel, Covent Garden, on Monday evening last, on which occasion the usual supper was provided under the personal superintendence of Mr. Bass, the manager of the hotel. The prominent item on the *menu* is always tripe and onions, but other good things were satisfactorily served up. Mr. F. G. Pearce, the Father of the Society, presided on the occasion. Amongst those present were Messrs. T. Gillatt, James Lander, H. Gray, W. H. Brougham, J. Pattison, H. B. Eyre, M. H. Blarney, H. B. Browne, Dr. Coates, Dr. Brunton, Thomas Huggett, B. Perelli-Rocco, J. G. Andrew, George Robinson, Thomas Crumplen, R. King, Edward Foreman, J. Ross-Faulkner, W. B. Adlington, D. Goodger, C. P. Wheatstone, F. H. Lemann, J. W. Gant, T. N. Harrison, &c., &c. The chairman in giving "Sucess to the Piscatorial Society," referred to its practical usefulness in days gone by, when the reading of papers and harmony were occasionally given, both of these in the present day having revived to a much greater extent. The society had gone through a variety of phases, but it was never in a more prosperous condition—it was at work for the anglers when there were only about three angling clubs in London, and it is working now amongst something like one hundred and seventy angling clubs. The toast was drank with great cordiality. The next toast was "Kindred Societies," coupled with the name of Mr. Thomas Crumplen, who in reply expressed the pleasure he felt in being a member of the Piscatorial Society, strongly deprecating any feeling of jealousy with any other club, his idea being that all should work harmoniously together with one great object in view, that of promoting the interests of true angling. This toast was followed by "Success to the Thames Angling Preservation Society," associated with the name of Mr. W. H. Brougham. In his reply, Mr. Brougham remarked that the Piscatorial Society was the first angling club that extended the hand of fellowship to him, and the first to make him a honorary member, and his affection would always be centred in that society. He had now been twenty-five years connected with the Thames Angling Preservation Society, during which time he had faithfully discharged his duties. In referring to the proposed new bye-laws, he had every reason to believe the Conservators would approve of the suggested alterations by the recent conference, and then the Thames would possess a splendid set of bye-laws. Dr. Coates, who had throughout the long illness of Mr. Pearce, professionally attended him, proposed "The Health of the Chairman," and congratulated those present on his recovery, which he had doubts about at one time. The expression of feeling which followed the proposal of this toast must have been very gratifying to Mr. Pearce, who replied in a very kind and feeling manner. The only other toast was "The Visitors." There were some good songs given in excellent style by Mr. Harrison, Mr. King, and others, and the company after spending a most enjoyable evening did not separate until a late hour. A capital fish painting in oil was exhibited, from the pencil of Mr. Edward Henson, of the Nottingham Arts Society, and its merits favourably considered by the members. Mr. Henson is only a rising artist in fish painting, and his example of trout was of a very promising character. B.

DEATH OF A NOTED SCOTCH ANGLER.

IT is with much regret we hear from Mr. D. Wells, of Edinburgh, that Mr. Robert Lindsay, of Dunfermline, died last week. Mr. Lindsay was an enthusiastic angler and ever ready to lend a hand to assist a brother of the rod. Indeed, we can ourselves testify to his kindly good nature, for when in Edinburgh he gave us much assistance. The following lines are from a very appreciatory notice of him, which appears in the *Dunfermline Press* of last week:—"It is with sincere regret that we have to record to-day the death of one whose name has long been a familiar one in many a household, not only in Dunfermline, but in numerous towns and districts in Scotland. In the prime of life, Mr. Robert Lindsay has been somewhat suddenly removed from his labours by the hand of death. Mr. Lindsay joined to his active business habits and indomitable perseverance, a deep interest in the prosperity of the city and county of his adoption—an interest which found expression in various ways for the general good. Ever ready to give his services where wanted, and well versed in municipal politics, Mr. Lindsay was, in 1875, induced to accede to the request of a large number of the ratepayers to represent their Ward in the Town Council; and, during his three years' term of office, he did much to forward many of the important schemes which the Council had then on hand. In particular, he laboured earnestly to make the Glendevon water scheme the great success which it has since been. Genial in disposition, and a great admirer of healthy sports and recreations, our deceased friend's familiar form was well known on many a stream and loch in Scotland, where the disciples of Izaak Walton love to follow the gentle art, as well as on not a few fields where the athletes of Scotland contested for the supremacy. His love for animal as well as human nature found fitting expression in the local and other ornithological societies, at whose annual exhibitions he was a frequent contributor; and he latterly occupied the honourable position of president of the local society. As R.W.M., of St. John's Lodge, Dunfermline, Mr. Lindsay took a prominent part, along with the Provincial Grand Master of Fife, Mr. Whyte-Melville, in laying the foundation-stone of the New Corporation Buildings; and by all the brethren of both the St. John's and the Union Lodge was much respected and esteemed for his many social and fraternal qualities. Conservative, or rather old Whig in politics, Mr. Lindsay took much interest in the several elections which have taken place in the burghs and county since he came to Dunfermline. Possessed of much genuine humour, and a great admirer of our national poets, Mr. Lindsay was early led to cultivate the poetic Muse, and was a frequent contributor to the *Dunfermline Press* and other provincial newspapers; and many of his effusions have already gained a more than local fame. Not a few of the clubs and societies in Dunfermline found in him a warm supporter; and his beaming countenance and hearty co-operation will be long missed in such societies as the Celtic and the local Parliamentary, as well as on many a well-contested curling rink. It has been well said of him by one who knew him well, that while he made many friends wherever he went, he made no enemies—a remark, the truth of which was amply verified by the large numbers who followed his remains to their last resting-place on Thursday—many of whom came long distances by railway to pay their last mark of respect to their departed friend. Much sympathy is felt with his wife and family in their sad bereavement. *Requiescat in pace.*"

A CLERGYMAN CHARGED WITH SETTING TRIMMERS.

BEFORE the North Holland (County) magistrates at Boston, on Wednesday, the Rev. A. L. Joynt, curate of Langrick, near Boston, appeared on a summons, charging him with fishing otherwise than with rod and line, on the 28th ult. The charge was denied. A policeman, sworn, said he saw the defendant set a trimmer in the Witham, baited with roach; but he did not tell him that he was acting illegally. Another witness deposed to seeing him bait a hook with roach, throw the hook into the river, and tie the line to a tree. Another witness said he saw defendant throw the line, with float attached, into the river. He then took his rod off the line and fastened the line. Half-an-hour afterwards it was still there. He was accustomed to fishing, and considered that a trimmer—— For the defence, it was stated the defendant had merely tied the line near the ferryboat for the purpose of going to a house near for a trolling hook. He never attempted to set a trimmer. The case was dismissed, the chairman remarking that the explanation was a very probable one. He considered it a pity the officers did not speak to the gentleman on the matter. The prosecution was at the instigation of the Boston Angling Association, the information being laid by the bailiffs.

ILLEGAL FISHING AT OXFORD.

ON Tuesday, October 10, before the Mayor, J. Jenkin, Esq., Ald. Spiers, and Messrs. W. Ward and Brain, Joseph Gynes, of Thames Street, St. Aldates, was summoned for using a net in the Inner Thames prohibited by the bye-laws during the month of September. The Town Clerk, Mr. J. J. Bickerton, appeared to prosecute. The defendant pleaded guilty. The information received was to the effect that Police-constable Fundell reported that G. C. Simpson, of Queen Street, whilst fishing in company with a young man named Mallett, of St. Ebbe's Street, about 6 p.m. in August last, saw the defendant take a drum net out of the Thames, at the back of the Old Mill, Isis Street. Also that Robert White and Josiah Gurden saw Gynes on

September 12, punting about outside the mill and take a drum net out of the water with fish, and take the net away. Again, that on September 15, as two lads were rowing past the same place, one of them caught his oar in the net, causing it to float down the river, and that Gurden took it out and gave it to the defendant. The Town Clerk said the penalty was £5. The defendant said that, being a Freeman of the city, he was under the impression that he had an undoubted right to use the net. He, however, had since discovered that such was not the case. The Mayor said the Magistrates thought the defendant had done wisely in pleading guilty, and supposing this was the first time he had done anything of the kind, they had taken a lenient view of the case. He would be fined 5s. and costs, 18s. 6d.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS

By L. B.

On Friday evening, 20th, the usual monthly meeting of the West Central Association of London and Provincial Angling Societies was held at the Portman Arms, Great Quebec Street, Baker Street. The chair was occupied by Mr. L. Bonvoisin, Mr. Beckett facing him in the vice. Immediately after the reading and confirming of the minutes of the previous meeting, the chairman made feeling allusion to the great loss Mr. P. Geen, the respected president of the Association, has recently sustained. and his suggestion "that the secretary do convey to Mr. Geen the deep regrets of this meeting, and assure him of its heartfelt sympathy," met with the unanimous respectful approval of all present.

A letter was then read from Mr. Arthur Butler, the secretary of the Reading and District Thames Angling Preservation Society, acknowledging, in kindly terms, receipt of cheque £5 5s., recently voted by the West Central. Concerning the application made for a reward by David Hackett, of Shepperton, for a conviction recently obtained against a person laying grig wheels in the preserves, some considerable discussion took place, and at one time it appeared as if the meeting was about to have to listen to a discussion between two or three delegates, as to whether an eel was a fish, and whether the prevention of the laying of grig wheels and the protection of eels were among the objects we had in view in offering rewards for convictions obtained against persons "guilty of illegal practices as wiring, snaring, netting, snatching, &c." After considerable discussion, however, in which Messrs. Murphy, Fides, Adeane, and others took part, the payment of the £1 1s. reward to David Hackett, was unanimously voted. At the request of the Acton and Ealin g Angling Society, Mr. Hoole said he had made application to the Great Western Railway Company, with a view to obtaining the issue of anglers' cheap tickets from Brentford—he regretted to say he had received an answer from the authorities stating that they did not see their way to grant the issue of tickets from the station named. Mr. Hoole stated this was the third application he had made for this very station within a very short time, and he was of opinion it certainly had best not be renewed, at all events, for some time.

A letter was read from Mr. W. H. Brougham, in which, referring to the new proposed Thames bye-laws, that gentleman stated he quite believed the Conservators were prepared to grant all the angling public had asked.

The elections by the committee of the Rodney Piscatorials and the Crescent Angling Society, were then confirmed, the election of other societies whose secretaries have been in communication with Mr. Hoole, but who were not represented, was postponed until the next meeting of the executive committee, Friday, November 3rd. Concerning the application to the South Eastern Railway Company, for the issue of cheap travelling tickets on their line, Mr. Hoole said he had reason to hope it would be satisfactorily entertained, and this time would be successful.

Mr. Copeland was elected to fill the office of auditor to the Anglers' Benevolent Society.

Mr. Dean, of the Acton and Ealing Angling Society, asked whether the issue of anglers' cheap tickets from Richmond, applied only to the members of one society, or whether the privilege was extended to all members of enrolled societies? Mr. Hoole replied—"Most undoubtedly the latter," adding, "in the event of any member being refused a ticket, if he will let me know the particulars—as time, date, &c., I will immediately make representation in the proper quarter."

Mr. Thomas Crumplen then made some remarks about the Great International Fisheries Exhibition, 1883. He regretted that the executive committee had not deemed it expedient to follow the usual practice of paying all expenses, carriage, &c, and insuring loan exhibits, he would nevertheless urge the London clubs to be well represented at so important an exhibition—probably the greatest ever held—above all, intending exhibitors must make early application for space, as none would be entertained if not made before the 1st of November.

A letter was read from an angler—a member of a London Club, enrolled on the Association books, asking for advice in the following matter. (I cannot do better than use his own words.)—"On Sunday last, accompanied by my old fishing friends, Messrs. ——, went to Tilehurst, on the Great Western Railway, and had not been fishing long before we were ordered off the towpath of the river Thames by a gentleman who stated the said towpath was his private property, and moreover, that unless we did not leave off fishing, he would fetch such of his servants as would quickly remove us. Of course we immediately left off, not wishing to bring discredit on the Association to which we belong. I may state, for the edification of my brother anglers, that this owner of property, whose name he told me was —— claims the banks of the river for miles, as his property, and that he does intend to stop all angling from the same, and will order off or prosecute all such as may persist in doing so." As the meeting decided "that Mr. Hoole should place himself in communication with Mr. Arthur Butler, the secretary of the Reading and District Thames Angling Preservation Society, and that the matter should also be referred to the Thames Rights Defence Association, with an urgent recommendation," it would be unwise to enlarge upon the matter, and I have suppressed all names, &c.; but it is impossible to exaggerate the importance of this question, not only to the thousands of humbler anglers in the metropolis, but to the whole of the angling population along the entire course of the river Thames, above Teddington Lock.

Shortly after 11 the roll was called by Mr. T. Hoole. The following societies, 35 in number, being represented, most of them by two delegates: Amicable Brothers, Anglers' Pride, Acton and Ealing, Bostonians, Brunswick, City of London, Cambridge Friendly, Critchfield, Crescent, Duke of Norfolk, Duke of Cornwall, First Surrey, Golden Barbel, Good Intent, Gresham, Hammersmith United, Hammersmith Club, Junior Piscatorials, Knights of Knightsbridge, Norfolk Brothers, North Western, Nautilus, Phœnix, Prince of Wales, Portsmouth Waltonians, Princess of Wales, Queens, Rodney Piscatorials, Savoy Brothers, Sir Hugh Myddleton, South London, St. John's Wood Piscatorials, Trafalgar, Westbourne Park, Waltonian Anglers. While the Central Committee were represented by Messrs. R. Ghurney, Chambers, and Metcalfe; the meeting then terminating with the customary vote of thanks to the chair and vice chair.

The Watford Piscatorials not only propose having smoking concerts at their own club house every first Monday in the month, but a grand public concert in the town is in contemplation, the proceeds to swell the funds of the Anglers' Benevolent Society—well done, Watford Piscators.

I dropped into the Cherry Tree, Kingsland Road, the home of the Hoxton Brothers' Angling Society, on Monday evening; the local visit was fairly attended, the big room being comfortably filled, and some very good singing and instrumental music made the time pass jollily enough.

A heavy perch, 3 lb. 8 oz, has been taken at Dagenham; some of the heaviest perch I have seen come from this place, and some splendid jack, too; during the winter months—not many, mind, but good, and handsome—as—well, "as paint."

BLACK BASS FOR ENGLISH WATERS.

We have before alluded to the success attending the efforts of English anglers and fish culturists in the introduction of black bass on the other side of the Atlantic, and the growing appreciation of its game qualities abroad. Englishmen are proverbially fond of all manly field sports, and many of them make occasional visits to America for the purpose of enjoying a greater variety of shooting and fishing than can be obtained elsewhere. The game qualities of the black bass attracted the attention and admiration of certain anglers from Britain, and the glowing reports given to the fraternity in Merrie England through the FISHING GAZETTE, awakened a general desire to know more of the fish. In 1878 a lot, consisting of about 150 black bass from the upper Delaware, were placed in Whitewater Lake, a preserve owned by the Marquis of Exeter, and the year after nearly a thousand of the same species were transferred to the lake, where they thrived and grew to maturity. The success of this experiment was such that Mr. W. T. Silk, one of the most practical fish culturists of England, who superintended the transplanting of the first and second lots, has recently returned for a larger supply, to be taken from Greenwood Lake and the Delaware. Mr. Silk proposes to secure about 2,000 of the small-mouthed variety, and these will be distributed in different parts of England, a portion being intended for the Norfolk Acclimatization Society, and others for the Westminster Aquarium, the public reservoir at Wakefield, in Yorkshire, and also for the preserves of the Duke of Manchester, and Mr. R. B. Marston, editor of the English FISHING GAZETTE. Many well-known lovers of the angle throughout Great Britain are enthusiastic over the acquisition of such a game fish as the black bass, which is now recognised as second only to the trout by those best qualified to judge.—American *Turf, Field, and Farm.*

George James Eaton, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invite Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sen or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether the may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kenda' hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[Advt.]

Gregory's Spinning Baits. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[Advt.]

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

"Our doubts are traitors,
And make us lose the good we oft might win,
By fearing to attempt."
—Shakespeare.

The river is in flood and the colour of brown paper: still if anglers will but attempt the task, fish may be caught in eddies and lay-byes, but the bait must titillate their olfactory nerves, for assuredly in the present consistence of the water, it cannot be seen. The flood will do an immensity of good in scouring the bed of the river from decaying weeds and other *debris* and impurities which accumulated during the summer months. As far as reporting the capture of fish, "my occupation's gone" for none have been taken that I can hear of; but I would advise Thames anglers as above to try their luck with lob worms in the eddies for roach, or a silvery dace on a paternoster for jack.

Thursday Evening.—River still rising, and likely to, after the severe storm, or rather hurricane, of Tuesday.—Marlow Buzz.

Ancholme District.

Some good catches of roach were made on Thursday, the 19th instant, and here and there some nice pike have been taken. The weeds have been cut in the top pool, but the water is now in high flood, and much discoloured by the heavy rains which fell on Tuesday last. Fishing is, therefore, out of the question for some days to come.—Thomas Ford.

Chichester.

This has been a poor week for rodsters, rain falling in torrents nearly the whole time. Some few small roach and bream have been taken, also a good perch of $1\frac{3}{4}$ lb. At the weekly competition of the Chichester Anglers, Mr. Stokes for the third time secured first prize with roach and bream, while Mr. Lewis lost a good carp, fishing with tight tackle. To morrow s competition will take place at Seham. Trains not running, a conveyance has been chartered, about 20 members having entered for three prizes. The following are the prizes:—Leathern tackle case, presented by Mr. Pound, and a silver spinning spoon, presented by Mr. Summers. The canal is rising rapidly, but is in good condition.—George F. Salter.

Derwent (Chatsworth).

The river is very much swollen, owing to the great downfall of rain during the week, which has quite put a stop to fly fishing for a time; but if the weather is favourable the river may be again in fishable order by Monday. Previous to the heavy rains sport had been very tame and nothing noteworthy taken, although the water was in fair condition.—Wheatsheaf Hotel.

Dove.

It will be almost needless for the reader to be informed that the above river, like most others in the country, has been running most of the week in high flood. Angling operations since Tuesday have been practically stopped, and it does not appear as if the water would be in proper condition again before to-day (Saturday) or Monday. Previous to the heavy storm on Tuesday—that is, on Friday, Saturday, and Monday—grayling were rising freely to the dark October and other autumn duns, and many good dishes were taken in the neighbourhood of Ilam, Ashborne, and Mill Dale. Pike were also running freely, and both the live and artificial baits were killing better than at any previous part of the season. The present flood will fortunately have one beneficial effect, if no other, namely, it will sweep the river clear of the immense masses of decayed weeds, reeds, leaves, &c., which at one time or another during the last five months have grown or found their way into the water.—The Splodger.

Exe (Exeter).

"Sweet is pleasure after pain."—Dryden.

Indeed, the sensations of my friend and myself when at length we found ourselves once more on the banks of our favourite stream were much to be envied, and our present enjoyment is keen in proportion to the recollection of recent discomfort and distress at the long-continuance of stormy weather. The river had fallen considerably—in fact, sufficiently to allow at least a try; so, abandoning for the time every other object, we sallied forth, with a solemn resolution to catch a pike, by hook and not by crook, several having been seen battling with the stream among the salmon. The day turned out moderately fine, but there was no new mown hay to perfume us on our way, or "wavy corn" to refresh the eye. But after a very agreeable walk we reached Countess Weir. Shortly after our arrival my friend made a cast with a lively little dace, at the same time being prepared for a struggle, but not exactly for such a one as followed. After the fish was struck and found fast on the line, he made a rush out into the main stream, and apparently having lost all command over himself in the frenzy that followed the first prick of the hook, seemed determined to run down. But after he had gone about sixty yards he slackened speed, and was brought to bank after twenty minutes' sport. This was the first of the season to us, and weighed just over 8 lb. Several smaller ones were taken during the day, since which we have had some heavy rains, consequently the river is again very high, so that perch, rudd, roach, dace, &c., fishing is out of the question. A few small carp and tench have been found stranded in the meadows, wherein the ponds have been overflowed by the waters coming down from the higher lands. Salmon are making good headway against the heavy stream, which at night looks like a sea of foam. Trout are very plentiful, and many look ready to spawn We have had rain every day and night during this month, and mostly heavy rains, lasting for two days and nights at one time. It is raining now sharp.—Frank Gosden.

Exe (Tiverton).

The river is in flood, and has been since last week. There is very little prospect of any more fishing this season, which closes on the 31st. inst.—Wm. Mudford.

Henley.

On the 16th inst, at Henley, Mr. Russell, of that place, took a well-conditioned jack of $10\frac{1}{2}$ lb.—A. J. Marriott.

Ilfracombe.

Sea fishing: Thursday evening several conger where caught, weighing from 20 to 25 each. Friday, P. Redmore had 6 conger weighing 140 lb. Tom Davie 1 cod 20 lb., 1 ling 18 lb., 1 conger 28 lb, and a few pounds of Whiting. Saturday a quantity of conger was brought in, and a few ling Monday, blowing and raining, no boats out. Tuesday, one boat had a short drift off the harbour and hauling 24 herrings; blowing strong from N.W. Wednesday, moderating at little, several boats went out and had a drift, they hauled altogether from 8 to 10 maize of herrings. To-day fishermen all very busy getting there nets in, as they anticipate some good fishing this moon. Weather at present mild.—E. Comer.

Medway (Tonbridge).

The river is as thick as it can be, and has been over the fields and far away all the week. No prospect of angling for ten days or a fortnight.—Ye Medway Water Rat.

Ouse (Littleport).

I am fairly sold in my expectation of a good week, as the late rains have done too much to the water, which will not be in order again for fishing for at least three or four days, as it is very high and thick. However, we managed to do something the first four days, as the water has only gradually thickened. The following are the best takes:—Oct. 20th, Mr. George, Bassingbourne, 7 lb. roach and a pike, $3\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; Mr. Palmer, London, with his brother, nice little take of roach, not weighed Oct. 21st, Mr. J. A. Fielden, Cambridge, $3\frac{1}{2}$ dozen roach; Mr. Walter Brown, Romford, 6 lb. roach, $2\frac{1}{4}$ lb. jack, and pike 5 lb.; Mr. S. Allpress, Ely, a nice pike, 8 lb.; Mr. E. Hills, a pike, about 3 lb., not weighed. Oct. 22nd, Mr. Walter Brown, Romford, 6 lb. roach. Oct. 23rd, Mr. George, Bassingbourne, 6 lb. roach, and pike, $4\frac{1}{2}$ lb.—C. South.

Thames (Chertsey).

I have but little news this week, as the punts have not been out. I have had but one day, two barbel, one perch, four roach. The weather being so unsettled, I expect the anglers doubted their luck; still, there was a nice day or so that I wonder the knowing ones did not take advantage of. Saturday was a good day, Monday also, and Tuesday would have done, but after that all over for a time in the main part of the river. Still, I am happy to say the water is falling to-day, and any one liking roach fishing in a day or so will do. This rise of water will drive the fish to quarters. Even now there are jack and perch to be had. The cockspur worm or well scoured brandlings will find some good roach. Recently mention has been made in the Fishing Gazette of the capture of a 1 lb. tench in the Thames; a gentleman out with me took one weighing 2 lb. 11 oz. I believe a gentleman at Dockett Pointt took several ledgering for barbel last season —James Haslett.

[The above was too late for last week.—Ed.]

Thames (Goring).

A very high flood here. Water rising very fast. I helped to kill Mr. Bossin's pig in the punt, in the middle of the river, at Gatehampton Ferry on Thursday. —J. Rush.

Thames (Oxford).

The country around Oxford presents the appearance of an inland sea, intersected with houses, ricks, and trees, and even if a spell of fine weather should set in, of which at present there seems very little chance, it will take, roughly speaking, at least a fortnight or three weeks before the Thames and its affluent stream the Cherwell are restored to a fishable condition. I took a walk last night after 11 p.m., to Magdalen Bridge, which spans the two branches of the Cherwell. The flood-water was level with the banks of the Water Walks, and was rushing with a deafening roar through the arches nearest the college, in a brown, discoloured, seething mass, on which the moonlight glinted and played, in continually changing flashes of coloured light. At the other end of the bridge, which is in course of being restored and widened, the stream had overflowed the dam, playing sad havoc with the newly-laid foundations and completely stopping the work. During the night there has been a rise of six inches, and I am informed by an inhabitant of the Friars that it has not been so high since the year the Duke of Wellington died. I have heard of no damage save that early this morning the employés of Messrs. Hale and Co. were hastily summoned to assist in removing the flour from the ground-floor of the Castle Mills, the water having risen over the dam. When the water on the inundated meadows begins to assume its normal colour and condition, we shall see the puntsters hard at work amongst the fish which have taken refuge in the flams, but that will not be for some time yet. The present season, as far as sport is concerned, has not been a very remarkable one, owing to the high water at the commencement; we did very little execution among the chub, even the infallible crayfish tail had apparently lost its charms. Mr. Peek had a few good catches of carp, which are very plentiful in the Cherwell. Mr. Chas. Harman, when I last met him, informed me that he had just completed his twenty-fourth brace of jack. Mr. Dickinson has also enjoyed good sport amongst these fish, taking several brace of a fair size, in addition to losing a veritable monster of the deep, which, after keeping him occupied for some time, at last made a dash for a bed of rushes and succeeded in making his escape. Mr. Butler, also, in the same water, captured a fine perch, which turned the scale at $2\frac{1}{4}$ lb. In the narrow stream between the Hythe Bridge and the Castle Mill, a most unlikely spot, a man named Busby captured a large pike weighing 12 lb., and good bags of roach were also taken. Mr. Joseph Gynes was charged at the City Court, on Friday week, with using a drum net. I am sorry to say that, to the surprise of everyone, Joseph escaped with a fine of 5s. and costs. I think it a great pity that, after this, the latest display of his peculiar talents, as the magistrates had it in their power, that they did not give him free lodgings for a short period at the elegant castellated building on the New Road, where, in the healthful and innocent occupation of shot drill and oakum picking, Joseph would have learned that there are other people besides Satan who can find work for idle hands to do.—U.

Thames (Twickenham).

Wind S.W., and raining in torrents. Last night (Wednesday), tide was the highest we have had for some time past, it being 30 inches in the upright higher than it has been for several years. We have not attempted any fishing since last Sunday, when Jack Spong took Messrs. Jacobs, of Covent Garden, and "Our Joe" took Messrs. Jacobs, of the Borough Market. Jack getting the start, took the "Oak Apple Pitch," and managed to capture 3 dozen good fish, while "Our Joe," after working hard the whole day in the "deep," just saved himself from a blank, it being impossible to get a swim with such heavy land water coming down; but I am pleased to say this contest is to take place again when the river is in fishing condition, and I shall not be surprised to see the Borough piscatorials take the laurels, for "skill" will tell against luck.—Alfred Perrin.

Torridge (Torrington).

Torridge river has had the biggest flood this week for the season. This will be the making of the fishing, for there will be no lack of water, and hundreds of the spawning fish will find their way to the spawning beds, all making good for the next season's fishing. Three peel were taken last Saturday morning; since then the river has been too full. If not much more rain good fishing may be looked for next week.—Practical Angler.

Trent (Alrewas).

Angling has been at a complete standstill since my last report, neither is there any likelihood of a recommencement for at least a week under the most favourable circumstances. The water to-day (Thursday) is reported all over the meadows for miles, from the almost phenomenal storm of last Tuesday.——James Gregory.

Trent (Newark).

A very heavy flood is now sweeping down the valley of the Trent, hundreds of acres of meadow land are now submerged, and as a natural consequence, angling is entirely out of the question. The valley of the Trent looks like one vast lake, only trees and hedges visible above the wild waste of waters. The latest news is that the water to-night (Thursday) is still rising at Nottingham, and if this is the case a very disastrous flood will be experienced down here.—The Trent Otter.

Trent (Nottingham).

Angling operations have been at a standstill during the week. The river is flooded for miles, and was on Thursday scarcely reachable. I have no items whatever to communicate excepting the Wellington Hotel Association had a most successful dinner on the night of the 20th. Mr. Eddowes, clerk to the Trent Conservancy Board, attended, and made a capital speech in reference to the doings of the board. He also dealt with the question of the pollution of the river, and mentioned that during the year three or four salmon licences had been taken out, in addition to seventy licences and twenty previous salmon licences.—The Man at the Clubs.

Wharfe (Yorkshire).

Owing to a continuance of high waters and inclement weather, grayling fishing has been at a complete standstill during the past week. I heard of a fine grayling scaling 1¼ lb. being taken near Otley with fly, but beyond this nothing worthy of notice has come to hand.—Francis M. Walbran.

Witham (Boston).

Very much as was predicted, the river and the drains had run down towards the close of last week, sufficiently to allow of a little angling; but rain again on Saturday settled the question, so far as the Witham was concerned. On Monday it was running high, with a stream like a mill race, and the larger drains had become quite as bad, for, though the stream was not as strong decaying weeds and other material were running with it, and therefore it made angling almost impossible. By getting out of the way of eddies, and exercising care close to the banks, some respectable roach takes were had however, and it was not altogether a blank week. Probably by the time this is read things will be much better. Some of the best takes since my last occurred on the South Forty Foot. A couple of anglers caught 180 roach including some fine fish; another 75 roach and two pike; another 2¼ lb. roach, and so on. On the Bargate Drain some good roach fell to Mr. Tooms, Mr. Short, and others, besides a good pike of 6 lb. At Mount Pleasant there were some good pike taken, and I have heard of some rare eels being taken at the sluice.—Yellow Belly.

Wye and Derwent.

Last Tuesday we had a very heavy fall of snow, accompanied with rain, which caused both rivers to be in flood on Tuesday night, which quite put a stop to angling till to-day (Thursday), when the bottom fishers all up and down the Derwent have done well, both amongst grayling, roach, and dace, both maggots and cockspur worms being freely taken. The cleach net party killed a few fish with their nets on Tuesday night on the Derwent. Sport, both on last Saturday and Monday, was fairly good on the Derwent, the bottom fishers killing some nice dishes of good-size grayling. Fly fishing has been *nil* since my last report. There will be no good grayling fly fishing on either rivers before another week or ten days, as both rivers are very full. I quite agree with Francis Francis's remarks about flies in the *Field* newspaper.—George James, Eaton.

Yare (Norwich).

The weather has been most unfavourable for the angler during the past week; the early part one or two had fair sport amongst the roach at Buckenham; but the heavy rains and the storm of Tuesday last have made things very unsatisfactory. The stream at Norwich to-day (Thursday) is over its banks in one or two places. The tide is high, and the waters still coming down the valley from the Upper Wensum. The prospects are not at all good unless a speedy change comes.—Robert Moll.

Yore (Hawes).

As predicted in my last, the river rose by Sunday. On Monday I caught a few grayling with the small red roadside worm, well scoured. I hear of several decent catches being made with the same bait. I may give a hint to those about to commence grayling fishing with a float:—As soon as the float goes, strike sharply and steadily; I scarcely ever miss striking a fish that draws my float under when I follow the advice given above. Many runners that are now full of water are very destructive to spawning fish, inasmuch as they are dry the greater part of the year. Fish ascend them in the spawning season, and, owing to the scarcity of water after the autumnal flood, both fish and spawn perish. I should advise gratings to be fixed at the mouths of such runners. I am convinced much good would be done by such a course. I think I have never seen as many fish on the spawning beds in a runner close to my residence as there are at present. When fishing for grayling the other day, I caught two female trout that had evidently shot their spawn and returned to the main river. I take this to show a very forward season next spring. The water is in splendid fly trim.—Joseph Corry.

Yore (Lower waters).

Heavy floods have prevented anglers from trying their hands at grayling fishing during the past week; but previously to that one or two good dishes were killed with the little red worm. On one occasion a local hand had fourteen nice fish. The present state of the river will conduce, no doubt, to the easy ascent of the salmon to the upper portion of the river.—Francis M. Walbran.

CLUB REPORTS.

AMICABLE BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Arnold, roach, 8 lb. 8 oz.; Mr. Larkman, one bream; Mr. Binks, one jack, 2 lb. 5½ oz., perch, ½ lb.; Mr. Howlet, one jack and one roach; Mr. Medcalf, one jack, 1¾ lb., and one perch, 1 lb 9½ oz.; Mr. Carrington, dace, ½ lb.; Mr. Dwelley, roach and dace. The members will fish a pegged-down match, in the river Colne, on the first Sunday in November, for nine prizes.—J. Worledge.

Oct. 22.

ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Since my last report I beg to acknowledge with thanks the following donations:—£1 1s. Great Northern Brothers, £1 1s. Good Intent, 10s. Mr. Snook, Good Intent Angling Society; 7s. 6d. G. Laxton, Silver Trout Angling Society—R. Ghurney, secretary.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND PISCATORIAL ASSOCIATION.

The annual dinner of the members and friends will take place at the Grand Hotel, Colmore Row, on Thursday next, November 2, at five o'clock. Oliver Pemberton, Esq., F.R.C.S., the president of the association, will preside.

BRISTOL GOLDEN CARP ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

On Monday last, October 23rd, the above association held their third contest for the year, which took place at Bradford on Avon. The weather being anything but favourable the members were asked before leaving Bristol if it would not be better to postpone it for another week, but the show of hands soon told that they intended to be gallant and "stand the storm," and so they proceeded on their journey. The pegging out and judging arrangements were carried out by that venerable fisherman Mr. I. Inch, who was much complimented for the manner in which he performed his duties. The competitors numbered 34, and succeeded in bringing home a creditable catch of fish—considering the weather. The fish were hampered and brought home to the club house to be weighed in where the members assembled to know the result. The duties of weighing were most satisfactorily accomplished by Messrs. Wride, Haddon, and Inch, after which the members partook of refreshments and a most enjoyable evening was spent. Appended are the names of the successful competitors in order named:—Mr. R. J. Box, J. Hadden, A. Matthews, J. Clements, G. Pain, J. White, R. Mallet, G. Trickett, W. Harrison, W. Cox and E. Tippitt tie, A. Helliar, W. Bryant and J. Shadwell tie, J. Hacker, W. Hives and W. Froome tie, J. A. Everett H. Inch and H. Sparks ties, F. Cornish, F. Withers, J. Brown and A. Hamilton tie, H. Warr.—Lewis Wride, sec.

CARLISLE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

A number of gentlemen met on Wednesday, 25th inst., at the Queen's Head, Amelia Street, Walworth Road, and resolved to form a new angling society; they determined to name it the Carlisle Piscatorial Society. Anglers and gentlemen wishing to participate in the benefits derived from being a member of a club are requested to leave or send their names to host Fotheringham as soon as possible, as the number will be limited. Meeting nights on Wednesdays and Sundays at eight, when the attendance of brother anglers will be appreciated.—Esox Lucius.

Oct. 25.

COBDEN ANGLING SOCIETY.

This young and flourishing society fished their fourth match of the season on Sunday last at Bourne End. There were nine prizes contested for but only six were secured. The result was as follows:—Mr. Reeves, 1; Mr. Weeks, 2; Mr. Hallows, 3; Mr. Wilkinson, 4; Mr. Jenkins, 5; and Mr. Tame, 6.—C. Reeves, sec.

DUKE OF NORFOLK ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above club move to their new quarters on November 8, the Ledbury Arms, Ledbury Road, Bayswater, when the members will be pleased to see as many as can can make it convenient to attend the inauguration.—J. Avon, sec.

Oct. 19.

GOOD INTENT SOCIETY.

The members of this club fished at Waltham on Sunday last for twelve prizes, but only five were taken, the first by G. Robinson; Maybury, second; Haines, third; J. Baker, fourth; H. Winter, fifth; the remainder are to be fished for next Sunday, the members to go where they like. I am pleased to say the members voted £2 2s. to the Thames Defence Fund, and £1 1s. to the Anglers' Benevolent Society. A concert will take place at our club house on Monday, November 6, on behalf of Mr. John Bell, a member of our society, who has been laid up several weeks, as the death of a child and other misfortunes coming upon him during his illness our club benevolent fund is not sufficient to meet the case.—R. Murphy.

GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

The next Central Association return visit will be held at the Robin Hood, Southampton Street, Pentonville, on Tuesday, October 31.—J. A. Fitch, jun., sec.

Oct. 26.

GREAT YARMOUTH PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The above society held its weekly meeting at 9 p.m. on Monday, when several gentlemen were duly elected members The subject of renting waters by the society was freely discussed by A. Mitchell, Esq., the president, and other members, and no doubt by the opening of the angling season of 1883 we shall be able to have one piece of angling water under our jurisdiction. We have received several replies from our London members promising to attend our dinner of the 2nd Nov. Fish weighed in were only from one, Mr. Bennett, five jack caught at Ormesby by him on Friday. Total weight, 19 lb. The weather has been very much against good sport.—James Lark, sec.

Oct. 2, 1882.

HAMPSTEAD ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several of the members were out on Sunday, when Messrs. C. and W. Messenger brought in some very fine barbel, roach, and gudgeon from the Thames, several of the other members coming home with a blank.—W. B., sec.

Oct. 23.

JOLLY ANGLERS' CLUB (LEICESTER).

Fifty of the members of this club sat down to an excellent supper at headquarters, the Earl of Leicester, Infirmary-square, on Friday. Mr. Chamberlain, the host, provided the repast in his best style. After the cloth nad been drawn Mr. W. Marshall took the chair, and Mr. J. Cave the vice-chair, and the prizes were given to the successful fishermen, as follows:—For perch: 1st, Mr. J. Q. Hardy; 2nd, Mr. W. Marshall; 3rd, Mr A Dudgeon. For roach: 1st, Mr. M. Hayfield; 2nd, Mr. H. Starkey; 3rd, Mr. C. Pole. For dace: 1st, Mr. J. Spencer; 2nd, Mr. G. Appleby. For chub: 1st, Mr. Cave. For bream: 1st, Mr. G. Broadhead. For whitling: 1st, Mr. D. Sheriff; 2nd, Mr. Jas. Cave; 3rd, Mr. A. T. Chamberlain. For pike: 1st, Mr. Neal; 2nd, Mr. G. Chamberlain, senior. Mr. H. Starkey proposed "Success to the Jolly Anglers," and songs were given by Messrs. Marshall and Pole, and the evening was very enjoyably spent.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

Some of the members of the above were out last Sunday and weighed in fish as follows:—Mr. Wightman, some nice jack; Messrs. Petrie and Scott, nice show of roach; Mr. Keene, nice show of jack.—W. H. Evans, sec.

ORIGINAL ALEXANDRA ANGLERS.

The following members weighed fish last night. Messrs Dymond, senr., Tiffin and Newton, some good jack; Messrs. Blackledge and Lowndrow, roach. Mr. Dymond, junr., had a brace of fine jack, and Mr. High had some roach and jack. We fish a match on Sunday next for several valuable prizes—go-where-you-please.—E. Dymond, sec.

ROYAL GEORGE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Considering the unsettled state of the weather (if such consistently bad weather can be so described), the members of the above society evinced a decided objection to seeking their Sunday's sport very far afield. Several who tried Richmond and the locality were moderately successful among the dace. The society boasts of one member, Mr. C. Chart, an ardent and indefatigable sportsman, who proved a brilliant exception to the general rule. Nothing can deter this gentleman from endeavouring to charm the finny denizen of the deep—or shallow—he is not particular. On this occasion he has upset the familiar proverb anent going farther and faring *wusser*, as he succeeded in taking at Pangbourne 12 lb. of roach, two of them together going over 2 lb. This, considering that the muddy state of the water would have suggested a spade as being a more fitting means of procuring fish than a rod and line, must be considered exceedingly good fishing. Charmed with his success, Mr. Chart once more set forth to try his luck at the same place on Tuesday. Defying alike the wind, the rain, and flood, he launched his frail craft on the heaving bosom of our old Father Thames, a short distance above the weir, and casting anchor, commenced operations, but found all his endeavours to make his line assume any position, other than one parallel with the surface of the stream, were futile. Pausing to consider what was best to be done under the circumstances, he hoisted his umbrella as some protection from the constant fusillade of hailstones, but speedily regretted the rash act, for that sometimes useful article was caught by a sudden squall and torn to pieces, the boat was broken from its moorings, and was rapidly carried towards the roaring waters of the weir. The utmost exertions with the sculls was insufficient to retard the rapid backward progress of the boat, and at that supreme moment with a watery grave literally staring him in the face, with the falling torrent roaring, hissing, and boiling within a few feet of him, with the spray tossed upwards on the howling wind like the arms of water phantoms eager to clutch their prey, it is stated by reliable eye-witnesses that Mr. C. Chart's countenance assumed an ashy greyness. Those who have the honour of that gentleman's acquaintance will fully appreciate the awful state of mind requisite to cause such a phenomenon. Had it not been for a friendly eddy which fortunately carried him within reach of an equally friendly bough, by means of which he hauled himself ashore, it would in all probability have been my painful duty to chronicle a far different termination to what was really a most dangerous mishap. N.B—There is a moral to this, although, unlike the writings of the knowledge-crammed Æsop, it is no fable.—C. W. W. Bernhardt, hon sec.

Oct. 25.

THE GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

At the meeting of this society at Masons' Hall Tavern on Tuesday last, D. A. Darling, Esq., presided. The river reports all represented the water out of order, and fishing prospects poor for the next week or ten days. Among the members who have taken fish since last report are Messrs. Edward Bennett, A. Jardine, and W. T. White. Mr. Bennett took five pike at Ormesby Broad, largest $5\frac{1}{2}$ lb., weighed by the Great Yarmouth Piscatorial Society. Mr. Jardine, who arrived after the meeting had closed, weighed in four pike, from private water, the largest $9\frac{1}{4}$ lb., the smallest 5 lb. 12 oz., and a perch 1 lb. 15 oz. Mr. White had a barbel from the Thames; Mr. Behrend and other members have also taken fish. Messrs. E. Wheatley and Henry Temple were ballotted for, and unanimously elected. Mr. Crumplen reminded members that all applications for space in the Great International Fisheries Exhibition, 1883, must be made not later than Wednesday next, and trusted that private individuals, as well as societies, would send some of their choicest specimens. Several members expressed their satisfaction that the society met at Masons' Hall Tavern, and members will doubtless now attend frequently in large numbers. Mr. A. W. Parker's paper on "An Anglers' Parliament" will be read on Tuesday, November 7, when a good discussion may be anticipated, and in which secretaries of other societies or gentlemen interested in the subject are welcome to take part. Microscopical and musical reunions will also be shortly held, thus adding to the interest always attending this society's meetings.

THE LARKHALL ANGLERS.

The first of the winter series of smoking concerts originally established by this society took place in the club-room, the Larkhall Hotel, Larkhall Lane, Clapham, on Wednesday evening, October 18. The room was well filled with seventy members and friends, when a varied and attractive programme was creditably carried out. Mr. G. F. Spencer, the popular president of the club, occupied the chair, and was supported amongst others by the following gentlemen, well known in the piscatorial world:—Messrs. B. Boyce, E. Mallett, C. Davison, C. J. Morris, H. Kite, W. Creak, F. Boyce, J. English, F. Keny, F. Crontel, and J. Green. A general regret was expressed at the absence of Mr. W. H. Brougham, who was unavoidably prevented from being present. The musical proceedings opened with a selection from "Il Puritani," given by Mr. Hallé, late of the Royal Aquarium, Westminster, after which Mr. Mallett sang with very good taste "Ah che la Morte" from "Trovatore." Mr. Marshall followed in a very telling manner with "If Doughty Deeds. Mr. Lovatt received some genuine applause in his rendering of "Phillis is my only Joy." The stirring ballad of "The Brave Old Temeraire" was most effectively given by Mr. Lockwood, who later on sang "The Skipper's Bride." Mr. Moore was well received in "Never More." Mr. Gordon Laurie, who is a special favourite on these occasions, caused roars of laughter in his singing of "That Awful Little Scrub" and "Father Molloy." Mr. Vagolini received flattering recognition of the way in which he sang "Flippity Flap," which was quite "too utterly utter." Mr. Boddy's recitation of "The Stroller's Story" was a great treat, and Mr. Broadlake throughout the evening was a tower of strength. Other gentlemen rendered good service, prominent amongst them being Messrs. Claud Hamilton, Davis, Hallé, &c. The Larkhall Anglers are in a state of high prosperity, and the success is mainly due to the indomitable perseverance of Mr. G. F. Spencer, and the energetic efforts of Mr. E. M. Mallett as honorary secretary.—B.

TRAFALGAR ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this society who were out on Sunday last were not successful in getting many fish, only three weighing in: Mr. Wilson, 2 lb. 8 oz. roach from New River; J. Gaze, 2 lb. 9 oz. roach; R. Gaze, 1 lb. 8 oz. roach from the Thames.—J. Gaze, sec.

Oct. 23.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

The October competition, up to date, is as follows:—1st. Mr. Bansback; 2nd. Mr. H. Dale; 3rd. Mr. R Cain. The last Sunday in November is appointed for the Sawbridgeworth competition with the South London. Members wishing to take part in it must communicate with Boalch not later than Thursday next. A smoking concert will take place at the St. Paul's Tavern, Westmoreland Road, Walworth, on November 8, for the benefit of Mr. W. Brown. Chairman Mr. W. Taylor; to commence at 8 p m.—Pixie.

WELLINGTON ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

Last evening the annual dinner of this, the most flourishing association in Nottingham, was held at Mr. S. F. Bestow's, the Wellington Hotel, Station Street. Mr. F. Warsop presided, and was supported by a large and influential company, including Mr. C. K. Eddowes, of Derby, clerk to the Trent Fishery Board.—The usual toasts having been given, Mr. S. Sills proposed "The Health of Sir Henry Bromley," the President of the Wellington Association. Mr. Sills alluded to Sir Henry's great generosity in the matter of fishing, and said he only regretted that of late he had suffered so much from gout. He was a true type of an English nobleman, and he could only have wished that he had been amongst them that night. (Applause.)—The Chairman proposed "The Health of the Trent Conservancy Board" and enlarged on the benefits which it conferred upon anglers as a body. He was pleased at that meeting to see Mr. Eddowes present. Mr. Eddowes had done a good deal for fishermen, and doubtless in the future he would continue to render his valuable assistance.—Mr. Eddowes, who was cordially received, stated, in response, that the Board did not interfere with the powers of riparian owners. They possessed jurisdiction from the Humber to Trentham, and desired in every possible way to preserve and protect fish. In fact, their sole object was preservation and protection. As to salmon the Acts now were different to what they were sixty or seventy years ago. But even now they were, to some extent, contradictory and difficult to understand or comprehend. Then, with regard to the question of the pollution of streams, he was looking forward to better things as regarded Burton-on-Trent, Leicester, Tamworth, Birmingham, and Buxton. Official inquiries have been held at Tamworth and Buxton, and the right as to the Wye had been successfully fought out. He trusted soon to see the Trent free from pollution, especially in the matter of the upper waters. In trout fishing he wished to mention, as showing the success of the cheap licences, that between 3,000 and 4,000 had been issued, that nearly 70 net licences had also been issued, and that 20 salmon licences had been taken out.—Mr. H. Coxon (*Nottingham Express*) was asked to propose "Success to the Wellington Association"—Mr. Coxon replied to the call, and the other toasts were: "The Donors of Special Prizes"; "The President, Vice-President, Hon. Secretary, and Committee"; "The Host and Hostess"; and "The Visitors."—The proceedings throughout were highly enjoyed.

P.S.—We have had a splendid season, more fish being weighed in than we have had for several seasons previous. I send you the weights of the first and second in each class:—Barbel, 1st, 8 lb. 2 oz., 2nd, 6 lb. $1\frac{1}{4}$ oz; roach, 1st, 1 lb. $11\frac{3}{4}$ oz., 2nd, 1 lb. $6\frac{3}{4}$ oz; dace, 1st, $10\frac{1}{2}$ oz., 2nd, 10 oz.; bream, 1st, 4 lb. $7\frac{1}{4}$ oz., 2nd, 4 lb. $7\frac{1}{4}$ oz.; perch, 1st, $14\frac{3}{4}$ oz., 2nd, 14 oz.; chub, 1st, 4 lb. 2 oz., 2nd, 3 lb. 4 oz. I have sent Mr. Morgan some information about anglers at Nottingham. Don't know whether it is for your paper?—S. S.

WESTBOURNE PARK PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The morning of the 22nd inst. was but a continuation of all night's wind and rain, and many a one, who sleeps half Sunday away, would wonder how anyone could turn out before daylight with pleasure, and hope depicted in his countenance, and walk a mile or so against wind and rain, and defying the weather, sit him down in a field on the bank of the Thames with the determination of sport or no sport to remain thereabout till the shades of evening compels him to depart. Yet such an one may know about twenty of our members did so, inspired by a love of the sport and a friendly competition, and to show the vagaries of fishing are like those of fortune. The winner of the 1st prize may as well left off at breakfast time, having by 8 o'clock landed 7 barbel weighing

15 lb., the largest 4 lb. 5½ oz., the largest of the season, and though he tried on for nine mortal hours not another touch could he get. The following was the result of match: 1st prize, 50s., Mr. G. Hulbert, 7 barbel, 15 lb.; 2nd prize, 30s, Mr. S. Oatley, 3 barbel, 7 lb., 5 oz.; 3rd prize, 21s., Mr. Perkins, 3 chub, 4 lb. 5½ oz., also 1 eel, 2 lb. 9¼ oz.; 4th, 18s. 6d., Mr. Pink, 1 barbel and gudgeon, 3 lb. 14 oz.; 5th, 15s., Mr. Adeane, roach, perch, and chub, 3 lb. 7½ oz.; 6th, 10s., Mr. H. Hulbert, 1 barbel, 2 lb. 15 oz. The above were taken between Bray and Cookham, in the tidal waters. The heaviest take was Mr. Yarham with 1 lb. 14 oz. of dace.—**Geo. Evans**, chairman.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. B. R., Leeds.—We have only seen the ordinary Acme line with the interwoven wire, and cannot speak from experience of the "new centre wire" Acme line; but it is not correct to call the latter "new," as lines of all kinds with centre wire (like a core) have been made for years past by the Manchester Cotton Spinning Company. The novelty in the Acme line consisted in plaiting the very fine wire in with the silk.—Ed.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

PEGGING v. CORKING.—MALE AND FEMALE PIKE.

Sir,—Allow me to tender "The Trent Otter" my most sincere thanks for his very able explanation in your last issue.

The only query with which I feel I can scarcely agree with him is No. 4, when he says, "Do not operate on a swift stream if you can help it when trying this pegging business."

Since your last issue, a Trent fisherman has informed me that fast swims (in fact, the faster the better) are the very best places on which to perform, and more especially for barbel, in July and August.

But may not this Trent fisherman be wrong, and mean corking for barbel? If so, will "The Trent Otter" kindly explain the difference between the two styles? In corking for barbel, is not a rather heavy weight used, with a float to match, called a corking weight and shot almost entirely dispensed with?

Also, will "The Trent Otter" kindly inform me by what distinguishing mark you can tell a female from a male pike? I have had a most terrific argument with a man "who knows," and I am not at all satisfied with the result of the contest.

How many times and oft have I heard anglers say what a fine female fish, or what a splendid male fish, who have known no more about it than you know of a person you have never seen.—I am, &c., Mark Antony.

[In order to answer Mark Antony's query we consulted many standard English, French, and German works including Yarrell and Couch, and in none of them could we find any description of the difference in external appearance between male and female pike. Some writers say the male pike is much smaller than the female, and does not grow so fast, but this is not much help. Then we wrote to Mr. Jardine, and are much obliged to him for the following reply, with which we entirely agree, and may say that we distinguish the fish in the same way.—Ed.]

HOW TO DISTINGUISH MALE AND FEMALE PIKE.

Sir,—In reply to yours of this date. I distinguish the females from male pike by their being much more elegant in contour, bodies rounder and deeper, heads shorter and therefore prettier, eyes not so hungry and savage in expression as the males, who always have longer heads and lanky bodies, with, as a rule, hollow bellies, as if a good dinner would do them good. I can invariably distinguish their sex by general appearances, and the experience gained by a long career of angling. After January it is comparatively easy to tell a "spawner" from a "milter," by squeezing the belly down to the vent, when either ova or milt will exude. Females invariably are much the larger fish, one of 15 lb. frequently "pairing" with a 9 lb. male. A similar sort of thing as to relative sizes now and then occurs in the human family. As to the weights and dimensions of notable female pike, I contributed, a few months since, a short article in reply to some queries which appeared in the Fishing Gazette on the above-mentioned subject.—I am, &c.,

A. G. Jardine.

HERR A. JARDINE UND DIE HECHTE.

Sir.—Two friends accompanied me last Saturday to a fishery which shall be nameless. There was plenty of wind—the water in perfect condition—and it proved, as I thought it would, a likely day. We caught 23 pike weighing 115 lbs., the six largest from 6¾ lb. to 10 lb. each. In addition, I got a perch of 2 lb. and 1¼ lb, and part of the above catch were weighed at "The Gresham," last night, *i.e.*, Tuesday.—I am, &c. A. G. Jardine.

THAT BIG PIKE.

Sir,—In your issue of October 7, I noticed the heading of "A Big Pike," an account of the capture of a fish measuring 3 feet 8 inches in a private pond in Kent.

I was passing through Brenchley in Kent the day after a fish had been taken out of a pond close by, which measured this exact length; but I was horrified to hear that some gentlemen had been down three or four weeks previously and laid trimmers in the pond, with the result that this fish had hooked himself and broken away with the gorged hook in his maw, and was ultimately taken by the keeper with a "boat hook" as he was labouring through the water almost dead.

I cannot, of course, say this was the same fish, but as there are very few private ponds in Kent, and this fish happens to be the exact size, I imagine it to be the one—more especially so as no answer was given to your query as to its weight, for through being half starved it only scaled just over 22 lb., whereas it should at least have been 30 lb. I was also informed the fish had been sent to the gentleman who "took it" (?) in London to be stuffed.

I am trespassing on your space this much because I think it is high time (even in private waters) that sportsmen (?) should discontinue the use of poaching implements such as trimmers, &c.—I am, &c.,

A Lover of Fair Sport.

GUT v. HAIR.—IN FAVOUR OF HAIR.

Sir,—"Come to my arms, my beamish boy," I mean "H. S. H."—for I could embrace him for the delightful style in which he withdraws from the controversy—without advancing a single argument against what I have said in support of hair. There are many reasons why his false analogy No. 2 cannot be correct. We advocates of hair would never think of using it in the Hampshire streams, where "three and four pound trout" are of everyday occurrence. And if hair will not do there, there is no reason why it will not do in other streams. I never heard such logic as this. Really one must be excused if a little sarcasm does ooze out now and then. I might with as much truth denounce gut, because some of it is thicker than hair, quite as reasonably as a writer condemned all hair because some he had curled. Would you put all dogs down because some went mad, or hang all human beings because some of them are murderers? Such, Mr. Editor, are the species of argument we hair supporters have had hurled against us. I hope we in the North of England have a better opinion of "H. S. H." and similar correspondents than he appears to have of us. He must not come here to find people acting in a certain way because "it is the thing" or the fashion so to do. This is just where he is peculiarly unhappy. We follow our own tastes and inclinations, using that tackle which proved to be best, which we, as a rule, make ourselves. We know what is required and stick to it. The fashion for certain rods or certain hooks or certain flies, which there are people would have us change, as we change the cut of our garments—not that we are any better for the latter, but because it stirs up trade a bit—does not influence us a bit. We fish, and are successful, and can always catch trout when anyone can. But I must stop else I shall be overrunning my reel, and perhaps get my line entangled. Sprint.

[P.S.—I was glad to find you, Mr. Editor, having such excellent sport amongst the grayling. Nothing would have delighted me more than to have been present at the capture of the 2½ lb. trout. I fancy about that time I was engaged with a salmon, probably an eighteen pounder. He made a terrific rush to the far side of the river, showed under the rocks, darted up stream a bit, and though I lowered my rod into the water, fouled my main line on a tree-bough hanging over, and being some six inches in the water. The line stuck, the fish turned, going like an express train, though more rapidly, right down stream. Still the line held, and fast the fish went. The eventful moment came. I looked at my reel, only a few more feet of line, fish still going. That ominous click, all the line out, a gigantic roll on the top of the water, about eighty yards away, and all was over. I slowly wound up the line which, being minus the fly, slipped quietly and easily through the boughs. The strong salmon gut had parted about a foot above the fly.]

THE GRESHAM AND GROSS WEIGHTS.

Sir,—My reply to "Roacher" is a very plain one. I am not responsible for "Ye Cripplegate." No such quantity of roach was shown, or weighed-in by, the Gresham Angling Society, on or near the 7th inst.

"Roacher's" error may have arisen from my giving the society some particulars of an exceptional take of roach which Mr. Wheeldon very kindly supplied me with, and of which that gentleman afterwards gave an account himself. These fish came from private water, and twenty of them weighed-in all 30 lb.; surely these were specimen fish, although not weighed in with us.

The views of the society have in no way changed in the direction indicated by your correspondent; on the contrary. our weights have been in most cases raised, and when our prize list appears (if any are given) this will be very apparent.—I am, &c., T. Crumplen

THE GRESHAM SOCIETY AND GROSS WEIGHTS.

Sir,—I notice in your last issue a communication from a correspondent signing himself a "Roacher," but who ought more properly to call himself a "Carper." The report in question (and to which reference is made in your own paper under the Gresham Society report last week) was in "Ye Cripplegate" as follows, under the head of Gresham Angling Society:—"Amongst other takes reported were the following:—Mr. J. P. Wheeldon, 80 lb of roach, taken on Saturday, October 7, 20 of them weighing over 30 lb., &c., &c." For this information I may say that these fish were not weighed in or even shown at the Gresham, but Mr. Wheeldon, being one of the honorary members, had a perfect right to inform the secretary, if he so chose, that he had caught certain fish; and if he was sufficiently skilful to do so, I cannot see any valid objection to his taking any number of large roach, even if, as your correspondent says, "the take is as much as the best Lea cracks weigh in at their clubs in the nine open months." I fancy the grapes are rather sour, for I was not aware that the Lea roach fishermen had fallen off so much in their well-known skill.

With regard to his polite term "puff" applied to the paragraph, does he mean of the Gresham or of Mr. Wheeldon? The notice was precisely the same as all other club notices in your own paper, as in others devoted to kindred topics, and I fancy you would be one of the first to disclaim any such term if used to such notices.

If, however, a "Roacher" or any of his friends can at any time secure a good take, I can safely promise him the same sort of "puff" if he will forward particulars to yours truly. Alpha.

Angling Editor, "Ye Cripplegate."

[We understand that Mr. Wheeldon did not take 80 lb. himself; he took 60 lb., and another rod 20 lb. For our own part we should very much like to be credited with such a splendid take of fish.—Ed.]

THE GRAINING.

Sir,—"L. B." in last week's "Club and Other Jottings" says he should like to have a specimen of the graining. These fish are found in the river Alt, near here, and last Saturday I went there for the express purpose of fishing for them. I succeeded in taking one only, which I should have sent to "L. B." had I known his address. I shall be having another try in a short time, and if I take any one shall be sent "L. B." if he will say where to. The one I got last week weighed 6 oz., and was a beautiful specimen and in first-class condition. These fish are delicately shaped, with a small head, and have a brilliant silvery appearance, and are altogether a handsome branch of the family of fishes.—I am, &c., R. Woolfall, hon. sec.

Strawberry Hotel, West Derby Road, Liverpool.
October 25th.

THE SIZE OF EXE FISH.

Sir,—I am perfectly satisfied respecting the dish of fish in question, as no one appears to have seen any such fish but Mr. Witney, not even the man who Mr. Austin quoted as having landed the largest, and am sure Mr. Austin must be indebted to young Mr. Witney for coming forward to substantiate his statement. Mr. Austin has rewarded him by calling him "second to none" on the Exe, which is decidedly open to question, in spite of Mr. Austin's diploma. Mr. Paine's, jun., letter is quite outside the mark. Mr. Austin's discovery of drawn gut and small flies, as well as dry fly fishing in fine still water, seems to have been made somewhat late in life: the art was well known and practised in the Exe for years past. I myself prefer wandering along the river, varying the scenery, and fishing the stickles or wherever I can get in, to standing on a rock doing the to and fro dry fly business, which I consider most monotonous, and certainly I get more fish. I will promise you, Mr. Editor, not to trouble you any more, and will leave every fisherman to follow his own taste, the practical worth of each style being known to me.—I am, &c.,

Brobdignagian.

TENCH IN THE THAMES.

Sir,—About five years ago Mr. Francis Francis originated an idea of increasing the stock of both carp and tench in the lower Thames, and in this movement he had my co-operation, and the result was that out of one pond alone in the Home Park there were, as far as my recollection serves me, nearly 200 tench removed into the Thames, besides some from the other ponds.

In June, 1879, Mr. Thomas Spreckley sent from Hampshire, out of the Avon, by the kind permission given to him by the Rev. F. Fane, 42 remarkably fine tench, which were placed in the Thames between Shepperton and Staines; and if the angling clubs will defray the expense I am quite sure Mr. Spreckley would only be too pleased to get even a larger quantity.

Amongst the large stock of fish that were brought from the ponds of Earl Amherst, at Sevenoaks, in November, 1879, there were a considerable number of tench.

In some of the nettings after a flood tench have been found, but not in great numbers.

I remember some years ago netting a back water at Laleham, to remove some stray jack and perch in the main stream; we found in the net a very fine specimen tench, the weight of which we estimated at 6 lb. It was remarkably clean and a handsome fish, worthy of preservation, but I gave instructions for its return to the river.

It not infrequently occurs in the weekly angling reports of tench being taken at Walton by the bank Anglers—I have known as many as three in a week. Last season some were caught at Hampton Court.

There are tench in the "City waters," and in no inconsiderable numbers. No one fishes for them, and those that have been taken are undoubtedly accidental captures.

W. H. Brougham.

October 24, 1882.

NETTING THE ASSOCIATION'S WATERS.

Sir,—I understand through the club to which I belong that the W. L. A. A. F. S. have lately rented a piece of water known as Springwell Lock, at Rickmansworth, a portion of which, I believe, is the river Colne, and the other portion, the canal, through which monkey boats navigate; and, wishing to know more about the water before paying it a visit, I made enquiries in town, and, as luck would have it, met a native of Rickmansworth, who is a fisherman, and, in answer to my enquiries, he told me that it is a very good piece of water, about one and a half miles in extent, and contains some very fine roach; but, said he, the boats are continually passing, and they net it to such an extent that it is scarcely worth fishing. I asked if there was not a keeper there to prevent the netting? and his answer was a smile—and it was a smile—just such a smile as you might expect to see in answer to an absurd question; but certainly I did not think I was asking an absurd question, but I could read in that same smile that there is no one there to prevent netting, and if there was, he could not stop it. I consider it my duty, as a member of the society, to make this report known to Mr. T. Hoole, but I prefer to do so through the medium of the Fishing Gazette, with your kind permission, so that all my brother anglers may see it; and if any of them can deny the truth of the report (which is entirely hearsay), I should be very pleased to know it, but I am sorry to say I can find no reason to doubt it, judging from where I obtained my information, and I have heard subsequently that these monkey boat inhabitants systematically net the water by dragging nets behind the boats. Surely, this wholesale netting of such a good piece of water can be prevented, if not, what use is it to the angler? Perhaps Mr. T. Hoole will kindly answer this letter.—I am, &c.,

The Red Fisherman.

[We sent this letter to Mr. Hoole, and append his reply.—Ed.]

"12—10—82.

"Sir,—This is the first I have heard of the water in question being netted.

"Mr. Neave, the late renter of the water, informed me that there was no possibility of its being netted without detection. He lives on the spot himself, and the keepers are always up and down the banks.

"We are just going to post the whole of the Colne and Canal rented by the society with our bills, offering rewards for the capture of poachers and all persons using illegal means to capture the fish.

"It is a good water, and we mean to protect it.

"You will always find some one who will state rivers are netted, but who can never prove it in one instance.—I am, &c.,

"T. Hoole,
"Hon. sec. W. L. A. A. F. S."

[Having fished the water referred to several times, we can fully endorse the statement that it is a good piece of water and holds good fish, and—wants carefully watching!—Ed.]

GREAT YARMOUTH PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Sir,—I have the pleasure of informing you that we shall hold our first dinner of the above society on Thursday, November 2, at the Victoria Hotel. We shall always consider that it was mainly due to your kindness in noticing our efforts in your columns that has brought the society before the public in the manner it is, and which, from all appearances, will eventually become one of note.—I am, &c.,

James Lark, sec.

[The above, which is accompanied by a very kind invitation to the dinner, is a pleasing letter to receive. We have helped to establish a great many clubs both in London and the provinces, and *some* of them have acknowledged our assistance in the matter. Every town in England should have its angling club and then the fish would get better protection.—Ed.]

HOW TO MAKE FLIES.

Sir,—Will you or some of your readers, through the pages of the Fishin Gazette, kindly put me into the way of learning to make my own flies? This i my first year at fishing, and of course I have nearly everything to learn; but I am very anxious to be able to make my own flies. Is there any book on the subject to be had? Or how do people set about learning to make them?

I take the Fishing Gazette, and will gladly accept any information which you or any other gentleman will be kind enough to give me.—I am, &c.,

Matlock Bridge. A Greenhorn.

[We should advise "A Greenhorn" to take lessons from some flymaker, as being by far the best and quickest way to learn how to make flies. There are dozens of books on angling which profess to teach the art. The best book on the subject is "Blacker's Art of Fly-making," with coloured plates, price 10s. 6d. Mr. Ogden Smith, of Winchcomb Street, Cheltenham, publishes a little work which gives very clear directions in fly-making.—Ed.]

WHAT IS A "ONE-ROD COMPETITION?"

Sir,—Can you or any of your numerous readers inform me what constitutes a one-rod fishing competition?

Is it fishing with one rod, and another on the bank ready put together for fishing, with line and hook attached? Or the first rod be taken to pieces before another rod is unpacked?—I am, &c.,

A Club Member.

[This depends, as in shooting, on the rules of the match, we should think; but doubtless "Pixie" can tell us the club etiquette on this matter.—Ed.]

THE MANCHESTER AND DISTRICTS AMALGAMATED ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION,

Dear Sir—In your issue of October 7th, there appears a letter signed "Trout," which alleges that the Salford Anglers' Club, by its rules, allows the members to weigh in trout during close season.

I beg to inform the readers generally of your paper, and "Trout" in particular, that this statement is not true, as a resolution was put to the members at a meeting held early in the present year and carried unanimously, "that no member of the Salford Anglers' Society should in the future weigh in for prizes any trout, char, or grayling during fence months."

Whilst admitting that the District Association is perfectly justified in upholding the law, and using every means which its rules allow, to put down the practice of angling for or exposing for sale any kind of fish during its own particular close season, our members are decidedly of opinion that they would be doing better service in putting some life into the matter of getting an extension of time for anglers' travelling cards, &c., than that its members should go to such trouble in writing to you such a misleading letter respecting our club.

If "Trout" would have taken the trouble to send a copy of his letter to our secretary before sending it to you, the matter would have been fully explained to him.

In conclusion, our members are decidedly of opinion that each society has a perfect right to frame it own rules and bye-laws to suit its own position, so long as they conform to the laws of this country respecting angling for salmon, trout, char, and grayling, and to the laws of the Board of Conservators of any particular river, brook, or canal they are entitled to weigh-in rough fish from, even if such time be during a close season.

I may mention that the trout referred to by your correspondent was caught in strictly private water.—I am, &c.,

Walter Ashworth, President.

Salford Friendly Anglers' Society, October 26.

GROUNDBAITS, OLD AND NEW.—DECREASE OF FISH IN THE THAMES.

The "Trent Otter" is quite right in his advocacy of a simple ground bait for roach. "It is all moonshine," saith this Trent sage, "to say that ground bait is no good," and I endorse this dictum most heartily. More especially is ground bait necessary in the still water of lakes or the comparatively stagnant water of canals. If possible, however, in the case of these kinds of happy fishing-grounds, the enticing preparation should be thrown in over night, so that in the "silent watches" the ever hungry roach may find the baited spot. I had a plan when I used to fish the canal at Boxmoor which answered splendidly. Hemel Hempstead, which is close by, has one public-house to every three private ones, or thereabouts, and consequently brewers exist in plenty. Of course, there was no difficulty in getting fresh "grains," and I used to procure and throw in a couple of gallons overnight, fishing with creed malt or wheat in the morning. It was necessary, of course, to spread them somewhat, so as to mark the course of a swim. The result has often been a 20 lb. bag of roach, which I am certain would be unattainable without previous ground baiting. By the bye, would "Trent Otter" mind putting me in the way of obtaining one of the Witham bleak? A "willow blade," whitling, bley or bleak—as the fish is variously termed—of 3¼ ounces would indeed be a specimen fish.

* * * * *

I incidentally remarked in the above note that I agreed with "Trent Otter's" simple ground bait. Antithesis suggests antithesis, and I am reminded of the fearful and wonderful ground baits and lures recommended by the anglers of yore. Here are a few:—Assafœtida, oil of polypody of the oak, oil of ivy, oil of peter (query, What, oh what is oil of peter?) and gum ivy—mixed into a paste. This, I presume, is for roach. For gudgeon in a clear stream and trout in a muddy, "John Richardson Gent," writing in 1740, recommends assafœtida, 3 drachms, camphire 1 drachm, and Venice turpentine 1 drachm, these to be heated together with a few drops of oil of lavender and oil of camomile. These are of course ridiculous, but then the authors existed in the "dark ages," so to say, of bottom fishing. The late Mr. Mechi, of Tiptree (who was a splendid fisherman, if not an entirely successful farmer), told me he never employed other ground bait than bran and bread thrown in of the size of a large marble, fishing with bread paste, and I know his takes were sometimes very great.

By the side of that simple ground bait fancy Blakey (author of the "Angling Literature of all Nations," &c.), recommending the following unspeakable mess :—Take a quantity of well-cooked veal, a handful of oatmeal, and a little honey; bruise them in a mortar, mix into a batter or thin paste with new milk and a few grains of assafœtida. Crush down in a mortar a quantity of worms, slugs, gentles, and some lumps of the most tallowy cheese you can find, thicken the veal batter with this compound and then roll it up into little balls. These balls must be thrown into a compost of tallow-greaves and grains steeped in bullock's blood, and the entire composition sunk in the selected spot some hours before fishing. What think you of that, "Trent Otter?" It reminds one of the famous specific for all internal diseases, of which some of the early English physicians thought so much, Venice treacle. This was compounded of some thirty-five drugs, some of them absolutely antagonistic to each other in their operation.

* * * * *

Was it not Charles, the Merry Monarch, who asked the Royal Society (or is the story entirely apocryphal?) why a globe of water weighed no more after the introduction of a fish than before? After much ponderous consideration, the same learned pundits found they couldn't tell. The answer should have been, "Is it so?" I am reminded of this by the title of Mr. Crumplen's paper before the august Balloon Society in council assembled, "The Causes of the Decrease of Fish in the River Thames." "Is it so?" I ask, to an extent demanding complaint against the magnificent industries of the lower Thames. And is it a fact that the non-tidal waters are being so seriously decimated by extraneous agencies, in view of the 8000 members of angling clubs, not to mention unattached anglers? Is it, I ask, finally, so necessary for every club to follow the example of the Gresham (of which Mr. C. is secretary) in the rejection of all but specimen fish, as Mr. C.'s weighty remarks would seem to imply. For my individual part, I think a great deal of exaggeration is often indulged in in respect of the decline of the Thames, and hence little practical outcome is the result. Why is it that the excellent project of Mr. Marston anent a "Coarse Fish Cultural Association" was not referred to as decidedly the concentration of all Thames preservation? This note is nothing but interrogatories, and I don't expect complete answers; and beyond all, Mr. Crumplen must not suppose I refer to him in any tone other than that of deference and respect.

* * * * *

Of course, Thames fish become less as they are caught, but they breed enormously, and I am not sure that the thinning out process is not to the benefit of the river. There are less jack than formerly—good! and all the better for roach and dace and the rest of the non-preying fishes; but don't hear that barbel are less numerous, or perch or chub. If they are, breed more in suitable places and stock your beloved stream, but don't limit the growth of commerce or the pleasure of others, unless you are quite certain by doing so you are conferring the "greatest good on the greatest number." Even then let it not be forgotten that minorities should be considered by the gentle craftsman.—Chub Chavender.

[Oil of peter must be petroleum or stone oil we should think. If we are not mistaken Mr. Crumplen did refer to coarse fish preservation.—Ed.]

HOW A LOBSTER SHEDS ITS SHELL ENTIRE.

Your able correspondent, "Chub Chavender," in the last issue of the Fishing Gazette, kindly asks me the above question, which I will now endeavour to throw some light upon, if I do not exactly fully explain the same to C. C's wishes. During the past forty years I have had some thousands of lobsters through my hands, from Norway and Scotland, also English, the latter of which are the lightest in colour, and for size the lightest in weight when boiled, taking the size into consideration as compared with the Norway and Scotch. Of these two latter countries I have never seen a lobster's left off suit of armour, but of the former, I have seen many. In fact, upon several occasions, when taking them from the furnace after being boiled, the old shells have parted freely from the head and tail, under which the new soft shell had formed, but the legs still retained their old original gaiters. But I am digressing, and cannot do better than quote my dear old tutor, Frank Buckland, whose pupil I was for sixteen years, they run thus: As a watch case contains much delicate and complicated machinery, so does the back shell or carapace of crabs and lobsters contain many highly complicated and wondrous structures. The lobster is somewhat similar in its anatomy to the crab. In the crab and lobster the skeleton is external, in fact they may be said to live inside their skeletons, or, if you please, natural armour, the joints in their harness being beautifully adapted for offence and defence. The covering is composed of a skin more or less hardened. The "dermo skeleton," when once completed, undergoes little or no further change. It is adapted to the increasing size of the body by being periodically cast, and entirely renewed at such periods as the body grows too large for its case, in fact they grow by moulting their shells. The shell of a crab when about to be cast off, is split along the underside of the body, from the mouth to the tail, and the line of division is plainly marked in the shell of a full-grown crab. The crab is enabled to draw his claws through the narrow opening of the point where the claws join the body by the curious fact that the shells split just at this point. The shell of the lobster also cracks at this point, and the length of a seven inch lobster immediately after leaving its shell would be eight inches, and after it has shed its shell once, it grows half an inch in the barrel each time. In Mr. Buckland's museum is the shell of a lobster, which could not have been more than an hour in being cast, as the attendant when going to dinner left one lobster, and when he returned there were apparently two.

Professor Bell, in his "Stalk-eyed Crustacæ," states that when the animal, by gradual internal increase, has become too large for its existing covering, it ceases for a time to feed, and retires to a secret and undisturbed spot, where it may undergo the process in security. If examined at this time an evident loosening of the crust may be perceived, upon pressing it gently in different parts. Shortly it appears restless and uneasy, rubbing its limbs against each other, and moving the segments of the body in various directions. It throws itself upon its back and swelling out its body, ruptures the membrane which connects the carapace with the abdominal, and raises the former so as to loosen its attachments. Resting from time to time, after its laborious efforts, it finally detached the whole thoraco abdominal portion, from which it withdraws itself, having disengaged the legs and the antennæ, the eyes and other appendages.

It is impossible to imagine that the crust of the legs, and especially the large claws, could be cast off, unless it were susceptible of being longitudinally split, and Réaumur states that such is actually the case. Each of the segments being composed of two longitudinal pieces, which, after separating to allow of the passage of the soft limb, close again so accurately that it is very difficult in the cast crust to discover the line of division

Mr. C. Spence Bate, in his "British Sessile-eyed Crustacæ," states: The process appears to be the result of an internal growth of the animal, which, becoming too large, the skin splits at the margin of the dorsal and sternal arches of the three anterior segments of the pereion, the inferior arch carrying the legs, inclusive of the coxæ.

The anterior segment of the pereion extends over the posterior margin of the cephalon; at this point the attachment is broken anteriorly, and the lateral disunion of the three segments allows the upper surface to be raised as a movable lid, through the opening of which the animal escapes from the old integuments. With some exertion, the posterior portion of the body together with the limbs are withdrawn, after which the head and anterior members are removed, and the entire animal is free from its old exuviæ, which resembles a dead individual, left in its old position.

Mr. W. B. Lord, in his "Crab and Lobster Lore," also tells us that when these crustacean corselets are getting too tight for them, they manage by some extraordinary means to extricate themselves from them, but it is a work of time and trouble, the body appearing to dilate within its prison walls, until the coffer-like cover formed by the shell slowly and by degrees gives way; the membranes one by one are torn asunder, the muscular tissue filling up; the large claws and pincers undergo a softening process which admits of their being drawn through the constrictions, between the joints, and the crustacean and his old garments part company at last, and like Professor Owen, their longings are for a new skeleton, and like that gifted anatomist, rest not until one is obtained. Unlike the page, who, in complete suit of armour accompanied his noble master to the Holy Wars, and, as the legend goes, returned after years of absence a dwarf, from having nothing else to wear, our crustacean friends are more prolific in expedient, as will be seen by those who investigate.

Frank Gosden.

DO EELS TAKE FLIES?

Some summers ago I was staying at Ringwood with the late Mr. H. L. Rolfe, the artist. We were beside the Avon in the meadows below the bridge, the day was broiling hot, and we were lying resting after some hours' spinning, enjoying a pipe and some whiskey well watered from the stream, when my companion called my attention to a constant snapping noise which evidently proceeded from a bed of floating weeds, which had caught the branch of a partly submerged tree. "Do you see," said Rolfe, "that cloud of gnats which are hovering and dancing in the air above that mass? The gnats are laying their eggs, which are fructified in the water." "But," I remarked, "surely the gnats do not make the noise we hear." "No," rejoined the scaly painter, not a little to my surprise; "that noise proceeds from eels, who are, with their heads just above the surface, feeding on the insects whenever they come within reach of their jaws." Expressing my incredulity, like many another who hears of a thing for the first time, Rolfe took the salmon landing net, and wriggling, *a la* Chippway Indian, snake-like on his stomach, approached within reach of the spot, when, rapidly thrusting the net a little below the floating mass, he brought ashore three fine eels, at least 1½ lb. each. He told me he learned this dodge from a keeper of Lord Malmesbury's, of Heron Court; that it was only to be practised in very hot weather, when these insects were dropping their eggs, and that, although he had often taken one or two eels in that manner, this was the first occasion he had got three, which he attributed to the extra size of the landing net and the greater length of its handle.

Creel.

Worms in Dogs.—"Wokingham, July 5, 1866.—I have used 'Naldire's Powders' for ten years, and have never known them fail in a single instance.—C. J. Bastin." "Naldire's Powders" are also a splendid alterative, keeping dogs in excellent condition. Price 1s., 2s., 3s. 6d., and 5s., of all Chemists, and of Barclay and Sons, 95, Farringdon Street, London.

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THAMES ANGLING PRESERVATION SOCIETY.

Arrangements were made by the committee of this society to make a practical inspection of the portion of the Thames between Staines and Richmond on Friday in last week and a few friends of members of that body are permitted to accompany them. The "Duchess of Connaught" steam-launch, provided by Mr. T. G. Tagg, of East Moulsey, was to be ready at the Pack Horse landing stage at Staines at eleven o'clock, to convey the party quietly down the river, but just below Penton Hook Lock some weeds got into one of the valves in the machinery, and it was found necessary to put the fire out to remove the obstruction, and after that the steam had to be got up afresh before the launch could proceed to Staines. Mr. Alfred Nuthall, who was on board the steam launch, had to walk a distance of two miles to inform the committee of the cause of the delay, and instead of starting at eleven o'clock, as arranged, it was exactly one o'clock before a start could be effected. During the interval, however, the party sat down to a bread-and-cheese luncheon at the Pack Horse Hotel; and the worthy proprietor, Mr. John Bright, jun., was not only very attentive to his guests, but volunteered to get the steam up of his own launch, and run the committee down to Penton Hook. There was, however, plenty of time to do the distance comfortably to Richmond, and it was apparent from the condition of the water and the heavy stream that was running rapidly down, the practical part of the journey would be completely defeated, as neither anglers or fishermen would be out. The first call was made at Chertsey Bridge, to look over the fish farm belonging to Mr. James Forbes, and to see his fine stock of fish. Unfortunately, Mr. Forbes was confined to his room with his old complaint, and could not give the visitors the kind attention he always does, but he sent them out some lubrication, and all drank heartily to his better health. The next call of a few minutes was at the Ship Hotel, Halliford, which is a favourite resort for piscators. As there would be a delay at Sunbury in getting the launch through the lock, the interval was filled up with a look at the rearing ponds now kept up by Mr. Spreckley for the benefit of the Thames, but the water was so much coloured that it was impossible to see the youngsters that now remain in it. The only other call that was made was at the Island Hotel, the proprietor being the owner of the steam launch; but this did not occupy more than ten minutes, and then the vessel steamed comfortably down to Richmond, where it was timed to arrive at half-past five o'clock. Exactly at that time the party landed a little above Richmond Bridge, and they then proceeded to the Station Hotel, where arrangements were made to dine at six o'clock, and with the well-known punctuality of the hostelry, all was ready at that hour. Mr. Thomas Spreckley occupied the chair, and Mr. R. B. Marston the vice-chair. There were also present Messrs. F. H. Lemann, A. J. Little, Hickson Briggs, A. Nuthall, C. P. Wheatstone, H. B. Eyre, T. R. Sachs, F. C. Hatfield, and W. H. Brougham as representing the committee. The visitors were Messrs. B. Perelli-Rocco, T. Nash, John Wotton, N. Wotton, T. Norman, Harrison, and Main. Letters of regret at their absence were received from Messrs. P. Geen, W. A. Crump, F. C. Clench, W. G. Barnes, J. R. Berry, Alfred Jardine, John Knechtli, J. Pattison, and Joseph Andrews. The dinner, which was placed on the table by Mr. John Munro, gave the greatest satisfaction, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all present. It was served up under the personal superintendence of Mr. Munro, and he was highly complimented on his catering. Several toasts were given, and the speeches were of a thoroughly practical character. After the loyal toast, Mr. Hickson Briggs proposed "Success to the Thames Angling Preservation Society," to which Mr. Spreckley replied. Mr. A. J. Little gave "The Vice-Chairman," and it was acknowledged by Mr. R. B. Marston. Mr. Alfred Nuthall proposed "The Secretary," and Mr. W. H. Brougham responded. The Chairman gave "The Visitors," coupling the name of Mr. Thomas Nash, who replied; and Mr. T. R. Sachs proposed "The better health of Mr. and Mrs. Forbes." Some capital songs were given by Messrs. T. Spreckley, T. Norman Harrison, Main, B. Perelli-Rocco, and others. The party did not break up until the closing hour of eleven o'clock. The entire expenses of the day were defrayed by the committee and visitors.

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Views of the Wharfe, Bolton Abbey, &c., may be obtained at the office of this paper.

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P.S.—If fishermen would send for the Roach Rod in Winter, or now I have a few ready, could send them at once.

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Fishing Rod Maker and Gut Merchant.

JOHN W. MARTIN,
("THE TRENT OTTER")
(Author of "Float Fishing and Spinning in the Nottingham Style"),
No, 4, NORTHERN BUILDING, LOVERS' LANE, NEWARK, NOTTS.,

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JOHN STONE, Secretary.

On OCTOBER 25th will be Published
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ROYAL AQUARIUM.—Open 12 0 noon, Close 11.0 p.m.—PROGRAMME for THIS DAY:

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2.30 5.30	The Javanese Gamelan (special performances)	7.30 9.30
3.0	The Three Almontes	10.45
3.15	The Troubadours	10.30
3.45	Victorelli Brothers—Musical Clowns	9.15
4. 0	The Elegant Tilly Family	8.30
4.15	Napier and Alexandra—Double Bars	10.15
4.30	Astarte	8.45
4.45	The Lenton Brothers—Acrobatic Act	9.0
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5.15	Transfield Troupe—Acrobatic Act	8.0
5.30	The Beckwiths in the Annexe	9.30
6.0	Organ Recital by Mr. Albert Lowe...	—
—	Francois—Globe Act	10.0

Admission ONE SHILLING.

BALLOON SOCIETY of GREAT BRITAIN.—ROYAL AQUARIUM FRIDAY LECTURES.—Subject, this Evening (Friday), Oct. 27, "Harbours of Refuge," by F. Johnson (the Fisherman's Friend). This lecture will be held in the annexe to the Aquarium; entrance opposite the Abbey. Members of the National Lifeboat and the Shipwrecked Fisherman's Societies are requested to attend and take part in the discussion. The chair will be taken by Sir Harry Verney, Bart., M.P., at eight o'clock.

ROYAL AQUARIUM.—REFRESHMENT DEPARTMENT.—The newly-appointed ANNEXE GALLERY is NOW OPEN. Table d'hote daily from six to nine, 5s. per head, including admission to Aquarium. Entrance in Broad Sanctuary.—BERTRAM and ROBERTS, Contractors.

NOTICE.

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., must be addressed to the Editor of THE FISHING GAZETTE, *No.* 12, *Fetter Lane, London, E.C.* and should reach the office not later than Tuesday morning.

Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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⁂ The "FISHING GAZETTE" SPINNER (Registered) is sold by all the above firms.

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N.B.—All Remittances must be sent, and all Cheques and Money Orders must be made payable to Messrs. SAMPSON LOW, MARSTON AND CO., the Proprietors.

The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1882.

THE GREAT INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION, LONDON, 1883.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

THE date for closing the list of applications for space has been extended to the 25th of November.

The Executive Committee of the Great International Fisheries Exhibition, London, 1883, have received from many quarters intimation that the Regulations 16, 17, and 29*, are productive of inconvenience to the Exhibitors of Small Collections, or Single Objects. They therefore desire to announce that, in case any Exhibitor may be unable by himself or his Agent to provide for the care of his Exhibit on its arrival, the Committee will, if they think fit, undertake the care of such Exhibit, subject, however, to the proviso in Regulation 40.†

N.B.—Any Exhibitor desiring to avail himself of this privilege, should apply not later than the 25th of November, 1882, by letter, addressed to

THE SECRETARY,
Great International Fisheries Exhibition,
24, Haymarket, London.

In order that a Special Label may be sent to him to be attached to the Exhibit.

By Order of the Executive Committee,
J. W. MOLLETT,
Secretary.

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* *Exhibitors or Agents to receive Own Goods, &c.*

(16) Each exhibitor must provide, either personally or through an agent, for the dispatch, transmission, reception, unpacking, and arrangement of his goods, and for the verification of their contents when unpacked. If neither the exhibitor nor his agent be present to receive the packages on arrival at the exhibition, the carrier will be directed to take them away; but should any goods be deposited in the exhibition premises during the absence of the exhibitor or his agent, the committee will not be responsible for any loss or damage from whatsoever cause arising.

Foreign Packages.

(17) Packages from foreign countries must likewise have painted on them in distinctive marks the letters I. F. E. in red paint. They must be addressed to the exhibitor himself or his agent. They must all be marked in such a way as to show distinctly from whence they come, the name of the country and the number of the exhibitor being painted legibly thereon.

Exhibitors to Keep Stands Clean.

(29) Exhibitors will be required to provide all necessary attendance, and to keep their stands and exhibits properly cleaned and in good order during the whole period of the exhibition.

† *Non-liability for Loss or Damage.*

(40) The committee will not hold itself responsible for any loss or damage occurring to any exhibit from any cause whatsoever, but while declining any responsibility it is the intention of the committee to take such precautions as they deem necessary.

A large and influential meeting of the Manchester Anglers' Association was held on Friday last, at the Albion Hotel in that city.

The meeting was addressed by Mr. Oldham Chambers, of Lowestoft, on behalf of the Great International Fisheries Exhibition, who explained the objects of the movement and the sympathy that is being felt in it throughout our Colonies and Foreign States generally.

The speaker stated that it was by important associations like the Manchester Anglers and influential gatherings like the present, the executive hoped to awaken public interest in the exhibition in the country.

A meeting of the Council will be held in a few days, when it is anticipated active measures will be taken to promulgate the general interest of the exhibition in the city.

FISHING ROUND BIRMINGHAM.

BIRMINGHAM is not a fishy place, that is to say, there is no really good angling in the immediate neighbourhood free to the ordinary fisherman who cannot or does not belong to one of the few exclusive societies which rent and preserve various parts of rivers and pools.

Why should there not be an association here, similar to the one in London, to rent, stock, and preserve waters, obtain railway privileges for its members, devote part of its funds to the culture of so-called coarse fish, and further angling interests generally? An association to which rich and poor alike might belong.

There are several good rivers within easy distance of this town, which, with the assistance of two or three intelligent keepers and the expenditure of a comparatively small sum of money, could be converted into anglers' Paradises. As it is, they are fished, wired, poisoned, netted, and sometimes dynamited, to a fearful extent. The Avon, to wit, miles of which could be rented for a ridiculously small sum.

If any other Birmingham angler should read this and be of the same opinion, let him communicate with me through the editor, and perhaps something may be done for next year.

Now to attempt to give a short account of one or two places which are available to an angler, not a member of any club. There are the Corporation Waterworks Reservoirs, the fishing in which is reserved for members of the Town Council and by their kindness, respectable inhabitants may obtain an occasional permit. The *modus operandi* being for the applicant to obtain from a Councillor a recommendation to the very worthy chairman of the Water Committee, who will, most probably, give him a permit for self and one friend. The fishing in these reservoirs is, on the whole, good; but by some strange oversight of the powers that be, there are no rules as to the size of fish takeable. Much to my disgust, I have seen large baskets of fish, perch and roach, from three to four inches in length taken. Given a strict rule as to the size of fish to be retained, and the fishing would soon become very good. Ground baiting is prohibited.

There are several pools in Sutton Park, a few miles from town, in which fishing may be obtained on payment of a fixed sum per day, but the fish are wily and difficult to catch, though occasionally an angler is fortunate and succeeds in doing, as a friend of mine did last autumn, taking 60 lbs. of tench, single handed, in one day. In at least two of these pools, I am sorry to notice, that abomination of all sportsmen, the trimmer, is in use frequently.

Besides these, there are many ponds and pools in the vicinity, which are well known; but, unfortunately, all to which the public have access, suffer from a distressing scarcity of fish, attributable to a variety of causes, chiefly retaining very small fish and never restocking.

After all, pool fishing is a slow affair and not to be thought of where a river is accessible.

As regards rivers, we have the Severn, Avon, Trent, Cole, Tame, and many others within thirty miles.

To commence with the Severn. The fishing in many places is free and in some very good, especially for chub and occasionally trout, for which a licence is required. Two free places I will mention where, I may remark, Sunday fishing is allowed; the first Holt Fleet, five miles above Worcester, and seven miles by road from Droitwich Station. Here I have taken and seen taken many splendid chub, and the proprietor of the hotel on the river bank is very clever at capturing fine trout below the weir. This hotel I can recommend to anyone visiting this spot, as being comfortable in every way, beautifully situated, and most reasonable in charges. The proprietor is most obliging, and will give anyone information respecting the fishing.

The other place on the Severn which occurs to me is Arley, near Bewdley, a station on the London and North Western Railway; here the Valencia Arms Hotel is situated on the river bank, and is a most desirable resort for the angler. The river here abounds with dace and chub, the latter of which gives a most excellent winter sport. At Arley still remains one of the few ferry boats of olden times. The scenery between here and Bewdley is almost unsurpassable for rural beauty, wooded banks rising to a great height on either side of the river.

There are many other fishing stations on the Severn, of course. I have contented myself with mentioning two, which are sure to please anyone visiting them.

The Avon, alas! thou beautiful but ill-used river, since the immortal bard dwelt upon thy leafy banks and perhaps dipped his line into thy crystal bosom, sad changes have come over thee. Not but what thou art still beautiful, but the finny treasures have departed, prey to the depredations of sewage and the poacher, and want of proper protection.

There are fortunately still some places in the upper parts of the river where good sport may be obtained; one only I will mention, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, five miles from Brandon, the next station to Coventry on the London and North Western line; here fishing may be obtained in the waters belonging to Ryton Flour Mill, Mr. James Price, the proprietor of which will, I feel sure, give anyone particulars who will write him, enclosing a stamped envelope. I have on several occasions had capital sport here, taking on one day thirteen pike.

The other rivers and fishing stations near Birmingham I must leave for the present.

If I have given any information which may lead anyone to spend a day or a few days at either of the places I have mentioned on the Severn or Avon, I only hope that he may leave them with as pleasant memories as I have, and feel as thankful as I do that there are places within easy reach of a large town where a man may go and forget his business or professional cares for a few hours or days, as the case may be, and at the same time indulge in the most harmless and enjoyable sport imaginable.

AVON.

A FIRST EXPERIENCE WITH BLACK BASS.

OUR love for angling dates back to a boyhood spent in the lovely valleys of Hertfordshire, where we often took jack and large perch in the streams running into the Grand Junction Canal, at a time when this canal was famous for its fine fishing. Our vaulting ambition craved the largest jack, the finest roach or dace; often lucky enough to get some good fish, oftener laughed at by friends for coming home empty-handed! We remember taking a 3 lb. pike at the confluence of two streams close to Frogmore Mills, and lived on the glory for months, until the younger brother of the young lady I was courting, eclipsed me one evening by landing a big fellow weighing nearly 7 lbs.; but he broke his rod and line above the float, and only by jumping into the stream waist deep did he manage to catch his line, seize the fish, and somehow throw it ashore.

A few years residence in the States, an extended acquaintance with fishing and sporting journals, a warm friendship with genial American fishermen, and we again "went a-fishing," but this time for black bass; we put him at the head of the list because to indulge in salmon fishing we must journey nearly 1000 miles ere we can wet our flies in a salmon stream, and to find a good stream with trout in it, we must travel from 300 to 400 miles; but in all our live streams, in all large lakes fed by bottom springs, or that have small creeks running into them, there both species of the bass will thrive, and if given a fair chance will increase and multiply.

We intended spending our summer holidays up near a chain of lakes that connected with one another by a winding and tortuous river, the whole chain being 65 miles long. Friends had written us: "Bring some fishing tackle along, for Torch and Elk Lakes have some fine black bass in them, and you can get some good fishing." Behold us then a few days after in a leaky, loggy punt, tossing up and down on the waves on Torch Lake, as we near the mouth of Torch River, and get into the stream the lumpy water calms, and we catch sight of numbers of bass, lying close to the edge of the channel bank, watching for any unfortunate minnow that may drift into the current. They are a bold, predacious fish, but they do not stay for you to look at them. We cannot stay to fish here, for we have some miles to go up to another lake; so landing on the peninsula, and leaving our boat, we push along up the wood-road into the clearings, to our destination. We stay for the night at our friends of the Clan Campbell. Though many years from auld Scotia, they are true Scots, and gave us a royal welcome.

The son, Alec, is one of nature's gentlemen—a braw lad, leal in his friendships, and never tiring of his task to entertain the guests of the family. He procured boats for us, and was our guide and willingly took the oars, piloting us to the best fishing grounds; we rigged up our tackle and fished with a revolving spoon, making the casts from the bows of the boat, sometimes laying out 30 yards of line in Thames style. We found our spoon did not sink deep enough, so putting on an ounce sinker we could cast out all the line we wanted. We fished some time without a sign of a strike, and began to think all the bass had vamoosed from Elk Lake. Alec said, "Cast on both sides, alternating them." We did so, when all at once up came a big fellow clear out of the water, and gave a double spring back; we saw the gleam of the plated spoon, but did not dream we had hooked him, in fact, he had hooked himself. Down he went into the water; our line had one turn around the forefinger—we soon knew this, for in his mad rush he came near taking forefinger along too—down he went taking yard after yard of line. Suddenly he changed his tactics, and came straight for the boat. Alec shouted, "Look out, now, lead him around the bow of the boat, or he'll smash your rod for you; he's a whopper."

We lead him around, steering clear of the boat and oars, and he tries another mad rush, shorter this time. As we tighten the line on him he sulks; we pull, giving him all our rod will bear, this starts him, Fortunately for us, our trace is fine gimp; had we a gut trace on he would have flouted his tail at us; while our line is taut he suddenly springs into the air and comes down across the trace with all his weight, but it holds, and as we pull in he weakens and turns on his side, played out; the landing net is slipped under him, and we gather him into the boat. Phew! but are not the spines in his dorsal fin sharp? We had taken him up to get the hook out of his mouth, somewhat clumsily, perhaps, he elevated those spines and our hand at the same time, drawing blood from each hole the spines went into. My friend held him up and dropped him as quickly as a hot cake, then cracking his head with a heavy cane and killed him. Taking the hook from its mouth we change the the bait, putting on a helgramite (vulgaris, hellbender), locally named Dobson, a very taking bait, though a species of water-bug, and dropping over the rear of the boat while we scaled and measured our bass. He was over 18 inches long and about $4\frac{3}{4}$ lb. weight; pretty good for the first bass.

But what's the matter with my line and bait, something is going off with it like fury, the moment a dead strain comes on the line, up the gentleman comes, shaking and wriggling as tho' fighting mad; into the air he jumps—the same trick—it must be something peculiar to bass. I am getting nervous with this style of fighting fish, but due care and watchfulness brings him to the boat, another four pounder. An hour's fishing and no bass, so putting on a trolling spoon we row down the lake, about a mile, to a spot called the Narrows, always a noted bass fishing ground. Here we strike another one, small to be sure, but still a good one. I begin casting again and we can almost reach the channel banks on either side. The bottom of the lake is covered with sunken logs and limbs of trees, the bass know it, I fought one here for about ten minutes; he was determined to make for his hiding place. We wanted him, and objected to any such proceedings, and strained rod and line to the utmost, and finally brought it in; we have eight bass that weigh 30 lbs., this is enough; the sun is getting hot and bass won't bite under a garish sky, so we pull for the Campbell's and get dinner, then spend the afternoon in the fruit garden and orchard.

Since that time we have spent many days fishing for these gamey fellows; they will take almost anything that will swim—minnows, helgramite, smail green frogs, artificial flies (if made in pronounced colours) field mice when crossing a river, and even a small water snake; but a choice tit-bit is the small cray-fish, that can be found in fresh water. Stick one of these on your hook, and if any bass are in sight of your bait when it goes down wriggling you can just expect some fun.

Perhaps some one may say, "How large have you seen them caught?" An Indian friend caught one in a stream he leased and stocked with spawners that measured 26¼ inches from the snout to the forks of the tail, and 18½ inches around the body in front of the dorsal fin. We cut a paper profile from a piece of Manilla board, and filled in the fins and markings, sent it to a friend on the Board of Trade. It was pinned to the desk of a prominent member, and marked thus "Holabird's Whale, a St. Joe River black bass," weighing 6¼ lbs.

In conclusion, would say, if some fishing club would put into Tring reservoirs 25 adult bass, and protect them for three years, after that you could not fish them out. I am certain all the streams from Berkhampstead, around Boxmoor, the Little Bourne and the Gade, would in time be benefited by this one planting. They know how to take care of themselves, and no fish swimming protect their spawn and young fry as the black bass does.

I must confess that I fear the Roach and Dace would suffer, and your interesting correspondent "the Thames Fisherman," would be inclined to grumble about them; for they are as pugnacious as an Englishman, as cheeky as a Yankee, and will whip any fish of their weight that swims, but in losing the roach you would gain a gamier fish, far preferable both for the rod and the table.

W. D. TOMLIN.

Chicago.

NOTICES OF BOOKS &c.

NEW PUBLICATIONS FROM MESSRS. CASSELL & CO, LUDGATE HILL, LONDON.

"Greater London," by Edward Walford. Illustrated. Part I. Price 7d. with map.

This promises to be an extremely interesting publication, consisting as it will of profusely illustrated descriptions of the country, towns, and villages, within a radius of about 20 miles of Westminster—from Cheshunt in the north to Leatherhead in the south, from Erith in the east to Staines in the west. With Part I. is given a coloured map, over 600 square inches in size, which alone is well worth the money; indeed, we can strongly advise every London angler to get this map, and we notice that the publishers reserve the right to discontinue to supply it after the expiration of six months. Part I. is so interesting that everyone who purchases it will desire to have the whole work. Mr. Walford's name is a guarantee of its accuracy and picturesque style.

"The World of Wonders," a record of things wonderful in nature, science, and art. Illustrated. Part I. Price 6d.

The contents of this part will give our readers a clear idea of the nature of the work. 1. The Rotation of the Earth. 2. Remarkable Dreams. 3. Giant Cuttle Fishes, 4. Extraordinary Fingernails 5. The Bird Hermit—Life Saved by a Hen. 6. At Sea in a Coffin. 7. Ice and Water. 8. The Suez Canal. 9. Electric Machines. 10. A Monster Water-lily. 11. The Wonders of the Heart. 12. Bird and Insect Warfare. 13. Adam's Peak and its Shadows. All these articles are finely illustrated and the type, printing and paper leave nothing to be desired.

"Our Happy Family." Being the Little Folks' Annual for 1883. Price 6d.

Anyone who desires to please the little folks,—and who does not?—can most surely do so by presenting them with this charmingly illustrated interesting children's annual.

"Cassell's Almanac for 1883." Price 6d.

This year's issue of this old favourite fully sustains its reputation as the best sixpenny almanac published. It is profusely and well illustrated.

Part II. of Cassell's "Familiar Wild Birds." Price 6d.

This second instalment is in every way equal to the first, of which we spoke very highly some time ago. In this part we have most beautiful coloured representations of the bullfinch and starling. By the way, makers of flies, both amateur and professional, would find this work an invaluable aid in the selection of feathers of various colours.

NOTICES OF RODS, &c.

From Mr. J. W. Martin (the "Trent Otter"), 4, Northern Buildings, Lover's Lane, Newark.

The "Trent Otter" is an old, well-known and valued contributor to this paper; his writings have proved that he is thoroughly well acquainted with all the various branches of the art of bottom fishing and spinning. Messrs. Sampson, Low, Marston, and Co. are about to publish a work on the Nottingham style of fishing by him, which we can confidently say is an extremely useful one. Mr. Martin has recently started in business as a fishing rod and tackle maker. He sends us one of his new "Working-man's Rods" for full particulars of which we refer our readers to his advertisement in our columns. Considering its very moderate price we do not think that there is a better bottom fishing and spinning rod than this in the market, and are quite certain it will give full satisfaction to every purchaser, whether rich or poor

From Mr. David Slater, fishing-tackle maker, 9 and 10 Portland Street, Newark-on-Trent.

Mr. Slater, of Newark, received a medal and diploma at Norwich, "for cheap and good tackle and rods," and also won the special prize of £10, given for exhibit of collection of inland fishing tackle. He has sent us a Nottingham rod, reel, and line of his make for notice, being, he says, "Exactly the rod, reel, and line, as advertised in the Gazette, for 11s.; though the purchaser can have the rod stronger or lighter as may be required, also any length between 10 feet and 12 feet." The rod is a really capital one, well suited to the requirements of the bottom fisher. It is in three long joints, with winch fittings and a new kind of upright ring, which has wire guides on both sides to prevent the line catching; this is the best ring of the kind we have seen, and will prove most valuable to all who spin for pike, perch, trout, &c. Mr. Slater ought to advertise this ring at so much per dozen. The reel is a polished hard wood "Nottingham," 3½ inch diameter, with brass cross-piece to strengthen the back and prevent warping. By-the-way, Mr. Garle Browne gave a very useful recipe for preventing this warping in wooden reels a week or two back in this paper. The line is a fine and strong "Nottingham" silk twist, sixty or seventy yards in length, we should guess. We can recommend rod, reel, and line as being genuine articles and wonderfully cheap.

FLOOD.—FISH AND FISHING.

I remember some twenty years or more ago, when Mr. S. Carter Hall presided at the annual dinner of the Thames Angling Preservation Society at the Star and Garter Hotel, Richmond Hill, in speaking about our Metropolitan river he described it as "the beautiful Thames." It might have been so at that particular time, but it is anything but beautiful now, unless there may be those who look upon a flood as beautiful, and see grandeur in the deluge of water that covers the meadows for a great distance all around. The river as I saw it on Saturday last was greatly out of bounds, and the water in the most wretched condition. The estimate of the fishermen was there would be no angling for at least a week or ten days; but they consoled themselves with the idea, and a right one too, that there would be some good fishing afterwards. The perch would collect themselves together and resort to the deeps, and the jack would get out of the weeds and roam about in the stream and open channels. But the great question at the present time is one on which depends the safety of the fish; their abode just now has no limit, and they are roving about in places where it is not altogether safe for them to run. The anxiety of the river keeper will be apparent, as it is as much his duty to look after the safety of the fish as it is in ordinary times to preserve and protect them from the hands of the well known poachers. I was asked the other day by the proprietor of some land that was then under water whether he did not possess a common right to net it. My reply was simple, "Do not attempt it, or you will find yourself in the wrong box." The fish are the property of the Thames, and wherever the Thames flows, the scaly family that are in it belong to the river. It is very probable this winter will find the officials of the T.A.P.S. more to do than they had last winter, as there appears every probability of greater floods, and the work of dragging ditches and other places will become desirable and necessary. The fish will work up into these places, and in previous seasons they have been rescued by thousands out of them. We cannot afford to lose the fish that have this year been put into the lower Thames by tons, and they will not be lost for want of looking after. Just as the previous flood was subsiding the keepers were alive and active in the discharge of their duty. They commenced searching the ditches and taking those steps that were essential in getting back the stray fish. It has been remarkable the number of trout that have been found in the Thames below Kew Bridge by the netsmen, and it may not be out of place to refer to it when speaking of the safety of the coarser fish. These men when they get trout take them up as quickly as possible to Mr. Alfred Nuthall, of Kingston, who is a member of the Committee of the T.A.P.S., and they are at once consigned to the river above locks. I have just received a letter from that gentleman, who says: "One of the netsmen, named Pearse, has just brought over two nice trout, one is a beauty about six pounds." A reward agreed upon by the Committee is paid, and the men are always anxious to bring them. The general idea is that the Thames trout in high water work upwards, but in this case it has been the reverse, and without giving an opinion now upon that point, I will leave the question for others to determine. I shall prefer going back now to the other fish and the flood; and if we only get a few days like the one which followed that of Saturday last, the river will soon get into its proper condition. First of all, the anglers in the eddies will begin to find the roach; and I never think of this without remembering a magnificent show of roach that was made at the Richmond Piscatorial Society, under similar circumstances, by Mr. H. Dickinson, of Kingston, from that portion of the Thames. There the jack and perch anglers, when the water has got the right turn, will be afloat, and I cannot help thinking they will find plenty of fish; but I shall regret to hear of any being taken in the unsportsmanlike practice of trailing. The eyes of all true anglers will be upon those who continue to do so, as there is nothing more strongly deprecated in the clubs, both by punt and bank anglers, than the system of trailing. At the important gathering of anglers at the conference at Cannon Street Hotel, in August last, if the meeting could have determined upon making a bye-law to put a stop to trailing by making it an illegal act, it would have been carried with great enthusiasm, and not a single dissentient would have been found in the room. My advice now is to anglers to avail themselves of each chance of fishing after a flood; and support all that is true and honest in the sport. B.

THAMES SIDE RECOLLECTIONS.

By CHUB-CHAVENDER.

(*Continued from page* 317)

FIFTEEN years ago the water at the Middlesex side of Chertsey Bridge contained some splendid old barbel, which occasionally were taken, but more often got away. I daresay there are many still remaining, for the traffic, though it interferes with the biting, seldom entirely drives away the pier-loving elder members of the wattled community. Several of these fish have fallen to my rod, one going as high as 8 lb. in weight. In early morning these fish could be easily seen if the weather were bright, with their brown backs and broad expanded fins showing plainly in the clear water, as they hovered round the huge stone buttresses. A snatching hook might have dealt death amongst them very extensively, but a baited hook they simply ignored, moving calmly away to let it pass. At that time, one of my frequent companions was a gentleman, brother to a well-known Chertsey angler, of exceedingly quiet and angler-like persuasion, whose patience was infinite and but scantily rewarded; for did he not, I remember me, even prefer a barbel hook bound on somewhat coarse brass wire to the fine gut, which alone would allow success? Well do I recall the horror of my soul when, on my presenting him with a gut hook from my tackle book, that he might exchange it for the uncivilised wire, he calmly took out his knife and severed the gut below the shank. "For gracious sake what *are* you doing?" I asked. "I always use wire," was the reply. "Thank you very much for the hook, I will whip it on presently." Poor gentleman! what he lacked in sport he certainly made up in a gentle undemonstrative patience, almost pathetic.

On the shallows of Dumsey Mead I took my first Thames trout. For some twenty yards out in summer time the stream cannot exceed a couple of feet in depth, and though there was a marvellous growth of the American weed, some pretty sport with roach, dace and a gudgeon could be had here and there from the clear spaces, and the fly was ever useful when wind and weather permitted. At the time of which I am speaking (twenty years ago), there dwelt an old gentleman just over the bridge whose sole means of recreation were his pipe and rod and garden. Many a time have I seen him resting to light the enormous meerschaum he always carried, and enjoy a quarter of an hour's contemplation; many a time have I watched the dace come, one after the other, to bag, as accompanied by the author of the immortal and inimitable "Box and Cox," (who then lived at Chertsey) he has plied the blow line, baited with the alder, bluebottle, or cow-dung flies. Hungrily have I, as a mite, longed to be able to fly-fish like this and catch such bouncing dace and roach, and at last my desire was gratified; this kindly old gentleman took me in hand, and by his side I learned the exquisite pleasure fly-fishing is capable of affording. Poor old gentleman, he has passed long since to that "undiscovered country, from whose bourne no traveller returns;" but I shall never forget his kind Waltonian face with its ready smile, and the lessons he taught will keep his memory ever of the greenest.

This gentleman was my mentor, my Gamaliel, guide, philosopher, and friend in the catching of the first trout I ever took, and about which, by-the-bye, I had almost forgotten to tell you. The day had been a sweltering one in midsummer, and the sun was just sinking in a glorious panoply of crimson, purple, and gold, when I joined my instructor on the meads, about three hundred yards below the bridge. The stone-flies were on the water, and I had come prepared with a goodly gentle-box full of them. My rod was a bamboo light roach rod, about 16 feet long, and a floss silk line of 20 yards, to which was attached a length of fine gut, and a No. 10 roach-hook comprised the tackle. Oh, how grateful was the soft and fragrant south-west breeze, blowing from behind us! Very soon the dowdy little old maid, as Kingsley calls the alder, was impaled and floating softly out, buoyed by the line like a gossamer spider, to eventually fall with ever so slight a fall upon the water rippling on its shallow way, "gentle yet not dull," as Denham hath it. Several dace had fallen to this sort of negociation when, as I neared an ancient willow which then stood by the water—I could point out the spot to a foot—a boil of the water, and I was fast into something rather more important than a two-ounce dace. The spike of my companion's rod was in the ground in a moment, and he himself by my side with words of reassurance and advice. Twenty minutes did I fight this my first trout, and at last I had the delirious joy of seeing my beautiful prize, with his eye like a rich round jewel, and his incarnodined sides and pearly underside, lying subdued and panting out his brave heart's life. Four pounds and a half he weighed, and that night, I doubt not, I felt an an intenser emotion of pleasure and jubilant happiness than ever has been or ever will be repeated this side the universe with me. As I write, I seem to recall it so vividly, that it sends one's blood again thrilling through the veins. I fancy my friend was even more proud than if he himself had taken it.

Passing down from the scene of this (to me) memorable capture, we arrive at the famous deeps, yclept Dumsey and Domesday. Here the stratum is gravelly, with mighty boulders and stones interspersed, though the bottom is by no means a bad one for the bottom fisher. And the fish! Barbel, bream, big roach, and dace, here and there a perch of colossal proportions, but chiefly the first two named, form the staple of what the deep contains. Here is the paradise of the Nottingham rodster, and I have known a hundredweight of barbel and bream as the result of a day's fishing. Persistent baiting, and baiting with judgment, are, however, necessary to sport in this part of the Thames.

Docket Point—so called after the man Docket who lived in the cottage here—equally possesses some grand barbel, and even jack are taken from the reeds on the right-hand side of the river. This part of the river, I need not tell my readers, was the site of the deplorable accident between Debignes steam-launch and a rowing-boat some time ago, and I myself have once or twice narrowly escaped a running down by either launch or rowing-boat. It would be tedious to recount the number of fish and the various catches which my diary indicates as having been my sport near here in those my early days; but hour on hour in winter and summer has this length of water been fished by me, until it seemed to speak voices of pleasaunce which even now I can hear. Increased traffic on the river, however, and the enlarging number of anglers are doing their work, and I greatly fear that unless our worthy editor's coarse fish scheme becomes a living reality, the days of old sport are gone never to return.

FISHING ON THE DEE.

NOW that the fishing season is coming to a close, and that there are only a few days more that we can fish, perhaps the following information may be of interest to some of your readers who are fond of the gentle art. If any of your readers would like to have the last three days in salmon fishing they cannot do better than go to Carrag-on-the-Dee, a small station 2 miles this side Corwen. They can leave by the eight boat—Prince's landing-stage—then by the train from Birkenhead, which leaves at 8.20 a.m., arriving at Carrag, 10.30 a.m. There is the Grouse Inn, within 300 yards of the station, kept by Mrs. Evans and her daughters, where you can be made very comfortable, and the terms are moderate. The charge for salmon fishing is 2s. 6d. per day, and the licences for the week 7s. 6d. The river is now in good order, and there are a great number of fish up. I went up on Thursday last, and returned on Saturday night. On Thursday I killed two salmon, on Friday two, and on Saturday one, from 10 lb. and upwards, besides others which I had good battles with, but had the misfortune to lose, and one or two after almost being ready for gaffing. This has been a good season for salmon fishing—in fact, it has been one of the best I have known for years. There are more salmon up the Dee at the present time than has been known for many years, and if the winter be a mild one we may expect a great crop from this spawning season. Out of the fish I killed (as four of them are females) I took at least 40,000 ova. It looks almost a pity to kill them in this state, and I fancy I can hear some of my friends say "I ought to know better." Well, I may just say to such friends that they only say this for want of thought. The fact is if you had killed them in June the loss to the river would have been quite as great; but as many fishers cannot get them in June, when in their best condition, we have to be content with them later on in the season. And we are the losers in so much as we don't get them for culinary purposes as we would wish them.—W. RAMSBOTTOM, in *Liverpool Courier*, October 29.

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived. Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

SCALE FOR ASCERTAINING THE APPROXIMATE WEIGHT OF FISH.

A North Devon correspondent recently asked for the above, and Mr. J. A. Hutton, of Victoria Park, Manchester, very kindly sends it; he says it is from J. T. Burgess's book on Angling, page 176. Of course, such a table is only approximate; you may, in the same river on the same day, catch a trout of twenty inches weighing less than one of eighteen inches.

Length in inches.	DESCRIPTION OF FISH.																				Length in inches.
	Trout.		Salmon.		Pike.		Grayling.		Carp.		Chub.		Barbel.		Roach.		Perch.		Tench.		
	lb.	oz.	lb.	oz.	lb.	oz.	lb.	oz.	lb.	oz.	lb.	oz.	lb.	oz.	lb.	oz.	lb.	oz.	lb.	oz.	
9	0	4¾	..		..		0	4½	0	7¾	0	6	..		0	8	0	12	0	7½	9
10	0	6¾	..		..		0	6¼	0	11	0	8¼	..		0	13¼	0	13¼	0	10¾	10
11	0	9	..		..		0	9¼	0	14¾	0	11	..		1	2	0	14¾	0	14¼	11
12	0	11¼	..		0	8½	0	10¾	1	2½	0	14¼	0	9½	1	3½	1	0	1	1¾	12
13	0	14¼	..		0	11	0	13½	1	8¼	1	2	0	12¼	1	8½	1	4¼	1	6⅛	13
14	1	1¾	..		0	13¾	1	1	1	14½	1	6½	1	0	1	14¾	1	9¾	1	12¼	14
15	1	6	..		1	0¾	1	5	2	4	1	11¾	1	3	2	5½	1	14½	2	2½	15
16	1	10½	..		1	4¼	1	9½	2	11½	2	1¾	1	7¼	2	14	2	5½	2	10	16
17	1	15¾	..		1	8¼	1	14½	3	4½	2	8½	1	11¾	3	7	2	13¼	3	2½	17
18	2	6	..		1	13	2	5	3	14½	3	0	2	0¾	4	1½	3	5½	3	12	18
19	2	12½	..		2	2	2	10½	4	9	3	8½	2	6½	4	12½	3	15¼	4	6¼	19
20	3	4	..		2	7½	3	1½	5	5¼	4	1¾	2	12¾	5	9½	4	9½	5	2¼	20
21	3	12¼	..		2	3¾	3	9½	6	2¾	4	12¼	3	4	..		5	5¼	5	15	21
22	4	5¼	..		3	4¾	4	2	7	1½	5	7½	3	12	..		6	2½	6	13¼	22
23	4	15¼	..		3	2¼	4	11½	8	1¾	6	4	4	4½	..		7	0½	7	12¾	23
24	5	10½	5	6¼	4	4½	5	5½	9	3½	7	1¾	4	13¾	..		8	0¼	8	13¾	24
25	6	5¾	6	1½	4	3½	..		10	6¾	..		5	8	..		8	15¾	10	0	25
26	7	2½	6	13¾	5	7¼	..		11	11	..		6	3	..		..		11	4¼	26
27	8	0	7	10¾	6	1½	..		13	2	..		6	14½	..		..		..		27
28	8	15	8	8¾	6	13	..		14	10	..		7	11¾	..		..		..		28
29	9	14¾	9	8	7	9	..		15	4	..		8	9½	..		..		..		29
30	10	15	10	8	8	6	..		16	0	..		9	8	..		..		..		30
31	..		11	9¾	9	3¾	..		..		..		10	7½	..		..		..		31
32	..		12	12½	10	2½	..		..		..		11	8½	..		..		..		32
33	..		14	0	11	2¾	..		..		..		12	10½	..		..		..		33
34	..		15	5¼	12	2¾	..		..		..		13	13½	..		..		..		34
35	..		16	12	13	4½	..		..		..		15	1½	..		..		..		35
36	..		18	3	14	7½	..		..		..		16	6½	..		..		..		36
37	..		19	12	15	11½	..		..		..		..		..		..		..		37
38	..		21	6½	17	0	..		..		..		..		..		..		..		38
39	..		23	2	18	6	..		..		..		..		..		..		..		39
40	..		24	15½	20	0	..		..		..		..		..		..		..		40

NOTE.—Mr. Burgess says, with reference to the above table:—"As it is inconvenient to carry a weighing machine about, and as anglers will persist in guessing at the weight of the fish I give here a scale which will enable them to ascertain with tolerable precision the weight of the fish when in good condition. It must be borne in mind, however, that the weights given are only approximate."

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS

By L. B.

CLUB men and anglers generally will be sorry to hear that that indefatigable worker, Mr. Tom Hoole, is suffering from a severe attack of rheumatism which confines him to the house—and all alike will join in wishing him a speedy recovery.

Mr. John Knight has been elected secretary of the Marylebone Angling Society, in the place of Mr. W. Pearce, resigned.

The little book, "Where to Fish Round London," has been handed over to one of the oldest and ablest of our piscatorial writers for revision, and when the next edition is published it will not only be corrected, but considerably added to, and I feel confident will do much to supply the long felt want of a thoroughly reliable cheap book of reference.

A meeting of the working committee of the West Central Association of London and Provincial Angling Societies will take place at the Portman Arms, Great Quebec Street, on Friday evening, November 3rd. There are several new societies to be proposed for enrolment and other business of importance to be got through, so it is hoped committeemen will muster early.

The monthly meeting of the United London Anglers' Central Committee will take place at The Bald Faced Stag, Worship Square, Finsbury, on Monday evening, November 6th, Mr. Samuel Morgan will preside, and several matters of importance are down for discussion.

I thank Mr. R. Woolfall for his kind offer to send me a graining, I have forwarded him my private address and shall look out with pleasureable anticipation for the coming of the fish.

Re Tench in the Thames.—I have a distinct recollection of seeing a splendid take of these fish weighed into the North Western Angling Club by Mr. Wheeler; there were, if I recollect right, about 12 or 14 fish, averaging about 2½ lbs.; they were taken towards the close of the old Thames general angling season, in the neighbourhood of Shiplake. I am only speaking from memory, but should any of the readers of the FISHING GAZETTE feel curious about this take, I have no doubt Mr Fred Hill, the courteous secretary, could, upon reference to the weight book, tell us exact date of take and gross weight of same.

A capital article *re* "Anglers' Rights on the River Thames," appeared in last week's number of an excellent contemporary, "All the Year Round." It is well worth reading by all interested in the question.

A No. 1 District West Central Association visit will be paid the Phœnix Angling Society, Tavistock Arms, corner of Warrington Street and Stebbington Street, Oakley Square, on Tuesday evening, November 7th; the Phœnix Anglers have a bonny big room, and are prepared to give a hearty reception to any number of brother rodsters who can spare an hour to give them a look up on this occasion.

Re Netting the Associations water.—I cannot help thinking it is pitiful anglers should write such letters as the one signed "The Red Fisherman," which appeared in last week's GAZETTE. Does the letter contain a tittle of evidence to justify the above heading? Decidedly not. "The Red Fisherman" asks a question of a native and reads the answer in a smile; the said astute native further tells him that the bargemen do net the canal, &c. That this canal is netted, is a generally admitted fact—and pray can "The Red Fisherman"—or, for the matter of that, any other fisherman, tell us of any other water, particularly canals, whose waters are great highways, where there is not good reason to believe netting is carried on by bargemen. I am afraid it is very difficult and costly to put down netting entirely; all we can hope to do is to reduce it to a minimum by taking all precautionary measures in our power. To bring through the medium of a public paper, what is practically a serious charge against those who are striving to do their utmost for their brother anglers, is, I stoutly maintain, a pitiful thing—such a letter is, moreover, calculated to encourage poachers. If "Red Fisherman" will give my colleague, Mr. Hoole, now lying on a sick bed, reasonable time to carry out the measures he speaks of, and let those who are watching the water—whatever the natives may say to the contrary notwithstanding—continue their good and necessary work without discouragement, he will be doing us a real service. "Red Fisherman" and his friends need not, however, be positively idle, if they see anything wrong, they are part owners of the fishery, remember; they can take immediate steps to have it set right, or, if they do not care to do this, they can at least telegraph number of barge, date, &c., to Mr. Hoole, who will not lose an hour in having the matter seen into; and just one thing more, if "Red Fisherman" will keep his eye on some of those natives about Watford above, and Uxbridge below Rickmansworth, he may be doing us a real service. There are a number keep quite a collection of nets, for show, of course, they never use them, oh, no. If you doubt it, ask Mr. Vincent, secretary of the Watford Piscatorials; and as for the little bit of copper wire and the stout pole—when the jack by-and-bye are in trouble—well—I speak from an intimate knowledge of the water, remember, which "Red Fisherman" admits he has never even seen.

WORMS IN DOGS.—"Scalford, near Melton Mowbray, Jan, 7, 1871.—Keeping as I do so many valuable mastiffs, probably as many as any breeder in England, I have used 'Naldire's Powders' and consider them an effectual, speedy, and safe remedy for dogs.—M. B. Wynn." "Naldire's Powders" are also a splendid alterative, keeping dogs in excellent condition. Price 1s., 2s., 3s. 6d., and 5s., of all Chemists, and of Barclay and Sons, 95, Farringdon Street, London.

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ARRIVAL OF MORE BLACK BASS IN ENGLAND.

We are glad to say that Mr. Silk has got safely back from America, with a lot of fine Black Bass. We hope to get him to give us a short account of his trip next week. These Black Bass are for Lord Exeter, Mr. W. Oldham Chambers, Mr. Carrington, and Mr. R. B. Marston.

RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

I am pleased to report that the river has rapidly subsided, and although still high and travelling like a race horse, will be in fair angling trim by the time these lines are in print. Anglers, if they are bankers, will have to put up with some slush and mud, but success will assuredly attend their efforts, worm fishing especially, in the eddies and lay-byes. At Bray, on Sunday last, some excellent roach were had from the quiet corners; and in the cut to the lock at Cookham bags of 8 lb., 9½ lb., 10¾ lb. and 14 lb. have been reported to me; but I am sorry to say the fish all ran small, and pounds of them should have been returned. At Marlow, little has of course been done during this flooded water. Eels here, however, have been plentiful and hawked about the town at 9d. per lb., which is cheap in the face of 2s. per lb., which is willingly given in the summer time. At Hurley, on Sunday, Mr. Gerkey caught 5 lb. of roach a perch of 2 lb.; and on Tuesday Mr. Brooksbank got some 3 lb. of roach with and lobworms, and lost a perch estimated at 3½ lb. after a five minutes' fight.

Thursday Evening.—River rapidly sinking from flood, fining down from brown paper colour, and becoming first class for roach and jack.—Marlow Buzz.

Ancholme District.

In February last I turned out in one of the small rills hereabouts 2000 Fontinalis fry, and was agreeably surprised to find that these pretty fish have grown wonderfully well. Out of twenty caught for inspection on Saturday last, no less than sixteen were 6 inches in length, and it is a singular fact that most of them were males, from which the milt was exuding. As these were all caught in a small landing net, they were none the worse for the gentle handling, and darted off with considerable vigour when returned to their native element. Some one has given these fish the character of runaways, but, so far as my experience goes, I find them to stop in my water better than trout. It may be that my water suits them. It literally abounds with shrimps, and is unsurpassable for purity. These little fish were the prettiest sample I ever saw, and will, I have no doubt, be ready to catch next season. Despite the very heavy rains of the past week, and the consequent discoloured state of the water, some good catches of both roach and bream have been made here and there in the stillest places.—Thomas Ford, Caistor.

Chichester.

The water has now nearly reached its normal height, and with but a little fine weather would be at once fishable. No matter how great the flush, this water is always in trim. The Chichester Angling Society were most fortunate in their excursion to Selham on the 28th as far as weather was concerned, but the swollen state of the Rother rendered angling a piscatory pursuit under difficulties. However, Mr. Hammond managed to take first prize with a pike of 1 lb. 15 oz. Mr. Rogers second, with a roach; and Mr. Stokes, third prize. A most enjoyable day was spent. Mr. Willison, of the "Three Moles," catering in his usual obliging and reasonable manner. (We anglers are not often "over blessed wi' siller.") Home was reached at an early hour, all being delighted with their outing.—George F. Salter.

Derwent (Chatsworth).

Since my last communication there has been no favourable change in the weather, it being the reverse of bright, and river still continues thick and rather high, which causes fly fishing to be at a complete standstill, and prospects of it at present not too bright; but if weather should be favourable water will be again in fishable order in a week, when good fly fishing may be expected. Bottom fishers in the beginning of the week did very fair amongst grayling with maggots and cockspur worms.—Wheatsheaf Hotel.

Dove.

Weather and water rather muddy, though highly favourable for piscatorial pursuits. There have not been many rods out since the late flood, but the few that have frequented the river have met with gratifying encouragement, notably at Hartington and lower down stream near Okeover. Bottom fishers, too, have had fairly good sport, below Uttoxeter, amongst the bream. Pike have hardly commenced to run as yet. A few sharp frosts and a little dry weather will have a beneficial effect upon them. To-day (Thursday) there has been a fair rise of grayling on the river, and the elements have a decidedly improving appearance.

Eden (Armathwaite).

The weather has been very unsettled, with heavy rains. The waters have been so heavy that only poor fishing has been had. On Friday last Mr. R. Routledge and Mr. Brooks got six salmon in the Warwick Hall water, which weighed in all 126 lb. The same day the Rev. Canon Whitmore got one in the Armathwaite Club water. On Monday George Ferguson got one weighing 20 lb , and Wednesday Mr. Hannah one weighing 18 lb., also in the Armathwaite water. The season closed on Wednesday.—Skiddaw.

Eden (Carlisle).

Yesterday closed one of the worst autumns for salmon-fishing that I remember for many years, or, to use the expression of the local anglers, "it has been a terrible back-end." As I wrote you some time ago during September there was a great scarcity of fish. Towards the end of the month there was a fair run, and anglers' hopes were in proportion; but, what with deluges of leaves in the water and the unsettled weather, the river has hardly ever been in good order for more than a day at a time, and constant disappointment has been the general result. Some anglers, who have had little or nothing else to do, have killed a fair number of fish, in one or two cases two or three being gaffed in a day; but the general result has been bad—so bad that I hear keen old hands saying they are glad it is over, and rods are being put away with a feeling of relief as angling and disappointment cease together for the next three months. For many reasons I anticipate a poor spring-fishing season. Let us hope I may turn out a false prophet.—Silver Grey.

Ilfracombe.

Sea fishing Friday and Saturday; very few herrings caught, the wind blowing strong from N.N.W. with heavy sea. Sunday evening several boats out, fishing very slack; Monday the average of herrings caught was 150 in a boat. A lad fishing from the flat rock off the Capstone Parade, caught a ling 24 lb., and a cod 20 lb. was caught from the jetty. Tuesday the boats had some good fishing with ground lines, over 300 cwt. of conger, three ling 60 lb., and five cod weighing from 15 to 20 lb. each were brought in; one ling and one cod was caught with hand lines from the jetty. Wednesday blowing a gale, the harbour full of small mullet; a herring net was set across, but they failed to secure any. A man threw a stone and cut the head of one off. Thursday morning wind moderating a little; the boats had a short drift, one boat hauled 300 herrings, the other only 20 or 30. The harbour is again full of mullet, two conger just caught from the jetty weighing about 12 lb. each. Wind still blowing strong with a heavy sea.—E. Comer.

Lea (Ware).

No fishing of importance has been had hereabouts since my last report, the continuous downpour of rain having caused the river to rise to such an extent that floods have been the order of things; still I am pleased to say the water is gradually subsiding, and its colour toning down. If we get no more rain this week I should fancy anglers should be fairly "in it" amongst the roach by Sunday. Fishing in the "Manifold Ditch" adjacent to the river, on Tuesday afternoon, I caught some fine roach—ten drawing the scale at 4½. Mr. Hall, also fishing in the same water, had a splendid lot on several occasions during the week. These fish, as well as my own, were taken with the ordinary red worm. But I would remind anglers visiting this place that the "Manifold Ditch" is private water, and fishing in it can only be obtained by permission.—Lion and Wheatsheaf.

P.S.—Thursday evening: Rain again falling steadily.

Leicester.

The heavy rains we have lately experienced have not tended to improve fishing matters in this district, as it has rained without exception every day during the past fortnight. Consequently the river Soar and most of the brooks have been unusually high and discoloured. Still the more ardent anglers would not be denied, and several have been rewarded by a few good roach and perch, taken in the quiet spots. Mr. Bird took several roach at the early part of this week weighing close upon a pound each, and a number have been trying for pike, but have met with very indifferent success, as only an odd brace or two have been had. At Aylestone matters are quiet, and but little angling has been done lately, the rain having been the greatest drawback to these waters, which are usually a good resort for winter fishing, as there are some of the finest chub fishing in this county. Reports from Barrow-on-Soar are very quiet, whilst but few anglers have patronised the Wreake. The weather on Thursday was fine, with cold winds. Waters fairly high, and too much colour in them.

Medway (Tonbridge).

The locks have been kept open, and the water is now getting in capital condition. If we are only favoured by fine weather, anglers will be busy by the commencement of the week.—Ye Medway Water Rat.

Nene (Northampton).

The water is in this district now becoming fishable. The sport for the last fortnight has been a complete blank. But I think, with reasonable weather, we shall be rewarded in the coming time, and I hope to be able to send you some favourable reports.—T. F.

Taw (N. Devon).

Water still high, only just a half-day now and then fishable. River over banks and full of leaves, one day red, another black, next day muddy. Last Saturday, one salmon and six peel. On Monday, Captain Croxen took two peel. A gentleman staying at Southmolton Road took a salmon; another gentleman held one for twenty minutes, and then it broke away. Yesterday Captain Palisson took a peel and others, I hear, got some fish further up the Mole. This is the best season for salmon I ever remember, and only thirteen days left. It is to be hoped some fine weather will be had and many salmon hooked. Most salmon fishermen are pleased with their sport, and I have not heard of any, as in years gone by, complain of having bad luck. The only fault experienced is that there are not enough farmhouses to put up at on the rivers; but Barnstaple, being the capital of North Devon, is large enough, and good train accommodation for many more fishermen. A few fish only are taken with the fly, the Devon (real) minnow is the attractive bait.—Rusty Game.

Thames (Goring).

Water now going down fast, and getting clear. Sunday, if it keeps fine, will do well for all sorts of fishing.—John Rush.

Thames (Oxford).

During the past week there has been a slight diminution in the volume of the flood water. This morning the gauge at the Botanical Gardens registered a fall of 6 inches since the previous day. The Thames is settled and clear, and it will be good business for any angler who can spare a quiet hour over the flood water and still corners and bays of the river. Three days more of fine weather will bring the Cherwell to its usual condition, as far as the colour of the water is concerned, but it will be at least a week or ten days, under the most favourable circumstances, before it is possible to wet a line from the banks of either stream. The meadows having absorbed every drop of moisture they are capable of receiving, the water with which they are covered must await the lowering of the river before it can get away by its natural channels the ditches. The fish which at this time have taken refuge in the floods to escape the force of the stream will, as a natural consequence, be left in great numbers in the ditches, and as they always work to where the supply emanates, either on account of the increased aëration of the water or greater facilities for obtaining food, making gigantic efforts to surmount the obstacles in their way, are, especially the jack, at the mercy of any poacher who chooses to go around armed with a brass charley (Anglicè wire snare) or gun, and it is greatly to be deplored that our splendid district is not in the hands of a society similar to the Maidenhead, who would take the protection of the dykes into their charge, and so put a stop to the indiscriminate slaughter of the imprisoned fish. Many anglers indulge in very pointed and curious remarks when they are pulled up by a large ditch, which prevents their trying that likely reach in the next field. I own it very disagreeable to have to walk over a hurdle, or, worse still, to stand the chance of a sudden immersion, by falling off a plank or tree trunk, slippery with frost or slimy confervæ. "But why not stop and try the place." An unlooked-for contretemps of this sort seldom upsets my equanimity—in fact, I rather like to have the good luck to come across one, especially if there is any stream running through it. I survey my ground, or I should say, water, carefully noting the likely swims and especially the sheltered places formed by the debris collected by the branches of a partly submerged bush, rush beds, etc., and, if possible, I endeavour to gain some idea of their approximate length and depth. This very satisfactorily accomplished, I retrace my steps, and starting at the head of the ditch with the tail of a nicely scoured lob-worm, I try each in succession, after I have given the whole length of water a fair trial, and if I have time, I again return to the point at which I began fishing, and try the effects of a live bait, and invariably succeed in capturing one or more good fish which have taken up their quarters at its mouth. In the ditch belonging to the Great Western Railway, a portion of which bounds Port Meadow, I once, after a summer flood, succeeded in capturing two roach which turned the scale, respectively, at 1 lb. 6 oz., and ¾ lb., a jack, and several good perch. I took a stroll on Tuesday last along the banks of the old river, at the present time almost the only fishable spot of any length between Oxford and Iffley. There were a few anglers at work. One named Carter, had just lost a jack of about 3½ lb., which had succeeded in breaking his tackle. Another informed me that he had been engaged in a life and death struggle with a monster of quite ½ lb., who had also gone off to join his relations, let us hope a wiser fish for his pains; and a fortunate piscator had succeeded in grassing one off the L. N. W. pumping station, which might have weighed 1 lb. I also saw a two and a half-pounder landed off the G. W. R. Allotment Gardens, opposite to Louse Lock. I hear that a large jack, estimated at 14 lb., more or less, was seen in the floods at Shipton-on-Cherwell on Sunday afternoon, by a labouring man, who, luckily for Master John, had his best clothes on, and also that a short time ago one of 11¾ lb. was picked up dead in the Red House Lake, above Wolvercote, having in his struggles pulled the peg of the night line on which he was caught out of the bank. It would have been a great blessing if a lively young bull had appeared on the scene and assisted the brute who set that line, whilst engaged in his nefarious work, to a short aërial flight and a cheap bath for his trouble. Don't forget that the supply of worms for the winter may be picked up now with very little trouble, but that very soon a change in the weather may render them practically unattainable. You are not always obliged to follow the advice of ancient books on angling as to the best means of keeping and scouring them. A friend of mine, a rather green hand, was met one evening at his usual pub. by a bright spirit, who informed him that he had read in an old fishing book, published goodness knows how many years ago, that it was a good thing to put camphor with them. Filled with the idea, he purchased 2d. worth, and on reaching home placed the whole lot in the bag in which he kept his worms. I went out with him a few days after, and in the hurry of starting he omitted to ascertain their condition; when he did examine them at the water side they came out looking as if something they had eaten had given them the stomach-ache. I never heard a man utter such a stream of varied and long-continued profanity—the air was thick with brimstone, and as for the author of that lying old book, no punishment he could think of, even dissecting and hanging him, was good enough, and if the misguided man who had given him the advice had come along just then he would have been treated to a free meal of camphorated worms by my irate companion.—CHERWELL OTTER.

Thames (Twickenham).

Wind south-west, with light showers. I am pleased to say the water is running off well, and is getting a good colour. I hope, if the weather keeps fine, to be at work again by the time this is in print. My customers will have some idea of the amount of water we have had here when I tell them I started last Sunday in a punt from our door and landed in the bar of the Island Hotel. I am sorry to say the grounds and premises attached to the hotel have suffered greatly from the floods, and the banks which cost Mr. Anderson, the proprietor, over £1000 last summer to keep the island "high and dry," have blown in in several places, which at low water mark has the appearance of large reservoirs; but it is a pleasure to hear "Andy" remark, when he is being consoled with his loss, "Well, it might be worse."—ALFRED PERRIN.

Trent (Alrewas).

Gales and floods continue to be the order, or rather the disorder, of the day, while the meadows adjacent to the rivers are reported in lamentable condition from the flood water. As far as the rivers are concerned, news piscatorial, I have none, and very little from other localities. A few jack ranging from 3 lb. to 6 lb. have been taken spinning, and a number of perch, about ten to the lb., have been taken from one of our waterworks reservoirs. The fishing by the way, is monopolised by the members of our town council and their friends. If these waters were thrown into the market and let to respectable anglers or angling societies at anything like a reasonable rate, a goodly sum might be raised towards reducing our heavy expenditure. The river to-day (Thursday) is reported over the banks, and the water thick and unfishable.—JAMES GREGORY.

Trent (Newark).

It is not worth while wasting paper and ink over the river report this week, for the water is out of condition and no chance of angling for a week at least, if the weather should be favourable. Miles of meadow land in the valley of the Trent have been submerged, but on Sunday the water was going down rapidly. Since then heavy rain has again caused a rise, and so to-night (Thursday) water is high and thick, and prospects very bad.—THE TRENT OTTER.

Tweed and Teviot.

Since my last notes of a fortnight ago, rare sport has been got by anglers on this queen of salmon rivers. During the past ten days Major-General Henry, on his water, the Pavilion, Melrose, has killed upwards of 30 fish—one very large beautiful one of 38 lb. On the Hon. H. Brougham's waters, Maxton and Rutherford, he has had as many, and all large fish, ranging from 16 lb. to 28 lb. and 31 lb. On the Floors Castle waters, both the Duke of Roxburghe and his Duchess have had capital sport, and one day on the upper water there Mr. Dalton had a take of nine salmon, the weights being 27, 25, 21, 21, 19, 23, 18, 14, and 16 lb. On the Hendersyde water, on Tuesday week, Colonel Biden had one of 20 lb., and on the following day his Grace the Duke of Roxburghe killed seven salmon on the lower Floors waters, ranging from 15 lb. to 24 lb., and on the same day the Hon. H. Brougham, on Maxton, had half-a-dozen, largest, 26 lb. Mr. Denison, on Birgham Dub, had three, 28, 22, and 18 lb., and on Sprouston water Mr. Kermack, Edinburgh, one of 9 lb., while Colonel Biden had one of 17 lb. On the Ednam House water (Junction), Major-General Hood, of Staining, killed one of 15 lb. On Thursday the sport got was again very good, as on the Birgham waters Mr. Denison had a brace—22 lb. and 15 lb. respectively. On the Sprouston water Mr. Bayliss, C.E., London, had one of 14 lb. Colonel Biden, on the Hendersyde water, had one of 24, one 18, and one 17 lb. On the Edenmouth water Mr. Jas. Kerss one of 22 lb., and the Duke of Roxburghe, the upper water at Floors a couple—7 and 19 lb. On the Junction water Mr. P. Elliot one of 20 lb., and Mr. J. Drummond, Ednam House water a brace—19 lb. and 14 lb. On the Floors water the Hon. C. Barrington four—ranging from 16 to 22 lb. On the Shott on Floors water Mr. Dalton had five—one 28 lb. On Birgham Dub the same day (Friday), Mr. Denison two—18 and 20 lb. On the Husel water (Lord Howe's) Lord Romney, two—one 32 and one 18 lb.; while on the same water the Earl Clanwilliam had one of 20 lbs. Mr. James Moffat, Edenhall, on the Husel water, the same day, killed one of nearly 20 lb., and on the same day Mr. Drummond, on the Ednam House water, killed a brace, one of which scaled 16 lb. and the other 20 lb. On the Hon. H. Brougham's water, that gentleman had over a dozen fish, one of which turned the beam at 34 lb., a few of the others scaling 26, 20, 20, 18, and 16 lb., while on Saturday he had one of 16 lb., and two of about 20 lb. each. On Saturday excellent sport was got on all the casts in this neighbourhood. On the Ednam House water, Mr. Pringle Elliot had one fish, and lost several. On the Hendersyde upper water, same day, Colonel Biden had one fish of 18 lb., and on the Birgham Dub water Mr. Dawson killed half a dozen salmon, weighing 2[illegible], 20, 20, 17, 13, and 9½ lb., and lost one of about 7 lb. On the Sprouston water, Mr. James Brunlees, C.E., London, had good sport, killing five fish one of which scaled 31 lb., the others being 20, 15, 13, and 9 lb. each. On Hendersyde Dub, the same day, Mr. Dalton killed three salmon, and on the lower water Sir George Waldie Griffith killed one. On one of the middle waters on Friday half a dozen salmon were got, and on the following day nine fish were taken from the same water. On Monday all the casts were occupied, and again anglers were awarded with good sport. On the upper Hendersyde water, Sir G. W. Griffith had a couple of about 18 lb., and on the lower Sprouston Mr. Kermack had one of about 16 lb., while on the upper Sprouston Mr. Brunlees killed a grilse. On Birgham water Mr. Denison had one of 13 lb., while on the same water, the same day, her Grace the Duchess of Roxburghe killed a brace, one being 30 lb. On the Maxton water, the Hon. H. Broughan had three. The fishing on Tuesday, however, was not nearly so good, a slight rise in the rivers having caused the fish to be rather unsettled. On Hendersyde Dub, Captain Griffith killed four salmon; and Mr. Brunlees, on Sprouston, had one of 27 lb. Mr James Moffat, on the Ednam House (Junction) water, got one of 15 lb.; and on the same water, Sir W. Scott, Ancrum, killed one also of 16 lb.; and on the Sprouston water, Mr. Bidder, Q C, London, killed a brace of nice salmon, 21 lb. and 24 lb. In the Coldstream district, the takes are better than they have been for some time. On the Lees water, Mr. Farrand, London, has killed a brace; and on the Combill water, Christie has had good sport, getting five fish—heaviest 24 lb. On the Learmouth water, Mr. Bushfield has killed three—from 14 lb. to 27 lb. On the Birgham water, Mr. G. H. Thompson, on one day, killed six fish—weight, 120 lb.; and on the same water, on another day, he had one kipper—a regular beauty—of 30 lb., and a grilse of 10 lb. Excellent sport has also been got in the Galashiels district, the water being full of fish. On Wednesday, on Sprouston Dub, Mr. Brunlees, C.E., London, killed six salmon, weights 25, 18, 19, 20, 17 and 16 lb.; the same day on same water, Mr. J. Bayliss, Kingston-on-Thames, killed one of 30 lb., but the take of the week was that got by Mr. Denison (who is as yet the lion of the season), who on Bingham Dub, had nine salmon to his own rod, the weights of which were 25, 25, 19, 23, 16½, 16, 16, 14, 15, gross 170 lb. weight. On the Hendersyde water Captain Griffith killed one, and Sir G. W. Griffith a brace of 18 lb. each. On the Junction water, Mr. Drummond had a brace of fish, one 13 lb. and one 14 lb. and on the lower water at Ednam House, Mr. P. Elliot had a couple, one of 16 lb. and one of 18 lb.—MAXWHEEL, Kelso, Nov. 2.

P.S.—Weather dull and threatening, with the wind in the South.

Witham (Boston).

The river and great drains in this district are still unfishable. Large bodies of water continue to come down them, and all idea of angling must be given up for ever, again came, and things are as bad as ever. The scouring out which the another few days longer. On Monday prospects had much improved, the water was running down nicely, and some chance of a resumption existed. Rain, how-drains are getting will be of advantage to anglers, and when they can be utilised the pleasures of pike fishing will be much enhanced. Vegetable matter has all but disappeared now, and the waters are clearing. The net men are still reaping a great harvest among the eels, which are running in immense quantities. There have been very high tides at Boston, and some of them have found strange abiding places by their aid.—YELLOW BELLY.

Wye and Derwent.

We have had a very great quantity of rain fall since my last report, which has caused the rivers to be in one continual boil the whole of the past week; in fact, to-day (Thursday) the Derwent is bank full from the heavy rain which fell in the night, and is not even fit for bottom-fishing. The bottom fishers on the Derwent during the past week have killed some handsome dishes of both grayling, roach, and dace, with both maggots and brandling worms. Last Friday one angler got on the Darley Dale Club water 11 brace of large grayling with worm, three of the largest grayling turning the scale of 3 lb. 2 oz., the lob in feed below Cromford.. There have been baskets made from 6 to 13 lb. per angler. We have had no fly-fishing lately. There will be none worth coming down for, for another week or ten days. Weather very unsettled.—Geo. Jas. Eaton.

Yare (Norwich).

The floods have put a stop to all angling on this stream for the chief part of the past week. I hear reports of some good takes of bream at Brundall, but they have not been confirmed. Should the weather improve, I look forward to good sport amongst the bream and jack during the next few days. Many fish will be killed by being left high and dry on the marshes. The storms and floods in this district have quite put us out of our reckoning, but, from appearances, things are settling down to their normal condition, and I hope for a better report next week. Am going to Horning Ferry, and trust to send you an account of our doings.—Robert Moll.

Yore (Hawes).

Several decent takes were made last week, notably one by Mr. James Hesseltine. This gentleman killed four brace of splendid grayling in less than one hour with the bait I mentioned in my last, viz., a well-scoured roadside worm. The river was very fresh on Monday, and is now in splendid fly trim, although in all probability we shall have a flood by to-morrow.—Joseph Corry.

CLUB REPORTS.

ALEXANDRA SOCIETY OF ANGLERS.

The members intend fishing a peg-down match on Sunday, November 5, from Waltham Bridge to Cheshunt Lock, for several valuable prizes. Messrs. Collins, Hunter, Witts, and Wisker weighed in roach and dace, from Ware, on Sunday last.—F. Wagner, sec.

Nov. 3.

AMICABLE BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. F. Arnold, perch, 3 lb. 13 oz. The members will fish the river Colne next Sunday for nine prizes.—J. Worledge.

October 29.

ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Since my last report I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of 5s., annual subscription from W. H. Rodell, 2s. 6d. donation from J. Jennings (Bostonian Angling Society), and 2s. 6d. from J. Cherry (Silver Trout Angling Society), omitted last week. As the half-yearly audit will shortly take place, I shall feel obliged by secretaries sending in their lists for members' tickets and settlement of outstanding accounts.—R. Ghurney, sec.

Nov. 1, 1882.

CAVENDISH ANGLING SOCIETY.

A good muster attended the society on Sunday last, but, I regret to report, in nearly every case with empty baskets; but buoyed up with the hopes of good catches with the subsiding of the floods. Mr. Granfield showed roach, and much excitement is evinced at the close quarters of several of the foremost gross-weight competitors. Members attention is called to the annual meeting night, Thursday next, when business of the greatest importance will be discussed. Their attendance is earnestly requested.—E. Chambers.

Nov. 1.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed in on the 15th: Mr. Castell, roach and chub from the Roding, 3 lb., and Mr. Nitz, roach from the Rye House. On the 22nd, Messrs. Pratt and Chambers, roach and gudgeon from Ponder's End, and Mr. Castell, perch from Watford. On the 29th, Mr. Castell a few fish from Boxmoor, saving the club from a blank.—Cas.

DUKE OF NORFOLK ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above society remove to their new quarters, the Ledbury Arms, Ledbury Road, Bayswater, on Wednesday next, Nov. 8, when they will be pleased to see as many of their brothers of the rod as can make it convenient to attend. Harmony to commence at 8 o'clock.—James Avon, sec.

Nov. 1.

GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS.

We had a poor show of fish on Sunday, owing to the floods. The following members weighed in roach: Messrs. Theobald, J. K. Fitch, Hutchings, and Baker. Our Central Association return visit was well attended, thirteen clubs responding. The next visit will be paid to the Odds and Evens. The next Eastern District visit will be paid to this society on Tuesday, November 14.—J. A. Fitch, sec.

Nov. 1.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The meeting of this society on Tuesday last was well attended, numerous visitors being present. The chair was taken by Mr. Jardine, Mr. R. Bryant, librarian, undertaking the duties of secretary *pro tem.*, consequent on Mr. Crumplen's absence. The resignation of Mr. Thompson, the society's late treasurer, was accepted, and a resolution passed tendering the thanks of the members to him, and expressing their appreciation of his past services. Mr. Charles Bates, at the request of the committee, has now kindly undertaken the office of treasurer, an appointment that is sure to give general satisfaction. The takes of fish during the week have been very poor, consequent on the state of the rivers. Mr. Edward Bennett, of Great Yarmouth, fishing with "genial Sam Richmond," in public water at Ormesby Broad, has however, been fortunate again with the pike, landing one good fish weighing over 9 lb. Mr. Graham Bennett, Mr. Crumplen, Mr. S. C. Harding, and other members have also tried their skill, Mr. Harding having a few nice chub from private water. The treasurer and secretary of the society accepted invitations to the inaugural dinner of the Great Yarmouth Piscatorial Society, and joined the members of that vigorous and promising institution, at the Victoria Hotel, Yarmouth, on Thursday evening, where they were very warmly received. Mr. A. W. Parker reads an important paper before "The Gresham," at their club room, Masons' Hall Tavern, Basinghall Street, E.C., on Tuesday next, at 7 p.m.—Subject: "An Anglers' Parliament." The paper will be followed by a discussion, in which members and visitors may take part. Members of other societies and gentlemen interested are invited to attend.

HIGHBURY ANGLING SOCIETY.

During the last month the Highbury anglers have met with exceptional success among the finny tribe. Mr. Alfred Wells produced several capital jack, two of the best scaling over 20 lb. Mr. Higley also weighed some fine jack, perch, and roach, the gross amount being nearly 40 lb. At the same time Mr. Anthony has been equally persevering, and been rewarded with a splendid take of roach and dace. Several other members have brought up some good shows.—James Edward Wheatley, secretary.

KINGFISHER ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday, whilst roach fishing in Godfrey's Water at West Drayton, Mr. T. Stevens landed a trout which weighed 5 lb.; with the assistance of Mr. W. Hawkins the beauty was weighed and returned uninjured. Mr. S. D. Browning weighed three roach from the same water, each being over 1 lb.—G. Archer, hon. sec.

LEICESTER ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

The half-yearly dinner in connection with the above association was held at the Bull's Head Inn, Harcourt Street, on Thursday evening, when an excellent spread was provided. After the removal of the cloth, the prizes were awarded to the successful anglers, and votes of thanks given to the officers and committee. Several toasts were drank and responded to, and the remainder of the evening was spent in conviviality.

ORIGINAL ALEXANDRA ANGLERS.

The members of this club fished a match yesterday. Mr. W. High secured first prize with a very fine show of roach, some of the fish scaling $1\frac{1}{4}$ lb. Mr. Blackledge was second with a good show of roach. Most of our members were unfortunate, owing to the bad state of the waters. Some of Mr. High's fish have been sent to be preserved.—E. Dymond, sec.

PECKHAM BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

The match for the president's cup on Sunday last was won by Mr. H. Williams; the next match takes place on the 12th at St. Margaret's. The dinner to celebrate the opening of the club will take place on Tuesday next We shall be pleased to welcome any angling friends who choose to pay us a visit. The chair will be taken at 7.30 p.m. by A. Brodie, Esq.; at nine all are welcome.—W. H. Page, hon. sec.

PHŒNIX ANGLING SOCIETY.

The next return visit of East End angling societies will take place at the above house on Tuesday evening, November 7, when we shall be pleased to see any of our brother anglers.—W. Elbourn, sec.

RICHMOND PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Owing to the unsettled state of the weather, the competition for Messrs. Little and Co.'s prize, &c., has unavoidably been postponed until the 15th inst. The meetings, however, have been of an highly interesting character, discussions upon "Supposed Decrease of Fish in the Thames," "Do Fish Feed on the Flood Tide," &c., &c., opened up some very important, and, to all intents, useful facts on these points. Mr. Wm Abbott read a paper entitled "A few Incidents in the Life of an Angler," which was of a very amusing character. Two other gentlemen have promised papers at future dates. A smoking concert is also in preparation. The vice-chairman announced that he had assisted Mr. Nuthall, of Kingston (honorary river-keeper and a member of this society), in putting two nice trout in the river at Kingston, taken in flounder nets at Wandsworth. Mr. N., with his usual liberality and love of angling, having given his set fee for these as for all trout brought him out of season, viz., 10s. 6d. each, thus encouraging to the letter every possible means of providing sport for his brother anglers. There were present at the meeting Mr. F. C. Clench (chairman), Mr. Dickinson (vice chairman), Mr. Gaynor (curator), Messrs. Taman, H. Davis, Neville, Lucas, Turner, R. B. Matthews, Griffiths, Hayward, Hester, Scantlebury, Field, R. Bingley, Wilson, Powell, A. J. Little, W. Abbott, J. J. Wood, Munro, &c.—J. H. Gaunt, secretary.

RODNEY PISCATORIALS.

In consequence of the prevailing flood, the competition that was to have taken place on the 29th October, at Walton, is postponed until the 12th of November.

P.S.—A competition was to have taken place among the members of the Rodney Piscatorials for five prizes at Walton-on-Thames on the 29th, and in spite of the immense amount of rain that fell during the past week, and the information given by all the papers as to the flooded state of the river, several of the members visited that place. We left Waterloo Station at 8.45 a.m., and in about an hour we reached Walton. Here we were informed that the river was up to the steps of The Anglers, and that we might stand a chance in the Barge Cut. We made for the Weir Hotel, and after hopping and jumping from mound to mound across a big field we reach a meadow of wallflowers at the back of the Weir Hotel. Wading through these (the water gradually increasing each step we took), we managed to get within ten yards of the fence that surrounds the hotel garden. Here we had to halt, as one of us complained of the water getting too deep, and running into the tops of his boots. Retreating from this point we tried another way between the bushes, and in spite of the briers and brambles we managed to get opposite that board in the Barge Cut marked danger, and a few yards we should have been landed. But alas! beyond this point the water was deeper, the current stronger, and to make things worse, at the bottom were some short bushes, consisting of brambles and briers. Reaching this point it was proposed to take off boots and stockings and roll up trousers and wade through it. Now, as I already bore proofs that briers and brambles with my face and hands did not agree, I was positively certain that my bare feet would continue the quarrel. I therefore declined that mode of travelling, and returned to visit another place, quickly followed by the others. Below the haystacks, going towards Walton, between the bushes, we saw a gentleman catch a bleak. Here we unpacked, and for over an hour the only things we caught were briers and brambles, old boots, and other things too numerous to mention, in fact, anything but fish. I must say that when a pair of old boots turn up, one gentleman thought that it was time to retire, "as he had quite enough of boots during the week in town, without having them following him about on Sunday." Following in the tracks of the above gentleman, we soon discovered that Father Thames had increased his dominions, and we had to make a wide détour before we could reach the Swan. Here we gladly partook of refreshments: and a member presented to the landlord a card of "The Rodney Piscatorials," viz, an enamelled card, printed in gold, as follows:—"Ye Rodney Piscatorials are at Home at ye Albion, Rodney Road, Walworth, on Wednesday and Sunday evenings.—J. HOTHAM, secretary. Friends and 'brother bobs' welcomed." I must say that the worthy host offered to us the privilege of going through his grounds, ; and also a gentleman likewise offered to take us in a boat to Hampton, but, having had enough of Father Thames's levée to his aqueous neighbours, we declined. Passing from the Swan, we strolled to Walton Bridge ; here a sight met our gaze, and Messrs. Miles and Howell stood, looking with amazement at the sight of the water (these gentlemen are, unfortunately, mutes), and their fingers and hands went to work much faster than the tongues of a ccuple of excited Frenchmen. After pointing out to them where the towing path ran along by the "Sale" and the rails of the Iron Bridge that goes over the back water, we bent our way towards Walton, and called in at the Crown Inn, kept by a friend of The Showman of "The Mud Town Plots." Here the contest that is well known among the older inhabitants of Walton was fought over again, till the time drew near for us to catch our train.—PIXIE.

ROYAL GEORGE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Most of the members have been out on the warpath—perhaps towpath would be a better term—notwithstanding the severe weather ; but, as might have been expected, very little was done. At the meeting on Tuesday evening, stern determination to do or die during the ensuing week was depicted on every countenance, and if we have two or three moderately fine days the fish up the river will have a lively time of it next Sunday. To encourage angling in the rough weather a subscription was set on foot to provide a series of prizes for gross weight during the remainder of the season. This is in addition to usual season's gross weight prizes. The rules are :—Go where you please, go when you please, go how you please, and enlist the services of a professional puntsman if you please. Several gentlemen put down half a guinea, and the fund reached a sum rather over £6 in a few minutes. Apropos of Mr. Chart's escapade at Pangbourne last week, a noted maker of tackle, &c., not many thousand miles from Great Andrew Street, tells me in confidence that had the umbrella used with such disastrous effect on that occasion been one of his make the boat and its occupant would have soared gracefully on the wings of the wind over the dangerous waters, and have been deposited gently in a place of safety unharmed. Chart says he won't try it.—C. W. W. BERNHARDT, hon. sec.

THE LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our members were out last Sunday, but owing to the late rain, not much sport was to be had, but the following members weighed in : Mr. Scott, jack and roach ; Mr. Petrie, dace and perch ; Mr. Graham, roach. The above society's half-yearly supper will take place on Wednesday, the 29th November. W. H. EVANS, sec.

Nov. 2, 1882.

THE STOKE NEWINGTON.

We had a fair show of fish on the 29th inst., Mr. T. Gretton weighing in 4 lb. 7 oz. roach ; Mr. E. Machin, 2 lb. 9 oz. roach ; and Mr. W. Whitmore, 1 lb. 1¼ oz. roach, Mr. T. Gretton winning Mr. C. F. Robinson's prize for the heaviest gross weight of fish taken during the month.—T. GRETTON.

Oct. 30, 1882.

TRAFALGAR ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this society fished a pegged-down match on Sunday last at Cowley Broad. Only six members put in an appearance, Mr. Dewen winning first prize with a 3¼ oz. perch, Mr. Goldstine second with a 2 oz. roach ; J. Gaze, H. Lord, W. Morriss, and H. Wilson getting old tin pots and weeds. The other prizes not won will be fished for as soon as the weather changes.—J. GAZE, sec.

UNITED LONDON ANGLERS.

The usual monthly meeting will take place on Monday next, November 6th, at 9 p.m. The new club lists and instruction cards, revised and corrected to November 1st, 1882, will be ready, and may be had on application. Several important questions will be brought forward.—R. GHURNEY, sec.

A HERMIT OF THE BROADS.

FLOATING listlessly along the surface of one of the wildest and most secluded of the large lagoons constituting the Norfolk Broads, may occasionally be seen a capacious house boat of the Noah's Ark pattern. It is occupied, says local gossip, by a retired non-commissioned officer of the Indian service, an elderly man who in an evil moment for himself yielded to the blandishments of a comparatively youthful syren and made her his wife. "Incompatibility of temper" soon led to a separation. The lady was, however, but ill content to yield up conjugal rights over at all events the domestic purse. Wherever the retired and retiring officer went, madame was sure to follow. Wearied at length by ceaseless persecution, the old gentleman hit upon the expedient of a life on the Broads, far away from the haunts of women and secure from pursuit. Even now, whenever in any of the few boats that find their way on that particular lake, female habiliments are perceptible, a long telescope is brought to bear from Noah's Ark, and there can be little doubt that should the enemy be seen approaching, even with the lure of the olive branch, the ancient *militaire* would immediately batten down and immure himself in his floating stronghold. His necessities are few and easily supplied, and this "Hermit of the Broads" is by no means averse to conversation with strangers, provided that no woman is of the party. —*Norwich Argus*.

FACEACHE, TOOTHACHE, PAINS IN THE GUMS, NEURALGIA. —ADAM SMITH'S NEURALGINE is a Certain Cure. Bottles, 1s. 1½d., 2s. 9d. Post free from Proprietor, Chemist, Wednesbury. London Agent, W. EDWARDS, 157, Queen Victoria Street.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

THE "FISHERMAN'S CURSE."

SIR,—Referring to one or two articles that have recently appeared in the FISHING GAZETTE regarding that nuisance, the black gnat, perhaps you may find space for a few lines from me on the subject. I know little of the difficulties that anglers labour under from the presence of this insect in autumn, as my own fly fishing has seldom extended past August, but in the latter end of spring, when he has come to the front in enormous numbers, I have felt that his cognomen is well deserved.

Some two or three years ago I saw in a contemporary directions for dressing an imitation of this fly. It was:—Body, slenderly made, black floss silk ; legs, one or two turns of plover's topping ; wings, small and spare, of young starling quill feather ; hook, 00. This is an extremely good fly, and kills well in low water almost all through the summer months when the weather is bright. It must of course be dressed on the finest possible gut. But when the "cuss" is on in myriads, and at every puff of wind forms something like a black cloud, a few feet above the surface of the water, with the trout leaping and splashing after the flies in all directions, I have seldom found any imitation of the black gnat kill well.

Whether the chances of the artificial gnat being taken among the innumerable natural ones that are careering over the water are extremely small, or whether it be impossible to imitate precisely so minute a fly, I cannot say. I always find that it then pays better to put up a cast of totally different flies—small duns with an orange bumble as one of the droppers.

When the "cuss" first appears, the black gnat I have described will kill its share of fish. A better fly, however, is the black midge, which sometimes kills extremely well. I always use three on the cast, which should be made up so that the droppers stand well out at right angles from the line, and the best way that I know of doing this is to make the flies themselves up into a cast in the manner recommended in Stewart's "Practical Angler."

These midges are useless as "dry" flies, and can only be used satisfactorily in fishing up stream, the extreme softness of the tackle causing the fly to collapse at once if it is cast down stream. I enclose a specimen of the black midge. It is an old-established fly in the North, and probably you know it well. On the Exe it is, when dressed a size larger, a deadly fly in early spring on occasional days, but it cannot, like the blue upright and its kindred flies, be depended upon as a regular provider. The most favourable time for using it is when there appears to be no usual rise of fly on.

Almost as great a nuisance as the "Fisherman's Curse" is a tiny yellow midge that must be first cousin to the black one, and makes his appearance on the water at odd times throughout the summer. This insect is apparently neither so strong on the wing nor in such force as the other, for he dances about in small detachments, and recklessly chooses for the scene of his gyrations a spot somewhat similar to that selected by M. Blondin when he crossed the water near the Falls of Niagara, namely, the "glide" just at the top of a stickle ; but without the luck of that celebrated aerial pedestrian, he as often falls into the water as not, is carried down stream, and, if not absorbed *en route* by an expectant fish, finally brings up in the quiet eddy at the side of the deeper pools, where he floats about among the foam and débris collected there ; and an angler looking for a rising fish will observe a series of slight disturbances of the water, much resembling the fall of occasional drops of rain. These are caused by the trout taking down the yellow midge. They cannot be dignified by the name of "rises," as the fish moving under the foam only an inch or two below the surface make scarcely any commotion when they suck down a midge, and very close observation is necessary to ascertain what they are taking, a midge being so small a speck on the surface.

When trout leave the stickles to feed in this way, they are very difficult to raise to ordinary flies, and I noticed during the past summer that these movements almost invariably indicated rain at hand. To imitate this yellow "cuss" is nearly as difficult as it is with his dusky relative, the black midge, and the nearest approach I could ever get to it is dressed as follows :—Body yellow silk, wings and legs a small barred greenish-yellow hackle from the back of a love bird. I have found this fly kill when nothing else would, and I owe my knowledge of it to a book on flies and fishing published some years ago ; and, although I am not now quite certain about the author, I think it was written by Sir Randall F. Roberts. As in black midge fishing, I use three flies on the cast ; and as the casting is chiefly in water quieter than the stickles are, I get them to float if possible. This is difficult to do, and necessitates withdrawing the flies from the water almost the moment after they have been cast, and a good deal of "drying," but it answers better to do this than let the flies sink, probably under the fish, and remain unnoticed.

I send you also one of these imitations of the yellow midge dressed as described.—I am, &c., R. A.

Tiverton, Oct. 26.

[The samples sent are very good. We have similar black ones, but the yellow exactly this pattern is new to us.—ED.]

PEGGING *v.* CORKING.—MALE AND FEMALE PIKE.—GROUND BAITS OLD AND NEW, &c.

SIR,—"Mark Antony" takes exception to one of my statements which appeared in a recent number of the FISHING GAZETTE, viz., "Do not operate on a swift stream if you can help it, when trying this pegging business." But, Mr. "Mark Antony," will you kindly remember that when I used that phrase, I was alluding solely to roach, and roach fishing alone. Roach fishing, as every good angler is aware, is principally practised in places where there is only a moderate stream, although I am aware that roach are sometimes caught in very rapid waters

I somehow fancy that "The Trent Fisherman" was poking fun at "Mark Antony." I wonder how many roach "The Trent Fisherman" would catch if he were pegging for roach with a light quill float, and half a dozen small split shots on his tackle ; in, say, the Corporation fishery at Winthorp ; where there is fourteen feet of water, and a rattling stream. "Mark Antony" is quite right in his supposition that "The Trent Fisherman" meant "corking" for barbel, and not "pegging" for roach; there is such a wide difference in the tackle employed for these two methods, that I can only think that "The Trent Fisherman" must be woefully ignorant of the subject he pretends to teach.

As I explained last week "pegging" for roach is practised successfully in a slow stream, and not above a yard or so from the bank, with a small quill float and a light tackle, weighted with some half a dozen small split shots. In "corking" for barbel (or as it is variously termed "long corking" and "tight corking") the tackle employed is a cork float of middling size, a fairish stout gut bottom of about a yard in length; this tackle has on it some half a dozen large split shots (about as big as swan shot) and on the line close to the loop of the tackle there is one of those long, pear-shaped leads, known as "corking weights." Now this sort of tackle is used in any sort of a stream that you know contains barbel, but of course, the faster the stream runs the heavier must the weights be; for successfully trying this plan, in a rather swift water, that is, say, eight feet deep, your bait should be about eleven feet from your float, to allow for the action of the water on the line and bait, so that your bait is always on the bottom of the river If the stream only runs slowly, your float and weights need not be so heavy, nor need there be so much extra line between float and bait. I try this plan when the barbel swim is not very far from the bank, and I feel inclined for a little bit of lazy fishing. I might just say that in trying this plan the float is held stationary, when the stream has carried it as far below as you require. This corking business is occasionally tried for chub and bream fishing, according to the stream. I hope I have made my meaning clear to "Mark Antony," and just tell him that if he purchases my new book on angling (when ready) he will find there all these kinds of fishing treated most fully.

With regard to the distinguishing marks of male and female pike. I can only say that I entirely agree with Mr. Jardine on the subject. It is only by a lengthened experience that anglers can tell at a glance the difference between the two. I have found that the male fish is longer and thinner than the female, supposing the two fish to weigh alike; the head of the male is longer than the head of the female, and the observant angler will find that there is a difference in the vents of the two fish, the vent of the female being more distended than that of the male, while the belly of the female in the region of the ventrals is slightly different from the male; but as I remarked just now, it is only by long and careful obeservation that the difference can be easily detected.

"Chub Chavender" asks me what I think of a ground bait he quotes from some ancient author. All that I can say is, that it is a bit of a "caution"; I can safely say that I shall not try it. "Chub Chavender" has the advantage of me, he seems to be possessed of a library of reference with regard to piscatorial matters. I have the misfortune to be poor, and cannot afford these rare old books on the subject, but should not I like to be poring over some of these musty old tomes that have a very ancient and fish like smell about them, and read of the queer baits, &c., recommended for fishing by the authors that existed in the dark ages. But, never mind, they tell me that a pound of experience is worth a ton of theory, and what knowledge I may possess is gained by experience. During next summer I shall be happy to try and get "Chub Chavender" a specimen bleak from the Witham. I have seen several from there weighing from $2\frac{1}{4}$ to $2\frac{3}{4}$ oz., but only that one specimen have I heard about that exceeded 3 oz., but "there is always as good fish in the sea as ever came out of it," so if I knew where to send one to when caught, I could be on the look out for a big one.—I am, &c.,

THE TRENT OTTER.

[Send it to our care.—Ed.]

PEGGING FOR ROACH.

Sir,—I think, from what I can make of it, "Trent Otter's" description of "pegging" is simply ordinary "ledgering" only followed with less advantage than accrues from using the ordinary small roach ledger.

"Mark Antony" is quite right in stating that fast swims are much the best for this kind of fishing; I have proved it over and over again, and it stands to reason that if the current is strong the bait will be kept working better, which is far more likely to tempt the shy and cautious roach than where it remains quite stationary. I always split the ledger open with my knife before putting it on the line, by this means it can be removed at pleasure at any moment, and the gut or hair is saved the twisting.

I see along controversy has been carried on relative to the distinctive value of gut and hair. I think convincing proof would be given to the supporter of gut if he were to go up the Thames or the Ouse, or any other river, and sit side by side with a fisherman using hair; he would then find the hair took three fish to his one. I have frequently doubted this myself, but have proved it by putting on a very fine drawn gut hook, with the result "few or no bites"; change it to hair and the fish bite again. This seems to me conclusive.

I succeeded, last year, in landing a chub weighing 3 lb. with a hair hook and line, so I cannot see why hair should lose its reputation.—I am., &c.,

E. W. A.

TENCH IN THE THAMES.

SIR,—From Mr. Knight's question it would seem that even club secretaries are not aware of the resources of our charming pet river. I can tell him there are a few tench taken every year at Shiplake, a place known by acquaintance or repute to every angler; there are not many taken, perhaps ten or a dozen, but they are nearly all taken by three men—note, three men. Now their catching is about the neatest thing in angling, or rather in fish getting, ever encountered. About a mile from the railway station is the mill, about half-a-mile above the mill is Shiplake hole, half-way between the mill and the hole is another deep hole in mid-stream, and those two holes are the scene of exploit which is as follows: When the water is about right, after weeds are gone, down comes a punt from, say, Reading, with one—sometimes two—professional fishermen. Say on the Monday they bait the two holes well and leave the punt in the neighbourhood, go home by train, and on Tuesday return to Shiplake by train, fish most of the day, catching something which goes into the well; go home by train, return on Wednesday, fish again some hours, put result in the well, and home again by train, baiting well each day, of course. Thursday, Friday and Saturday repeat as before; by this time there is something in the well, which generally consists of roach, a few good chub, and several of the much desired tench, which are usually very handsome specimens. Now for the *coup d'etat*: Sunday morning down comes the patron from London, meets puntsmen, goes to one of the swims, perhaps both in the day, fishes his best, and perhaps catches something, perhaps nothing. But, however, at evening the well is cleared into a bag and a grand show of tench and chub is placed on a club-room table in London. This sport has gone on for some years, generally in November. So as soon as the water gets bright, look out for a great take of tench at Shiplake. Sometimes it does not come off until February. The late lock-keeper told me he thought the fish worth 5s. a brace, and looking at the prize they win, I think so too; and don't you, sir, think that the mind (as we say in the city) that could engineer and finance such a neat and perfect scheme deserves a really good prize?—I am, &c.,

THAMES TRAVELLER.

MALE AND FEMALE FISH AND COLOURS OF THE CARP.

SIR,—After the description given by A. G. Jardine, Esq., I think you will agree with me when I say there can be no longer the slightest difficulty in distinguishing the male from the female pike. After reading his elaborate and artistic description every angler will at once recognise the truth of his remarks.

I tender both yourself, Mr. Editor, and A. G. Jardine, Esq., many thanks for the trouble you have taken in the matter.

His remarks have certainly upset the opinions of many anglers tremendously wise in their generation, yet fearful fools on this subject.

Still you must confess, Mr. Editor, it is strange that the male of almost every species of animal (and more especially of birds) should be so much handsomer, larger, finer, and altogether grander, and yet the pike should be an exception to this rule. Does this principle apply to all the finny tribe?

I now wish to call your attention to the colours of the golden carp.

Can you inform me at what period and under what circumstances the golden carp assumes its splendid hue? Has it been caused by in-breeding in a colder climate than China, its native place? It is certain that they are not so beautifully coloured when hatched.

I have, however, seen them in warm, protected ponds possessing infinity of colours—everyone must have seen this—and at other times black and spotted. Does this singularity arise from cross-breeding, or is it the result of an unhealthy condition?

Again, is the colour in the scales or in the skin? If in either—scales or skin—what causes the transformation of colour? Has it ever occurred to you that the carp may have some power of evolving a "pigment" from its surroundings capable of imparting this colour. I should like to know.

Supposing that they were taken from the warm and protected state, and placed in water of a lower temperature, not too cold for them to exist, how would this condition affect the colour of the fish? It is to me an interesting subject, and I shall be glad to obtain information.—I am, &c.,

MARK ANTONY.

DOUBLE AND SINGLE-HANDED FLY RODS.

SIR,—In reading over the interesting account you gave two or three weeks ago of your day's grayling fishing in Hampshire, you incidentally inform us that Mr. Francis used a double-handed rod for grayling fishing.

I have been wondering whether Mr. Francis in doing so followed the custom on those southern streams. It appears to me that you in your ten foot rod used a far more likely weapon for effective work, in grayling fishing, at any rate. The flies by means of a double-handed rod may be put on lightly, as in this case they were, but I cannot conceive of a "two hander" being sufficiently smart and tender in striking grayling. I wish some of your readers would let us know what advantages for this kind of fishing these two-handed rods possess. I presume that more line is "got out," but I am doubtful whether it is "managed." Then, does the angler sling his landing net—an indispensable in grayling fishing—behind him, or does such a rod require an attendant to carry the net and net the fish? I have seen double-handed rods used on some of the streams in Scotland for trout fishing, but I thought them very ungainly and awkward, but nevertheless well suited to the tackle I saw attached to them. I was under the impression that only salmon fishers and pike fishers, and such like larger game, required the use of both hands to the rod.—I am, &c.,

YORKS.

October 30.

[We believe that a double handed rod is more often used than a single-handed one on the Hampshire waters. The fact that Mr. Francis got in one day six brace of grayling from 12 inches up to $1\frac{3}{4}$ lb. is proof positive that he, at any rate, can use a double-handed rod delicately; he always takes a man with him to carry his fish and land them. A big rod commands much more water than a smaller one, and in a big open water it has its advantages. But for our part we very much prefer a single handed rod from 9 to 12 feet in length, according to the nature of the water. A 10-foot 10 oz. rod can be used from morning to night without causing much fatigue. The small rod has the speed, lightness, and deadliness of the rapier, the big rod has more of the qualities of the broadsword—weight and force. But, after all, the question as to what rod is best depends on the angler and the style of fishing he finds most comfortable and killing. The rod is made for the angler and not the angler for the rod. One man's drink is the next man's poison.—ED.]

LIGHT MINNOWS FOR ICELAND.

SIR,—I have lately returned from Iceland, where I enjoyed nine weeks' fishing. When, as sometimes happened, the fish would not rise to the fly, I was obliged to try the minnow. The rivers in which I angled where much infested by green slime, and it is quite impossible, owing to the weight, to fish them with the ordinary phantom minnow, the hooks of which claw up the slime at every cast. An artificial minnow for Iceland should be made as though it were intended to float. I killed many salmon with the smallest and lightest phantoms I happened to have with me. They were about an inch long and silvered all over. They very soon lost the silver.

Can any of your readers tell me how these minnows are silvered, as I should like to take some of the preparation with me next year?

I have spoken to one or two tackle sellers on the subject of getting some specially light phantoms made, but they tell me that the makers of such things are not likely to put themselves about to make what I want, as they get the heads and propellers of the phantoms cast in grosses. Now, it is these heavy heads which make the phantom useless in such rivers as I fished this summer, all of which, when not extremely sluggish and infested with slime, ran over lava-beds on which one loses even the lightest of trout flies. I have been trying to make some minnows from cork, and I think they will do if you can tell me how to silver them.—I am, &c.,

WANDERER.

London.

[The lightest minnow we know is the Garnett quill minnow, made first by Atkinson, of Kendal, and now to be had everywhere, though not always well made. It consists merely of a bit of quill, and thin metal fins to impart the spin. "Wanderer" should get some of Judson's silver and gold powder (sold with varnish, for mixing, by most oilmen and grocers), it answers admirably. A little hard drying varnish should be put on over the coat of silver or gold.—ED.]

A FIVE-POUND PERCH.

SIR,—We have been setting up for a customer of ours a perch weighing 5 lb., length $21\frac{1}{2}$ inches, girth $17\frac{1}{2}$, thickness $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches. If you think any of the readers of the FISHING GAZETTE would like to see it they can do so by giving us a look in between this and the next two weeks.—I am, &c.,

40, Fetter Lane. J. GILLETT.

[Being of Professor Huxley's opinion, that true knowledge consists in seeing the thing itself, we called on Messrs. Gillett and saw the fish. It is the largest perch we have ever seen; it was caught near Daventry, and it weighed full 5 lb. two days after it was caught.—ED.]

WALL-EYED PIKE AND PIKE-PERCH.

SIR,—In reading the FISHING GAZETTE, I have noticed several times the words pike-perch and wall-eyed pike mentioned. Could you kindly inform me what these species are, and if we have any in our British waters?—I am, &c.,

GROACH.

[The American "wall-eyed pike" was described in our impression of January 24, 1879, by Mr. T. R. Sachs, and this gentleman has also frequently described the pike perch of the Continent. Both these fish are very similar in appearance, and our correspondent will get a very good idea of what they look like when we say the fish presents the appearance of a cross between a pike and a perch. Take the head of a perch give it the pike's formidable mouth, add the large prickly perch back fin, and behind that the big dorsal, caudal, and anal fins of the pike, and you have the pike-perch. It is a terribly voracious fish, and attains a great weight.—ED.]

THE MANCHESTER AND DISTRICTS AMALGAMATED ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

SIR,—Kindly allow me a few words in reply to Mr. Ashworth's letter in your issue of Saturday last, in which he charges me with making an untruthful statement.

In reply to this, I enclose a copy of the Salford Friendly Anglers' rules, which, as you will perceive, allow its members to weigh in any kind of fish all the year round; and the rule that he now refers to was only passed after the universal condemnation his society received from the Manchester Anglers. In further proof of this, I may say that the subject of this trout being weighed in was first introduced at the delegate meeting in January (shortly after the trout had been taken); was renewed in April when Mr. Ridgway's notice of motion was given, when no rule up to that time had been passed

The resolution was passed in July, as the correspondence will have shown; and, as the Salford Friendly Anglers were waiting the decision of the association it is only fair to assume the rule was passed after Midsummer.

For the information of your readers, I would like to ask Mr. Ashworth what he calls "early in the present year," when the rule he refers to was passed. I must leave Mr. Ashworth to reconcile his confusing statement, that the association is justified in putting down "angling" for or exposing for sale any kind of fish during its own particular season, when his own members claim the right to make their own bye-laws for rough fish at any part of the year, even if such time be close season.

From the concluding paragraph, am I to understand it is meant as a justification for taking the trout out of season? If so, would he like the proprietor of the "strictly private water" to see the correspondence on the subject? I shall be sorry to forward it to this gentleman, well knowing that it would stop all orders to fish going to the same quarter again.

In conclusion, allow me to inform Mr. Ashworth that I am in no way connected with the association, otherwise than as an ordinary paying club member, so that I have nothing to do with the extension of time for anglers' travelling cards, but would, like himself, be very glad to see the members of the association working more earnestly for the extension of time, which, to my mind, has not received the attention it deserves.—I am, &c.,

TROUT.

October 30, 1882.

LARGE PERCH FROM DAGENHAM.

SIR,—Seeing in your paper that a large perch was taken at Dagenham, I thought it would interest you to know that I have got one taken at the same place by Mr. Geddes, on September 17, 1882, and what seems rather strange is that the weight should be the same and the size 14½ in. in girth 18 in. in length.—I am, &c., THOMAS POPE.

Hanbury Arms, Felton Street, Hoxton.

FISHING IN PRIVATE WATERS.

SIR,—I heartily echo the protest of "A Lover of Fair Sport" against poaching in private waters. A short time ago I was fishing at a gentleman's country place, and heard the following:—

An angler having leave for a day, brings a friend, five rods, with live baits and floats, the fishermen smoking under the trees till there was a run at one of the rods.

Another angler and friend caught a number of pike. The keeper asked for one of the little ones and was refused. "Can't spare one; going to weigh in at our club," was the answer, and the whole catch, babies and all, were carried off.

No wonder when asking leave for a day's fishing we often meet with a curt refusal.—I am, &c.,

FISH FAIR.

October 28.

CHUB AND BARBEL WANTED.

SIR,—Can you put me in the way of getting some chub and barbel to stock a river with?—I am, &c.,

KEPPEL H. GIFFORD

[We regret to say we do not know where coarse fish of any kind can be bought for stocking purposes.—ED.]

CHEAP TICKETS FROM RICHMOND.

SIR,—Possibly it may be satisfactory for anglers to know that these tickets were granted in the first instance as a special concession to the Richmond Piscatorial Society, but upon a suggestion made by us to the South Western Railway Company, that all anglers holding privilege tickets of the association should be entitled to the same, they were pleased to sanction this, instructing me to supply the booking-office with a pattern card, so that no fear may be now entertained of a railway ticket at reduced rate being refused upon production of the Privilege Card.—I am, &c., J. H. GAUNT, sec.

Richmond Piscatorial Society.

SOME FLY DRESSING QUERIES, &c.

SIR,—Will you allow me, through your columns, to ask a few questions on subjects on which I require some information?

Are the hackles of blue Andalusian fowls of the orthodox tint for fly-dressings?

Where can I obtain lengths of rod wood, hickory, greenheart, &c., to work up into rods myself?

Can anyone tell me where I can obtain some bittern feathers?

Will some dresser on the eyed hooks kindly explain the *modus operandi*, and in what it differs from ordinary dressing?—I am, &c., BITTERN.

Cardiff.

DO EELS TAKE FLIES?

SIR,—I can authenticate Creel's letter on the above subject, having on two or three occasions, when fishing in the Avon, seen eels feeding on flies that settle on the weeds floating on the surface.—I am, &c.,

October 31. K. H. G.

A WATERPROOFING WANTED.

SIR,—Can you or some of your readers inform me what proportions of alum and sugar of lead to mix in five gallons of water for the purpose of rendering cloth coats waterproof? I found it answer well, but have lost the recipe.—I am, &c., WATCHET.

ENGLISH SEASIDE TOWNS AND HEALTH RESORTS.

1. Berwick-on-Tweed.
2. Tynemouth.
3. Hartlepool.
4. Redcar.
5. Saltburn.
6. Whitby.
7. Scarborough.
8. Filey.
19. Bridlington.
10. Hull.
11. Great Grimsby.
12. King's Lynn.
13. Hunstanton.
14. Cromer.
15. Great Yarmouth.
16. Lowestoft.
17. Aldborough.
18. Southend.
29. Herne Bay.
20. Margate.
21. Ramsgate.
22. Deal.
23. Dover.
24. Folkestone.
25. Hythe.
26. Hastings.
27. Eastbourne.
28. Seaford.
29. Brighton.
30. Worthing.
31. Littlehampton.
32. Bognor.
33. Isle of Wight.
34. Bournemouth.
35. Weymouth.
36. Lyme Regis.
37. Sidmouth.
38. Exmouth.
39. Dawlish.
40. Teignmouth.
41. Torquay.
42. Dartmouth.
43. Plymouth.
44. Falmouth.
45. Penzance.
46. Sennen.
47. St. Ives.
48. Clovelly.
49. Ilfracombe.
50. Linton.
51. Blue Anchor.
52. Burnham.
53. Weston-Super-Mare.
54. Clevedon.
55. Tenby.
56. Aberystwith.
57. Barmouth.
58. Bangor.
59. Beaumaris.
60. Penmaenmawr.
61. Llandudno.
62. Rhyl.
63. New Brighton.
64. Southport.
65. Blackpool.
66. Morecambe.

WATER FLEAS.—Common as water fleas are, it may safely be affirmed that there is no more beautiful or surprising sight than that which they reveal to the astonished vision of those who see them for the first time under the microscope, nor will the interest thus excited be found to flag under a more extended acquaintance. The exceeding fineness and delicacy of their limbs are specially remarkable, but perhaps the most pleasing and instructive feature they present is the transparency of their tissues, which allows all the functions of life to be carried on under the eye. The whole of the digestive process, from the first inception of the food into the mouth, its trituration by the mandibles, its passage through the gullet into the stomach, its subjection to the vermicular action of the intestine, its digestion, and final expulsion from the body, are all visible; the beating of the heart, the course of the circulation, the movement of the respiratory organs, the contractions of the muscles, the formation of the eggs in the ovary, and their subsequent development are all clearly presented for our instruction and wondering admiration."—From *Science for All* for November.

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invite Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sen or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether the may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

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Samples of One Hundred assorted, 13 stamps free.

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Cash, with Order, to
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GREAT YARMOUTH.

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FISHING IN THE NORTH AND WEST RIDINGS.—Anglers contemplating a visit to the Aire, Wharfe, Ribble, Greta, Wenning, Yore, Wensley, or other rivers in the North and West Ridings of Yorkshire, and desirous of obtaining information as to Fishing, Lodgings, &c., should make their wants known through the medium of the

Craven Herald
(published at Skipton-in-Craven),

which has the most extensive circulation in the neighbourhood of these rivers.

Views of the Wharfe, Bolton Abbey, &c., may be obtained at the office of this paper.

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Bank Fishing Free to Visitors.
Boats at moderate charges.
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Postal and Telegraph, Torcross, near Kingsbridge, South Devon.

Torcross is about 20 miles south of Torquay—the mildest climate in England for winter fishing.

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ROYAL AQUARIUM. — MISS and WILLIE BECKWITH, appear in their natatorial entertainment in the large Swimming Tank in the Annexe, at 5.30 and 9 45 DAILY.—Admission ONE SHILLING, children under 10 free.

ROYAL AQUARIUM.—The WINTER ELECTRIC EXHIBITION.—Awards £1000. All inquiries to be addressed to Captain Hobson, Manager, Royal Aquarium, Westminster, S.W.; or W. D. Gooch, Esq., Engineer to the Exhibition, 17, Royal Exchange, London, E.C.

ROYAL AQUARIUM.—Open 12 0 noon, Close 11.0 p.m.—PROGRAMME for THIS DAY:

Afternoon.		Evening.
2.30 5.30	The Javanese Gamelan	7.30 9.30
3.0	The Three Almontes—Acrobats	8.0
3.15	The Troubadours	10.30
3.30	Vonare—Contortionist...	10.45
3.45	Mr. Harry Hawke and Miss Witty Wren ...	10.0
4. 0	The Tilly Family	8.30
4.15	Wilson Bros.—Treble Parterre Act	10.15
4.30	Astarte	8.45
4.45	The Lenton Brothers—Acrobatic Act	9.0
5.0	Maud and Charley Ross—Speciality Singers	8.15
5.15	Coopers Performing Lions	9.15
5.30	Miss and Willie Beckwith	9.45
6.0	Organ Recital by Mr. Albert Lowe...	—

Admission ONE SHILLING.

BALLOON SOCIETY of GREAT BRITAIN.—ROYAL AQUARIUM FRIDAY LECTURES.—Subject, Friday, Nov. 3, "The art of Reading and Speaking," by Edwin Drew, editor of the *Elocutionist*. Members of the Parliamentary debating societies are requested to attend. The chair will be taken by Mrs. Fairfax, at eight o'clock.

ROYAL AQUARIUM. — REFRESHMENT DEPARTMENT.—The newly appointed ANNEXE GALLERY is NOW OPEN. Table d'hote daily from six to nine, 5s. per head, including admission to Aquarium. Entrance in Broad Sanctuary.—BERTRAM and ROBERTS, Contractors.

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1 yard gut cast 1s. 3d. per dozen; 2 yards gut cast, 2s. 5d. per dozen; 3 yards gut cast, 3s. 4d. per dozen.

Finest drawn gut manufactured, 15 inch, 3s. 9d. per 100; 2s. per 50, and 6d. per dozen.

Trout gut, 8d., 10d., short, and best long 1s. 10d. per 100.

P.S.—If fishermen would send for the Roach Rod in Winter, or now I have a few ready, could send them at once.

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JOHN STONE, Secretary.

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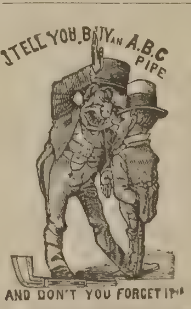
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NOTICE.

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., must be addressed to the Editor of THE FISHING GAZETTE, *No. 12, Fetter Lane, London, E.C.* and should reach the office not later than Tuesday morning.

Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1882.

SOME NOTES ON THE FIRST "FOREST AND STREAM" ANGLERS' TOURNAMENT.

OUR readers will peruse with much interest the account of the recent anglers' tournament at New York, which we print in another column. *Forest and Stream*, and especially its fishing editor, Mr. Fred Mather, are to be heartily congratulated on the thorough success of the affair. As in the case of our FISHING GAZETTE Tournaments, the weather was very bad—wet, cold, and windy—"the attendance at no time exceeded more than two hundred and fifty; this was owing, doubtless, to the unfavourable weather, which during the first day was abominably nasty." The affair was fully reported by the leading American paper

It will be acknowledged by all who know anything about fly-casting that some of the casts at this tournament were simply marvellous. In the "light rod" contest, for instance, Mr. H. W. Hawes made, in beautiful style, the extraordinary cast of *twenty-seven yards, one foot,* with a ten-foot split-bamboo rod weighing only *four and-a-half ounces.* For our part we should have said that such a cast with such a rod was simply an impossibility, but the strict conditions under which the casting took place, the elaborate arrangements for accurate measurement, and the jealous scrutiny of the casting by the rival contestants make it impossible that any error was made. Indeed the examination of the distances cast by other anglers in this contest gives the last man of the seven credit for over twenty yards, and that with a rod of only four-and-a-quarter ounces! Mr. Silk, who was present at the tournament, tells us that the measurements were made from the spot on which the competitor stood to the spot where his end fly fell on the water and there can be no question whatever about the strict accuracy of the measurements given; this independent testimony from an unprejudiced Englishman ought to silence all challenge of the measurements. To our mind this wondrous casting with such feather weights as four-and-a-half ounce rods, is by far the most interesting feature in the tournament. Mr. Silk says the casting lines used were of braided silk, waterproofed, and this confirms our impression that lines of this description are, on the whole, by far the best that can be used by the fly-fisher.

Until recently we have always looked with disfavour on the glued-up split cane rods, although we must say our experience of them had been confined to English made rods of this description.

But in the face of such extraordinary results obtained by their means as we have referred to above, we confess that our views respecting them are totally changed, and we feel certain this will be the case with most English fly-fishers; making full allowance for the fact that the casts were made from a platform three feet above the water, and undoubtedly this was an immense advantage as compared with casting done on a level with the water, still the fact that such rods will send a line out to such a distance, places their casting merits beyond cavil. We may mention that we have recently received from Messrs. William Mills and Son, fishing-tackle makers, of 7, Warren Street, New York, a superb hexagonal Leonard rod, made to our requirements, as regards weight and length. It is a stiff three joint, ten-foot rod, weighing ten ounces. As a piece of workmanship, it is simply perfection, every joint is made of six strips of cane so beautifully put together that even with a magnifying glass it is impossible to see where the edges are joined together. In a few days we hope to try it with a line and feel certain from its "feel" without a line, that it will answer our expectations, and they are great. Messrs. Mills and Co., are sole agents for Mr. Leonard, whose rods won every first prize at the recent tournament. They intend to have an extensive exhibit at our International Fisheries Exhibition next year, and our English anglers will then have a chance of seeing and handling these celebrated rods for themselves. It is to be hoped the executive of the exhibition will arrange to have a piece of water set apart for fly-casting and testing fly-rods; the jurors will find this an immense advantage in deciding the merits of the various makes submitted to them.

The cast made with a single-handed fly-rod by Mr. R. C. Leonard, covered twenty-eight yards, one foot, with an eleven and half-foot rod, weighing ten ounces. This cast, considering that it was from an elevation of a yard above the water, both in front and behind, is not, we think, much in advance of the twenty-three yard cast, made on the ground (and not over water) with a ten-foot rod at our first FISHING GAZETTE Tournament.

The bait casting with one oz. and two and a-half oz. weights was not extraordinary, and will not compare with the casts made in this style at Hendon.

An Englishman, Mr. H. Prichard, is credited with the longest cast made with a single-handed rod at the tournament. With a ten-foot four and a quarter inch rod of eight oz., he sent his fly out thirty yards from the platform. His style of delivery is peculiar, as will be seen from the *Forest and Stream* description of it; but peculiar or not, it must be wonderfully effective.

Mr. Harris in his "American Angler," thus describes the casting of Mr. Hawes and Mr. Prichard :—

> "In the first contest was developed the surprising skill of Mr. H.W. Hawes, of Central Valley, N.Y., as a 'distance' fly-caster. His method was a new one at angling tournaments, but may be seen almost daily, in season, upon the broad steams of Pennsylvania, notably on the Delaware River near Tumble Falls, where the knowing ones reap a fruitful harvest of black bass during the early and late

days of the open season. On this wide stream, with banks hundreds of feet apart, and not a bush that will range within gunshot, the lover and advocate of long casting, as he wades down mid-stream, can reap the fruition of his most immoderate aspirations. Our old Mentor, Jonathan Gillingham, of Philadelphia, better known as 'Scul's' taught us 'the how,' and the recent casting of Mr. Hawes practically brought those teachings in all their detail before our mind's eye. It is known among Pennsylvania bass anglers as the 'overhead cast,' elsewhere as the 'overhand,' and is certainly the most effective long distance action that is known and practised by the craft. We will try to describe it, although fly-casting phraseology is yet in its infancy:

"When the line is laid out, say twelve yards or more in the forward cast, lift it quickly at the moment the flies touch the water, throwing, by a spring of the rod, the line backward and upward, giving the rod, when perpendicular, a second but slight wrist-turn, so as to add an additional impetus to the backward and upward flight of the line in the rear cast. Don't allow your rod to go back more than thirty degrees (Practice only will give you the exact angle.) In the recovery for the forward cast, pause until you fell the pull of the line on the tip of your rod. You now have the full weight of the whole line bearing upon it. At that instant make your forward cast with force and skill, and the result will surprise you in the additional reach over the ordinary method of casting. Pages could be penned covered with the pros and cons connected with this style of casting, its value, delicacy, availability on ordinary streams, &c. We have never found it indispensable, even on the broad waters of the river named above. A twelve or fourteen yard cast, when deftly done, seems to shut up the eye of our favourite fish, the black bass of running waters.

"We do not wish to be understood as disparaging the casting of Mr. Hawes; he is certainly one of the most gifted 'distance' casters of the age, and the evenness and military exactness of his action were certainly as pleasant to look upon as the results were wonderful to note. His casting was all done with the Leonard rods, and his longest distance of eighty-two feet was made with a four and a half ounce of that make. Mr. Hawes, in the salmon contest, used the "overhand" cast, reaching a distance of 116 feet, the longest distance on record in salmon casting.

"Mr. Harry Prichard has proved himself to be the champion 'distance' fly caster of the world, having made a cast of thirty yards one foot with a Leonard rod ten and a half feet long, and weighing eight and a quarter ounces. Mr. Prichard is about fifty years of age, well preserved, a jovial companion, slightly nervous, and a most excellent rodmaker. He is a member of the Washington Rod and Gun Club of Brooklyn. We heard dissenting opinions as to the style of his casting. It certainly is not graceful, nor does it seem to be an effective method for the stream; yet we are assured by such sterling anglers as Dr. Ferber, and others qualified to speak, that Prichard generally scores above his angling companions when on an outing; and an old gentleman, evidently one of the craft, asserted broadly at the tournament, that the roll of the line on the water, with its swashy splashing, attracted the fish. There is evidently merit in this underhand or 'rolling' cast when used at short distances; at long ones we fear that it is 'off colour' and 'off scoring.'"

Some anglers in criticising these interesting fly and bait casting tournaments pretend to decry the merits of long casts. They say that a man may by practice be able to make a longcast and yet be a very poor angler. In our opinion, this is a wrong view to take of the matter: they are not angling matches at all, and no sensible man would claim that a long cast is the *best* cast, or proves the angler who makes it to be a clever angler. At the same time we repeat that a man who can manage a long line delicately and well, will generally be able to use a shorter one effectively; on small streams, a long cast is rarely necessary, on broad streams it is often of immense value. Then, again, as tests of the relative value of different styles of casting and different makes of rods, these tournaments are unquestionably useful.

THE RECENT AMERICAN ANGLERS' TOURNAMENT.

(From *Forest and Stream*, Oct. 26, 1882.)

THE first annual *Forest and Stream* Anglers' Tournament opened at Harlem Mere, Central Park, New York city, on Thursday, the 19th, at 11 a.m. The place selected was on the eastern side of the Mere, on Fifth Avenue, near One Hundred and Tenth Street. Here there was a large open space, with gravelled walk, next the water, and a substantial platform had been built thirty feet out into the water, giving an opportunity to cast in three directions, according to the wind. This platform was originally intended to be two feet above the water, but by request of the bass casters, some of whom cast with the point of the rod below the feet, or "underhanded," it was placed at an elevation of three feet. The day opened in a lowery, clouded manner, but there were many persons present, and a few ladies graced the scene. Mr. Jones, Superintendent of the Park, had kindly provided seats for 200 persons, who could have a fine view of the casting. From the south to the north side of the lake, close to the east shore, a line was stretched, to which buoys were attached five feet apart, each alternate one in order from the stand being marked with the number of feet distant from the platform. In a boat outside the line the judges and referee were paddled about when the contests were going on, enabling them to keep abreast of each cast and thus correctly estimate its length. When the turn came for casting for accuracy and delicacy, which followed the casting for distance, a single buoy of 6 inches diameter, anchored 40 feet to the south of the stand, was made the object of aim.

This buoy was nicely made and presented by Mr. B. F. Nichols, and it was so evenly balanced that only a ring showed above the surface. The first thing on the programme was the light rod contest, which had been proposed by makers of light rods to show what they could do. The result was a surprise, as no one thought that over 65 feet would be cast with them. Mr. Hawes, a workman in Mr. Leonard's rod factory, cast 82 feet with a 4½ oz. rod. He is a pupil of Mr. H. L. Leonard, who did not cast at all in the tournament, on account of illness. The latter is probably the handsomest fly caster in America with either single-handed or salmon rod. The retrieving of Mr. Hawes elicited warm commendation. On his back cast the flies were up in the air at an angle of 30 degrees. The following are the scores:—

LIGHT ROD CONTESTS.

Judges: James Benkard, Prof. A. M. Mayer; G. W. Van Siclen, referee.

Class A.—Open to all. To be cast for with rods of 5¼ oz. in weight or less, made with ferrules and reel bands, and of two or more pieces; rods to be not longer than 10 nor shorter than 9 feet; 6 to 9 feet leaders with two flies.

Scale of points—Distance, actual cast; accuracy and delicacy, twenty-five each.

Winners to have choice of prizes in the order of their awards.

1. A split bamboo "Catskill" rod, reel, and line, given by Wm. Mills and Son, 7, Warren Street, New York ..	£10	0	0
2. Members South Side Sportsman's Club, cash	5	0	0
3. One year's subscription to *Forest and Stream*	0	16	0

	Length of Rod. Ft.	In.	Weight of Rod. Oz.	Distance. Ft.	Delicacy.	Accuracy.	Total Points.
H. W. Hawes ..	10	0	4½	82	12	20	114
R. C. Leonard ..	9	11¾	5¼	73	20	20	113
Reuben Wood ..	9	6	5¼	70	17	15	102
George S. Hier ..	10	4½	4½	67	15	15	97
H. Prichard	9	7½	5¼	67	9	20	96
E. S. Osgood	9	6	5¼	58	10	18	86
James Annin, jun. ..	10	4¼	4¼	64	9	10	83

Class B.—To be cast with full mounted rods of two or more pieces, with metal reel bands, weighing not more than 4½ oz.; leaders to be 6 to 9 feet, with two flies.

Judges and scale of points as above.

1. Members South Side Sportsman's Club, cash	£5	0	0
2. William Mitchell, rod maker, 26, Vandam Street, New York, offers a three-piece fly rod, duplicate joint, and three tips, 4¼ oz. weight, or similar rod with metal reel plate 1 oz. heavier, if winner prefers, value	6	0	0
3. One year's subscription to *Forest and Stream*	0	16	0

	Length of Rod. Ft.	Weight of Rod. Oz.	Distance. Ft.	Delicacy.	Accuracy.	Total Points.
H. W. Hawes	10	4½	78	10	24	112
G. S. Hier	10	4½	66	20	18	104
James Annin, junior	10	4¼	60	14	20	94
T. B. Mills	10	4½	60	8	16	84

Mr. Annin cast very prettily, but failed in distance.

THE B. F. NICHOLS' CONTEST.

(Single-Handed Fly Rods.

Judges: James Geddes, Dr. A. Ferber. Francis Endicot, referee.

Scale of Points.—Distance, delicacy, and accuracy, thirty-three each. Open to all. Each contestant to use the same rod, reel, and line, which will be furnished. (Rod 10 feet long, and weighing 6½ oz.) Each competitor will be allowed three minutes' practice with the rod before casting. The scale of points in this class will be distance, accuracy, and delicacy, thirty-three each. The line must be retrieved after each cast. Two flies to be used on leader. The casts for accuracy shall be at a distance of 40 feet. Accuracy and delicacy shall be judged perfect when the stretcher-fly strikes in the float at every cast (after reaching it) without splashing and before the body of the line strikes the water. All the prizes are donated by B. F. Nichols, manufacturer, 153, Milk Street, Boston, and all in grooved wood cases.

1. Split bamboo salmon rod 16½ feet, 27½ oz., with two tips, German silver mountings (12 00 dols.). Also one split bamboo trout rod, 10 feet, 7¼ oz., German silver mountings, value 20·00 dols. Total	£12	10	0
2. Split bamboo trout rod, 11 feet, 8¼ oz., German silver mountings, two tips, 20·00 dols. Also one similar rod 10 feet, 7¼ oz., 20·00 dols.	8	0	0
3. Split bamboo fly rod, 11 feet, 8½ oz., two tips, German silver mountings	4	0	0

	Distance cast.	Allowance for cast.	Delicacy.	Accuracy.	Total Points.
H. W. Hawes	71	32	30	28	90
Reuben Wood	67	28	30	30	88
Ira Wood	64	23	30	30	83
James Aunin, jun... ..	62	22	30	30	82
R. C. Leonard	74	33	28	20	81
Geo. S. Hier	60	22	25	33	80
W. Holberton	56	20	33	25	78
Dr. M. E. Elmendorf ..	55	19	25	28	72

Here again Mr. Hawes was a winner with a cast of only 71 feet against the 67 by the veteran champion, Reuben Wood. Both these gentlemen, it will be seen by the terms of the contest, were using a rod they had never seen before. Ira Wood followed with 64 feet, and James Annin led such casters as W. Holberton, Geo. S. Hier, and Dr. Elmendorf. Mr. R. C. Leonard made the longest cast, 74 feet, but failed in delicacy and accuracy. By the time this contest was called the rain began to fall heavily, and rubber coats and umbrellas were out in great numbers. Still many not provided with these articles stayed, and even some ladies remained on the seats until the the close of this contest, which ended the sport for the day.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20.

This day opened fair, with the wind from the north-east, and the buoy lines were shifted to the south. Baffling winds were in order all day. Still, good casting was done, and previous records beaten. The committee were asked to bar out the winners of yesterday from the amateur contest, but did not see their way to do it under the rules. This kept out many gentlemen who felt that they could not compete with professional rod-makers like Hawes, R. C. Leonard, and Culhane. The error was in the rules, which were strictly adhered to, and as the men named had never cast before in public the result was unforeseen. The first contest to-day was :—

SINGLE-HANDED FLY-CASTING.—CLASS A.

Judges, James Benkard, Barnet Phillips. W. Holberton, referee. Scale of points as in light-rod contests. Open to those who have never cast in any tournament or who have no public record of casting sixty feet, with rods of seven ounces or over. The winner to have choice of the following prizes, and the other contestants to choose from the remainder in their respective orders of merit:

1. *Forest and Stream* offers a solid hammered coin silver gold-lined flower, fruit or punch bowl, value	£25	0	0
2. Members of the South Side Sportsman's Club offer cash	10	0	0
3. James Ramsbottom, Baldwin's, L. I., a split-bamboo fly rod with reel, reel case, and waterproof silk line ..	7	0	0
4. Wakeman Holberton, 65, Fulton-street, card of copy of Standard Trout Flies, coloured by hand, in frame ..	2	0	0
5. One year's subscription to *Forest and Stream*	0	16	0

	Length of Rod. Ft.	In.	Weight of Rod. Oz.	Distance. Ft.	Delicacy.	Accuracy.	Total Points
W. H. Hawes	11	6	9¾	81	25	25	131
M. Culhane	11	6	10½	74	24	20	118
R. C. Leonard ..	11	6	10	85	12	20	117
J. Ramsbottom ..	11	0	8	63	23	23	109
M. E. Elmendorf ..	11	6	7½	56	22	22	100
Ed. Eggart	10	4	8	60	20	18	98
H. P. Wells	10	2	8	50	15	18	83

STRIPED BASS CASTING.

(New York Bay Style.)

Judges: Charles H. Murray, Francis Endicott. Barnet Phillips, referee.

Casts to be made with one-ounce sinkers, in a lane twenty feet wide, and each contestant to have five casts. His casts within the lane only to count The distances to be added together and divided by five; the result to constitute his score.

1. "Remington" sewing-machine, with four drawers, hemmer, &c., complete, presented by Martin B. Brown, New York	£11	0	0
2. One year's subscription to *Forest and Stream*	0	16	0
3. "Paddle and Portage," by Thomas Sedgwick Steele, Hartford, Conn., from the author	0	6	0

	1st cast.	2nd cast.	3rd cast.	4th cast.	5th cast.	Average.
John E. Williamson ..	—	80	—	—	88	33 3-5
Edward vom Hofe	45	35	—	—	—	16

The casting here was poor. Mr. Williamson has a record at the Coney Island tournament of 168 feet 6 inches.

STRIPED BASS CASTING.

(Sea-Coast Style.)

Judges: William A. Woodhull, S. M. Blatchford. James L. Vallotton, referee.

Open to all. To be cast with 2½ ounce sinkers. Winners to have choice of prizes, in the order of their awards. Lane and score as in light bass casting.

1. Split bamboo "Newport" bass rod with agate tip and rubber handle, donated by Fred Malleson, 136, First Street, Brooklyn	£8	0	0
2. "The Ameriean Anglers' Book," by Thad Norris, presented by Porter and Coates, Philadelphia	1	2	0
3. One year's subscription to *Forest and Stream*	0	16	0
4. "Canoe and Camera," by Thomas Sedgwick Steele, Hartford, Conn., from the author		6	0
5. Meerschaum and amber cigar holder (carved brook trout), in case, donated by F. J. Kaldenberg, 125, Fulton Street, New York	3	0	0

	Length of Rod. Ft.	In.	Score of Casts, Feet. 1st.	2nd.	3rd.	4th.	5th.	Total.	Average.
J. A. Roosevelt ..	7	5	135	163	—	180	158	636	127 1-5
J. E. Williamson ..	7	6	—	—	169	165	161	495	99
W. Murray	8	6	103	—	—	—	132	235	47
G. Landman ..	7	6	59	—	75	—	55	189	37 4-5
J. McGuirk	7	6	—	83	—	55	—	138	27 3-5
C. H. Murray ..	8	6	—	135	—	—	—	135	27
M. Culhane	7	6	—	40	—	—	—	40	8

Many good casts outside the lines were made, but the rule of casting in a lane, to secure accuracy, was new and bothered the contestants. Mr. Roosevelt's casting was much admired for his coolness, as well as his record.

SINGLE-HANDED FLY-CASTING.—CLASS B.

Judges: Francis Endicott, Henry F. Crosby; Jas. Geddes, referee. Scale of points:—Distance, actual cast; accuracy and delicacy ten each.

Open to all who have never won a first prize at this or any other similar contest. The winners to have choice of the following prizes in the order of their awards:—

1. "Game Fishes of the United States," plates by S. A. Kilbourn, and text by G. Brown Goode, presented by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York	£10	0	0
2. Split bamboo fly rod, presented by Mr. Fred. Malleson, 136, First Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.	5	0	0
3. One portable "Stranahan" canvas boat, seat and oars complete, presented by Frank Holmes, Chagrin Falls, Ohio	4	0	0
4. Copy of "Fysshe and Fishing," by Dame Juliana Berners (American edition)	0	6	0
5. One year's subscription to *Forest and Stream*	0	16	0

	Length of Rod Ft.	In.	Weight of Rod. Oz.	Distance. Ft.	Delicacy.	Accuracy.	Total Points.
R. C. Leonard	11	6	10	85	9	8	102
T. B. Mills	11	6	10	77	9	7	93
M. Culhane	11	6	10	70	9	8	87
W. Holberton	11	0	9	60	10	8	78
Ed. Eggert	10	4¼	8	57	8	7	72
C. A. Bryan	10	4	8	55	8	7	70

SALMON CASTING.

Judges: C. F. Fearing, James Benkard; L. W. Winchester, referee.

Scale of Points.—As in single-handed fly-casting, Class B. Open to all. Winners may choose prizes.

1. A finely-finished, German silver mounted, hexagonal split bamboo salmon rod, presented by Conroy and Bissett, 65, Fulton Street, New York	£10	0	0
2. One dozen patent fluted spoon baits (assorted sizes), with large photo. of 40 lb. muskallonge, presented by G. M. Skinner, Clayton, N.Y.	2	0	0
3. One year's subscription to *Forest and Stream*	0	16	0

	Length of Rod Ft.	Distance. Ft.	Delicacy.	Accuracy.	Total Points.
H. W. Hawes ..	20	116	7	9	132
Reuben Wood ..	18	105	10	9	124
H. Prichard ..	17	107	7	9	123
J. Ramsbottom ..	18	91	8	6	105

In this class the casting did not at all come up to the standard in either of the points of distance, delicacy or accuracy.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21.

The day was fine with varying winds from off shore to behind the casters, who faced the south. The only remaining contest was the

SINGLE-HANDED FLY-CASTING—CLASS C. (CHAMPION CLASS.)

Judges: Francis Endicott, W. C. Harris. Fred. Mather, referee. Scale of Points—Distance alone to count. Open to all. Winners to have choice of prizes.

1. E. G. Blakford, Fulton Market, New York, cash ..	£5	0	0
2. A Bethabara fly-rod, presented by Fred. D. Divine, 76, State Street, Utica, N.Y.	2	0	0
3. Revolver, 32 calibre, presented by Messrs. J. P. Lovell and Sons, Boston, Mass.	2	0	0
4. One year's subscription to *Forest and Stream*	0	16	0
5. "Book of the Black Bass," by Dr. J. A. Henshall, presented by Robert Clarke and Co., publishers, Cincinnati, Ohio.	0	12	0

	Length of Rod. Ft.	In.	Weight of Rod. Oz.	Longest Cast in Feet.
H. Prichard	10	4½	8	91
R. C. Leonard	11	6	8¾	90
H. W. Hawes	11	6	8½	85
T. B. Mills	11	6	8¾	79
M. Culhane	11	6	10½	76

Mr. Prichard, of the Washington Gun Club of Brooklyn, here made his remarkable cast of 91 feet in his peculiar rolling throw. This has been variously called a "water cast," an "underhanded cast," and a "hoop-snake cast." The line lies on the water at perhaps 60 feet, and by reeling off more line it is sent out with a rolling motion until the flies leap out beyond. There are various opinions on the merits of this mode, which is new here, but is said to be used in England. Some contend that it is impossible to take a fish in this manner on account of the commotion in the water near the caster. The other contestants retrieved their lines, and cast in the usual manner, and made many good casts. Only once did Mr. Prichard go beyond 85 feet, but as this contest was for distance alone he was awarded the first prize.

[We have made a few notes on this most interesting tournament elsewhere in this number.—ED.]

FIRESIDE MUSINGS.

BY J. P. WHEELDON.

WHEN, in the chill, mist-shrouded gloaming of a dull, cheerless day, one half involuntarily draws up closer to a handful of fire smouldering and flickering in the grate, how easily, amidst the still quiet attendant on solitary musings, does memory o'erbridge the evershifting gulfs of the past. Fancy, possessing herself of the easel, erected by an idle brain, a medium for thought pictures which sometimes stands close to one's elbow, and is sometimes huddled afar off in shadowy corners, paints thereon may be, a picture glowing in hopeful tints of bright, warm colour, or a canvas which is toned down by a certain moistened dimness of sight, a state of things possibly evoked by saddened recollections. Feathery particles of ash drop well nigh silently through the smoke-grimed bars, while now and again the clink of a falling cinder breaks the quiet stillness of the solitary room. Dead and gone faces seem to live again, one hears afresh the echoes of once familiar voices, while half-forgotten lineaments grow upon one's memory, until they are once more instinct with vitality.

As one sits thus quietly thinking, it would almost seem that the clasp of a well-remembered, dearly-loved hand is pulsing anew with warm and vigorous, if fanciful and shadowy, life. How little serves to give birth to such like idle yet pleasant fancies. As I sit here to-night, with my pipe as sole companion, I am perforce compelled to listen to the wailings of a shrewd, keen, blustering wind, which is rattling the casement in its strong grasp, and whirling of falling and fallen autumn leaves into strange and unaccustomed harbourage. Outside, in the sharp, keen, well-nigh frost-laden air, they fall unheeded on every hand, yet each dry and sapless leaf among them emits a little shiver, as it rustles down from the swaying tossing boughs overhead, as of regret for the dead glories of the golden summer. Then the wind comes whistling shrilly from its home over the tossing, moaning sea, and the frightened leaves fly shivering before its breath, until they find a final resting-place from whence they never issue more. Close to my elbow, amongst a litter of books and scraps of manuscript, stands a plaster cast of a well known fisherman and clever piscatory limner. The features of my dead friend, for alas he is gone to that sad and far-off bourne from which no traveller ever returns, seem in the dim firelight to be softened with traces of his amiable loving nature. His large mild brown eyes, —brown so dark that it was nearly black—seem to beam and glow yet once again with their old kindly glitter from behind his spectacles. The clear cut aristocratic cast of his features, well shaped handsome nose, and high intellectual forehead, the little fringe of thin iron grey curling hair, his long, carefully brushed whiskers and moustache, seemed to stand out in clear relief from the dark scarlet of his Turkish fez, without which adornment, for it was one to him, kindly, handsome, good-hearted fellow as he was, without a trace of conceit or affectation about him, no one amongst his many many friends, and they are and were legion, can very well recall the dead painter. I need not mention his name. Mayhap there are sorrowful eyes yet hardly dry from mourning over his loss, but every one who reads these lines will know whom I mean, at least, amongst those very many who were called his personal friends. They will know, morever, that I am speaking truth, when I say that he went down to his somewhat early grave with the assured knowledge amongst them all that no act or deed of his throughout his whole life had ever made an enemy.

His salmon rod and gaff stand close by in the corner, and a faithful friend in the shape of an old-fashioned brass and wooden reel on a shelf above my head. Many and many a time has that rust-stained reel screamed and scrooped, awaking slumbering echoes on the Spey or Earn, as the top bent down with that dearly loved, graceful sweep, at the first rush of a lusty salmon. Times out of number I can call him to mind, sitting in the armchair opposite, pipe in mouth and spinning fishy yarns, many of which taught me a useful lesson.

The wind comes with a rush again against the window panes, rattling the casement; and then I remember that, just on such a night as this, he, my old crony Arthur Wellington Callen, of East Moulsey—as good an angler, by-the-bye, as ever fisted a rod—and myself, had foregathered together. The little room was blue and hazy with tobacco smoke, out from which certain big trout and barbel, and eke a pike or two, loomed from the retirement of their glass-fronted apartments. There was, besides, a certain smell and steam of hot water, lemons, and sugar combined, together with the subtle essence emanating from a squat, ugly little decanter standing on the table, filled with some of Teacher's old straw-coloured Highland whiskey—perhaps the very best Usquebaugh ever distilled.

The conversation had turned at last upon chub fishing.

We had been at it the whole evening every one of us. Hours had slipped pleasantly past, while tongues kept ding-donging away with first an argument broached, which had held water for a time and then got smashed, then another started, probably meeting the same fate, until finally we got to chub and cherries.

"I suppose they will take them now and again," said Wellington, who by-the-bye was drinking cold tea and filling his pipe afresh.

"Oh, beyond all doubt," said the painter, following his example, so far as the tobacco was concerned. "At certain times. I can call to mind one day up at Mapledurham. Scorching hot day it was, too. Capital whiskey, J. P. Yes, don't mind if I do, old fellow. Lemon? Hum—ah. Well, a leetle bit of the rind, cut thin. Thanks." So on we go again, and "oh! the happy fisher's life it is the best of any." "Well now, you'll call to mind those splendid chub runs opposite the Roebuck, and all round the little islands facing Purley Woods. 'Course you do. Do you know I'd tried cheese, craw fish tail, shrimps, tail end of a lob, and greaves, and deuce of a fish worth talking about had I got? Suddenly I recollected a bag of cherries I had in the punt, and not altogether believing in them, I yet started a sample of Biggareaus down the next run on my Nottingham tackle. Bang away went the float, not twenty yards down, and faith, I'd got hold of a four-pounder. A rare fight I had with him, for he pulled hard to get the tackle fixed up in a bit of bush, and I pulled harder to keep him out of it, the end of it being that he took to plunging and jumping for all the world like a big trout. Rare good fun it was I can tell you, and so I ended an apparently hopeless day in the outset by killing a rattling good basket of fish. Where's the matches, old chap?"

"Crawfish tail, eh?" said Wellington, slowly and reflectively, puffing out a huge dose of curling vapour. "Ah, that's the pink, curly bit at the end of the shell. Yes—puff, puff—I can fancy that mightily. Tell you what I once saw on the Mole, and I can assure you that it pegged me back a bit, too. I wish to goodness you'd tell that girl of yours to bring in the tea-pot, W. Inhospitable cuss, you are, to be sure. Hanged if I ever saw such a fellow! Ah, well! what's bred in the bone, &c. And so to resume. One windy day, in the early part of the year, I saw a lot of chub rising under a grea horse chestnut tree hanging over the water. Every now and again one of those gummy, sticky-looking buds fell from the boughs, and, 'pon my life, the big fish made a dash at them as they fell. Whether they absolutely retained them or not, of course I cannot say. Tel you, however what I have seen more than once, and that is a shoa of chub gulping down the seeds of elm trees, just as fast as they fell."

"I've seen precisely the same thing," chimed in the writer. "I was fairly flabbergasted once to see a big chub dash at a horse-chestnut bud; and so also with the red berries from yew trees. There's a lovely chub run just below Formosa. Dare say you know it. Cookham way, you know. And there are some yew trees hanging over certain bits of it. It's a sure find for big chub there when the berries are ripened and they begin to fall."

"Talking about that horse chestnut tree," said the tea drinker, half drowsily, and perhaps it was owing to the influence of the tannin "Do you recollect, W., that chub I got from under the rhododendron boughs, below the big bream hole?"

"Do I—don't I?" was my rejoinder. "The very biggest, bar none, that I ever saw in my life. Why, confound it, man, he was over 7 lb. weight, if I recollect rightly. An old, grey-headed vagabond he was, with scales on him as big as florin pieces.

"Ah, he was a chub, that was. I'm sorry now that I did not have him set up. No more tea, eh? Thought as much. And now, I suppose, I must drink that poisonous whiskey. Ugh! pass the bottle One consolation is that we shall all die some day."

"What did you get him with?" asked the painter at this juncture The neck of that decanter will get rusty, I can see, at this rate. Two lumps of sugar, please. Thanky. And how about this big chub Horse chestnut bud, eh?"

"No, shrimp," answered the other laconically. Fed him up for two days on the best brown, at 2½d. a pint, and then tipped him about four of 'em, nicely peeled, arranged on a triangle, and quietly floated down to his home. Had them in an instant? Certainly he did without a symptom of hesitation; and if ever a man had a murderous fight in a dark, gloomy hole, on single gut, with a bad foothold under his feet, it was yours very truly, A. W. C., that night."

"Aye, and talking about shrimps," I chimed in, "do you recollect the sort of roach you and I, old boy, poor Jim Slowly and George Fox used to kill in the old Surrey Canal with them. What bags were had at the time when they were pumping the water out from the big sewer at the end of the Coburg Road. Why, bless me, there were roach landed then which were as handsome as any Colne fish that ever swam, and every bit as big."

"Ah," said my friend mournfully and regretfully; "and what bream too. There was good fishing on that canal bank fourteen or fifteen years ago, just behind where St George's Road stands now and all that mass of bricks and mortar running down to the site of the old shooting ground at the Rosemary Branch. Yes, as good fishing there as in any bit of water round London."

"Quite played out now, I suppose?" queried him in the scarlet fez.

"No, I don't think that; but every bit of the charm is gone. There were green fields then on every hand, and old willow stumps on the bank, with wild flowers growing round the roots. Then under one's foot there were beautiful beds of weeds, yellow lilies stretching out into the water, and flowering rushes fringing the bank. It's a wilderness now of frouzy streets; a howling wilderness of bricks and mortar, scrubby, scrofulous children, and mangy cats. All the lilies are gone, and, in place of the wild flowers, the bank is strewed with brickbats, oyster shells, and tinned lobster cans from America

Hardly the spot for an angler, eh ? Years ago I have passed many a pleasant hour on that bank, but now—oh, bust it, there's no tea again ! Pass the whiskey."

"A sad pity, too," said I, who can well recollect the capital fishing referred to by my friend ; "a sad pity that the company has seen fit to keep the Docks closed so long. For years I used to look forward to Saturday afternoons there ; and, at a time when I was stived up in a dusty dingy office in Tooley Street, the hope of a bit of fishing (and real good fishing too it was) at the end of the week used somehow to make the beastly old ledgers, sheets of parchment and foolscap, pounce box and red tape, look a bit less heartless. I wonder, now, if the London anglers were to petition the Companies to throw open the splendid waters of the Surrey and Commercial Docks yet once again, whether they'd do it. I don't know really, in these days of toleration of such a nuisance as howling Salvation Armies and their degradation of all honest sense of religion, whether there might not be a chance for the poor angler being tolerated, because he is, after all, only seeking a simple quiet enjoyment to the detriment or disturbance of no man's peace of mind."

My friend, to my mind, was just about to reply, but at this juncture I was roused from my reverie by a tap at the door. A girl, with a remarkable snub nose, brilliant with a recent application of yellow soap, put her head in the room saying : "Please, sir, missus says the tripe's done to a turn, it is." It was enough, for I find from experience that there is little or no analogy between old thoughts and tripe and onions.

INAUGURAL DINNER OF THE GREAT YARMOUTH PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

THIS popular society has scored another success. The inaugural dinner which took place at the Victoria Hotel, opposite the Wellington Pier, on Thursday evening, the 2nd of November, was indeed another triumph, and will certainly solidify the position and character of the club. The attendance was all that could be desired ; the general arrangements, by the indefatigable secretary, Mr. J. Lark, were full and complete. The dinner which the proprietor, Mr. G. F. Crane, placed upon the table it would be difficult to surpass for perfection and comfort. The tables were profusely decorated with flowers and fruit. The attendance on the guests, under Mr. Crane's personal superintendence, was exceedingly good, and altogether the room presented a cheerful and animated appearance. The presence of some visitors from London, who had come to Yarmouth expressly on purpose to attend the dinner, had undoubtedly increased the attraction. The Thames Angling Preservation Society was represented by Mr. Alfred Nuthall and Mr. W. H. Brougham, and the Gresham Angling Society by Mr. Thomas Crumplen and Mr. Bates, all four gentlemen being members of the latter society. Dr. Mitchell occupied his position as President of the Great Yarmouth Piscatorial Society, Mr. Etheridge that of Vice-President, and Mr. Hewitson as Chairman. There were amongst others present: Messrs. J. Lark, G. Bennett, W. Diver, Bonfellow, Lowrie, Ruddock, Elliott, Lee, Newry, Bly, Corbould, &c., &c. Letters of a very interesting nature, and expressing great regret at their not being able to be present, were read from Mr. Edward Birkbeck, M.P., Mr. Thomas Spreckley, and Mr. R. B. Marston. After every justice had been done to the excellent and praiseworthy dinner, the president, Dr. Mitchell, gave the usual loyal toast in an expressive manner, which was warmly responded to by those present, and followed by the National Anthem. Mr. Bonfellow then proposed the toast of the evening, "Success to the Great Yarmouth Piscatorial Society," and remarked it was the first occasion of a dinner of that kind being given in Yarmouth, and in reality the first club that had ever been started in the town. It was most gratifying to witness the success which had attended the exertions of those connected with it, and he hoped the success would long continue. He had great pleasure in asking them to drink the toast with great enthusiasm, which was accordingly done. Dr. Mitchell, whose name was associated with the toast as president of the society, said they had met together for the purpose of inaugurating the undoubted success of the club, the members of which, by a kind of fraternity and good fellowship, were linked together for the purpose of promoting the interests of angling in the capital of Bloaterland. The society had commenced with three members, and it now numbered fifty-six good and true anglers. This fact alone proves the necessity of such an institution as theirs, and it had become an accomplished fact. It was the desire of his society to assist the preservation societies, and to prevent angling in an illegal manner. They had passed a resolution to inflict a fine on any of their members for bringing into the club-room any unsizeable fish, and to admit the London visitors during the year to become members, entitled to all their privileges at 2s. 6d. each. The society also hoped to get concessions from the railways for their members, and ultimately to rent waters of their own. An attempt had been made to set up a private right in a portion of water that had been publicly fished from time immemorial, and had their funds been strong enough, they would have taken action in the matter by testing the legality of the claim. Dr. Mitchell concluded a thoroughly practical speech by assuring them of his desire to do all he could to make the society even more prosperous. Mr. G. Archard gave the health of the Vice-President, Mr. Etheridge, who was a great supporter of all sports, and just the gentleman for the position he occupied, and whose influence would tend largely to increase the welfare of the society. Mr. Etheridge, in reply, said that although he was not an angler at present, he had fully made up his mind to become one, and by next year he hoped he would have signalised his character as an angler by the exhibition of a large jack. The society had certainly given him a taste for angling and he should cultivate that feeling in the future. Dr. Mitchell proposed in a very telling speech "The Visiting Secretaries from London," coupling the names of Mr. W. H. Brougham and Mr. Thomas Crumplen, both of whom had undertaken a journey of 250 miles to be present that evening. Mr. W. H. Brougham, after congratulating the members on the great success of the society, observed that if the distance to come amongst them had been double it would only have doubly increased his pleasure. He was glad to find the club had resolved upon supporting the preservation societies and in preventing the slaughter of small fish. He had now been twenty-five years connected with the Thames Angling Preservation Society, and his first act was that of checking "the wholesale slaughter of the innocents," that was then carried on to a great extent. He felt a great interest in their club, and he was sure his good friend Mr. Lark would, with his energy and perseverance, maintain the position it already occupied. There was a striking instance of what could be done by the success of the Gresham Angling Society, which, in less than two years, had enrolled over 250 members, and this was due to the activity of their friend Mr. Crumplen. Mr. Thomas Crumplen remarked that it had afforded him great pleasure in coming amongst them on that occasion. He was glad to find the society had taken up the feeling against what was termed private rights. He referred to the Grand International Fisheries Exhibition of last year, and his having been chosen as a member of one of the sub-committees. He hoped that the society at that end, and the London clubs at the other, would use every effort to get the Great Eastern Railway Company to grant three days' privilege tickets for the London anglers to Yarmouth. Mr. W. Diver, in proposing "The Health of the Secretary," said that, in his experience, the success of any society depended upon the activity of the secretary, and it had already proved itself in their case. It was an extraordinary fact that, where so much fishing existed, there had never before this been an angling club formed, and he believed that the existence of angling clubs would make anglers. He was sure they would drink Mr. Lark's health with the greatest cordiality. Mr. Lark made a very telling reply in which he traced out the progress and working of the society, and how he had endeavoured during that period to discharge his duty with every desire to make it an important club in which should be found true and honest anglers, as the real basis of its strength and popularity. It was greatly encouraging to him to see amongst them on that occasion several gentlemen from London, who had come down on purpose to help them. He thanked them very heartily for the kind reception that had been given to the toast. Dr. Mitchell gave the toast of "The Visitors," Mr. Alfred Nuthall and Mr. Bates, whom he thanked most heartily for being present on that occasion. Mr. Alfred Nuthall observed in reply that it had been a source of great pleasure to come amongst them again and to find they were in so successful a position, and he sincerely hoped they would continue to prosper and become a large society. Mr. Bates also expressed much satisfaction in coming from London to be there that evening, and he was sure the society had his best wishes. Mr. Lark proposed "The Bure Preservation Society," and acknowledged the kind help they had received from Messrs. Harmer and Ruddock, the solicitors. In giving the toast he would call upon Mr. Ruddock, who was then present, to respond to it. Mr. Ruddock briefly returned thanks on behalf of his partner and himself. Mr. Crumplen gave the health of the Chairman of the Club, Mr. Hewitson, who he had known for some time, and who was in his experience a good angler and a capital companion, Mr. Hewitson, in a few appropriate remarks, expressed his acknowledgment. Mr. Alfred Nuthall proposed "The Press," coupling with it the name of Mr. Coulson of the *Yarmouth Independent*. Mr. Coulson replied, and said it was always a pleasure to him to report the doings of the Yarmouth Piscatorial Society, and hoped the club would long enjoy its present prosperity. Mr. W. H Brougham, in proposing "The Host and Hostess," remarked he could speak practically upon the character of the dinner, as he was in the habit of attending a few in the course of the year, and he could honestly say he had never sat down to a better. The toast was drank with heartiness. The concluding toast given by the president was "The Ladies," which was replied to by Mr. Bates, whose name was associated therewith. The evening was greatly enlivened by some capital singing by Messrs. Elliott, Bonfellow, Bacon, and Button, and a recitation by Dr. Mitchell. On the following evening the performance at Transfield's Great American Circus was under the patronage of the president, vice-president, and members of the Great Yarmouth Piscatorials Society. The active manager, Mr. Vertie-Courtenay, who is son-in-law to Mr. R. Edon, of the Kensington Museum, gave a first rate entertainment, which was highly applauped by a crowded audience.

B.

A LUMINOUS SHARK.—Several fishes possess the remarkable power of emitting light, but the most interesting of these curious animals is a shark. A specimen captured in Australian waters, when removed into a dark room, presented an extraordinary spectacle. The whole of the under surface of the body and head gave forth a vivid greenish phosphorescent gleam which imparted quite a ghastly appearance to the fish. The luminous aspect was constant, and not increased by the movements of the animal. After the shark expired the strange light gradually disappeared.—From "*Little Folks*" *Magazine* for November.

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

On Friday and Saturday of the past, and Sunday and Monday of the present week, several pretty parcels of roach and perch came to hand at most of the get-at-able and likely stations between Oxford and Staines. The deluge of Tuesday night has again made the water of the proverbial pea-soup consistence. Angling with any degree of success is out of the question in the Thames for many days to come.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Ancholme District.

Owing to the large quantity of water in the river during the past week, but little angling has been done. The eels have been running down very freely, and the finest sport has been had with these slippery gentry bobbing in the punts. Some good fishing is anticipated when the water clears.—THOMAS FORD.

Bure (Norwich).

The floods have, for the chief part of last week, stopped many anglers from trying their luck on this stream. On Friday last Mr. Robert Harvard, jun., of this city, Mr. N. F. Harrison (*alias* "Old Rogeroo"), of the Piscatorial Society, London, and myself were at Horning Ferry. I had previously written Host Thompson instructing him to choose a lee and bait a swim; after a pleasant drive, the morning being fine, we reached our destination about 10 a.m. We rowed to our mooring poles and after trying every bait we had we found gentles were the only temptation, the prize being generally a roach or bream flat of from 2 oz. to 8 oz. At 5 p m we had caught about 160 between us, the majority of which were of course returned to their native element, to afford sport in their more mature age After enjoying a sumputous *tea*, as it is called at this excellent spot, our host informed me of a curious and I believe scarce instance of a pike showing a liking for game Whilst the floods were at their height, the waters surrounded this famous fishing station, the grass plot in front being one of the few places affording footing to outsiders, the landlord observed a covey of partridges alight upon said grass, on opening his door they flew across the river, some dropping into the reeds on the other side and being drowned, others getting safely to some secure spot, whilst one poor unfortunate dropped into the river and was immediately seized and taken under by a large pike. Returning to Norwich by way of Wroxham we called on Host Simpson, Hoveton, King's Head, to hear particulars about the pike which a man in the employ of E. S. Stafford, Esq., The Hall, Wroxham, had picked out of the water near Belaugh. Said pike had struck an eel a yard long, and the eel proved an unfortunate venture, for, in trying to extricate himself, he somehow forced his way up the gill of the pike and consequently both succumbed to the struggle. I might mention that after taking the inside out of the pike he scaled 25 lb., and that the eel being a yard long I should estimate his weight at about 4 lb. ROBERT MOLL.

Camel and Inney (Cornwall).

The river this week is in good condition, and several persons have been trying for large fish. A friend of mine has taken two salmon and several peel since Saturday last. Devon bait and lead minnows are being used more largely at present than anything else. One gentleman had several sorts of minnows, and these, strange to say, he carried in his pocket without any protection. Trout fishing has terminated now for several days.—H. O. PENGELLY.

Chichester.

There has been a marked improvement in the weather the past few days; the wind veering to the north, and bright sunny days resulting. The canal is now in splendid order. Pike are on the feed—several small ones being secured; while perch are giving good sport. Spinning may be indulged in with an amount of pleasure, the water being up and weeds down. In the weekly contest of the C. A. S. Mr. Stokes was for the fourth time successful—carrying off the first prize. In the pike competition for the prize given by the treasurer, Mr. A. Purchase, competitors are limited to one rod; in fact, a rule was passed at a general meeting on Tuesday prohibiting the use of more than one jack rod at any time by members of the club. It has been no uncommon occurrence to see all sorts of apologies for rods to the number of four and five owned by one pot-hunting sportsman—baited and set in a row. Nothing better than trimmering. There will now be some chance for legitimate angling.—GEORGE F. SALTER.

Derwent (Chatsworth).

Owing to the continuous rains, I am not able to give any more favourable report than last week. The water still remains in the same discoloured condition. I think the water is gradually subsiding, but will take some time yet before anglers can have a chance of looking in; so that it is almost useless anticipating how soon it may be again in fine fishable order in this extremely wet and unsettled weather.—WHEATSHEAF HOTEL.

Dove.

Those few anglers who have been out this week have had to provide themselves with the thousand and one little preservatives from cold which an angler knows so well. The weather has been exceptionally unfavourable for angling, the mornings, when not excessively wet, being bitterly cold, with a piercing wind. The river has been in flood during the greater portion of the week, owing to the heavy rain, and sport has therefore been of a limited description. Still, considering the wretched condition of affairs meteorological, one or two decent baskets have been made, barbel having taken the worm pretty freely in some instances. With the waters fined down, I anticipate better sport than we have experienced for some time; but the weather at present does not present a promising aspect.—THE SPLODGER.

Grand Junction Canal (Boxmoor).

Fishing has been out of the question for this last three weeks down here until last Sunday, when the water was more favourable and some very nice jack were taken by Mr. James Lachford off Boxmoor, 4 jack weighing 3 lb. each; and on Monday Mr John Frankland caught 1 jack weighing $4\frac{1}{2}$ lb. The river now is favourable for fishing. I went out this afternon and caught a fine perch weighing 2 lb.—bait, red worm; jack bait, small roach.—R. COMBER.

Ilfracombe.

Sea fishing Friday. Some good sport was had from the Jetty with rod and line. A quantity of mullet was caught weighing about four the pound, and some conger about 10 lb. each. Saturday and Sunday blowing a gale. Monday morning wind abating a little. About six o'clock several boats started, and after drifting two or three hours they hauled three and four maize of herrings each boat. They had a drift again for the high water amidst pouring rain, and caught from 17 to 20 maize of herrings, some fine hake, and whiting. Tuesday all boats out, and some good catches were brought in, when the price fell from 35s. to 20s. the maze. Several hake were caught, some in the nets, others with hand lines. One boat brought up off the Bull fishing for conger; they caught 132 lb. The drum hoisted for a gale. Three of the larger boats ran above Langman and shot their nets. The wind came on to blow a gale. They hauled their nets, and with difficulty got back to harbour with 15 maize of herrings. A man fishing from the tollgate at the pier hooked what he supposed to be a large fish. Judge his astonishment when he hauled up to find he had three large conger tied together. They were supposed to have been left in a boat while the fishermen went to get some refreshment, and by some means got out over, for when they came for their fish they had disappeared. Wednesday, two large skate, one cod 18 lb., and one ling 16 lb. was brought in from a spiller set. Just off the harbour a few lobsters have been brought in from the pots. No fishing to-day. Blowing a gale from W. to W.N.W.—E. COMER.

Lea (Ware).

On Sunday last there was a great influx of anglers here, notably the Bloomsbury Brothers and the Dalston, both of which clubs fished a pegged-down match; but owing to the river having again got thick with the Saturday morning's rain, and to which was added a perfect gale, nothing was done, in fact many anglers returned to London early. The only fish obtained during the week has been from the "Manifold ditch," Mr. Hall, myself, and a few others, favoured with permission, having taken roach and dace in quantities. I should think Mr. H.'s weight for the week would approach something like 40 lb.. Of course, nothing whatever has been done amongst the jack, but should we get little or no rain for a few days the river will then be in excellent order. The floods have taken great quantities of weed away, and no doubt this fact will move "Mr. Jack" to search farther afield for food, and thus give anglers a better chance than has yet been had this season. Thursday night.—Weather fine and beautifully clear; air sharp with little or no wind.—LION AND WHEATSHEAF.

Medway (Tonbridge).

Oh, the rain! The rain it raineth every day, and the result is that the river gets worse and worse. To-day it is as thick as puddle. The barometer is falling, and there is every appearance of more downfall. When we shall be able to angle again is a question which cannot be answered by this deponent.—YE MEDWAY WATER RAT.

Ribble and Hodder.

The rivers have been in nice order for the finishing of the season; but not much sport. A few morts have been taken, and a gentleman staying here caught a salmon 20 lb. weight on Tuesday, and on Wednesday one 6 lb; that was the last this season. —E. DUGDALL.

P.S.—I am sorry we did not send the report last week.

Thames (Oxford).

Angling prospects are again most disheartening; the heavy rains which have fallen in the course of the past week have swollen the river and turned it to a rich pea-soup colour. I find, from the register kept at the Botanical Gardens, which stand on the banks of the Cherwell, about 800 yards from the confluence with the Thames, and for all practical purposes serves to record changes which take place in the height of that stream, that on November 2 the river stood at 4·45 feet, or 183·5 feet; and this morning at 5·25 feet, or 184·12 feet above the mean sea level. Since last night there had been a rise of $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and during the week a total increase of upwards of $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches in the depth of the water; and if the rainfall of the past week at Oxford can be taken as a criterion of what they have had in the valleys of the Thames and the Cherwell, we may expect another and a heavier run of flood water to come down within the next few days. The only chances of sport just at present is in the bays and eddy corners of the river, where you may by chance light on a shoal of perch or a jack lies perdu under that brown fringe of rotting sedges, waiting to pounce on the roach or small fry who have been driven from the deep by the sudden rise of the stream to seek the shelter of the banks. A paternoster baited with a worm on the bottom and a minnow on the second hook, is a very deadly method of fishing in such places as I have just mentioned; and, whilst I think of it, I may as well give a hint on the construction of this useful piece of tackle. The specimens sold by the dealers are, as a rule, simple abominations, as useless as they are expensive, and calculated, from the manner in which they are put together, rather to frighten the fish than to induce them to bite. First take a yard of fine natural gut, stained to a brown or sorrel colour, make a loop at each end, next take about three inches of stout sewing cotton, join the two ends, and thread it through the hole in the bullet you use as a sinker, and pass it over the bullet again; join this to the loop in the bottom of the gut, to which should be fixed a No. 7 hook; about nine inches above this tie a standing loop, and bite a split-shot onto the knot to prevent any chance of its slipping; to this affix a No. 8 hook, and if the depth of the water permits an additional one, bound on fine gimp, and baited with a small dace or gudgeon, may be used; if the bullet happens to meet with any obstruction on the bottom the thread will break, and the rest of the tackle come out intact, whereas, if it is fixed to the bottom loop of the gut, the loss of the whole paternoster is the result. For fishing in the floods, either from the edge or from a boat, I go to work as follows:—I use two No. 8 round bent hooks, baited with either a cockspur, brandling, or the tail of a small lobworm, and about a yard of drawn gut, stained for dark water a sorrel or for lighter water a light blue. On to this I bite a No. 6 B B shot to enable me to cast out. As soon as the bait has reached the bottom I tighten the line, and the slightest nibble is perceptible; and if anything, I prefer to use a fly-rod, as from its springy nature a greater stretch of water can be covered; and at intervals I chop up half a dozen worms to throw in, either cockspurs or small lobs, as these keep on the move for a longer space of time than the larger ones, which work into the grass and soon die. When fishing from a boat I always choose the deepest places formed by the hollows of the field, termed in country parlance flams, and by this means I have often secured a good bag, when friends of mine have been unable to obtain scarcely any sport. I remember going to Thrupp, on the Cherwell, one day last season in company with two old fishermen, who thought they knew a thing or two, and who very kindly gave me a lot of advice as to what I ought to do, which, I am afraid to say, I took for what it was worth. They rather ridiculed my light Nottingham tackle, and, thinking they had an innocent to deal with, proposed a shilling sweepstakes for the best catch. I assented, and as soon as they had fairly settled to work, strolled off to a piece of flooded land that rather took my fancy. At the end of the day when I rejoined them I found that their joint catch consisted of about a dozen roach and perch, and to their great disgust I opened my creel and turned out four dozen fine roach and as we were going home I heard one of them say to the other: "I say, Tom, I can't make out how that young devil got hold of that swag of fish." I could have enlightened him; but he knew so much, and had given me such a lot of advice, of which he seemed chock-full and I thought if he knew any more he might probably burst, so for the sake of his wife and children I held my tongue.—CHERWELL OTTER.

P.S.—Mr. Stephen Davies was out on Monday and Tuesday, and secured a few nice perch, and Mr. W. Shirley at Kirklyton (but like a wise man he won't name the exact spot) caught 22 perch, 9 of which averaged from 8 oz. to 1¼ lb., and I should say he had rather a warm time of it, as the whole bag were taken in a hour.

Thames (Richmond).

The river had got in very fair order by Saturday last, when we had some good sport with the roach, which ran a good size; but we were not to enjoy it long, as the rain came down on Monday as if it had not rained for a month, but with a day or two like to-day it will be right again, and we are sure to have some good sport as soon as it gets right. During the past week there have been a good number of punt and bank anglers down. The times that each fisherman have been out during the week with their patrons are:—Kit Brown, five days; E. Brown, four days; H. Wheeler, three days; Francis, two days; H. Howard, one day; Job Brain, three days; John Bushnell, four days.—JOHN BUSHNELL.

Torridge (Torrington).

We have been having rain every day since last writing, in consequence of which the river has been high and foul, and so continues. There is only five days left for the rod and line fishermen, and we cannot expect much more being done this season. The fishing in general has been good; one gentleman has taken in the months of September and October over 60 peel and 2 salmon, besides a quantity of trout. There are plenty of fish in the river and every prospect for good fishing in the spring.—PRACTICAL ANGLER.

Trent.

On account of the flooded state of the river I have only to record another week of piscatorial stagnation. I cannot learn of any anglers being out, neither is it of the slightest use at present. A heavy thunderstorm visited the Midland district last night, and more floods must in consequence follow from the heavy rainfall.—JNO. GREGORY.

Trent (Newark).

Flood, nothing but flood, has been the state of the Trent for a month past; at the time of writing, Thursday night, the river is out of all bounds, and acres of meadow land under water; like Othello, our occupation's gone, we can only ruefully view the waste of waters, and wonder when we shall have a chance to wet a line. One thing these floods will do, that is, they will clean out the bed of the river, sweep away all rubbish, and pack the fish into their winter quarters. When the river does get into condition, I anticipate some good sport; there is no chance yet. We can only wait and hope for the good time coming.—THE TRENT OTTER.

Witham (Boston).

Some parts of Lincolnshire have been visited again by heavy rains, and, as a consequence, the streams and watercourses have been much swollen, especially the Witham. Almost directly after my last report the waters had sunk sufficiently to allow of operations being resumed in favourable places, and this went on until Tuesday, when heavy rain again put a stop to everything. On Friday some fish were caught, chiefly roach, and the red worm was found the most killing. Saturday's operations were scarcely satisfactory; still about twenty members of the Royal George Angling Club turned out for their last match. This was on the Bargate drain, and about half returned fishless, the others also doing badly. The best roach take I have heard of is fifty-nine fish by Mr. Cross, on the Aqueduct water, on Friday. The pike fishers did not venture out till Monday. At Cherry Corner, one of 5 lb. was taken, several at Eastville, and some also on the Mount drain. If present weather continues the smaller streams will be in condition by Saturday next.—THE YELLOW BELLY.

Wye and Derwent.

Both the Wye and Derwent have been bank-full the whole of the past week, and there has been scarcely any angling done worth recording; in fact, there have been but very few places where the bottom fishers could fish, owing to so much water running down the Derwent the whole of the week. Both yesterday and to-day (Thursday) there has been some good samples of grayling and roach killed, with brandling worms for bait, the fish biting the best in water from 2 to 3 feet deep; and baskets from four to six brace per angler have been made. There will be no fly fishing in these rivers for another week. Weather still very unsettled.—GEORGE JAMES PATON.

Yare (Norwich).

Brundall is the only station where I have heard of anything doing, Mr. Robert Harvard, jun., and "The Old Rogeroo" (referred to in the Bure report), had very fair sport here on Thursday, landing about a stone of fair size roach. On Monday last, Hubbard, of Sprowston, hired a boat at Messrs. H. Flowers and Co., the Yare Hotel, Brundall, and he was fortunate enough to secure 117 fine fish, the thirteen largest bream weighing 31 lb. 2 oz. I have heard of no jack being taken—I suppose the water is too thick, and at the time I write it has risen again though the tide is rushing out here; I cannot predict much sport of any kind unless the weather settles and the waters fall considerably. It is worth noting that Hubbard caught most of his fish in comparatively shallow water.—ROBERT MOLL.

Yore (Hawes).

Several freshes this week. River now full of snow broth. Only heard of one decent dish being made this week. Grayling, when water is suitable, fairly well on the feed; red and brandling worms being the best bait. I hear of no one trying the maggot; in fact they are not procurable here. I wish some of your readers would oblige me with a few to try.—J. CORNY.

South of Ireland.

THE SHANNON FISHERIES.

The rivers in the South of Ireland, especially the Lee and Blackwater and their respective tributaries, have been swollen by the late rains. The weather continues wild and cold, with occasional sleet and rain, which makes outside work most uncomfortable. In fact, the winter has set in upon this latitude suddenly, and with its worst phases. However, these characteristics are quite favourable for piscatorial life, and the salmon and sea trout have been able to reach the gravel beds of the small streams, which they show a decided preference for as depositing places for their ova. During the last flood a large number of winter fish were seen ascending the weirs, and this is a hopeful sign. The springers have not yet commenced to run, but I have no doubt that an occasional one may be found with the shoals of spawning salmon that are moving up. The annual meeting of the Fishery Conservators of the Shannon was held last week in Limerick. It was the meeting of the new board, and it was apparent, from the report of the inspector, that even the lordly Shannon has not been free from the arts of the poacher. In fact, it was stated that an alarming system of poaching was pursued in the upper waters—a system defying and baffling the ordinary resources of the Conservators. The poaching was carried on with nets in the favourite fishing pools on this magnificent river. The inspector admitted there were not sufficient bailiffs to cope with this abnormal state of things. Then, again, the complaint arises that the revenue of the Board will not afford a sufficient staff. Modern appliances can be made very effective for the destruction of fish, and where the value of the article and loose preservation are the incentives to poaching, it is no wonder it has become developed into a science. The Shannon and the Blackwater want anglers' clubs to initiate a movement to counteract poaching, as they did in the Lee; but the riparian proprietors on these rivers appear too conservative of their rights to give even one open day in the week to a body of gentlemen who would return the privilege with four-fold advantage to the fishing interests. In the absence of an anglers' club, who would tax themselves, the question arises, How is an increased revenue to be derived in order to carry on preservation in a proper way? The only legitimate answer is to tax the trout anglers with a licence, or to open up the question of taxing fisheries according to their defined valuations. The latter point has been under consideration, and I believe the inspectors themselves would be favourable to a general scheme of that kind. It seems a very feasible plan, and a short time ago the proprietors in the Lee consented to a voluntary contribution in proportion to the value of their preserves, to meet a sudden emergency.—ANGLERS' CLUB.

CLUB REPORTS.

AMICABLE BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

Nineteen members fished in the pegged-down match at the Springwell Fishery, Mr. Farebrother coming in first with one roach, and Mr. F. Plumsted taking second honours with one dace. The match will be continued next Sunday at the water above the Blackpool to St. Margaret's Bridge for the remaining seven prizes. Mr. Arnold had a nice show of roach weighing 7 lb. 13½ oz., Mr Partrick 2 lb. 11½ oz., Mr. Howlett dace 7 oz. Wednesday, Nov. 15, is quarterly night, and the end of the season, but fish are weighed into the club up to the last Sunday in the month.—J. WORLEDGE.

Nov. 5.

ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Since my last report, I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of 10s. donation from M. Snook, Good Intent Angling Society.—R. GHURNEY, sec

Nov. 8.

BERMONDSEY BROTHERS ANGLING CLUB.

The members of this club fished for prizes last Sunday, but the takes were small; Messrs. Owles and Conn being successful. The members go in for their peg-down half-yearly feed early in December. The date will be duly announced.—A. G. CROKER, sec.

COBDEN ANGLING SOCIETY.

The above society fished their fifth match of the season on Sunday last at West Drayton; there were four prizes contested for, the result being: Mr. Weeks, 1; Evans, 2; Giles, 3; Hammens, 4.—C. REEVES, sec.

EDEN PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

I am instructed by the members of the Brunswick Piscatorial Society, who met on the first day of November, that the majority have resolved to form themselves into a new club, to be known as the Eden Piscatorial Society, and in future the meetings will be held at the "Queen's Head," Amelia Street, Walworth Road, on Wednesdays and Sundays, at eight o'clock.—GEO. S. COPELAND, Hon. Sec.

GOOD INTENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

There was a capital show of fish brought in the club on October 29, from the Lea. George Bates, 12 lb. of good roach, winning the monthly prize of £1 1s., beating H. Snook by 1 oz. There were more fish brought in last Sunday than we could have expected, the wind blowing a gale all day. There are three prizes for this month for roach only, and will cause a keen contest. Mr. H. Brookwell, fishing in the Kennett, took seventeen fish weighing over 20 lb.—R. MURPHY.

GREAT GRIMSBY ANGLING ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DINNER.

The first annual dinner of the above Association took place on Tuesday evening last, in the large club room of the Association, at the Masons' Arms Hotel. The dinner provided by the host, Mr. Hollingsworth, was an excellent one in every respect, and not the slightest fault could be found with the viands or the attendance. The room is one of the best and most conveniently fitted up apartments in the town, and ample accommodation is provided to dine a large number at one sitting. There are over sixty members in the club, and those present numbered about forty.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

"The Gresham" had a full meeting on Tuesday last, when Mr. A. W. Parker read his paper on "An Anglers' Parliament," Edwin Frost, Esq., in the chair. Mr. Parker, in the course of an exhaustive paper, traced the growth of the Parliament of England from the Conquest, and gave much information relative to the Thames Conservancy and other kindred bodies, which was greatly appreciated. He concluded by reading an imaginary extract from the FISHING GAZETTE of 1883, recording the assembling of an Anglers' Parliament in London, with its president, wardens, and other officials, each having district duties, who, with representatives from London and the provinces, were to be elected much on the model of our House of Commons, and in whose hands the entire affairs of the angling world were to be legally placed. Mr. Parker incidentally traced the origin of the three "Central" Associations, claiming for Mr. R. Ghurney the honour of being "The Father" of them. Mr. Crumplen, in opening the discussion, reminded visitors that in all cases readers or lecturers only gave their individual opinions, not the collective opinion of the society. In this instance they had certainly listened to an extraordinary paper, one in which great labour and research had been involved, and from which valuable information was to be derived. He thought the theory rather visionary, and not at all practical in the present condition of the angling world. Unity was most desirable, and in time sure to come; but the only way to bring it about, was for all classes of anglers to know more of each other, and to sink the petty jealousies which too often kept them apart. The chairman, Mr. Bates, Mr. Hill, Mr. Field, Mr. Godwin, Mr. Christie, Mr. Jardine, Mr. Wheeldon, Dr. Brunton, Mr. Ghurney, and other gentlemen having spoken, pro and con., Mr. Crumplen moved a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Parker, which was seconded by Dr. Brunton, and to which Mr. Parker made a suitable reply. The interest of the meeting was materially increased by the arrival of Dr. Brunton with a superb tray of grayling, which were placed before the chairman previous to the discussion on Mr. Parker's paper. Six of these weighed fully 8 lb. in all, the largest going 1 lb. 14 oz., and formed part of a take of between fifty and sixty brace, which in less than four hours' fishing fell to the Doctor's rod, and the great majority of which he returned to the river. The whole of them were taken on the finest drawn gut, with one of those small flies known to the initiated as "Dr. Brunton's own," which, on this occasion, was kindly handed round for inspection. In response to a unanimous vote of thanks, Dr. Brunton expressed the pleasure with which he entered the society's new meeting-room at Masons' Hall Tavern, and congratulated the members on the success of the evening; no doubt aided by the important change they had made. Mr. Edward Bennett, of Great Yarmouth, has again been successful with the pike at Ormesby Broad, having taken several fine fish, 23 lb. in all, the largest going close on 9 lb. Mr. Bennett's pike were all taken in public water with snap tackle and fine gut. At the close of ordinary business on Tuesday evening, the members indulged in the harmony that characterises a "Gresham" meeting, Mr. Crumplen occupying the chair. Some excellent solos were given, Mr. Wheeldon singing Dibdin's "Tom Tough" and "The Wolf" in even more than his usual able manner. Mr. Johnson, Mr. Moor, Mr. Young, Mr. Cartwright, Mr. Jardine, Mr. Callaghan, and other gentlemen sang, Mr. Harding reciting his well-known "Serjeant Buzfuz," an equally acceptable recitation being given by one of the visitors. After "Auld Lang Syne" by Dr. Brunton, the National Anthem brought the proceedings to a close.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING.

Notice is hereby given that a special meeting of the Society will be held at Masons' Hall Tavern, Masons' Avenue, Basinghall Street, E.C., on Tuesday, November 21st, at 7 pm. Resolutions will be submitted at such meeting authorising the committee to purchase a bookcase for the library, and placing at their disposal such sum of money as may be needful for that purpose. The prizes for the past year will also be formally distributed at this meeting, and the committee hope to see a large attendance on such an important occasion. Members are reminded of Dr. Brunton's paper on "The Special Senses of Fishes" on Tuesday, December 5th.—T. CRUMPLEN, hon. sec.

HUGH MYDDLETON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above society will fish for a series of prizes on Sunday, the 12th of November, at the Rye House Waters—all fish to weigh according to the Lea rules. The report of the pistol will be the signal to start. The fish to be weighed in at the Rye House at four o'clock. After fifteen minutes past four no fish will be weighed to a member's account. The members will afterwards make tracks for the interior of the Rye House and partake of their annual dinner. Our worthy hostess (Mrs. Teale) has promised to place a spread before us that will delight the eyes and please the stomach of the most hungry angler.—J. CABORN, sec.

Nov. 6.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above were out last Sunday. The waters were not in proper condition, but some returned with capital sport. The following members weighed in:—Mr. Hurwood had a fine show of roach and perch; Mr. Scott also had a fine show of roach, perch, and jack; Mr. Petrie, fine roach; Mr. Keene, jack.—W. H. EVANS, sec.

Nov. 8.

NORTH-WESTERN ANGLING CLUB.

On the 1st inst., Mr. Hillier weighed in a good jack 10 lb. 14 oz., also on the 5th inst., roach; Messrs. Harris, Billings, and Stead also roach; Messrs. Marshall and Hill perch.—H.

Nov. 9.

PRINCESS OF WALES ANGLING SOCIETY.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

The committee beg to state that in consequence of so few having entered for the competition for the marble clock, they have decided upon postponing it until the 14th of January, 1883. They have also decided that the competition will not take place on that date unless at least 100 enter for it. All overplus will be given in money prizes.—H. ROBSON, chairman.

RICHMOND PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

At the meeting on Wednesday last, Mr. J. P. Wheeldon, according to previous notice, kindly attended to give a lecture on "The Practice of Ancient and Modern Pike Fishing." The name of this gentleman was sufficient to fill the large room of the society to overflow, and as the members and visitors filed in, their expectations were heightened by an addition supporting the chairman on the right in the shape of Mr. Jardine, who, at great personal inconvenience had consented at the last moment to go down to Richmond at the request of the chairman. It would be impossible here to detail the lecture; but it was the universal hope that it would reappear again at Richmond amongst the many valuable papers of the society as a pamphlet. Taking the members back a century in ancient fishing, Mr. Wheeldon carefully led them on and on, step by step, to the present period, showing as he went the improvement in tackle, explaining the various processes, giving his personal experiences, his opinion of various methods of casting, &c., and dwelling on every subject in connection with pike fishing, including baits, gimps, traces, swivels, flights, snap-tackle, rods, lines, hooks, &c.; each and every one did Mr. Wheeldon so thoroughly and efficiently explain that it could not but have been well understood by all present. The lecture was greatly augmented by the essay of Mr. Jardine, whose experiences as a pike fisher need no comment. This gentleman's idea of the secret of taking large fish is by having the bait proportionately large: this he stated from his own personal experience, which Mr. Wheeldon had previously touched on and fully endorsed. Mr. Jardine also gave instances of pike to be seen at the present time weighing when taken 85, 56, 37, 36, 34 lb., &c., &c., and, in his opinion, equally large ones were still to be found, although they required some very great dexterity and patience to find and capture them. As time pressed unfortunately, Mr. Jardine was prevented giving details, which he had fully intended doing, at a greater length, but expressed his delight at being for the first time amongst the members of the Richmond Piscatorial Society. A very hearty vote of thanks was accorded Messrs. Wheeldon and Jardine for the kind and instructive information they had imparted that evening, which was duly responded to. The chairman announced that Mr. Wootton, of Isleworth, had been elected on the Thames Angling Preservation Society, making the fourth election of a member of the Richmond Piscatorial Society; also that no reward would in future be given anyone for trout taken out of season, which, according to the Act, were to be returned to the water immediately. The competition for Messrs. Little and Co.'s prize will take place on the 15th inst, particulars of which have been duly published. There were present at the meeting:—Mr. F. C Clench, chairman; Mr. H. Dickinson, vice-chairman; Mr. Gaynor, curator; Messrs. A. J. Little, G. Hester, J. Wootton, W. Abbott, Wilson, Eydmann, Downs, Percival, R. B. Matthews, Harwood, Hayward, W. Johnson, Bingley, Field, Neville, H. Davis, Powell, Taman, Heasler, Terrill, F. A. Crew, Griffiths, J. R. Matthews, H. S. Giles; visitors: Messrs. Wheeldon, Jardine, Hudson, S. W. Wilson, J. Cockburn, &c., &c.—J. H. GAUNT, hon. sec.

ROYAL GEORGE ANGLING SOCIETY.

There is not much to report this week, for although most of the members have taken fish, no one has been fortunate enough to make a really good basket. Mr. Hughes had a barbel of $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb., and a dace of 6 oz.; and Mr. Guynan had a dozen very nice dace from Richmond. Seeing that your valued correspondent "The Trent Otter" has been attracted by Mr. Chub Chavender's ground bait, I should like to recommend him a composition which I believe he would find quite as useful. It is an invention of Mons. Charras, the medical adviser of Louis XIV., and is to be rubbed on the bait and about 9 inches of line immediately before fishing. This is it:—Take two drachms each of cat's fat, heron's fat, assafœtida and powdered mummy; then two scruples of crushed cummin seed, add to this one drachm each of camphor, galbanum, and Venice turpentine, and two grains of civet. Make this into a thinnish paste with the oils of lavender, aniseed, and camomile, and keep it in a gallipot; tied down with a bladder and leather for two years. For my own part, if I got as far as the tying down business, I should wait more than two years before I used it.—C. W. W. BERNHART, hon. sec.

THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The annual perch-fishing competition in the Thames in connection with this society took place on Monday last. There were about forty members present to witness the return of the competitors in the evening at Ashley's Hotel, Covent Garden, Mr. F. G. Pearce in the chair. In spite of the flooded state of the river many members competed for the above, with good success as far as numbers went, but few fish reached the standard of 8 oz., and had to be returned to the water again, one member alone catching five dozen and not one reaching the desired weight. Mr. E. Foreman won the first prize of three guineas with eight fish, weighing 5 lb. $5\frac{1}{2}$ oz., piloted by Andrews and taken at Clevedon; Mr. C. P. Wheatstone took the second prize of two guineas with one perch, 1 lb. 7 oz., caught at Maple Durham, and also his own prize of one guinea for the largest fish. Mr. T. Huggett showed one perch of $8\frac{1}{2}$ oz. and two roach, 14 oz.; Mr. Shipway, one perch of $10\frac{1}{4}$ oz., and a roach of 12 oz. The pike competition takes place on Monday, November 20, from public waters, and also the second prize of the Shentonian competition, which was not won, and will be competed for from the Thames only. The first smoking concert will take place on Monday, December 11, and from the numerous offers of assistance promises to be, as usual, a great success.—B.

TRAFALGAR ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this society who were out on Sunday last did not get much sport, owing, no doubt, to the strong wind and thick water; Mr. Morriss and J. Gaze, fishing with red worms at Henley-on-Thames, being the only members with fish. J. Gaze, roach and perch, 3 lb. 15 oz.; Mr. Morriss, roach, 1 lb. $11\frac{1}{4}$ oz. A pegged-down match will be fished at Burnt Mill on Sunday next, the 12th, in the Stort. Members going must not forget the only train starts from Liverpool Street at 8 o'clock.—J. GAZE, sec.

Nov. 6.

UNITED BROTHERS, DEPTFORD.

On Sunday next, the 12th, the members of this society will fish a peg-down match, at Ponder's End, for four prizes. The train will leave Liverpool Street Station at 9.15 a.m. If this should meet the eye of Mr. John Eller, late of Tonbridge, now staying at Kingston-on-Thames, will he be so kind as to send his address, &c.?—JUMBO.

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invite Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sen or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether the may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

WORMS IN A COLLEY.—"Rhiwlas, Bala, North Wales, Sept. 21, 1874.—I gave 'Naldire's Powder' to a colley on Saturday last, and in ten minutes he evacuated a tapeworm 30 yards 2 feet in length. I consider the Powder effectual.—R. Lloyd Price." "Naldire's Powders" are also a splendid alterative, keeping dogs in excellent condition. Price 1s., 2s., 3s. 6d., and 5s., of all Chemists, and of Barclay and Sons, 95, Farringdon Street, London.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

CRUMPLEN TESTIMONIAL.

SIR,—I beg to inform you that the presentation of this testimonial will take place at the Gresham Society's room, Masons' Hall Avenue, Coleman Street, E.C., on Tuesday, 21st November, at seven p m., and as the list of subscriptions must necessarily close by 14th instant, I shall feel grateful to those members who have not yet forwarded their contributions if they will kindly do so at once.—I am, &c , CHARLES BATES, Hon. Sec. to the Fund.

27, Commercial Sale Rooms, Mincing Lane, E.C.,
November 8th, 1882.

THE BLACK BASS.

SIR,—As I had the honour of joining in the late venture of Mr. W. T. Silk's, and the pleasure of presenting my share of the bass to our Wintersett Anglers' Club, and should like there to be no doubt as to the credentials of the fish, may I ask you to add my name to the list already published—say in next Saturday's GAZETTE?—I am, &c., JONATHAN HAIGH.

Saint John's, Wakefield, Nov. 5.

[We must apologise to Mr. Haigh for unintentionally omitting his name.—Ed.]

THAMES FISHING.

SIR,—At the inaugural dinner of the Great Yarmouth Piscatorial Society, one of the speakers in referring to the extent of fishing water in the neighbourhood of Yarmouth made what I consider an uncalled for attack on the river Thames, which, he first of all said was not able to hold a candle to their rivers and broads. There could be no doubt as to this fact from the extent of their fish farms, and which are not fished anything like our Metropolitan river; but when he referred to a visit of his to Teddington and describing the fish taken there of a size they would be ashamed to catch in that neighbourhood, the remark came with very bad taste, when he knew there were gentlemen present connected with the Thames Angling Preservation Society who had come from London expressly on purpose to support their movements. All Thames anglers know that through the improved condition of the river the fish do not go to the head of the tide as formerly, and roach and dace are not to be found at Teddington in the quantities they used to be. I frequently examine the punts in that neighbourhood, and in justice to the fishermen and anglers I never find unsizeable fish in their wells, except a few they are permitted to retain as bait. If he had gone down to Twickenham he would have found greater quantities of fish, as they have been taking up to 40 and 50 lb. weight of roach and dace in the day. Mr. Alfred Nuthall could have told him of his extraordinary takes of barbel this season, and I could have mentioned others, but did not deem it necessary to take a defensive position in so social a gathering.—I am, &c , B.

NETTING THE ASSOCIATION'S WATERS.

SIR,—L. B. thinks it is pitiful that anglers should write such letters as the one I wrote under the above heading, and says that it does not contain a title of evidence to justify the heading, and in the next few lines of his letter, he himself justifies it by saying "that this canal is netted is a generally admitted fact"—and as we know, it is also a fact that the association rent a portion of this water, what else is it but netting the association's waters? It is ridiculous for L. B. to say that I give no evidence to justify the heading, and then immediately give the evidence himself.

Mr. Hoole (who I am very sorry to hear is laid up, and hope he will have recovered ere this is in print) said that my letter was the first he had heard of the water being netted; how is this Mr. L. B.? You say that it is a generally admitted fact that the water is netted; Mr. Hoole did not know it, and you blame me for telling him, and others who may not know it. It looks as if you wish to keep it as secret as possible. Surely the best thing to do is to make the fact of netting known, and I am quite sure all true anglers will assist Mr. Hoole and the keepers in preventing it. I can answer for myself, and as I intend paying this water a visit very shortly, you may depend I shall keep my eye on the tail-end of the barges as well as upon the natives with the show nets, and if I see anything wrong, you ask me to take immediate steps to have it set right, What do you mean, the nets? I should most decidedly take steps to have them set wrong, or, you say, telegraph to Mr. Hoole; then you don't think that would be pitiful? Kindly allow me to use that word of yours. I wish to say it is pitiful you do not read and understand properly a letter written in plain English; you infer that my letter is practically a serious charge against those who are striving to do their utmost for their brother anglers; this interpretation is simply absurd, the report I gave I distinctly stated was entirely hearsay, and cannot be construed into a charge against anybody, except poachers, for the impression conveyed to me was, that there were no keepers; you also say that my letter is calculated to encourage poachers; on the contrary, publicity is more likely to discourage poachers than secrecy, which you prefer, else why did not Mr. Hoole know it? Mr. Hoole received my letter in a proper spirit, and I am very pleased that he is taking such efficient means for protecting the water, by having bills posted, offering rewards for the capture of poachers. You suggest that I am not disposed to give Mr. Hoole reasonable time to carry out the means he speaks of by saying "If I will give reasonable time." Now you must have known that I was not aware of these means being taken, from the very fact of my writing the letter, neither was I aware of any keepers, as I have before stated, therefore I could not have had any wish to discourage them.

Yes, I do admit I have never seen the water; but what has that to do with it? Only this, it shows that I study the interests of anglers generally in making a report without delay (which now appears to be well founded) for the purpose of assisting Mr. Hoole and keepers in their good work, by telling them that which they may not know, and I can only hope that my brother anglers will not be deterred by L. B.'s pitiful reply to my letter (am sorry to have to borrow that word again, L. B.) which was not addressed to him, but to Mr. Hoole, who gave a most satisfactory reply.—I am, &c., THE RED FISHERMAN.

POACHING IN THE STORT.

SIR,—Whilst shooting at Roydon last week I passed by the river Stort, and was more than astonished to see four or five hulking men dragging the river with a net, one man up to his neck in water walking with the line of the net on the opposite side. I watched them draw the net four times, with the following result:—Eleven jack, the heaviest about $2\frac{1}{2}$ lb., the smallest about 1 lb.; three or four dozen very small perch, which were thrown away on the grass to die; and about five dozen fair-sized roach, one at least 1 lb. I found on enquiry that they frequently indulged in this sport.

I used to fish the river some five years ago, and almost invariably had good takes of roach; but finding after a time I could get very few I abandoned the spot for other grounds, wondering how it was. There is now no cause for astonishment. Surely something can be done to stop such an abominable practice. It was no use one person speaking to such a set of blackguards, as he would in all probability find himself where the fish ought to be. This happened, too, right opposite the lock-keeper's house.—I am, &c ,

E. W. A.

[The only thing to be done is to form a protection society, and get the right from the landowners to prosecute poachers.—ED.]

THE LANDING NET.

SIR,—You have lately inserted letters *re* "The Fisherman's Curse." Will you kindly let me ask in your columns for advice as to the best arrangement by which to reduce to a minimum the fisherman's encumbrance, in the shape of a landing net?—I am, &c., X. Y. Z.

[Dr. Brunton would probably say "Do without it;" but we do not agree with our worthy friend on this matter, holding that a landing net of some kind, although not absolutely necessary as a means of securing the fish, effects such a vast saving in time and bother after the fish is practically beaten that it should always be used. How to "reduce the encumbrance to a minimum" when fly-fishing has been a query with us for years, and except in rivers, where the wading is very dangerous, we now adopt the following plan:—To a 2-foot ash handle $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in diameter is whipped an oval ash ring, and the net is fastened on by means of holes at intervals in the ash ring. The net looks very much like a lawn tennis racquet in a consumption—very thin and light, but in general shape the same. This net weighs next to nothing, and is carried either by pushing the handle into a leather loop at the back of the basket, and it is then held in place between the back and the basket—or a better plan is to have a leather holder (like a coachman's whip-holder) fastened conveniently on the front side of the basket. With this latter plan all inconvenience from the net handle catching in one's legs is done away with; of course the handle slips through the holder up to the net, and can be pulled out and replaced in a second.—ED]

DOUBLE-HANDED FLY RODS.

SIR,—Having fished the portion of the Test which you, Mr. Editor, lately described, I beg to inform "Yorks" that, although some of the members use double-handed rods, others, again, have only single-handed rods, some even have a big rod carried by the attendant, who also carries net and basket. I, owing to a weak right arm, use a double-handed rod, as, the weight being distributed on both the arms, I find it much less tiresome than a single-handed trout rod, however light it may be. Does "Yorks" mean by the word "managed" that although the cast is made, it is so long that the angler cannot strike a rise properly? I find that I can throw only 16 yards with an 11-foot single-handed rod, but, with a double-handed rod, 20 yards is not so difficult; again, in dry-fly fishing, a long rod enables the line to avoid those ripples and swirls of water which are in mid-stream and towards your own bank, and which bellies your line, causing your fly to drag in an unnatural manner. As to carrying one's own net, this is usually done when alone in Hampshire by means of a patent lock-over fastening, which, I believe, John Hammond, of Winchester, introduced some years ago; it is somewhat similar to the landing net, of which an illustration is given in Dr Foster's "Scientific Angler." This fastening causes the net portion of the landing handle to hang down by the angler's side, it usually being attached to the strap of bag or basket by means of a hook or catch of some sort. A few years ago, in the month of July, during a week's fishing, I landed on the Test, in bright sunny weather chiefly, 13 grayling, weighing about $20\frac{1}{4}$ lb., using a double-handed rod, two lower joints bamboo, and the top greenheart or lancewood, made by the late James Ogden, of Cheltenham, and similar to one described by Mr. Francis in his excellent book on angling. As far as my memory serves me, I only lost one grayling after hooking it, and this was in a sharpish stream, and when I was alone, though I landed all but one or two at the outside by myself. Seven or eight were taken between the hut just above the Sheepbridge, or below, say a distance of 300 yards. You, Mr. Editor, will doubtless remember that the stream was rather fast at the above-mentioned spot. The flies used were small ones, about Nos. 14 to 16 Limerick, with turned out points, except for the last fish, which was my best one, weighing $2\frac{1}{4}$ lb. by my steelyard It took a large fly with woodcock wings, rough body and red hackle ribbed up it, and wisks of the same colour. Could "Yorks," or any other of your correspondents, kindly inform me where I could obtain a day's grayling fishing near Hull, and not be absent from business more than one day. The club on the Derwent, near Scarborough, I am told, do not issue day tickets after 30th September. I should add that my "Angler's Diary" is not to be got at, or I should not ask the above question.—I am, &c., J. B. J.

Hull.

P.S.—I also caught a few undersized grayling and some trout, three of which were killable.

TACKLE MAKING QUERIES.

SIR,—I think "Bittern" will find that Mr. H. S. Hall describes his way of dressing flies on eyed hooks in a back number of the FISHING GAZETTE.

I have got a cutting from the *Field* where he also describes his process, but cannot at the moment refer to it. If "Bittern" desires, I will endeavour to furnish him with a copy. I believe that most of the London fishing tackle makers sell woods suitable for rod making, but do not personally know the prices.

Bittern feathers are not easy to be obtained. One might, however, be picked up in Leadenhall Market, but would cost 7s. or 10s. I fancy. If "Bittern" wants the feathers for making the May-fly or green drake's legs I could give him a few of a good substitute easier to be procured, and being not so long, makes the fly look more natural.

Blue Andalusian feathers are useful in fly-making, but the blue dun (a species of game fowl) produce the best natural feathers of that shade. They vary greatly, being blue duns, honey duns, &c. If "Bittern" has any blue Andalusian feathers to spare, I should be glad to exchange with him. I want some of all sizes, from 3 or 4 inches down to the smallest used in fly tying.

Do you, Mr. Editor, or any of your readers know where one could obtain feathers for fly-tying beyond what the London tackle makers have for sale?

Any information on this subject will much oblige.—I am, &c.,

Hull. J. B. J.

P.S.—The feathers I most want are the different shades of the dun fowls.

RINGS FOR SPINNING RODS.

SIR,—May I ask you, through the FISHING GAZETTE, whether there are any rings made which would decrease the friction of the line, &c., in a pike rod? If so, where may they be obtained.—I am, &c.,

LE BROCHET.

[We have before referred to a combination ring, which consists of a brass ring-holder and a revolving steel centre ring. It answers admirably, and can be obtained at most tackle shops.—ED.]

FLY DRESSING QUERIES, &c.

SIR,—In reply to "Bittern's" queries, I beg to inform him that the hackles of Andalusian fowls are the best for fly dressing, as, if not the exact colour, they can be dyed with Indian dyes to match or make any shade of tint.

He can obtain bittern feathers from O. Handlen and Co., 48, Victoria Street, Bristol, also the various woods for rod making or repairing, also ferrules, winch fittings, &c., and I have no doubt that if "Bittern" will ask H. S. Hall, Esq., he will give the *modus operandi* for trying flies on his justly celebrated eyed hooks.—I am, &c. R. D. FROST.

Forsyth's Hotel, Aberdeen, Nov. 6, 1882.

RECIPE FOR WATERPROOFING CLOTH, &c.

SIR,—Here is a recipe similar to that lost by "Watchet," probably the weaker solution mentioned is that already tried by him. The recipe is taken from "Facts and Hints Relating to Fishing and Shooting," as follows: "A solution of sugar of lead and alum. Proportion used: 1 lb. sugar of lead, 1 lb. alum; two quarts of boiling water to be poured on the lead and alum pounded, A weak solution might answer. This will make any cloth waterproof.

It is now six years ago this month that I asked the same question so lately raised by "Mark Antony" in the FISHING GAZETTE as to the distinguishing points in the sex of the pike. As you may guess I was not a little interested in the repeating of the question, and I certainly did not think the answer would be so quickly given. I, like "Mark Antony," had an argument upon the subject, and I may say I had determined in like manner to Mr. Jardine, yourself, and the "Trent Otter," having observed as the latter, that the head of the male was much longer.—I am, &c. G.W.K.

Busbridge, November 6, 1882

RECIPE FOR WATERPROOFING.

SIR,—The following recipe is taken from the *Field*, and I trust is what "Watchet" requires:—

For waterproofing cloth take half a pound of sugar of lead and half a pound of alum, and dissolve in a bucket of soft water; stir thoroughly half-a-dozen times at intervals, during which it may be allowed to settle. When quite clear, pour it off (without disturbing the sediment), and soak the coat or other article in the liquid for twenty-four hours; then hang it up, and let it drip dry.—I am, &c., W. P. H.

November 6, 1882

COARSE FISH FOR STOCKING WATERS—FEATHERS FOR FLY-TYING.

SIR.—"Bittern" will be able to get the feathers he requires from any naturalist. T. E. Gunn, of Upper St. Giles Street, Norwich, would no doubt be likely to have some. I can supply live roach, dace, gudgeon, and pike in any quantity. See my advertisement.—I am, &c., S. HOWARTH.

13, Station Street, Burton-on-Trent.

[Mr. Howarth makes very good flies; he sent us some samples of capital midge flies.—ED]

THE MANCHESTER AND DISTRICTS AMALGAMATED ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

SIR,—In answer to your correspondent "Trout," in your issue of Saturday last, I beg to point out to him again the resolution passed by the members of our society respecting the fishing for salmon trout, char, and grayling. This resolution is dated April 22, 1882.

His having forwarded our rules to you does not alter the facts of the case, and as the assertion, "That our rules allow our members to fish for and weigh-in for prizes the before-mentioned class of fish during close season, or all the year round," is amply disproved to any reasonable person, we shall decline to continue the correspondence, or answer any questions that do not bear on the point at issue.

Our club has managed to conduct its own affairs for over fifty years, and we must resent any interference from your anonymous correspondent "Trout."

If he has any complaint to make, and is a member of the Amalgamated Association, as he asserts, he is at liberty to instruct his delegate representing his club at their meetings, and our delegate will be prepared to meet him.—I am, &c., W. ASHWORTH.

Salford Friendly Anglers' Society.

A "JACK" INCIDENT.

SIR,—In a small aquarium belonging to Mr W. Jones, our treasurer, is a jack weighing about ¾ lb., which Mr. Jones caught in Knowsley Lake (Lord Derby's), and which he is in the habit of feeding by giving it a small live roach from another aquarium close by. This feeding business is quite an interesting affair to our worthy treasurer and a few select cronies on a Sunday evening, and the operation of "pouching" is watched and commented on in a very learned manner. If master jack does not at once go for the poor frightened, helpless roach, various wise reasons are given by the absorbed bystanders, such as "He is not well;" "What is the matter?" "He must be hungry;" "Oh, it is your ugly face prevents him enjoying his meal," and so forth, to account for his abstinence. On one occasion, however, the young cannibal at once tucked in the young roach, and the general exclamation was, "He must be nearly starved; give him another dose." This was done, and immediately jack saw the new arrival, he, to the extraordinary astonishment of the gaping lookers on, followed the example of the whale we read about, and cast forth the roach (not Jonah) he had already made an inside passenger, and swallowed the last comer. The "outcast" came quite round in a minute or two, and was put back safe and sound into the other aquarium. I regret to add that the poor fish, after a lapse of a week or two, was again given by the hard-hearted "Jones" to jack's tender mercies, and has not been visible from that day to this. Have any of your readers had a similar experience?—I am, &c.,

Nov. 7, 1882. R. WOOLFALL.

THE RIVER AVON.

SIR,—The writer of the article in your issue of the 4th inst., "Fishing Round Birmingham," speaking of the Avon, says, "The Avon, to wit, miles of which could be rented for a ridiculously small sum;" he also speaks of the Avon and some other rivers, as being "fished, wired, poisoned, netted, and sometimes dynamited, to a fearful extent." Again, "The Avon, alas! thou beautiful, but ill-used river . . . . . Not but what thou art still beautiful, but the finny treasures have departed, prey to the depredations of sewage and the poacher, and want of proper protection." Would your contributor kindly say to what particular portion of the Avon he refers?—I am, etc., ARROW.

FISHING CLUB AT A PRIVATE HOUSE.

SIR,—Can you inform me and several others if there is a fishing club held at a private house or rooms in London; and if not, could you kindly give us the necessary information towards forming one, and oblige?—I am, &c.,

Nov. 4, 1882. ENQUIRER.

[We do not know of any such club, but "Enquirer" can form one by finding the place and advertising for the members.—ED.]

THE GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

DR. BRUNTON AMONG THE GRAYLING.

PROBABLY the finest tray of grayling ever weighed in before an Angling Society, graced the tables of The Gresham on Tuesday last, Dr. Brunton bringing up six truly specimen fish, weighing in all a fraction over 8 lb. The largest turned the scale at 1 lb. 14 oz., so that it would have been over 2 lb. when caught, the grayling losing weight after being taken more rapidly than other fish. The whole of them were in splendid condition, and excited the admiration of a crowded room. All were taken on the finest drawn gut (with No. 1 hook), and a small fly made by Dr. Brunton himself. The doctor took 25 brace more, in the course of less than four hours' fishing, nearly the whole of which he returned to the water. The six specimens weighed in were generously presented to The Gresham, and mounted well, as we hope they will be, in one case, will form a unique and valuable addition to the Society's Museum, which has already several cases of exceptional value. We hear the Committee have decided to send their choicest cases of specimen fish to the Great International Fisheries Exhibition, 1883, and this fine sample of Dr. Brunton's skill will doubtless appear among the number.

PLEASANT DAYS AT WEST DRAYTON.

AMONGST the many pleasant reminiscences of my different angling excursions, the following incident always recurs to me when my thoughts revert to Thorney Broad. At the time I am writing of, there were, besides myself, four other gentlemen stopping at Godfrey's cosy retreat, one of whom, either intentionally or by accident, always managed to find his way to any spot where my friend Dr. —— and myself had met with more than ordinary success; until determined to be equal with this gentleman (I blush to acknowledge it), we made free with the casting net, used for the purpose of getting bait, and threw in higher up the river, with a result that would have settled the doubts of anyone who was at all sceptical as to the wealth of that part of the river in large and handsome roach; we, however, returned them all, with the exception of two or three of the finest which would have excited the envy of any roach fisher in England. These we carried as trophies to the house; of course, the gentleman in question was rapturous in his admiration of them, and inquired whereabouts we had caught them. My friend the Doctor informed him, in anticipation of what would follow, that we had taken them a few yards above the railway arch (which is, I may mention, a magnificent stretch of jack water), and with a red worm; also, to allay his doubts as to the veracity of our statement, should he have any, mentioned that we intended starting for the same spot at 6 o'clock the next morning in the hopes of getting a repetition of our good fortune. However, at half past five my friend awoke me and asked me to step into his bedroom, out of the pretty lattice window of which we could see the stretch of water mentioned, and pointed out to me our mutual friend accompanied by the best of good fishermen, old Tom Lowe, trudging off to the spot mentioned. I need hardly say he fished there until mid-day without any success, and guessed when we asked him, with countenances suggestive of suppressed mirth, "How he was getting on?" that he had been placed in the position of an unsuspicious party on the 1st of April; however, all rivalry was buried in a glass or two of our host's excellent grog and a pipe in the evening.

I must conclude by mentioning that the time I am writing about is six years ago; therefore, I think that I may rest satisfied by this time that the just wrath of our good friend and most jealous protector of the angling, Godfrey, should he read this and come to the conclusion that a net was put into that splendid swim known as the "Shoulder of Mutton," will be appeased by my solemn assurance that since then I have grown wiser, and a more faithful disciple of our excellent Isaac than to dream of such sacrilege as casting a net for any other purpose than for live bait. CYRIL B.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

THE annual monthly meeting of the United London Anglers' Central Committee took place on Monday evening, the 6th, at the Bald Faced Stag, Worship Square, Finsbury; Mr. Francis Morgan presiding. After the reading and confirming of minutes of last meeting, the adjourned question of an angler alleged to have left a society considerably in arrears, joined another, and tried to obtain a railway privilege ticket, the issue of same being opposed by the secretary of the society he had formerly belonged to, came on for consideration. After a long and animated discussion, in which Messrs. Murphy, Beckett, High, Manning, Welch, Theobalds, Chambers, and several other gentlemen took part, the matter came to the vote, and was finally decided in favour of the applicant by a considerable majority. The new revised list of angling societies was then distributed, the secretary's and chairman's salaries voted, and a new society enrolled; the meeting separating at a comparatively early hour, after a vote of thanks to the chairman.

A meeting of the working committee of the West Central Association took place on Friday evening. Among other business done, the Crown Piscatorial Society was enrolled on the books of the West Central, subject to the approval of the next monthly meeting.

A general visit of angling societies was paid the Phœnix Angling Society, Tavistock Arms, Werrington Street, Oakley Square, on Tuesday evening. There was a grand muster, thirteen clubs being numerously represented. The singing was very good, and secretary Elbourne looked radiant.

The next visit goes to the City of London Angling Club, Cogers' Hall, Bride Lane, Fleet Street, of which due notice will be given.

I am in receipt of a long and amusing letter from a friend residing at Maldon, in Essex, giving some very good accounts of the fishing—roach and jack—and concluding as follows:—"I have, however, only had hold of one really heavy pike—it is full early yet. He was seen by at least a dozen persons, and put down as quite 14 or 15 lb. After half an hour's exciting play he managed to bite the gimp just as I was on the point of landing him, and escaped with a saddle snap in his jaws. I fear the manner I employed the half-hour that followed this stroke of hard luck will not bear dwelling upon. Don't you think it would have been very much more polite had he allowed me to extricate those triangles? How the poor devil will do it himself I am puzzled to know. Can you tell me the weight of the heaviest pike (on good authority) caught in England?—I particularly want to know." Perhaps some of the readers of the FISHING GAZETTE will kindly assist me in answering this question. There are, amongst others, Mr. Jardine's two fish, the still heavier Rapley Lake fish, now the property of Mr. T. Hoole, and adorning the walls of the Hammersmith United club-room; the still heavier Whittlesea Mere pike, and several others; but I have such a bad memory for figures that I can't, for the life of me, remember their exact weight.

Messrs. Hoole and Geen are spending a few days at Hastings. It is to be hoped the change and sea breezes will do them a world of good.

The usual monthly meeting of the West Central Association will take place at the Portman Arms, Great Quebec Street, Baker Street, on Friday evening, the 17th.

I fear, from what I hear on all sides, comparatively few London clubs will send fish to the forthcoming exhibition, 1883. I offer no opinion on the question; but the chief reasons alleged are "that the winning of most of the principal prizes will be an easy walk over for certain well-known individuals and societies, and, moreover, societies do not care to denude their clubroom walls during the long months which include the time of the annual dinners of most societies, while the illiberal policy of the executive in refusing to pay expenses of carriage, collection, and insurance against damage—as has invariably been done at every previous exhibition—has proved in many cases the last straw that decided clubs and individuals against becoming exhibitors."

[All we can say to this is that the London angling club which will not pay the few shillings for carriage of its cases to this London Exhibition is not worthy of being represented at such a grand *international* show as this will be. We do not believe if has come to this—that unless a club knows it will get a prize it will not compete! Surely there is some of the true sport feeling left?—ED.]

A FEW REMARKS UPON GRAYLING FISHING FROM WORCESTER.

THE grayling season of 1882 on the Teme, Worcestershire, has so far been but poor. Owing to the continual high state of the river, the fly-fisher's chances have been but small; in fact, the water has not been low and fine since the first day in October; and of all months for grayling fishing give me October, or I may include September for early fish and small ones. On the 28th of September last year, and also the 27th of the same month, 1869, I landed seventeen good fish; the eight and a half brace taken on the 27th was as good a take of grayling as had been made at that station for years; there were eleven fish that averaged 15 oz. each, and nothing under 7 oz. I have been out three times this season, and do not see any chance of going out with the fly for at least two or three weeks; the river is bank-full. One thing, the fish will grow, and many will live to spawn that would have given some lover of the art a little sport, so that the old saying will hold good in this case—what is pleasure and gain for the one is loss and pain for the other. There will be some good fishing as soon as the water fines, for the angler who can command some gentles. If you cannot get any, a small worm—the brandling—will do; then there is a bait that will kill against any bait you can use, if used properly; not altogether do I allude to the use, but in choice of place you use it in. I may, by giving my knowledge from practice, afford a timely hint to some of the young anglers who read the FISHING GAZETTE. When fishing with the bait called the grasshopper, which you can obtain from any fishing-tackle maker, your rod should be a light one, not too stiff—about 12 feet, your line about 30 yards; in case of accident, it is well to have a few yards to spare upon your winch; about two yards of gut, fine, at the hook. The makers of this bait often dress it upon too coarse a gut; a good fine one, if stained, is best. When thus furnished you choose the top of the ford and fish it down, taking care to well try the parts where the water curls back, and where it is from 3 to 6 feet deep. Cast your bait from you, and gently jerk it to you by about 6 or 12 inches at a jerk. When you feel a fish, do not strike hard, as the grayling is one of not the strongest mouthed fish we have in our streams,—therefore, play the fellow with care. When he makes a dash, ease your line by leaning forward, also extend your arm so as to prevent a jerk; the play of your rod, together with that of your body in the above position, will soon cause your fish to meet you face to face. By the bye, some time ago, I read an inquiry in the GAZETTE, "Do Grayling take the Minnow?" I say, "No"; but, at the same time, some of the small minnows made now are as much like a grub as a fish; in my opinion, that will explain the query.

J. A. GRIFFIN.

POACHERS PAST AND PRESENT.

A FEW days ago, whilst looking over my volume of "The Records of the City of Oxford," I came across the following account of the arrest of two men, caught poaching in the common waters, and as it affords a striking example of the mode of dealing with that class of gentry, by the Oxford magistrates of 200 years ago, in contrast to the foolish leniency displayed by their successors of the present day, in the case reported in your columns of the FISHING GAZETTE recently I send it verbatim.

April 23, 1553.

John Owen of Sandford, in com. Oxon., & Richard Day of Long Witnam, in com. Berks, deposed before me, Tho. Owen, in the presence of Roger Herne & James Sadocke, that in the last yere of King Edward vj^{th}, after the exaltacion of the crosse, $xiiij^{th}$ of September, what certayne day they remembered not, they went in fysshing in the common waters behind Triswythis, adjoining Cowmede, (probably that part of the river between Osney Bridge and Folley Lock) together also w^{th} one Nicholas Day of Wulvercatte, & that John Wayte & Thomas Cogan, then Bailyes of Oxford, came unto them w^{th} a poer of men, & entred into their botes, and tooke awaye their nette and Fisshe, & took with them the said Nicholas Day & John Owen, and when they cam to Karfox, Alderman Irish there then sitting and espying them coming, askid what the matter was; quoth the said Wayte & Cogan, We have taken foryners in fishing in O^r Common waters.

Then quoth Alderman Irish, As for one of them, John Owen, I know he is free, for he was made fre in myne yeres, and I wilbe suerty for him.

Then quoth Nicholas Day, What say ye then to me, am not I also a freeman?

Whereto Alderman Irish answered y^t he could say little for him, & the said Baileys said furder he was no freeman, nor shold not be used like any freeman, & $therw^{th}$ tooke away from him both his nett & his fissh; they then had him also to Bocardo (the prison where Cranmer, Latimer, and Ridley were confined previous to laying down their life in defence of their Master's teaching, as a standing rebuke to the Church of Rome for her interpretation of the divine command, Love ye one another, the door of their cell is now in the martyrs' aisle in St. Mary Magdalene's Church, and the portraits of the three prelates are drawn in poker work on the top panel), and did sette him in the stocke howse otherwize then freemen are wont to be used.

Alderman Flaxon being then Mayor, who being complained unto, refused to do him Justice therein.

If it would only please Providence to drown some of the gang who infest the river and hang in their own nets and permit the other portion to be hanged, the fish might then stand a chance of increasing; they are men who have no character to loose, and they know their only punishment is a fine of a few shillings and the confiscation of their net, provided the Bailiffs have the good fortune to capture it, and perhaps in the interim they have cleared £20 or £30 worth of fish from the water.

I am of opinion that a liberal use of the cat would soon put a stop to night poaching after fish and game, and its oft accompanied crime of murder.

The only means of reaching a poacher is through his skin, that being the only argument understood by him and the class from which he springs.

CHERWELL OTTER.

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

JIM KEENE.

A "THAMES ANGLER" calls our attention to the death, last week, of the one-armed fisherman, Jim Keene, so well known to anglers at Egham and the neighbouring reaches of the river. "For several years past," our correspondent writes, "he has been completely paralysed, and his wife has had to support him entirely. Poor Jim had the good fortune of being remembered by some of his old customers, or it would have gone hard with him; but he was still more fortunate in possessing a respectable hard-working woman as a wife, who never gave in, but struggled on to the last to prevent his being a 'burden to the parish.' In this she succeeded; but it would be a real charity if some of those who have spent pleasant days in olden times with one-armed Jim would send a trifle to the widow in the hour of her affliction. She has naturally been hard pushed, but has fought bravely, and now has to start afresh with her little daughter, and a few pounds would probably put her in a position to earn her living, as she is well-known and respected in Egham. Will you, Sir, be the recipient of any small sums that may be sent to you, as, if I mistake not, poor Jim was not altogether unknown to you." Our correspondent is right in his surmise, and we shall be happy to receive and forward to Mrs. Keene any sums that may be entrusted to us.—ED. *The Globe.*

ALFRED YOUNG

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which has the most extensive circulation in the neighbourhood of these rivers.

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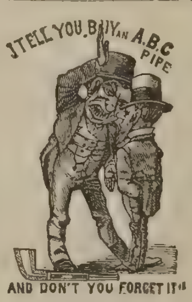
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3.0	The Three Almontes—Acrobats	8.0
3.15	The Troubadours	10.30
3.30	Vonare—Contortionist	10.45
3.45	Mr. Harry Hawke and Miss Witty Wren	10.0
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4.30	Astarte	8.45
4.45	The Lenton Brothers—Acrobatic Act	9.0
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Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., must be addressed to the Editor of THE FISHING GAZETTE, *No. 12, Fetter Lane, London, E.C.* and should reach the office not later than Tuesday morning.

Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1882.

DISCUSSIONS AT OUR CLUB.

BY THE SECRETARY.

OUR club is not a very large one—we do not wish it to be, for we have limited it to twelve members. We meet once a week, on Friday evening, eight o'clock is our time, and it is never much past that hour before twelve solid oak arm-chairs are filled by twelve more or less solid anglers. On the polished oak table are twelve glasses—a glass in front of each angler—twelve wax candles give out a quiet, cool light, and cast reflections on glass fish-cases and polished oak wainscoting round the room.

The rules of the Occabot Club—for that is our name—are few but stringent.

1. Every Occabot must be a smoker.
2. No Occabot may be a teetotaler.
3. Every Occabot must be an angler.
4. No Occabot may fish for any prize.
5. No Occabot may be under twenty years of age.

The objects of the Occabot Club are:—

To cultivate the sport of angling in a sportsmanlike way.

To discuss angling matters in a sociable manner.

A quarter of an hour is allowed for general chat, then our president for the evening raps the table.

"Gentlemen, the matter before the Occabot Club this evening is 'The comparative advantages and disadvantages of the Thames and Trent styles of fishing.' I shall call on Plummet to open the subject."

Plummet.—"Gentlemen, you know that my views on this matter are in accordance with my practice. I hold that the Nottingham style is as far above all other styles as Snowdon is above Hampstead Heath. I don't care whether you are spinning or bottom fishing, for trout or coarse fish, from bank or boat, you can do your work more easily, surely and quickly, from the reel than in any other way."

Ledger.—"Pardon me, friend Plummet, but I think you are assuming too much for your pet style. You will hardly deny that we have as good anglers on the Thames as the Trent can boast of?"

Plummet.—"Granted, but for all that your best Thames anglers are adepts in the Trent style."

Ledger.—"True, to some extent; but I could find you men who, although they may fish from the reel for chub, will tell you that for jack-fishing the Thames style more than holds its own; they aver that by drawing the line in with the hand, they can impart a more killing movement to the bait than is possible with the reel."

Plummet.—"That I most distinctly deny; indeed, I will go further, and say that an adept with the Nottingham winch can do more in the way of varying the movement than your Thames style will permit; he can spin fast or slow, he can make his bait dive, he can bring it on in jerks, and he can spin over weeds which your Thames man would foul."

Split-shot.—"It seems to me that the mere question of imparting variety to the movement of the bait depends more on a proper use of the rod than the line. All those jerks and dives you speak of are best done with the rod."

Plummet.—"Just so, and that is where I fail to see why friend Ledger would claim this finessing the bait—if I may so term it—as a peculiar property of the Thames style. I say that the same thing can be better done in our style, because of the immense advantages we have in the manner of casting. We have the line constantly under control. Our attention is not half absorbed in seeing that the line is not catching over some bit of twig or long grass or punt thwart as it is pulled in. We can stand knee-deep amongst thistles and thorns, and fish places your Thames style could never touch, simply because the nearest smooth ground is a hundred yards off. We can wade over broad shallows and fish every inch. Where is your Thames style in such a case? Can you coil the line at your feet in the water?"

Tweezer.—"Just touch the bell, Plummet. Your last observation is such a smasher, friend Ledger will require some Scotch to encourage him."

Ledger.—"Once you can convince me that your Nottingham style can give that deadly movement to the bait which the Thames style claims, it would be mere prejudice not to admit the other advantages of the system."

Swivel.—"I confess, for my part, although I practise the Thames style of spinning, I have always had a sort of sneaking conviction that if I could master the cast from the reel I should become a convert to the Nottingham style, but that 'if' is the question. I think we should all be obliged if Plummet would give us an outline of the method he uses."

Plummet.—"With the greatest pleasure. The chief reasons why so many anglers give up the Nottingham style in disgust is because they have expected to learn the whole thing at once; for, simple as the style really is, it requires some practice to master the first principles. The rod should be light, stiff, and yet with a fair amount of spring in it; the rings few, large and stiff, *i.e.*, upright; the revolving steel rings with metal guides fore and aft, to throw the line off, are the best. The line may be plain or waterproofed, but must be fine and smooth. The winch should be large, not less than 3½ inches in diameter. It is bad policy to buy a cheap reel, as the wood is not likely to be well seasoned, and the parts are not likely to fit with that nicety which is absolutely necessary to ensure true work. A great point in selecting the reel is to see that it runs perfectly freely, and yet that the reel itself fits so nicely into the box as to leave no room for the fine line to catch in between. In nine out of a dozen reels you will find that at some part of the circle the edge of the spindle almost touches the box, and in others there is a gap into which the line at some critical moment is sure to find its way, and cause perhaps a break or the loss of a fish. But the safest plan, as I said before, is to give a good price and get a good article. I prefer, myself, one in which a check action can be brought into play by touching a spring; this at once converts the delicate, flighty, restless Nottingham into a sober-sided, steady-going, ordinary winch, useful for any kind of fishing. I need not describe the bait and line, but whether it be a natural dace or an artificial bait of any kind, it should be attached to the line by means of a well-swivelled sound, stained, single or double gut-trace; half a foot of stained gimp should intervene between the bait and the trace, to keep the pike's teeth at a safe distance. I will suppose the angler has his rod and tackle, as described above, ready, and is standing on the bank of a river or lake. He need not trouble himself about the twigs, sticks, leaves, &c. at his feet; all he wants is room to swing his bait. He winds up until the top of the trace is close to the end ring of the rod, grasps the rod a foot above the winch with his right hand, the left hand is underneath the winch with the fingers just touching the lower outside rim of the revolving part of the reel. Turning his back on the water, he gives a swing to the bait. There must be no jerk, mind, only a continuous swing, with the force increasing gradually at first, but more quickly as the end of the sweep is reached. At this instant the line is released by the fingers of the left hand being almost removed for a second from the edge of the reel. I say almost removed, because they must never entirely loose contact with it. The bait is now travelling through the air, the reel is spinning round at an immense rate, and the finger-points of the left hand are just keeping feather touch of the revolving rim. The pressure must be so slight as not to impede the proper rotation, and yet sufficient to prevent too fast a movement. Then the instant the bait falls the fingers are pressed tightly on the rim, and it is stopped. Some anglers hold the rod in the left hand, and control the winch with the forefinger of the right; and for those who can manage the cast properly with the left hand this is undoubtedly the best plan, because then no shifting of the rod from one hand to the other, in order to wind in, is necessary; but for my own part I prefer casting with the right hand, and the loss of time is so inappreciable that even in the shallowest water I can always get a spin on the bait before it has time to touch the bottom. Another advantage of casting with the right hand and changing to the left when spinning home is, that both arms are made to do an equal amount of work, and each is alternately rested. There is more in this than would appear at first. Every Thames spinner knows what hard arm and back-aching work spinning is, but this alternate work and rest leaves one as fresh after an hour or two's incessant spins as before, and this in spite of the fact that your Nottingham adept can work fully three times as fast as your Thames style will admit. In spinning the bait home you must keep your rod at an angle with the direction in which the bait is travelling, so as always to avoid a straight pull from the winch; in case of a run, the elasticity cf the rod breaks the strain. Of course, as I said before, the angler can impart any motion he likes to his bait by a judicious use of the rod and reel. Care must be taken in winding-in to see that the line is evenly distributed on the winch, otherwise it may be piled upon one side and touch the box and 'stick.' The angler who wishes to learn casting from the winch must think nothing of finding his delicate line in an apparently inextricable muddle every few casts; these tangles are nothing like so formidable as they seem, and generally can be undone in half the time it takes to extricate a Thames caster's line from the embraces of a bit of bramble. When once an angler has mastered the only real difficulty in the Nottingham style, viz., the keeping touch of the winch while the line is flying off, he has little else to learn. I have seen men take up a rod and attempt to make a cast; the swing was right, the bait has gone twenty yards beautifully, the angler's eye follows it with pride, and the next instant the bait has flown off like a shot from a catapult, the winch has stopped, and the dismayed angler is looking hopelessly at a tangled network of Nottingham twist. 'If that is your Nottingham style, I don't like it,' he says. You explain that he ought to have kept his finger on the reel. He tries again; it is a cold day, and his fingers are not very sensitive to 'fine edges.' Out goes the bait, perhaps fifteen yards. 'Brutus!' exclaims your friend, and down goes the rod, as he jumps about sucking an aching finger. 'What's the matter?' 'Matter! why, didn't you tell me to control the reel? The blessed thing has nearly knocked my finger off!' 'Ah, my friend, that will be a lesson to you to keep your fingers out of the way of the handles! You only require to touch just the rim of the reel, just to feel the least bit in the world of it. Yes, those little handles can give a wonderfully hard knock when going round at full speed! When you are used to it you will never knock your fingers and never have a tangle, except from sheer carelessness.' But here comes Red Hackle, and I know he wants to tell us about his flirtation with that pretty little girl at the Derwent Arms. My word, what bouncing grayling!"

We passed a vote of thanks to Plummet, and the rest of that evening passed quickly with the pleasant chat and chaff which make our cosy club meetings so enjoyable.

HISTORY OF THE RECENT IMPORTATION OF BLACK BASS INTO ENGLAND.

THE experiment of introducing and acclimatising black bass in England having been successfully accomplished by the Marquis of Exeter, and his pisciculturist W. T. Silk, a number of gentlemen interested in his lordship's success and desirous of obtaining a further supply of the fish, made application to his lordship with a view to get over from America sufficient black bass to enable each subscriber to stock their several waters. Lord Exeter, with his usual liberality, expressed himself most willing to do so, and desirous of assisting and contributing towards the expenses attending the same.

The gentlemen composing the company were the Duke of Manchester, the Marquis of Exeter, Mr. R. B. Marston (Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE), Mr. Churchhill Thornhill, Mr. W. C. Chambers, hon. sec. of the Norfolk and Suffolk Fish Acclimatisation Society; Mr. C. L. Buxton, Mr. Jonathan Haigh, president of the Wakefield Black Bass Angling Club; Mr. T. Carrington, on behalf of the Royal Aquarium, Westminster; and Mr. C. C. Capel, of Foot's Cray, Kent. Application was made to Professor Spencer Baird, Commissioner of Fisheries for the United States, to obtain the bass for importation. Mr. Baird stated in his reply that he had plenty of black bass for this purpose, and that he would give all the assistance in his power to ensure success to the undertaking. Mr. W. T. Silk was directed by the Marquis of Exeter to make such arrangements as he considered necessary to ensure success. The White Star Steamship Company were applied to for conveyance of the tanks (necessary to carry the fish in) to and from America. With great liberality they offered to do this, and supply water and ice free of charge. The London and North Western Railway Company agreed to furnish a truck from Liverpool to Stamford at 6d. per mile. Mr. W. T. Silk with the tanks embarked on the s.s. "Germanic" on the 21st, and landed in New York on the 30th of September. Professor S. Baird was communicated with at once (he being then engaged in experiments in fish culture at Woods Hall, Conn, but, unfortunately, all the black bass belonging to the United States Fish Commission had succumbed to the heat. Professor Baird immediately telegraphed to Mr. Eugene G. Blackford, Commissioner of Fisheries for the State of New York, and to Mr. Fred Mather, fishing editor of *Forest and Stream*. These gentlemen very kindly gave Mr. Silk every assistance in their power, and Greenwood Lake, N Y., was recommended as the nearest and best place to obtain a further supply of fish. Mr. W. O. McDowes offered the courtesies of the Club House on the lake, and a move was at once made for Warwick Woodlands. Mr. Waterstone, the steward of the association, sent for some of the guides living round the lake, and informed them what was wanted. They commenced to see innumerable difficulties in the way of obtaining the bass and to put the price on in consequence. Netting was tried, but was found not to answer, as the fish had left the shallows and gone into deeper water, so the hook and line had to be adopted as a last resource. Mr. Silk says the fish fought splendidly, and that most of the best fish got away after being hooked. They were taken with minnows. On Friday, 13th October, the first lot, between 300 and 400, were taken from Greenwood Lake to New York, and placed in the tanks at Mr. E. G. Blackford's place in Fulton Market. The next lot of about 400 were brought down Thursday, 19th October. We give the rest in Mr. Silk's own words:—

"The ship 'Baltic' sailing on the 21st, I found that a considerable number of the first consignment had died, and before Saturday, several of the second lot went the same way. The reason of this was the unusually high temperature of the water and atmosphere. On Saturday morning, 21st October, Mr. James Ramsbottom (who kindly offered his services) and myself started for the s.s. 'Baltic' (which sailed at 12 noon) with the first lot of fish, it being judged best to bring them in two lots. Our wagon got blocked in the traffic, and we were delayed considerably. On arriving at the ship, we expected to have found the tanks ready for the fish, but were doomed to disappointment. I found Mr. Nicol, the first officer, who proceeded to put the tanks in position in a most energetic way. The hose with fresh water was laid on from the dock and the tanks filled. A lot of the bass were turning sick with being crowded in the cans, and it did not mend matters much putting them in the tanks, the water being over 70 deg. The second lot of fish arrived about half-past eleven a.m., some of them looking very sick, and on turning them out I missed some large black bass that had been put into a separate tank for the purpose of exhibiting them. Mr. Eugene G. Blackford has since written to me expressing his regret that in the hurry they were overlooked. I had now to look about for some men to assist me on the passage. I soon found three, two of them being shipwrecked sailors that were being sent home by the British Consul. After getting outside of Sandy Hook it commenced to blow, and by midnight we were in a stiff gale with a head wind; this lasted until Monday evening, the weather in the meantime being very close. It was during this time that the mortality was greatest amongst the fish, and a number were rolled right out of the tanks on to the deck and were washed away by the sea. On Wednesday, 25th, the weather commenced to get cooler and the fish to do better. The following day I got the water down to 40 deg. with ice, and from that time until arriving in Liverpool did not lose more than two fish per day. We arrived in Liverpool on Tuesday afternoon, and I must now thank the captain Mr. H. Parsell, the chief officer, Mr. Nicol, and the chief engineer, Mr. McIntosh, for rendering me every assistance on the voyage. In landing or swinging the tanks from the ship to the dock, the smallest tank containing most of the small fish slipped in the slings and canted up, spilling a lot of water and fish into the basin. Burghley Park was reached on Wednesday, 1st November, and on counting the fish, we found we had a few over 350, three-fourths being large fish that will spawn next April; this being considered by Mr. R. B. Marston and other gentlemen as a much more satisfactory result than if a larger number of smaller fish had been landed, as in that case, two years would have to elapse before the fish would spawn.

"After getting over the Great Bank and reaching cooler water, I tried the experiment of putting black bass into salt water. They did not seem to mind it in the least, and after being in for twenty-four hours, they went back into fresh water as if they had never been subjected to any such experiment."

W. T. Silk.

[We most heartily congratulate Mr. Silk on the very satisfactory result of his expedition. He had to overcome very great difficulties, and the manner in which he did it reflects the highest credit on his skill and perseverance. We venture to predict that from the stock of black bass which he has introduced into England, in a few years thousands of acres of our ponds, lakes, canals, and rivers will be stocked with this magnificent game fish. It is not the intention of any of the gentlemen who have joined in this undertaking to put the fish into waters which are well suited to trout and grayling: they thrive best in waters in which trout and grayling will not thrive. In a few years' time black bass fishing will become as general and as popular in this country as it is in the United States.—Ed.]

RICHMOND PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The members of the Richmond Piscatorial Society were engaged on Wednesday last in fishing for prizes in the tidal portion of the Thames, between Teddington and Richmond. This competition was originated by the liberal offer of a silver cup of five guineas, or the amount in money, or fishing tackle, by the well known firm of Messrs. G. Little and Co., Fishing Rod and Tackle Makers to the Prince and Princess of Wales, 15, Fetter Lane, Fleet Street. In accordance with the thorough sportsmanlike character of the Richmond Piscatorial Society, a high standard of measurement was conditional in the weighing-in of the fish, and all the arrangements for the match were generally conducive to the interests of true and legitimate sport. This competition was to have taken place a fortnight previous, but had to be postponed, in consequence of the presence of a flood, which made angling almost impossible. The members have been looking forward to the value of this contest as an important event—important from the very liberal prize offered by one of their members, and important to test their character as anglers in their portion of the river. In addition to the valuable prize offered by Messrs. G. Little and Co., there was a second prize of twenty-five shillings, given by Mr. Lucas, and the entrance fee of one shilling each from the twenty members who gave in their names as competitors, formed a third prize. The fish, to consist of roach and dace, were to be weighed in by eight o'clock—the roach to measure nine inches in extreme length, and the dace seven inches. At the closing hour of eight o'clock, the following fish were weighed in:—Mr. W. Hester, 5 lb. 3 oz. of roach and dace; Mr. H. Johnson, 3 lb. 15 oz.; Mr. G. Hester, 3 lb. 3 oz.; Mr. Terrill, 2 lb. 13 oz.; Mr. Heasler, 2 lb. 10 oz.; Mr. Houghton, 1 lb. 15½ oz.; Mr. E. V. Powell, 1 lb. 10½ oz; Mr. Smith, 1 lb. 9 oz.; Mr. Dickinson, 1 lb. 5 oz.; Mr. Griffiths, 14 oz. Had the size of roach been of the Thames standard there would have been a much better show of fish, as in the case of Mr. Johnson he had to reject a considerable number of roach from 8 inches to 8¾ inches; and this was the case with other competitors. So carefully were the fish measured in "the hall of judgment" that numbers of fish within one-eighth of an inch of the stipulated size were cast away. The result of the contest was the securing of the first prize by Mr. W. Hester, the second prize by Mr. H. Johnson, and the third prize by Mr. G. Hester. The weighing-in created great excitement, and an interchange of familiar and friendly jokes. It was arranged to have a supper in the club room at the conclusion of the match, and under the instructions of the committee Mr. John Munro provided, in his good style, a selected entertainment of roast beef and a boiled leg of mutton, to each of which every justice was done, and precious little left, owing to the attendance being much larger than expected. Mr. F. C. Clench as usual maintained the dignity of the chair, and Mr. H. Dickinson was in good form in the vice-chair. There were present Messrs. A. J. Little, J. P. Houghton, W. H. Brougham, H. B. Taman, H. Terrill, W. Cockburn, H. Gaunt, E. V. Powell, R. B. Matthew, John Bond, W. Hester, G. Hester, H. Johnson, Plant, Crew, Scantlebury, Lucas, H. E. Gaynor, Smith, Summers, Field, Heasler, Brewer, &c., &c. After the loyal toast the chairman eloquently and impressively referred to the death of Mr. Thomas Abbott, a vice president of the Society, who was not only one of its founders, but for some years acted as its treasurer, and in well chosen words proposed a vote of condolence, concluding an admirable speech by calling upon the company to stand up and to drink to the memory of their dear old friend. The Chairman, after announcing the result of the competition, and the award of the prizes, gave "The Prize Winners," which was briefly replied to by Mr. W. Hester. Mr. Taman proposed "The Thames Angling Preservation Society," and said how very much they were indebted to it in looking after the river and affording pleasure to the angler. He referred to the success of the recent conference at the Cannon Street Hotel, which was suggested by the Richmond Piscatorial Society, and so ably carried out by the T. A. P. S. He coupled with the toast the name of their good friend, Mr. W. H. Brougham. Mr. Brougham, in responding, expressed much gratification in being amongst them that evening, and his pleasure was greatly increased by the voluntary offers of Mr. Terrill and Mr. Cockburn to become guinea subscribers to his society. In noticing the remarks of Mr. Taman, in reference to the conference, he need only add that whilst there was much labour in getting it up, it was a great and conspicuous success, and with the unanimity that prevailed in making certain suggestions, the conservators would not fail in acceding to their wishes. Mr. Terrill, on being called upon to make a few observations, remarked it was a crying disgrace to the anglers in not contributing to the funds of the T. A. P. S. He thought an organized movement amongst the Clubs, on the principle of the Hospital Saturday, would be highly beneficial—some members could give a shilling each, others sixpence, and the rest threepence; this would realize a good sum. There were thousands of anglers who fished the Thames and never contributed one penny. He also thought there were many anglers that could give half-a-guinea as an annual subscription, who could not afford a guinea, and he could not help thinking if some steps were taken in that direction, it would be an easy matter to add £500 a year to the income of the Society. The Chairman then distributed the prizes won at the last Kingston Competition—one of these was half-a-dozen bottles of whisky, which the receiver ordered to be opened for the benefit of those who were present. It was an act of kindness, but not much to the benefit of the hostelry. The Chairman gave "The Prize Donors," which was replied to by Mr. Lucas. There is to be a smoking concert on Wednesday next. B.

THE GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this society had an enjoyable evening on Tuesday evening last, although the attendance was rather under the average, there being no special business to bring before the meeting. The chair was taken by John Groom, Esq. The secretary read the usual correspondence—a note from Mr. King, of the Royal Oak, Windsor, indicating that the river was rising there; Bartholomew, reporting from Goring, "water getting into better condition, and fair prospect of sport if no more rain." Few fish have been weighed in since last report. Dr. Brunton has, however, had another successful day among the grayling, surpassing if possible his recent achievement. One of the best of his captures, a handsome fish of 2 lb. 5 oz., was presented to the society, and will be preserved with those kindly given last week, so that the society will undoubtedly possess the finest, and, it is hoped, the most artistically mounted, case of grayling yet obtained. After the ballot for a new member, the usual musical selections were given, Messrs. Moore, Aveling, Jardine, Clarke, Young, Callaghan, Morgan, Neville, and others, materially aiding in the harmony of the evening.

Mr. Charles Bates drew attention to the fact that angling interests were coming under popular notice, expressing the opinion that the Corporation of London were now more or less committed to the defence of the rights of anglers on the Thames, as indicated by the banner carried for the first time in the procession of the Lord Mayor to Westminster on the 9th inst. He thought some trifling souvenir might appropriately be given to the anglers who gave up their time and attended on that remarkable occasion to aid in asserting what was deemed a public right, now placed in jeopardy by the action of a few riparians. Mr. Crumplen fully supported this suggestion, expressing the opinion that the recognition of the angling fraternity by the Civic authorities was likely to lead to important results, especially in enlisting public opinion, which was certain to help them to vindicate their rights.

The Rev. J. F. Stewart Dyer, M.A., was among the visitors at the meeting. Mr. Morgan, Chairman of the East Central Committee, also attended. The society look forward to a large gathering on Tuesday next, when the prizes for the past year are to be distributed. Members of other angling societies are always welcomed, and now that the "Gresham" meets at Masons' Hall Tavern, Basinghall Street, City, they have ample room for all who may favour them by attending.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND PISCATORIAL ASSOCIATION.

THE annual dinner of this association was held on Thursday evening, November 2, at the Grand Hotel, Colmore Row. Mr. Oliver Pemberton, J.P., the president of the association, presided. Among those present were Alderman Cook, Messrs. Alan Bagot (of the Trent Conservancy Board), Adams Parker (vice president), E. Hooper, M. Hooper, H. Pemberton, C. O. Pemberton, G. Pemberton, R. Mann, W. Day, Jas. Botteley, W. Reynolds, S. Basnett, J. Allday (treasurer), T. Thornton, E. Haseler, S. Mee, and J. Gregory (hon. sec.), &c., &c. After the usual loyal and patriotic toasts, the chairman, in giving the toast of the evening, "The Birmingham and Midland Piscatorial Association," after wishing the association every success, said the man who had no leisure was a very contemptible being, and the man who said he had leisure, and did not know exactly what he was going to do with it, was unhappy indeed—(hear, hear). As a medical man he asserted that it was as necessary for a man to have leisure as it was for him to have sleep, and the harder a man's labours were the more necessity was there that he should have leisure and amusement in it—(applause). Nearly two centuries ago Isaak Walton wrote the undying pastoral on angling, and his words were then and were now true. Nothing could be more suggestive than his description of the summer time of the year, where he told us of that fisherman who, having caught his few brace of fish, goes to an inn close at hand where he has them cooked, and where "he found the landlady pleasant, and the daughters beautiful as well as virtuous; the parlour clean, lavender between the sheets, and ballads on the wall"—(laughter and applause). And later his description of the hard winter months, during which the angler had to battle with the inclemency of the weather in his pursuit of the voracious pike. Angling, as a sport, had been the delight of the high and the low. It was not generally known that the great Nelson was as enthusiastic a fisher, and plied the rod as ardently with his one arm, as our blind Mr. Fawcett now did. (Cheers.) He (the chairman) congratulated the association upon the progress it had attained in the past time, which was truly described as "free from strife." The angler pursued his art purely and simply for recreation; he interfered with no one, he offended neither God nor man, and he culled from his pursuit the purest and most elevating of enjoyment it was possible for man to have. He hoped the Birmingham and Midland Piscatorial Society would long flourish and gain strength with age. (Applause.)

Mr. Adams Parker, who responded, noted the good sport that had been obtained during the past season, and spoke of the part which the association had taken in introducing trout into the Trent. The experiment had been most satisfactory, and he hoped they would see their way in the following year to enter into it more extensively. In conclusion, he proposed "The Trent Conservators," to which Mr. Allan Bagot replied in a long speech, detailing the various operations the Board of Conservators had entered into for the preservation and bettering of fishing in the Trent and its tributaries. He referred to the Acts of Parliament and their conditions; detailing also the prosecutions for illegal poaching, liming, and dynamiting, with valuable comments on the proceedings. Mr. Bagot's speech was received with much satisfaction; after which the prizes were distributed by the chairman as following:—

Mr. William Reynolds, the silver cup of the association, for the best fish of any description taken in the association's water during the season; Mr. Adams Parker, gold pin, presented by Mr. John Allday for the best barbel; Mr. Jas. Gregory, gold pin, presented by Mr. Sam Basnett, for the best roach; Mr. Edwin Hooper, a spade, shovel, and fork, presented by Mr. T. Thornton for the best chub; a gold signet ring, presented by Mr. Phillip Antrobus for the best grayling, was won by Mr. C. Ricket; two sets of Gregory's spinning baits and tackles for the best pike, first prize was taken by Mr. John Roberts, jun., and the second by Mr. Fred Dunn; Francis Francis, "Book on Angling," presented by Mr. Jas. Botteley, was won by Mr. Henry Jephcott for second-best roach. The other toasts were "The President," proposed by Mr. Sam Basnett, "The Vice-President," "The Treasurer," "The Hon. Secretary," and "The Visitors." This toast was proposed by Mr. John Allday, Alderman Cook and Mr. Alan Bagot responding. The latter, after thanking the members for the cordial manner they had received him, and the pleasure he had enjoyed by the kind invitation of the committee, announced he should place in their hands a silver cup of the value of five guineas, to be fished for among the members. Other valuable prizes were promised, and the company broke up, after spending a very pleasant and convivial evening.

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

MOST of the readers of the FISHING GAZETTE have doubtless long ere this read in the daily papers how a small group (eight) of London anglers, with their high boots, square roach baskets, and long rods, formed part of the recent Lord Mayor's procession, one of their number carrying a large blue banner, on which stood out boldly in white letters the significant words, "The Corporation and the Rights of the Thames Anglers." The moral result of this identifying of the "City fathers" with a movement having for object the upholding of undoubted public rights, enjoyed from time immemorial by thousands of toilers, not only in our huge metropolis, but along the whole Thames valley—just now so fiercely assailed on all points by a small clique of selfish men—the aquatic counterpart of the "Epping Forest enclosers," cannot be exaggerated. Moreover, a heavy expenditure of much otherwise needed funds in the form of circulars, public meetings, &c., would not have gained for us the publicity this simple thing has. All honour, then, to the men who conceived the idea, and to those who carried it out, but, above all, "honour to the ancient Corporation" which has once again thus fearlessly and unmistakably identified itself with a popular movement to uphold the rights of the humble many against the encroachments of the wealthy few. It is generally admitted that the amusements within the means of the humbler classes are exceedingly limited in number, and that, instead of being curtailed, they should certainly be increased. It seems, therefore, worthy, at least, of serious consideration at the hands of our legislators and social reformers, who seem to pin their hope of elevating the masses to purely prohibitive legislation of the most draconic and sweeping type. Whether such a desirable end would not be more easily attained, and when so attained have more lasting result, by fostering and assisting to carry out movements having for object the maintaining and multiplying of morally and physically beneficial counter-attractions, than which none surely can claim a more prominent place than our ancient sport of "fishing with an angle."

Messrs. Geen and Hoole have returned from their trip to Hastings, and though much improved in health, it will be some days yet before the latter will be fit for active work.

A meeting of the West Central Association of London and Provincial Angling Societies will take place at the Portman Arms, Great Quebec Street, this (Friday) evening. Among the business to be gone through, several societies are down for enrollment; the balance-sheet will be submitted and distributed; at least one application for a reward for conviction obtained against a poacher; correspondence with an upper Thames Preservation Society, *re* public right to angle from the towpaths. I think, from the strong opinions I have heard expressed on all sides, the question of the London and provincial anglers and the Great International Fisheries Exhibition will have to be gone into. At present the attitude of the London clubs is neither dignified to themselves or fair to those gentlemen they have elected to represent them on the sub-committee; either they should decide to support this exhibition with all their energy, or withdraw from it altogether. I fail to see that there is a middle course.

A No. 3 West Central Association visit will be paid the South London Angling Society, George and Dragon Tavern, 235, Camberwell Road, on Thursday evening, November 30.

The Brunswick Piscatorial Society has been broken up. Many of the leading members, including Mr. George Copeland, have, however, started another society, viz., The Eden Piscatorial.

The half-yearly dinner of the North Western Angling Society takes place on Thursday evening, November 23rd, at the club's headquarters, The Lord Southampton, Southampton Road, Haverstock Hill, N.W., Messrs. Aldis and Robert Marshall in the chair and vice-chair respectively. After the spread and the distribution of prizes harmony will reign supreme, and the "North Westerns" will make any brother "bob" who has an hour to spare, and is pleased to drop in, heartily welcomed.

Just a word to "Red Fisherman," who, it is evident, from the whole tenour of his communication, is considerably riled at having had the word "pitiful" applied to his letter. Well, I am very sorry I hurt his feelings. I used the word after due consideration because there was no other so well expressed my meaning, or more truthfully described his effusion.

In my notes I frankly admitted that all waters were liable to netting, and canal waters, which are great silent highways particularly, so that to entirely stop such netting would be an exceedingly difficult, if not an impossible, task, and from my knowledge of the "Grand Junction Canal," I fear there is only too good ground to believe that it is no exception to the general rule even in the best preserved portions. These facts are so generally known by all that surely it was inconsistent to publish them with such a flourish of trumpets. To what "Red Fisherman's" letter pointed so unmistakably was to a wholesale netting of the "Association's water," which no steps were being taken to prevent. Mr. Hoole, of course, pointed out to "Red Fisherman" how his necessary report erred on all points, and I tried to show him how the publishing of such unsupported hearsay was liable to do the Association harm with the anglers it represents; how it was calculated to encourage poachers, by leading them to believe no steps were being taken for their detection. I am sorry that my intentions have been so thoroughly misunderstood. There is, however, one thing to rejoice at, viz., "Red Fisherman" promises to follow my advice, to keep his eyes open, and when he sees anything wrong, either to take immediate steps to have it set right, or telegraph to Mr. Hoole the "facts."

This will be a lot better than rushing into print on the strength of the otherwise unsupported evidence of the simple native who smiled "that smile." Was it childlike and bland, like that of Bret Harte's "Heathen Chinee, who, nevertheless, played such a good hand at the game he did not understand"?

If "Red Fisherman" does address his communications to Mr. Hoole, it will be another matter; but while he addresses his epistles to the angling public generally, through the medium of a newspaper, he must necessarily be prepared for a reply from any writer therein or reader thereof who may choose to take the matter up.

DR. BRUNTON'S 28 BRACE OF GRAYLING.

[Several of our readers having expressed a desire to hear how Dr. B. took his fish, the Dr. has been kind enough to send us the following particulars. We thought there might have been some mistake in the accounts sent us last week, but Dr. Brunton's letter proves those accounts were correct. It was a wonderful catch for an English river, though it has been equalled (with strong tackle) in America.—Ed.]

Dear Mr. Marston,—I fished from 10.30 till 2.15 and took the fish mentioned (fifty-six). It was a nasty day, but somehow I got them on. In my first cast I took a $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. fish, and in four more casts four fish, one over 1 lb. I returned all the fish under 1lb., except one or two which were badly hooked. I took good care to keep count; more than once I took a brace. All the fish taken, except three or four, would have been considered fine fish on the Dove or Derwent. Now, perhaps, you don't understand how rapidly fish can be taken and returned, and the caster go on at once. It is done by using a rod with upright rings, and instead of winding or reeling up every fish, the line is drawn up in coils with the left hand, when the fish is taken, unhooked, and returned; two casts of the rod take out all the loose line again, and there is no need for unreeling each time. Of course, this is only done with fish under 1 lb. Since my show at the Gresham, I fished the same water with the proprietor. We fished about an hour longer. I asked him "How did you get on?" He said, "At 2 o'clock, when the sun was clouded over, I got a fish every cast, and I have taken over 30 brace! Well, what have you done?" I said, "Somewhere about the same, only I have three over 1 lb., one $2\frac{1}{2}$ lb." All my fish were taken on the finest drawn gut. I carried a landing net with me first day, but after landing one or two fish, I found it more bother than use, and left it on the grass. I lost no flies in fish but one, and that I recovered five minutes after by catching same fish with the fly—a honeybumble—far down its throat. This was one of the fish I had to kill. In showing my fish I made no mention of county, river, or proprietor; you know the reason.

The writer of the paragraph, not I, says, "Probably the finest tray of grayling, &c." I don't say that finer specimens have not been shown—but it is the "tray of six." I caught a better fish as above, but I much prefer the six.—I am, yours faithfully,

H. M. Brunton.

THE "FOREST AND STREAM" ANGLERS' TOURNAMENT.

To the Editor of *Forest and Stream.*

In the last issue of your pleasing and instructive journal I was much interested in an article on the anglers' tournament—it was graphic and honest. I think that to such notices, just as much as to good casting, will depend the future success of our annual tournaments. Fair play is very essential to excite honourable emulation in every kind of contest, but it is especially required in developing the nicest skill of the "gentle art." Thus feeling, I think it my duty to correct a slight inaccuracy which occurs in your account of the contest. You say I only once threw my flies over 85 feet. The fact is I cast 90 feet just before I made the 91.

The accounts published in some of the papers intimate that I could not throw overhand. That is a mistake. I think I can cast overhand just as well as any other way. But I prefer my method, firstly, because I can cast with less than half the labour, and do more fishing in a half a mile than I could do in three miles by the overhand throw; secondly, because I can make a greater reach with more accuracy than by the overhand method; thirdly, because I would not consider my flies and leaders either ornamental or useful to the trees along a wooded stream. Some of these gentlemen also think that by my method I would frighten all the fish. Ah! that would be very bad indeed. And to think that in forty-five years' experience I should not have suspected that my method was frightening the poor little fishes. Perhaps that was the reason why I have received so many invitations to join fishing parties. They knew I would frighten the fish, and then they would the more easily catch them. As you know, if one should get frightened (say, while crossing Broadway) by one horse, he will be almost sure to run under the feet of another; so my friends wanted me along to frighten the fishes from my own line so that they would rush upon their's, filling their baskets rapidly. Now, after the publication of this exposé, I shall expect invitations to all the private ponds, that I may serve to make the success of my friends complete.

H. Prichard, in *Forest and Stream.*

New York, Oct, 30, 1882.

FACEACHE, TOOTHACHE, PAINS IN THE GUMS, NEURALGIA. —Adam Smith's Neuralgine is a Certain Cure. Bottles, 1s. $1\frac{1}{2}$d., 2s. 9d. Post free from Proprietor, Chemist, Wednesbury. London Agent, W. Edwards, 157, Queen Victoria Street.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

Weasel Swimming.

Although in works on natural history the weasel is credited with good swimming powers, the following incident may not be without interest. While enjoying my lunch one fine day, last September, my attention was directed to a weasel making his way among the stones by the river side. The place is a ford, some seventy yards wide, lying between a long, flat shallow, and a deep pool. In a general way the ford consists of a swift, rushing stream, of about two feet six inches in its deepest part, but the water to-day had rapidly run in (a certain sign here of a coming flood), not more than twenty yards of stream being left. I noted that the weasel was making a bee line for the narrowest part of the stream, climbing every large stone in his path, raising on its hind legs and taking a good survey all round, then jumping down and on to the next large stone, often having to splash through small pools on its route. At length it reached what, to it, must have seemed a large stream, rushing as it does down a sharp incline, and some eight or ten inches in depth. After its customary look round it took a header into this stream, and swam straight for the opposite side. I ran, thinking to intercept it, but only to see it dive. Most probably it doubled back again amongst the loose flat stones, now left bare in the bed of the river, and though I turned many of them over, I failed to find it.

By the wet trail it had left, its path to the water was as straight as if drawn by a line.

In further proof of the courage of this weasel, at this same place I have seen a strong cur dog, when following its master across, washed down some twenty yards, the water then reaching nearly to the horse's belly.

Black Gnats.—A Protection from Midges.—A Cure for Hay Asthma.

Have our anglers noticed the fondness of the black gnats for seizing the floating skins of the little iron-blue dun, which are cast off during its metamorphosis to the Jenny spinner? Doubtless other exuviæ as well. You generally see them in pairs at this game, dancing up and down with their plaything, until, exhausted by their load, they drop on the water. Their litttle game seems to be well known to, and appreciated by, the trout, who are on the "qui-vive" for them. It is now that a few threads of white, or cream-coloured worsted, spun on at the shoulder of an artificial midge, proves so useful. From gnats to catch fish with, to gnats which catch anglers is but a short digression. It is just possible there may be other anglers besides myself who are non-smokers, and I certainly know some smokers whose skins are so fair and delicate that the attacks of midges are almost maddening. Let all such take comfort, and also a small bottle full of oil of cloves, when on their angling excursions, and so soon as they see the midges making tracks towards them, anoint all exposed parts with the oil (not minding the slight smarting), and fish on in peace.

If any of my brother piscators are obliged to keep house during that lovely time when the weather is of the finest, and the air laden with sweet scents, on account of their being subjected to periodical attacks of hay asthma, hay fever, nose catarrh, or by whatsoever name they know that annoying malady, they may be glad to learn, that after being subject to it for more than thirty years, I was cured by frequently smelling the following, being especially careful to use it when passing through any fields where the grass was in flower:—

Into a smelling-bottle containing sponge, pour one tea-spoonful of strong liquid ammonia, and upon that the same quantity of carbolic acid, when it is ready for use. Note, "the ammonia *must* be poured in *first.*" Quinine in small doses is also very useful.

Questions for Salmon Anglers.

In the "Moor and Loch," by J. Colquhoun, when treating on salmon, the expression "a feeding salmon" is frequently made use of. Will some of our salmon anglers kindly state what is understood by that term? So far as I know of the habits of salmon, with the exception of spent fish, the term is a misnomer. I would also esteem it a favour if any would give me the dressings of the "Crow-wing" and "Death" salmon flies by the same author.

Barnard Castle. William Sang.

Giant Cuttle Fishes.—In November 1873, another calamary or squid of large size was met with off the Newfoundland coast. On this occasion the animal was brought ashore in the fishermen's nets. The body was 7 feet in length, and the tail-fin 22 inches broad; the two large arms were each 24 feet long, and the eight shorter arms 6 feet in length. The total length was 32 feet; the eyes were 4 inches in diameter, and the number of suckers was estimated at 1100. Between 1870 and 1875 various specimens of similar giants, attaining a length of from 30 to 52 feet, inclusive of arms, were found. It is probable that these giant cuttlefishes haunt the Newfoundland coast on account of the shoals of cod and other fish with which that region teems. Our own coasts, also, do not want for examples of giant cuttlefishes. A Captain Neill, of the ship *Robertson*, of Greenwich, in 1834 was voyaging between that port and Montrose. On the 22nd of June in that year he fell in with a large sea-monster, which, from the description and sketch given of the occurrence, seems to have been a giant cuttlefish. On Sunday, August 5, 1876, the master and mate of a Norwegian ship saw, off the Scottish coast, a huge animal, also believed to have been a largely-developed cuttlefish. The occurrence was testified to before a Dundee magistrate.—From *The World of Wonders*, Part I., for November.

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

The flood in the Thames is once again running in very fast, and without rain the river will in a few days be in prime roach, jack, and perch condition, the colour, even now, being everything to be desired, in consequence of the mud having been thoroughly cleansed away. At Sonning and Henley I glean that bags of 6 lb , $7\frac{1}{2}$ lb., and 9 lb. of roach have been had with gentles for bait, the water having been clear enough for the fish to delight in such grub after their long enforced starvation. At Hurley, Mr. Davis on one occasion had a pretty little take of roach from the quiet water of the lock cutting, and Messrs. Gerkie, Brooksbank, and Thompson have been astonishing the pope. From Maidenhead water, a Mr. K. this week had on one occasion 16 lb. of excellent roach from one hole, all the fish being taken with lob-worm. Thursday evening: Rain has been falling to-day, and snow also, but the river is still dropping, and is in fishing trim, especially for roach in quiet bits and eddies.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Ancholme District.

Owing to increasing cold, but few anglers have been out during the past week, and the sport has only been moderate. There are a few trout at Harlem Hill Lock, which have thus far escaped the ravages of the pike. I took a nice lot of Fontinalis eggs from fish of my own rearing on Saturday last. Some of these will go in due course to replenish the ponds at the Manor Fishery, others I hope to present to stock the becks hereabouts.—THOMAS FORD, Caistor.

Bure (Wroxham).

I cannot send a good account for the past week, as, in our opinion, scarcely any anglers would venture out with such strong north-east winds. I have received a report from "some one," signed Chas. Whittaker, The Horseshoes, Wroxham, as follows:—"Some very fine fish have been taken here to-day by Norwich men. About 5 stone of splendid fish have been taken to-day, all bream. Yesterday some good pike were taken by spoon bait. Good fishing now on." This report is dated 12th inst., but a request is made in the corner to slightly alter date. Now I, for one, consider that if a man is not honest about the day he catches his fish, his account of his take may be doubtful. I certainly do not lay this charge to Mr. Whittaker, as I am informed on good authority he has denied any such catch being made at Wroxham. There are no prospects at present, as the wind and water prevent all attempts of the gentle art.—ROBERT MOLL.

Chichester.

The weather the past week has again been stormy, but the water remains in good condition. Jack have been on the feed, one of $4\frac{1}{2}$ lb. being the largest I hear of. In the Go-where-you-please Contest this week, the Veteran Roach Angler took first prize with over 3 lb. of fine roach from the Rother. Small roach, perch, and bream, have been landed at the Canal, but of no size worth notice. Lord Sheffield writes me he has captured a fine carp in the private water at Sheffield Park, weighing close upon 19 lb. It has, of course, been preserved. Yesterday (Wednesday) was a splendid day. To-day, snow and rain are struggling for the mastery.—GEORGE F. SALTER.

Derwent (Chatsworth).

The weather in the ealier part of the week being so much more favourable and the water being in a better condition than expected, anglers were again out trying their luck, and several good takes were made, bottom fishing being excellent; but grayling have not taken the fly on the top as freely as they have taken the worm on the bottom. Fly fishing was not so successful, one angler catching one brace only in two days, owing, no doubt, to the water being in a slight flood. If the weather had continued favourable sport would have been good by the end of the week; but the weather to-day (Thursday) has been dead against fishing, there having been a lot of rain and sleet combined which has rendered fishing impossible. There is a favourable change this evening, and if it continues prospects for the coming week will be good.—WHEATSHEAF HOTEL.

Great Ouse (Bedford).

Last week one of the members of the Bedford Angling Club caught, whilst fishing for pike with gudgeon, a fine chub, weighing 5 lb. 3 oz.—PETER PEDAGOGUE.

Ilfracombe.

Sea fishing.—The weather this week has been most unfavourable for all fishing. However, when an opportunity offered all boats made a start, and have returned with good catches. Three and four maize of herrings each boat have been the average at a haul, a few boats brought in seven maize each, and some fine conger and hake have been caught with ground-lines. A cod of 24 lb. and a few conger were caught from the Jetty with handlines. Weather at present very squally.—E COMER.

Leicester.

The latter part of last week being fine, was more favourable for angling than has been the case for some time lately, as the waters had gone down considerably by Saturday; but still there was plenty of colour in them. In the quiet places several were trying for roach; but no good catches were had. At the earlier part of this week the weather was fine, and a number were out trying for pike, but those taken were only small fish. In the locality of Aylestone matters are very quiet; but it only wants better weather for some good sport to be had here, as there are some capital chub in these waters. There have been but few anglers visiting Barrow-on-Soar and The Wreake, the continued rains having being the means of keeping them away. The weather on Thursday was very cold and stormy; and unless there is a change for the better but little will be done during the next few days.—ALERT.

Medway (Tonbridge).

The water on Saturday and Sunday was running nicely, when down came the rain again, and the river is as thick as ever. No chance of its being fishable for some days.—YE MEDWAY WATER RAT.

Nene (Northampton).

On account of the flooded state of the river, I have only to record small takes of fish. On Monday last Messrs. Johnson, Burrows, and White, members of the Northampton Working Angling Club, when fishing in the canal, Mr. Burrows took a nice pike of $7\frac{3}{4}$ lb., Johnson and White taking some nice roach, the largest scaling 20 oz . The members of the above hold their next series of prize fishing on Saturday, when prizes to the amount of £2 10s. will be competed for in the lower water.—T. F.

Thames (Chertsey).

I am glad to say the water is falling fast and brightening as well, so that by the time the water gets low enough, it will be in order for fishing. If the weather is at all favourable, I hope to have a good report next week with jack and perch. Any gentlemen coming to fish Chertsey had better look to their jack tackle, as I think there are one or two here will test the tackle. Those who come first will stand best chance, though my best jack last winter was but 13 lb. Still there were larger ones that got away, unfortunately for me. The gentleman I fished with last winter has left Chertsey, or I think we should have had one before this.—JAMES HASLETT.

Thames (Eynsham.)

I have not been able to send you any report of angling for some few weeks owing to the continued wet and stormy weather. The floods have been very serious in this neighbourhood, so that there has been no chance of fishing. I am glad to tell you the water is now gradually getting into the banks, and we may expect next week to get to work again amongst the roach and perch. Mr. Hobden and a friend came down on Wednesday morning. I went with them to the Evenlode, and we each had a very nice take of fish, including roach, perch, three splendid dace (one chub weighing nearly 3 lb., caught with roach tackle.) Several jack have also been caught this week with line bait. Altogether the prospects for next week look very encouraging.—W. B. HOWE.

Thames (Goring).

Water now in good order for jack and perch—a little too high; by Sunday, if it keeps fine, water will be in prime order for all-round fishing. We have had a lot of snow here, but I do not think it will hurt the water much, unless we have a lot of rain. Have nothing to report in the way of fishing—no boats out. Prospects: cannot say much about it at present.—JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Oxford).

Since I last wrote the water has sunk about 10 inches or a foot, but I cannot give the exact number of inches, as when I called on my friend, Mr. Harris, who keeps the register, he was absent from his office; but I was informed by one of his navvies at work on Magdalen Bridge, "Why it a'h fallen from t' top o' yan culvert, mon, since Friday," and on measuring the place indicated I found it was just about 12 inches, and although the stream is still running very swiftly, it has toned to a fine green, and is in good condition for fishing. Several anglers were out on Sunday, but very few fish had been taken; the principal catches consisting of small roach and chub. A rumour was current in the town on Saturday of a 25 lb. bag of perch, in the slack water at the junction of the canal and the Wolvercott-mill stream; but on inquiry I find it is a case of "our cat and another," the truth being that six over a pound each were taken out of the narrow cut between Godstow Lock and the bridge, a place I intend to visit next week if the Post Meadow path only becomes passable. A nice jack of 3 lb. was caught in the old river on Monday, by a man named Wilson, whilst fishing for perch with a worm, and I met a working man on Wednesday who had got four chub, the smallest 1 lb. and the largest $2\frac{1}{4}$, from the bridge-holes in the canal between Thrupp and Wolvercott; this, with the exception of a few small roach, also from the same water, but of a size not worth recording, is all the sport I have heard of during the past week. About three inches of snow fell during the night, but if the fine weather of the last few days continues, we may once more expect some sport.—CHERWELL OTTER.

Thames (Twickenham).

Wind north-east. I am sorry to say we have had another rise of water this week, but this day it has fallen about six inches in the upright, and the water is a good colour for roach fishing, and those anglers who do not object to fish in the eddies are certain of some good sport. The fishing competition between members of the Richmond Piscatorial Society took place on Wednesday, which resulted in Mr. W. Hester winning the first prize, viz., five guineas, with 5 lb. 4 oz. of dace, which had to measure 7 inches; and Mr. Johnson, of Cross Deep, took second prize, with 4 lb. 1 oz. of roach, which had to measure 9 inches, but his day's take of sizeable fish weighed 15 lb , and most of the fish being roach, and measuring from 8 to $8\frac{3}{4}$ inches. These were the finest lot of roach, both for size and condition, that I have seen taken in one day this season.—ALFRED PERRIN.

Trent (Newark).

The water this week has been clearing down rapidly, and the "hope that springs eternal in the angler's breast" was once more in the ascendant; for we were looking forward to being able to "point at one" by Saturday or so; but, alas! for human hopes and expectations, for rain has fell more or less heavily all day to-day; so I should suppose the water will again come on thick and unfishable. A friend and I had made arrangements to look after some of those giant chub, and offer them an attraction in the shape of a lump of savoury pith. We thought the water would be good enough for that by Saturday; but I am sadly afraid the rain of to-day will spoil that little arrangement; but, however, we must hope for the best; and if there is not much rise in the river, a few cockspurs, or if getable, a few gentles, should kill a few roach and dace; but beware of the ground bait—use that very sparingly; for the fish have had a regular gorging from the late floods, and only a nice little tit-bit will tempt them.—THE TRENT OTTER.

Witham (Boston).

For nearly a month now angling matters have in this district been all but at a standstill. Flood has succeeded flood, and as soon almost as the waters have got to a fishable condition they have been again spoilt by another downfall. At the present moment the river and drains are fairly in condition, but another storm is looming and all may be quickly over again for another few days. And in addition to the unfavourable circumstances of the water, atmospheric conditions have not been of the best. Under these circumstances it is no wonder that reports are light. Of sport there has been some, and pike have been killed at Chapel Hill, Leake, Kirkstead, Frieston, and other parts. Among the best fish taken, I may mention one of $7\frac{1}{4}$ lb., which fell to the rod of Mr. Faulkner, of Boston, one of 10 lb. to Mr. Moseley, of Sheffield, and one $6\frac{1}{4}$ lb. to Mr. Taylor, of Boston. These are in addition to other lighter fish, and some anglers have had in their creels as many as four or five. I cannot at moment say much in the way of encouragement for next week; but if the air will become dry, crisp, and bracing, we may have some chance.—The Yellow Belly.

Wye and Derwent.

Both the above rivers have run down wonderfully during the past week, and are now getting into proper condition for grayling fly fishing, especially the higher lengths of both rivers; and if the rain will only keep off we ought to have some first-class grayling fly-fishing on these rivers up to Christmas. Sport since my last report with the bottom fishers, on various parts of the Derwent, has been first-class, and some excellent baskets of grayling have been killed, chiefly off the Darley Dale Club waters, between Roms'ey and Matlock, with cockspur, worms, and maggots. There have been several pike killed on the lower lengths of the Derwent, with small dace for bait; the largest fish being over 7 lb. weight. There are very few gentlemen visitor anglers down in Derbyshire just now; no doubt they are after the "long tail" shooting.—George James Eaton.

Yare (Norwich).

As far as I can ascertain, only a few ardent fishermen have been out since I sent my last report, and they were out the latter part of last week doing fairly well amongst roach and bream. This week I have heard of no one being hardy or enthusiastic enough to try their luck, and, all things considered, I commend them for their good sense, the only thing likely to be caught being a bad cold. Prospects, nil, without decided change; at the time I write a gale is blowing, and snow and rain are falling.—Robert Moll.

Yore (Hawes).

Two or three very nice dishes were made at the beginning of the week. Mr. Jas. Hasseltine killed two brace, and Mr. M. Willan two and a half brace on Monday afternoon in a very short time and space. The only obtainable bait being the roadside and brandling worms. The barometer is falling, and there is every appearance of a fall of either snow or rain, very probably the former, as it is very cold. The water is at present very low and clear. Trout seem to have made great progress with their spawning operations, some of the best ground being literally filled with "reds." I am sorry to say I hear of poaching in the runners; but I hope the report is exaggerated, although there is no doubt that quantities of trout are being continually taken for the sake of their spawn.—Jos. Corry.

CLUB REPORTS.

AMICABLE BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

The pegged-down match in the river Lea, above the Blackpool, resulted in the usual manner—thirteen sat down. Only one prize was taken, the winner being Mr. A. Plumstead. Nothing daunted with the bad luck, the members will fish for the remaining six prizes on Sunday next, at Cheshunt Mr. Arnold, roach and dace, 1 lb. 10 oz.; Mr. Partrick, roach, 1 lb. $6\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Next Wednesday, general meeting night. All members are requested to attend, for alterations of rules, and election of trustee and all officers of the club.—T. Worledge.

Nov. 12.

DUKE OF NORFOLK ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above society fished a match last Sunday, when the following proved successful in taking prizes:—The first, given by our worthy host, Mr. Grey, was taken by Mr. Allen with two jack; the others being taken by Mr. Stone, 1 jack; Mr. Young, chub; Mr. Pates, dace; and Mr. Lallam coming last with a nice roach, for which he received a winch given by Mr. Reed, of Blenheim Crescent.—G. Avon, sec.

GREAT YARMOUTH PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The above society held its weekly meeting on Monday as usual, when the secretary reported 24 lb. weight of jack caught by Mr. Bennett, of Ormesby, and one member had actually given away a roach weighing $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb., caught in the Bure, he being under the impression that it could not be weighed-in, having been caught on Sunday, and this fish would very likely have taken the prize offered by Mr. Marston, of the Fishing Gazette, for the largest roach taken in November, especially as the weather now is so very unsettled, and the water very thick and not at all in good condition. The secretary also called the attention of the meeting to some illegal netting, and that he was acting in conjunction with the secretary to the Bure Preservators, in attempting to stop the same, and it would be as well for all to know that this society is determined to use every endeavour to stop the liggering and netting, and will expose it in every way possible, until any gentleman to whom it may refer, stop it, whether on the river or Broads; if even it does affect the secretary in his trade, commercially speaking. In one word, the secretary says, Stop the ligger, stop the net, and do not encourage the renters of waters who have them for use by going to angle after the net and ligger has been used; as it is only fooling an honest angler by sending him to these places where this is done.—J. Lark, sec.

KNARESBRO' STAR ANGLING CLUB.

On Tuesday evening last the members of the above club held their annual meeting at the house of Mr. Chas. McNichol, when upwards of thirty sat down to an excellent repast; Mr. Samuel Rhodes occupying the chair, and Mr. J. Booth (Harrogate) the vice-chair. After the cloth was drawn, the accounts of the past year were read, which showed that at the commencement there was a balance in hand of £3 2s. 9d., which, with the contributions of members, honorary members' subscriptions, and sundries, made a total income of £13 2s. $7\frac{1}{2}$d., and the expenditure £9 5s. 3d., which left a balance in favour of the club of £3 17s. $4\frac{1}{2}$d., a result which was greeted with hearty applause. The usual routine business of choosing officers for the ensuing year was then proceeded with, and this concluding the business proper, the usual loyal and patriotic toasts were drunk. The toast of the evening, "Success to the Star Angling Club," coupled with the names of the president and secretary, Messrs. George Thompson and J. Winterburn Mason, having been proposed, the latter gentleman responded, and stated the society was in a flourishing condition, its members and funds being on the increase. Some capital songs were sung between the toasts, the list including the "Host and hostess," and the "Honorary members," to both of which hearty votes of thanks were accorded; the latter part of the evening being spent in conviviality, pleasantly terminating with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne." The following were the principal prizetakers:—Trout: 1, J. W. Mason; 2, B. Robinson; 3, G. Thompson; 4, J. W. Mason. Grayling: 1, 2 and 3, R. Mason; 4, G. Thompson. Pike: 1, J. W. Mason; 2, C. Kay; 3, J. W. Mason; 4, C. Kay.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our members were out last Sunday, but met with very little sport. Mr. H. Moore showed a very handsome jack; Mr. Keene, some nice jack; Mr. Hurwood, some roach.—W. H. Evans, sec.

Nov. 16.

ORIGINAL ALEXANDRIA ANGLERS.

Most of our members were out on Sunday last, the following weighing-in fish:—Mr. M. Dymond, some good jack; Mr. Blackledge, roach and perch; Mr. E. Dymond, jack; Mr. Towndrow, roach; Mr. Tiffin, chub; Mr. Sharp, jack; Mr. Huskison, dace; and Mr. E. Brockett, roach.—E. Dymond, sec.

RODNEY PISCATORIALS.

On the 12th inst. we visited friend Luker, at Walton-on-Thames, who informed us that we could get to the Barge "Cut," and might be able to get some fish there. After having "a glass of ale" we departed on our way, in a dense white fog. While crossing the field I could not help thinking how different it was now to what it was on a former visit. Then these fields were covered with water, now they were covered with frost and fog, and here and there were relicts of "Father Thames's high jinks" on shore. "There are those old boots" exclaimed a member, and he made a dash at them; but stopped suddenly, for by the side of those same old boots lay a jack about 4 lb., who bore evidence of having stayed on shore to long, and I thought of Brougham's "Babies," and the massacre of innocents, in spite of the pater's watchful eye, that must occur when Father Thames comes on shore. Passing these, we come to the wallflowers, the briars, and brambles, neither of which seemed the worse for being submerged. We reached the Weir Hotel. Here could be seen the effects of "the high jinks," the footpath having been washed away, and the worthy hostess informed me that the water rushed past the house like the weir itself. Passing over the iron bridge, we come across about 10 more brothers "Bobs" busy trying their hardest to get acquainted with a fish of some sort. Finding a "shop," we were all soon "on the job," and in spite of the cold, the fog, and the noise made by a steam tug that was moored close by, we stuck to it till about two o'clock, and did not get a fish among our party, and only a few small perch among the others. The fog having now cleared off a bit, the engineer of the tug entertained us with a selection on the waste pipe, and steamed out of the cutting. Shortly after Mr. Marsh sprang up, as if he had been blown up with a box of his own fireworks. "I have got one," he exclaimed; and so he had, he had got a gudgeon $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches long. "They are coming on." Down we sat and eagerly watched our floats till 4 o'clock; time was now called, but in hopes of catching something bigger we kept on till 5. The shades of evening were now falling fast, and hastily packing up our traps, we retired to the hotel and refreshed ourselves with some ale, and after a sharp walk we reached Walton station, just in time to catch our train. Mr. Marsh was declared the winner of the first prize, viz., 4 lb. of tea, given by Mr. E. F. Diggins. Our next competition will take place on December 3, for the following prizes:—(1) Tankard given by Mr. G. Hockley; (2) Fireworks, given by Mr. Marsh; and four other prizes left from last competition.—Pixie.

Nov. 15.

ROYAL GEORGE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Last Sunday Mr. Guvnan had a very nice show of roach and dace, and Mr. Palmer, a pretty lot of dace from the tidal waters. Those members who tried higher up the river were not so successful, and two or three who fished hard at Springwell returned home without having had a single "knock." The jack-fishers were very busy at the above-named fishing, and as nearly every man employed two rods, I estimate that in about 300 yards of the back water there were quite forty live baits laid out. The large red floats dotted about on the surface of the stream, gave it the appearance of having broken out with an eruption of some virulent disorder. I don't think, though, that it suffered much, for with the exception of one young man whom I observed with three or four diminutive specimens, which I should very much like to have seen weighed, I believe the crowd of noble sportsmen returned home jackless and forlorn. A remarkable trout was captured and returned to the water—I say remarkable, because when I first heard of it, it weighed $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., and various informants having subsequently given me its weight as 2, $2\frac{1}{2}$ and 3 lbs., I was assured about three hours after its capture that it would have "gone" fully 4 lb. If it continues to increase at this rate, I should advise my brother piscators to look out for it at the commencement of next season. Mr. Guynan takes the handsome clock presented by Mr. Trotter, for one month's gross weight. The club is now organising the annual Christmas Sweepstake, for which all members may compete, however recent the date of their election.—C. W. W. Bernhardt, hon. sec.

THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

I beg to call your attention to the following fixtures:—Monday, November 20, pike competition, any public waters. 2nd Shentonian prize, Thames only; not won on 16th ult. December 4, chub competition, any public waters. December 11th, smoking concert. For full particulars as regards the Competitions, see list of prizes and circulars.—James Lander, hon. sec.

THE STOKE NEWINGTON ANGLERS.

The show of fish at this club on the 12th inst. consisted of three jack taken by Mr. W. Robinson from the Lea, weighing 8 lb. 14 oz., and one jack by Mr. C. Martin weighing 3 lb. 13 oz. Other members were out, but did badly, especially the roach anglers. Members are reminded that in addition to Mr. W. Robinson's prize for the heaviest jack taken during the month, there are also prizes for the heaviest weight of perch and dace, and the heaviest gross weight of any kind of fish taken during the same time. Due notice will be given of the pegged-down match.—T. Gretton, secretary.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

G. P., Liverpool.—We do not think that any newsagent sells the *American Angler* in this country; but you will see details in the advertisement in our columns.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

NETTING OF RESERVOIRS FOR THE THAMES.

Sir,—As it is not intended to net any more of the waterworks reservoirs this year, it may be desirable to give the particulars of the distribution and quantity of fish that have been removed into the Thames.

From the reservoir of the East London Waterworks at Upper Sunbury, which was the first to be netted, about half a ton weight of fish, principally small perch, were put into the Thames below and above Chertsey Weir.

From two of the reservoirs of the Chelsea Waterworks at Sunbury, over four tons weight of good fish were turned into the Thames. Three-fourths of this quantity were put into the reach of water between the two weirs of Sunbury and Moulsey, the principal portion of the three tons close to the waterworks and in front of Messrs. T. and A. Stroud's boathouse. The remainder, of about one ton weight of fish, were placed at Walton Reach, above Sunbury Weir, Shepperton, and at Chertsey.

From the reservoir of the West Middlesex Waterworks at Barnes, about half a ton weight of good fish were turned into the Town's End Hole at Kingston.

There are three other good reservoirs to be netted in the spring of next year, and other waters are at the disposal of the committee.

The expenses of netting and distribution of the fish this year amounts to a very large sum, and it now remains for the inhabitants of the districts benefitted, the anglers and angling clubs, to show their appreciation of the work by contributing such an amount as will entirely cover the sum thus necessarily expended in the removal of fully five tons weight of good stock fish.—I am, &c.,

13, Cannon Street, E.C.,
November 15, 1882.

Thomas Spreckley
(President and Treasurer of the Thames Angling Preservation Society).

THAMES ANGLERS' RIGHTS AND THE LORD MAYOR'S SHOW.

Sir,—I enclose cutting from the *Echo* of this evening, which I thought you might make use of in your most valuable paper.

Perhaps when anglers see that the fact of there being a fund for the defence of their rights is being made public, those who belong to clubs will feel a little ashamed for it to be known how very paltry the subscription from the numerous London clubs have been.—I am, &c.,

H. A. Vincent, hon. sec. Watford Piscators.

The following is the cutting Mr. Vincent refers to:—

"This year the Epping Forest banner was accompanied by another, bearing the motto, 'The Corporation and the Rights of the Thames Anglers.' If the Corporation will fight the battle of the inoffensive and much-persecuted disciples of Izaak Walton, we shall be eager to acknowledge such good service; but it is a fraud upon the public to take credit for a battle which has yet to be fought. However, the Corporation, having taken credit beforehand, cannot with a good grace draw back.

"We must not be surprised that the people in the streets are gulled, for a contemporary, who ought to know better, reports that this banner, 'boldly lettered,' proclaimed 'how the rights of the unobtrusive community of anglers on the Thames had been preserved.' Those rights have not been preserved; they are still in dispute; and the Corporation of London has not yet undertaken the burden of their defence. We hope it will; but at the very time when the anglers are endeavouring to raise a fund to defend their rights it is too bad to advertise in the streets of London that these rights have been already won."

DR. BRUNTON AMONG THE GRAYLING.

Sir,—Among the many noted anglers past and present who have fished my stream, a catch of twelve brace of grayling in *one day* was always considered a big event. But what are we to say of Dr. Brunton, who last Thursday evening at the Gresham weighed in six grayling, and stated that in less than four hours he caught other twenty-five brace, *i.e.*, an average of one in every four minutes, all on the *finest-drawn gut* and No. 1 hook, and of course landing them with his hand, as he scorns (so he says) to use or carry a landing-net? Many frequenters of my stream are not only anxious to know, but will feel obliged by the doctor explaining how he accomplished it.

The six grayling were of fair average size, but your correspondent is surely mistaken when he described them as the "finest ever weighed-in, &c.,"—they probably were the finest ever weighed in at the Gresham. I am inclined to think he has had few opportunities of seeing fine grayling, and probably none of catching those 2, 3, and even 4 pounders which are taken from your obedient servant,

The Barge River.

Winchester, November 15.

[We refer the old Barge River to Dr. Brunton's own account, which we publish elsewhere, and need hardly say we implicitly rely on the Doctor's statement.—Ed.]

GRAYLING-FISHING, &c.

Sir,—Thank you for the information you so kindly gave me in yours of the 8th inst. I have not had a day since one in the last week of September. That day it blew hard after the first hour or so, down stream, of course. Part of the time there was a bull with a herd of cows in the only part of the meadow which was fishable. An embankment was betwixt us part of the time, and the bed of the river was muddy, which suited some ducks and geese, but not the angler. I got three dace, and lost the only trout I rose. I tried 13 or 14 different flies over him, and at last, some time after hooking him, contrived to scare him away, after which I was disconsolate.

I am much obliged by your inserting my two attempts at answers to queries in the Fishing Gazette. I wish I had more time, and I would endeavour to reply oftener than I have done.

Methinks, who ever wrote about Dr. Brunton and his grayling was not very well up about that fish, as C. Pennell, in his "Angler-Naturalist," and also in his work on fishing, mentions a Mr. Parker (? R. L.) taking 3 grayling in the Hampshire Avon, near Ringwood, which weighed 12 lb.. Mr. F. F. also this year states in the *Field* (part of the very article you preface the test-fishing with), as landing five or six fish from the Itchen, going 2 to 3 lb. each, besides others of 1 lb. or over. I wonder if Dr. B., as usual, landed all his fish without a landing-net, how many he lost in trying to land, and what size those were which he returned.

I have twice taken two brace in a day which weighed 6 lb. 5 oz. and 7 lb. 2 oz., from water which had been pretty well fished, without getting any others of over ½ lb., or perhaps ¼ lb. I believe, however, that grayling are seldom weighed in at London clubs. Please excuse all this scribble, and again thanking you for all the information you have so generously given to me, though a stranger.—I am, &c.,

J. J. B.

Hull.

P.S.—Mr. Francis, in his book "On Angling," unless my memory fails me, states that Pat Hearns, of Ballina (Ireland), for a wager, threw a salmon-fly 42 measured yards (126 feet), which beats the Yankee's cast of 116 feet, being the longest distance on record in salmon-casting.

Mr. Prime (W. C.) in his book "I Go a-Fishing," therein mentions a cast of 105 feet with a twelve-foot split cane trout rod in some American lake, I believe. I remember, when this work was reviewed in the *Field*, it was evidently not credited.

J. J. B.

A DAY'S GRAYLING FISHING.

Sir,—The other day I left London for my autumn holiday, to pay a visit to some friends living on the Wiltshire Downs, and have a little shooting and fishing; but had no idea that the rain was likely to continue so long, as I found out to my discomfort, causing the river Wylye to overflow its banks, and the surrounding meadows, making fishing, as I imagined, out of the question. What was to be done? I could not stay in the house, so with mackintosh and sou'wester, determined to brave the weather.

The river rises in Warminster, and after flowing some miles, passing near Stonehenge, of Druidical celebrity, meets the Nadder close to Salisbury. It abounds in trout, grayling, and, in the deeper water, jack, roach, dace, and eels. Being only a few minutes' walk from the water, I soon commenced; and, though it was a complete downpour, my fly was hardly out before it was fast into a fine grayling. The trout were also rising in all directions. I took sometimes two at a time. This continued through such a storm of wind and rain as had not been seen for some years. On my return, I found I had taken eleven grayling, the largest 1 lb 9 oz., and had put back in the river fourteen trout. I was well satisfied with my day's sport,

Arriving at the house, a strange incident had occurred. A partridge (as we supposed, chased by a hawk) dashed against the plate-glass window of the drawing-room, smashing it to atoms; but, most astonishing of all, the poor bird was unhurt. My friend's wife at once said it should not be killed, but have its liberty; and carrying it out into the field, it flew from my hand as if nothing had happened. So ended my day on the Wylye.—I am, &c.,

Hartry.

GRAYLING-FISHING IN THE NORTH: EYED HOOKS AND FLIES, &c.

Sir,—Allow me to thank "J B. J." for his letter of last week respecting the use of double-handed rods in fishing for trout and grayling. I have never known them used in fine fly-fishing before. That idea about carrying the landing-net is worth knowing. Since I made my enquiry in the Gazette three weeks ago I have seen the illustration in Foster's book, and therefore quite understand what "J. B. J." means. As to his enquiry respecting grayling-fishing in this county, I am sorry I cannot give him definite information of the streams nearest to the corner of this big county where he resides. The streams about Pickering and Helmsley have grayling in. Further away, however, the Wharfe, almost anywhere above Arthington, up to Kilnsey, the Swale from Catterick Bridge upwards, the Ure from Boro' Bridge upwards, abound with grayling; but it would be a very risky business with such unsettled weather as we have lately had to travel far for a day's grayling fishing.

Respecting some of the other communications to the Gazette of last week, I for one would be greatly obliged to Mr. Hall if he would repeat his instructions for dressing flies upon the eyed hooks. I think I could succeed in tying flies upon them, but I would much like to hear what the inventor himself says on the subject.

Then, with respect to the "Jack Incident," Mr. R. Woolfall asks if any of your readers had a similar experience?" Well, I do most sincerely hope that if any of them have had a similar experience to that poor roach he tells of that they will by all means give us an account of it. It would be so interesting for a veritable Jonah to give us his experience.—I am, &c.,

Yorks.

FLIES ON EYED HOOKS, &c.

Sir,—I fully intended to have answered "Bittern's" query last week; but I was much occupied, and after a hasty perusal of my Gazette it was thrown aside and forgotten, In the *Field* of August 5 I gave a description of the method I usually employ, and possibly this may help "Bittern." It was written in answer to a question similar to his, and two amateurs have written to me since with patterns of their handiwork. My method makes an excellent floating fly, the wings and hackles stand out and keep the fly riding naturally on the surface; and for fishing with a dry fly it is everything to get a fly which will *fish* well. Another advantage is that the eye is always clear for tying on the gut; the fly is fastened off behind the wings, and no varnish is used. It is a great nuisance to have to stand by a riverside, when there is a furious rise on, picking out the varnish with a pin from the bunged-up eye, before the gut can be threaded.

I wish some good tackle-maker would tie flies on my plan. I know plenty of men who would send orders at once if they could rely on getting a real floating fly—one which sits up and won't lie flat on its side. I haven't time to tie all the flies I use. Those I buy are neat, pretty, and serviceable, and quite worth the price, but they don't float anything like as well as my own, and the eye is very frequently choked up with bits of wing feather and varnish.

If any reader of the Fishing Gazette expressed a wish to that effect, I would re-print my letter from the *Field* in these columns.

With regard to double-handed rods, I think it is solely a question of habit and practice. Personally, I must confess to being clumsy with a big rod; but I know places on the Test and Kennet where it is an immense advantage, if not an absolute necessity, to use a rod of 14 or 15 feet. I have frequently seen Mr. F. Francis using the finest tackle and tiny flies with such a rod—and there is no loss of delicacy and accuracy in the cast. The way he makes a little dun on a OO hook come floating down, skirting the bank, within an inch of the sedges where the big fish lie sucking down the flies, would astonish some of the advocates for single-handed rods.

With a big rod and fine tackle, small flies are apt to whip off in a provoking way; but here eyed-hooks again come to the rescue, as they stand so much more whipping than the ordinary kind. Of course the angler must sling his landing net according to his own fancy, but for comfort and convenience it seems to me this is a *sine qua non*, no matter what sort of rod is used. If the net must be carried in the left hand, I am not surprised that it has been called by some anglers "an inconvenient convenience."

In the American tournament recorded last week, it appears that on the first day the prize was won by a single mark. Now, if the way in which the marks were made up be examined, surely everyone must be agreed that the second man would probably kill the most fish. Beyond twenty yards accuracy and delicacy are everything, and worth far more than a few extra yards in distance. Few ordinary anglers can cast 25 yards, and a man who can cast 20 yards neatly and lightly is probably (in the usual meaning of the term) a better fisherman than he whose reputation is for long casts—25 yards or more.—I am, &c.,

H. S. HALL.

[We think we can answer for very many of our readers, including some abroad, that they will be glad if Mr. Hall will send the description. We should for our own part.—ED.]

METHODS OF CASTING, &c.

SIR,—Surely the method of casting a fly, described at page 538 of the FISHING GAZETTE, as used by Mr. Hawes, is simply that taught, in perhaps slightly different words, by many English writers, notably Stuart (Scotch, by the bye), and by Mr. Francis, in his 5s. book on angling. It is certainly the method I have always used, learnt from these books. The slight wrist turn is what they recommend to prevent whipping off the fly; but they call it giving a long narrow horse-shoe or pear-shaped sweep, and the not allowing the rod to go back more than about 30 degrees is simply to prevent catching your fly in the grass behind. This plan of casting is especially suited to a stiff American cane rod, and I notice that most Hampshire fishers who use what I call whippy English rods, do not throw their fly in this way, but more or less roll out their line in the way ascribed to Mr. Prichard in the American contest. Allowing the line to extend itself to its full length behind is, I think, the main point to be attended to in the former plan of casting, which I venture to call the proper one, but which cannot, I think, be ever used in perfection with a whippy rod. I use an excessively stiff American rod, 10 feet 9 inches, and in casting, the line is sent straight out till it is nearly over the spot where I wish it to fall, and then the last yard or so of the collar falls gently on the water, followed by the fly, for I will not pretend to say the fly falls first, for I don't believe such a thing ever happens, except where it is blown out by a strong wind, as in blow-line fishing. It is a pity that in the American contest the standing-place was raised above the water—for this, of course, exaggerates very much the casts made by at least, I should think, four or five yards. After all, these trials are rather unsatisfactory, and cannot, I think, serve any useful purpose. The least alteration in the strength and direction of the wind and the amount of moisture held by the line are continually varying quantities.

A correspondent asks about landing nets. I have tried many, and find none for convenience equal to the fixed wooden ring, with a spring catch joint in the handle, which is easily flung out straight with the left hand, while holding your rod with the right. It hangs over the shoulder either by a light strap of its own, or through the strap of the bag or basket. I prefer the former, for this reason: When I want to put on my waterproof coat, I put the strap of the landing-net under my other coat, which thus protects the waterproof from the joint of the landing-handle, and yet it can be easily got at when wanted. Waterproofs are very delicate things, and a fishing-basket or the joint of the handle, if allowed to rub against them for half an hour only, renders them useless.—I am, &c.,

B. M.

HACKLES AND FEATHERS.

SIR,—Touching "Bittern's" query as to Andalusian feathers for flies. Hackles from these fowls are much used in Devon, where flies of a blue hue are a necessity for early fishing. Blue game cocks will, however, furnish better feathers, and if he be desirous of keeping blue fowls for fly-making purposes he will find it to his interest to procure if possible those of a blue game or blue dun game breed, in place of the Andalusian.

Mr. R. D. Frost mentions the dyeing of Andalusian feathers. I always heard that the great objection to dyed hackles—hackles dyed of a bluish dun colour, I mean—was that the dye soon washed off. I have seen flies dressed with dyed hackles which lost all their colour after being a short time in use. If he could describe the manner of using the Indian dyes he alludes to it would perhaps be of interest.

I observe that "J. B. J." requires some large dun hackles, and enclosed herewith are some that may possibly be useful to him. Yours, &c.,

Tiverton, Nov. 13. R. A.

QUERIES ON FLY-CASTING.

SIR,—The report of the *Forest and Stream* Tournament, and your notes on it, will make many a fly fisher anxious to take a new departure in the art of casting, and I write to express a hope that yourself and some of your able correspondents will kindly give the results of experience as to different methods and styles.

Should not the weight of the line in a certain number of yards, as well as the length of rod, be given, to afford material for strict comparison in casts made for distance?

Will you please explain what are to be understood as the determining lines, when it is stated that, "on the back cast, the flies were up in the air at an angle of 30 deg." ?—I am, &c.,

X. Y. Z.

Southsea.

[Our correspondent's queries open up a most interesting subject, and we hope many of our readers will come forward with their views. It is not in the least likely that opinions will all coincide, but it is just this divergence of opinion which makes these discussions so valuable. In reply to the second query, we say that, provided the rods are all under the stipulated size and weight, it would be unfair to make each competitor use the same line. Each has to make the best score he can; and if a man uses a line which is not the best he could use, it is his own fault; if you chose it for him, he would certainly say it was not the best. Every angler we know uses a line which in some respect differs from the others. With regard to the last paragraph, we presume it means the line never fell in the back cast below 30 deg. from the perpendicular.—ED.]

THE RECENT TOURNAMENT.—DOUBLE- AND SINGLE-HANDED RODS.

SIR,—I think the report of the American Tournament you gave in the GAZETTE one of the most interesting papers that has been sent out to the angling fraternity. I expect every year there will be a great improvement, as people practise specially for distance and delicacy and accuracy.

I don't like a light rod for stream or river fishing, unless the locality is wooded, then you must give in to circumstances. My favourite rod is a 16-footer, by Leonard, of Philadelphia. I have used it for several years. Last year, on a clear chalk stream, with finest gear and one tiny fly at a time, I killed over 40 lb. of trout in a day, from ¾ lb. up to 3 lb., and it was all owing to my being able, with my 16 foot rod, to send a light line from twenty to forty yards; and if I fish all day (and I stick to it), my big double-handed rod tires me less than the lightest single-handed rod. I will try and measure some casts when I have an opportunity; and I think I shall go beyond forty yards. If you like, I will let you see my three pet rods—all Yankee rods—16-foot Leonard, 12-foot Conroy, 10-foot Conroy—and you can try 'em if you like. Yours, I know, would be appreciative and careful hands to trust them with.—I am, &c.,

Watford. TALBOT.

[Should much like to see the rods—perhaps we can arrange a day together in the spring, when the trout are "on."—ED.]

FISH AT THE AQUARIUM.

SIR,—Anglers interested in the movements of the finny tribe, their many peculiarities and habits when in confinement, will do well to visit the Westminster Aquarium at the present time.

The barbel are simply splendid, though if they were to reduce the number it would do no harm, and there are some fine bream from the Thames.

Good old specimens of river bream.

I have no doubt the tench (also very fine) would be extremely grateful to the proprietors if they would place some soft material at the bottom of the tank under which they could hide themselves; but I suppose the directors would scarcely do this, as with the proverbial honesty of all caterers for the public amusement, they would not think of taking a shilling under the pretence of showing fish whose habits lead them to hide themselves at this season of the year.

They appeared to be dreadfully dissatisfied with the situation in which they were placed. One fine old fellow, in particular, showed evident signs of disgust as he tried over and over again to make a hole in the bottom with his snout.

After watching some small fry for a long time, I noticed how incessantly they kept taking every conceivable object that came in their way into their mouths, and blowing or puffing them out again, causing, as they did so, quite a stir in the water—now the carcase of a dead shrimp took their fancy, now a particle of weed, now a shell or pebble, and the peculiar quick and sharp manner in which this strange operation was performed was conclusive proof, to my mind, why it is so many bites are lost when roach fishing with paste. Don't forget, *paste*

"What nonsense," says a gentleman to whom I have referred on a former occasion.

His defeat on the subject of the male and female pike has evidently given him the "needle"; however, rightly or wrongly, I cannot agree with him. I will tell you why.

The mere operation of the roach taking in the paste instantly sinks the float, but so quickly is the bait puffed or blown out again (especially if the fish are not on the feed), that, no matter however quick the anglers may be (I refer to men who thoroughly understand all about wrist play), consummate masters of the art though they are, they are often and often too late. In fact, I know—and you know—ordinary roach anglers will lose four bites out of six.

The thing is plain enough: the puff or blow and the strike occurring at one and the same time, the bite is missed, and when the barb of the hook is pointing from the mouth of the fish towards the water, you can easily imagine how bites are continually lost.

Both the bream, barbel, and tench freely indulged in the above habit, but not to the same degree as the smaller fry, and the grandfathers went about the business in a far more methodical and deliberate manner; perhaps the old buffers were testing the material.

I was very much amused at the remarkable way in which one of the bream rolled about his eyes, as much as to say, "I can see you, my hearty," showing the whites thereof like the celebrated "dying duck in a thunderstorm."

And this circumstance induces me to ask you, Mr. Editor, if you believe fish ever go to sleep?

"That is the question."

Hoping yet to hear something definite on the subject,—I am, &c.,

MARK ANTONY.

P.S.—I forgot to mention the jack; they are a study in themselves. Little would one think, to see them perfectly still, with only the fins gently on the move, what a speed and power to destroy they possess.

[We do not think that fish sleep, some of them hibernate. "Mark Antony" has omitted to mention the big Thames trout, and the two or three dozen black bass.—ED.]

PIKE TAKING A "SWALLOW."

SIR,—One of our members witnessed the following occurrence. He was standing on the banks of a pond, preparing his spinning tackle for use. It was a bright summer day, and the swallows were flitting to and fro, and skimming the water, as is their habit. Their flight interested the angler, and he was watching their swift and graceful evolutions with pleasure, when his reverie was rudely disturbed by a commotion in the pond, and he saw a pike make a rush at one of the swallows (which had made a sort of pause, as they do when picking a fly off the water), seize the poor bird and quickly disappear with it in his jaws. The keeper states there is a very large pike in this pond, as he has frequently seen him, and estimates his weight at 20 lb.

I fancy this is the most remarkable incident that has been recorded; at least I have never heard or read of any similar one, and is, I think, quite unique.—I am, &c.,

R. WOOLFALL.

Hon. sec. Liverpool Angling Association.

[We have heard of pike jumping at birds, but never of their catching them.—ED.]

JACK EJECTING BAIT—SNAP-FISHING.

SIR,—In answer to your correspondent Mr. R. Woolfall, I can say that a short time ago I met with a somewhat similar case to that of Mr. Jones' pet pike. The case occurred while pike fishing with a live bait (not very lively then) in clear water. I saw a 2 lb. fish take the bait in his mouth, and just as I had taken up my rod and was about to strike, suddenly cast forth the bait and swim slowly off a yard or two. I then put on a fresh bait, a very lively gudgeon, when the same jack, which I had kept an eye upon, came at it with a rush and made for the opposite bank. I struck and landed him, and on taking the bait out of his mouth found two half-digested roach sticking in his gullet.

I should say that either Mr. Jones' pike was not hungry, or that his behaviour was due to his capricious appetite, which, as most fishermen know, varies from one extreme to the other.—I am, &c., SPIDER.

November 14th, 1882.

P.S.—Is the saddle tackle with live bait a sportsmanlike mode of fishing?

[The "saddle snap" tackle is used in snap-fishing with live bait; *i.e.*, the angler strikes directly he gets a run, hooks the fish in the mouth, and can return it unharmed to the water if too small. Next to spinning, snap-fishing is by far the most sportsmanlike way of pike fishing.—ED.]

THE EJECTED ROACH.

SIR,—Can Mr. R. Woolfall inform me what length of time expired from the moment the jack *swallowed* the roach to the time it was ejected back again into the water?

The occurrence is one of such an astounding nature that I cannot help thinking Mr. R. Woolfall and his friends were deceived.

Every angler knows pike generally swallow fish head foremost, but in this case it might have been swallowed *tail* first.—I am, &c., MARK ANTONY.

[We think it will turn out that the jack only took the roach into its mouth for a minute or so, and for our part we do not see anything very extraordinary in Mr. Woolfall's account; we think he made a mistake in using the word "swallowed." When spinning an artificial fish, we have frequently seen a pike take it tail first, but it was undoubtedly his intention to turn it round and swallow it head first when he had killed it; unfortunately for him it was "a delusion and a snare," and killed him instead.—ED.]

POACHERS AND PROTECTING RIVERS.

SIR,—It was with mingled feelings that I read the letters of E. W. A. and C. O., for I was very pleased to find that there are those who will dare to call attention to the destructive and abominable practice of netting for pot purposes only. But I was very sorry to learn that netting is carried on in other places besides the river between Bristol and Bath, for the prevention of which your editorial note very wisely advises the formation of a protection society.

Now, Sir, I want to ask one or two questions, which, with your usual courtesy, you will do your best to answer. First, to whom should a society apply for power to prevent netting in a tidal and navigable river, where there is a towpath on one side? Secondly, would it be possible to obtain power to prevent fishing of every kind in a non-tidal river, where there is a towpath on one side, and to whom should we apply?

The reason I ask these questions is, that the fish in the Avon are taken by a dozen of these hulking, skulking, poaching, black-legged fellows, with skimming nets, casting nets, dredging nets, dynamite, and other unfair means, and destroyed by thousands every year, and that a society is about to be formed with the view of the preservation of this water.—I am, &c,

Bristol. H. W.

[H. W. will have to find out whether the Crown has parted with any fishing rights in the tidal portion of the river; if it has, he will have to go to the present holders of the rights. A towing path, whether on a tidal or non-tidal river, is private property, and the public have no more right to fish from a towing path than from a bridge. The owners of a towing path cannot grant rights of fishing unless they have bought them. In a non-tidal river all that is necessary is to secure the consent in writing of the landowners owning the ground over which the river flows. If a river divides two estates, the respective rights of the landowners extend to half the bed of the river; thus, if the river dried up, the fence dividing the properties would then be placed along the exact middle of what had been the bed of the river. It has been decided that the owner of one side of a stream has no right to fish beyond the middle of the stream. The best plan would be to get the consent of the owners of the towing-path as well as of the land owners, to the protection of the water.—ED.]

FISHING NEAR LIVERPOOL.

SIR,—May I ask, through your columns, for information from one of your Liverpool correspondents as to fishing in the river Alt, *i.e.*, what portions are free, which are the best places and what kind of fishing is to be had there? If preserved, what are the terms on which fishing can be had. I make frequent visits to Southport, and the Alt seems within reasonable distance of that place.—I am, &c., COTTONOPOLIS.

MANCHESTER AND DISTRICTS AMALGAMATED ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

SIR,—In reply to Mr. Ashworth's letter in the GAZETTE of Saturday last, I may just say that the correspondence is before the readers of the GAZETTE, and to them I leave the question—Which of the two is right? for Mr. Ashworth acknowledges that up to April 22 his society allowed fish which were prescribed by law to be weighed in during close season, and the fact remains that the gentleman who caught and weighed in the trout received the prize money given by his society.

With reference to the point at issue, Mr. Ashworth appears to have missed it, as the point was the minute passed by the Association in July last, which called forth my first letter.

Their having managed to conduct their own affairs for over fifty years does not prove they have been doing it right, for, as regards salmon, trout, char, &c., they have, previous to April 22, certainly been in the wrong.

As to Mr. Ashworth's last paragraph, my complaint was made in my first letter to the GAZETTE, and I cannot understand Mr. Ashworth wanting me to put it in the hands of my delegate, unless that he is ashamed of its being made public. Mr. Ashworth must, I think, be a dubious gentleman, for he doubts my being a member of the Association. I may again inform Mr. Ashworth that I am a member of the Association, and I think rather more active than he seems to like.—I am, &c., TROUT.

Nov. 14.

LENGTH AND WEIGHT OF TROUT.

SIR,—During the last season I kept a note of the lengths and weight of all the trout up to 12 inches that I took from a stream in this neighbourhood. The variation of weight in fish of the same length was not sufficient to be noticeable except in one case.

Enclosed I send a note of lengths and weights, which you will see agree fairly well with the scale published in your paper.

Length and weight of trout:—9 inches, 4 oz.; 9½ inches, 6 oz.; 10 inches, 7 oz.; 10¼ inches, 7 oz.; 10¾ inches, 8 oz.; 11 inches, 9 oz.; 11½ inches, 10 oz.; 11⅞ inches, 11 oz.; 12 inches, 11 oz. (weighed the next day, and the only one of 12 inches caught in the season).—I am, &c.,

H. BRADFIELD.

ANOTHER CLOTH WATERPROOFING.

SIR,—In answer to your correspondent's enquiry, "A Waterproof Wanted," in your last week's edition, I beg to submit the following to his notice. It is an exact copy of a paragraph in the work entitled "The Domestic World."

"CLOTHES, TO MAKE WATERPROOF.—Into about a gallon of water put a quarter of an ounce of yellow soap, and let the same boil for half an hour, skim, and when cold put in the cloth garment; let it remain for twenty-four hours; take it out and hang it to drain, and when *half dry* put it into the following solution:—Half a pound of alum, quarter of a pound of sugar of lead, dissolved in three gallons of water. Let the cloth be thoroughly soaked, and then hung to dry. This process entirely destroys the capillary attraction in the fibres and threads of the cloth, and the rain or wet pours off the surface without lodging or penetrating through the cloth. The solution has no effect in altering the texture or appearance of the cloth or article immersed."—I am, &c.

SAGITTARIUS.

Nov. 8.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

SIR,—Allow me to thank "J.B.J.," Mr. Frost, and Mr. Howarth for their replies to my queries.

It is most gratifying to be interested in one common cause with the authors of so much obliging and ready courtesy.

Will you kindly post the enclosure to "J.B.J.'s" address?—I am, &c.,

BITTERN.

Cardiff, Nov. 12.

THE TRENT NAVIGATION AND FISHING RIGHTS.

Mr. Justice Denman has just decided a case in which Mr. Martin, owner of a fishery at East Bridgend, on the Trent, claimed damages, £500, from Mr. Leavers, chairman of the Trent Navigation Company, for the "alleged wrongful and negligent user by the defendant of a steamtug on the river Trent." The plaintiff's counsel based his client's claim on the argument that the towing by steam-tugs was not a lawful means according to the Acts passed for the navigation of the river Trent.

Mr. Justice Denman interrupted the learned counsel, and remarked that the Court was decidedly against the view which he had taken of the acts. They were clearly of opinion that the acts committed by the defendant in using steamtugs gave no cause of action against him, as he was only adopting a practice which had been in vogue since 1857.

Their Lordships accordingly entered judgment for the defendant, with costs.

ANGLING RIGHTS ON OULTON BROAD.

A SUBJECT of some little interest to anglers and owners or lessees of fresh water fisheries has been brought before the Lowestoft Bench. The case arises out of a claim to the exclusive right of fishing over a portion of Oulton Broad owned by Mrs. Caldecott, and which is disputed by a gentleman named Bottely, who asserts his right to fish over waters open to navigation, or where there is a tidal stream. The point is an important one, and has already given rise to litigation elsewhere. The Magistrates held that they had no jurisdiction, and that the proper course was to take the case before a civil Court. In a matter of so much interest, and involving a question of private rights, it is desirable that some definite decision should be arrived at, and we hope, therefore, that the case may be determined on its merits. Should the point raised in the interest of his client by Mr. Simms Reeve be sustained, it will have an important bearing in relation to those Norfolk Broads which are close to the angler, except by permission of the owner or lessee. Hickling, Hornsey, and Somerton Broads, as well as other Broads in the county, are, like Oulton, not only open to navigation, but subject to tidal influences, and if it is shown that this gives immunity to the angler, then there is an end to the exclusive privileges that have been hitherto claimed over these waters.—*Yarmouth Independent.*

WEN gels is very little it is their mether's enxiety ter keep metches out uv their wy, but wen they gits bigger the metherly enxiety is all th'ether wy.—*The Kaukneigh Awlminek.*

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

FISHING IN THE SOUTH OF IRELAND.

A RETROSPECTIVE glance at the past year's fishing suggests some consideration in reference to the future. It was a year fraught with remarkable events in Ireland—events that left their mark on angling interests. Tourists and visitors were prevented from touching many places of interest in the South, in consequence of internal disturbances, and the picturesque streams that pass through our south-western district were left to gurgle and flow on in their solitude, undisturbed by the angler. Near a city or a town there is always a sufficient supply of local fishermen to over-run the banks of the neighbouring brooks. The places to which I refer do not come within this category. In and around the districts of Glengariffe, Kenmare, and Killarney, are to be found well stocked streams for trout and salmon. and lakes filled with beautiful brown trout. Here, amid scenes of wild grandeur and exquisite beauty, the angler and tourist may ply his favourite sport unmolested and unrestricted. With returning peace and confidence in the country, a tour in this district during the next summer will well repay the visitor. Increased facilities in travelling afford better opportunities now for penetrating those remote but picturesque places than existed some few years ago. The weather so far has been very favourable for spawning. Since the close of the season we have had repeated floods, salmon and trout have been able to reach their spawning beds, and so far everything favours the prospect of good fishing next year. For some time past the anglers of Cork and the district have been desiring a change in the law, which they think will have an important effect in preserving angling interests of trout as well as of salmon.

I ventilated the subject some time ago in the columns of this paper, and I have been requested to draw attention to the matter again. The question of placing a licence upon trout rods has been discussed from time to time, and widely different views have been expressed as to the expediency of the step, and its ultimate advantages. By those who have a direct interest in maintaining the rights of trout-fishing, it is strongly urged that a licence, of say 2s. 6d., would have a most beneficial effect. It is pointed out that the licence would remove from the river a large number of country lads who poach and do great harm to the river, and that it would be the most effectual check upon the destruction of salmon fry. It has been a matter always of serious complaint that salmon fry are destroyed in myriads during the months of April and May. The fry, which have reached the size of a six-inch trout, are then on their way to the sea; and they take the fly or bait with extraordinary eagerness. Even grown persons have been found in the act of killing these little fish which are the source whence the salmon supply is derived. It would require a staff of fifty bailiffs to stop this annual "massacre of the infants."

My experience is that Boards of Conservators pay too little attention to this important point, and that between the destruction of fry in mill dams and by unscrupulous anglers, the means of affording a valuable stock of salmon is wantonly and unnecessarily swept away. Any step that would prevent this manifest injury would be hailed with pleasure by all fishermen. The latter, however, are not enamoured with the remedy proposed, though it would throw a large source of revenue into their very limited coffers. The inspectors, from whom the recommendation should properly come, before our Legislature would take action, are not in favour of it. But the question is, nevertheless, one which, we think, should be agitated and discussed. The opponents of the scheme see in it a dangerous incentive to poaching. People who now enjoy a harmless angle along the banks of some pleasant stream—country youth, who fish with rude equipment, consisting of an ash plant and a piece of whipcord—and others who could not afford to pay 2s. 6d., would, they say, be turned into a formidable army of poachers, who would avail themselves of every opportunity to destroy legitimate sport. Again, they contend that many who would have to pay for trout fishing would prefer to pay a little more and go in for "big game," and so largely multiply the ranks of salmon anglers.

I confess I do not see much force in the argument urged against the new movement; on the contrary, I think the nominal tariff proposed to be levied would not debar any ardent sportsman from enjoying his favourite pastime, while it would tend to increased preservation, an increased interest in angling, and would augment the funds available for the general protection of the salmon fisheries. Estimating the number of licences as likely to be taken in the Cork district at from 1000 to 1200, there would be a return of £150, which would provide more than a half-dozen bailiffs for three or four months, who could be distributed over rivers which for years have not been looked after, and where salmon fry are killed in a wholesale manner during the spawning season.

The importance of this subject is my excuse for dwelling so much upon it. Properly protected, the salmon fisheries of the south-west and west of Ireland would become an important source of wealth. We have had in Cork experience of the excellent results of a few years of preservation. The river Lee at one period was so worthless as a salmon river, that it was not considered worth while to preserve the fisheries along the banks. A rent of £5 a year would have secured a good stretch of water. The Anglers' Club was started, preservation was commenced in earnest, and in a few years after those efforts had borne fruit; rents went up from £5 to £30, and even to £60 and £100. The Government inspectors have always co-operated with the local boards in doing what was considered beneficial. But the question is a large and a public one, and Government should step in with legislation to give increased facilities for carrying out the machinery necessary for a more extended and thorough protection of the fisheries. The police have hitherto been pre-occupied with political duties. It is to be hoped the course of agitation has been run, and that they will have time to devote more attention in future to ordinary infringements of the law. Nothing frightens the poacher more than the police, and once the impression prevailed that the police were detailed for special work in connection with the salmon fisheries, it would be more effectual than the employment of a score of bailiffs in every ten miles of the river. Valuable protection would also be afforded to the harbour fisheries by a naval watch from the guardship. It was the practice, until lately, to place a gunboat at the disposal of the Fishery Conservators in the lower harbour. It is to be hoped the practice has not been permanently discontinued, but that the Government will, in those various ways pointed out, back up the efforts of the local authorities in a well-directed endeavour to improve and develop an important source of wealth, as well as of amusement.

—ANGLER.

THE INVERARY PROCLAMATION.

THE disciples of Izaak Walton, who find it a difficult task to discover an open water, will relish the proclamation given in the Dunoon book as having been made at the Market Cross of Inverary in the last century:—

Ta-hoy! Te t'ither ahoy! Ta-hoy
Three times!!! an' Ta-hoy—Whisht!!!

By command of his Majesty, King George,
an' her Grace te Duke o' Argyll.

If anybody is found fishing aboon te loch,
or below te loch, afore te loch, or hint te loch,
in te loch, or on te loch, aroun' te loch, or
about te loch.
She's to be persecutit wi' three persecutions;
First, she's to be brunt, syne she's to be
drownt, and then she's to be hangt—an'
if ever she comes back she's to be persecutit
Wi' a faur waur death.

God save the King an' her Grace
te Duke o' Argyll!

LARGE BASS IN THE DELAWARE.—Belvedere, N. J., Oct. 20.—On the 31st day of August, fishing at the foot of Foul Rift, on the Delaware River, I took with a small-jointed rod and line a black bass weighing six pounds eleven ounces; length, twenty-three inches; circumference, fifteen and a half inches; width, six and a half inches. The fish was out of water nine hours before being weighed. This is said to be the largest bass every taken with rod and line in the Delaware. Bass, I believe, weighing seven and seven and a quarter pounds have been taken in some of the ponds and lakes of this State, but not the Delaware. During the first week in August I took four bass, weighing seventeen pounds, from the same river. Bass fishing in the Delaware has not been good in this section, although some good strings have been made. The writer has taken about 160 since the 1st of July, many of them weighing from one pound to five and a half pounds.—I. H., *Forest and Stream.*

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OVA, *Salmo Fario*, £1; FRY, 40s.; OVA, *Salmo Fontanilis*, 30s.; FRY, £3 per 1000. Yearling *Salmo Fario*, 40s. per 100.—Address

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FISHING IN THE NORTH AND WEST RIDINGS.—Anglers contemplatinng a visit to the Aire, Wharfe, Ribble, Greta, Wenning, Yore, Wensley, or other rivers in the North and West Ridings of Yorkshire, and desirous of obtaining information as to Fishing, Lodgings, &c., should make their wants known through the medium of the

Craven Herald
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Views of the Wharfe, Bolton Abbey, &c., may be obtained at the office of this paper.

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80,000 Parrots Imported Annually.

A beautiful African Grey, with crimson tail, sent to any address, package included, for 15s. If not satisfactory on receipt, money returned. A host of other stock. Beautiful Singing Canaries, small foreign birds, Pet Monkeys, Tortoises, Peacocks' Feathers, 5000 Parrot Cages, and fresh arrivals daily. The Grey Parrot—the Thirty Guinea Bird—that took the two first prizes at the Surrey Show in 1878 and 1881, was purchased from me a young bird.

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1 yard gut cast 1s. 3d. per dozen; 2 yards gut cast, 2s. 5d. per dozen; 3 yards gut cast, 3s. 4d. per dozen.

Finest drawn gut manufactured, 15 inch, 3s. 9d. per 100; 2s. per 50, and 6d. per dozen.

Trout gut, 8d., 10d., short, and best long 1s. 1cd. per 100.

P.S.—If fishermen would send for the Roach Rod in Winter, or now I have a few ready, could send them at once.

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Afternoon.		Evening.
2.30 5.30	The Javanese Gamelan	7.30 9.30
3.0	The Three Almontes—Acrobats	8.0
3.15	The Troubadours	10.30
3.30	Vonare—Contortionist	10.45
3.45	Mr. Harry Hawke and Miss Witty Wren	10.0
4.0	The Tilly Family	8.30
4.15	Wilson Bros.—Treble Parterre Act	10.15
4.30	Astarte	8.45
4.45	The Lenton Brothers—Acrobatic Act	9.0
5.0	Maud and Charley Ross—Speciality Singers	8.16
5.15	Coopers Performing Lions	9.15
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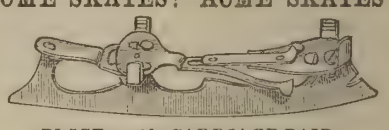

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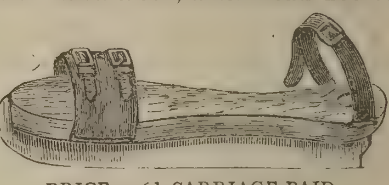

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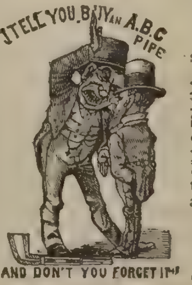
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Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1882.

THE ACCLIMATISATION OF THE SALMONIDÆ AT THE ANTIPODES.*†

ON several occasions during the last two or three years we have given our readers accounts of the splendid trout fishing which is to be had in some of the New Zealand and Tasmanian rivers. With the aid of the valuable works referred to at the foot of this page, we shall now be able to give some historical notes relating to this most important subject, indicate the gentlemen to whom the honour of introducing the salmonidæ into those rivers is really due, and point out a few facts relating to the present condition and future prospects of these new fisheries. Considering the intimate commercial and social relations existing between the mother country and her Australasian colonies, and the great number of Englishmen, Scotchmen, and Irishmen who go to the Antipodes to visit or take up residence, it is a matter of no slight importance even to this country that our salmonidæ have become acclimatised there. The English race must have sport of some kind, and for our part nothing would lessen the regret of leaving the old country so much as the knowledge that first rate trout fishing was to be had in that to which we were going. Of the importance of this successful acclimatisation to the colonies themselves it would be difficult to speak too highly, though it is, perhaps, to the future that we must look for results assuming the proportion of national benefit. At present it is quite certain that the colonists do not support the movement heartily; indeed, as will be seen presently, they are so short-sighted as to hinder and obstruct, rather than foster it in many cases.

WHO INTRODUCED THE SALMONIDÆ?

The honour of having introduced trout, salmon-trout, and salmon into the Antipodes belongs unquestionably in the first place and chiefly to Mr. A. Youl, and secondly to Messrs. Francis Francis and Frank Buckland. This disputed question is entirely settled by the documentary evidence furnished by Mr. Arthur Nicols in his lucid and interesting "History" of the affair.

The first attempt to send ova was made by Mr. Boccius in 1852. He spent £300 in attempting to send a shipment of ova to Tasmania, bu owing to various causes he failed entirely—the credit of his enterprise, which undoubtedly aided the success of after attempts b showing the difficulties to be overcome, should not be forgotten.

MR. YOUL'S EXPERIMENTS.

The attempt of Mr. Boccius led Mr. Youl, in 1854, to study the whole subject of the artificial propagation of salmon, and the possibility of transporting their ova alive from one side of the globe to the other, and from north to south—that is to say, through the fierce heat of the tropics. As an instance of the difficulties Mr. Youl had set himself—a novice in pisciculture—to face may be mentioned the fact that the most eminent English and French pisciculturists of the day regarded the successful transportation of the ova to Australia as impossible. But Mr. Youl did not think so, and succeeded in obtaining the assistance of Mr. Edward Wilson, president of the Victorian Acclimatisation Society, and some other influential Colonists. A subscription of £600 was raised for the purpose of making a trial, which was to be conducted solely by Mr. Youl, and this was the beginning of a series of systematic efforts. In order to make himself thoroughly and practically acquainted with the subject, Mr. Youl visited the principal English and French fish-hatching establishments. It was the knowledge thus gained which eventually led to his success; although his first attempt was a failure, it indicated plainly that success was possible.

A shipment of 30,000 ova, obtained by Mr. Ramsbottom, was made in February, 1860, but owing to an insufficient supply of ice and insufficient protection against motion, the eggs were all killed on the passage.

So far private enterprise had furnished the funds; "but now the governments of Tasmania, Victoria, and Southland (N. Z.), convinced of the practicability of the undertaking, voted £3000, £500, and £200 respectively, and delegated the conduct of the work to Mr. Youl. Unfortunately, Mr. Youl's second attempt, made in March, 1862, when 80,000 salmon ova were despatched to Tasmania, met with no better success than the first; the ice gave out and the ova died in consequence. This second trial had cost £1410, and Mr. Youl had given his time and also £200 for perfecting details; its failure naturally caused great disappointment, and it was not without considerable difficulty that the Tasmanian government was induced to make another trial. This also was entrusted to Mr. Youl, and this gentleman, before consigning another lot of ova to Tasmania, carried out a series of experiments to test the vitality of salmon ova at a low temperature. He argued that if it was possible to keep the ova alive in a refrigerator at a low temperature for a certain length of time, viz., the time occupied in the voyage, it would be possible to send them alive to Tasmania. To prove this he decided to see how long he could keep eggs alive in England. His experiments are so interesting and valuable that we quote Mr. Nicols' account of them *in extenso*. He says:—

"It is important to give the details of this, because it elicited three heretofore unknown facts—first, that a continuous and full stream of water is not essential to the preservation of vitality; second, that partial deprivation of air is not fatal; third, that light is not necessary. On the 17th of January, 1863, 5000 salmon ova were obtained from a female and fertilised by the milt of one male. From 200 to 600 ova were placed in each of eleven wooden boxes, filled with moss taken from one locality, and distributed carefully among it. Seven of these were covered with blocks of ice some 2 feet thick, and the whole buried under 2 feet of sawdust in one of the vaults of the Wenham Lake Ice Company. Few believed that a single ovum would be found alive at the end of sixty-seven days, but when some of the boxes were opened in the presence of a number of practical and scientific men, the microscope showed the great majority of the ova to be alive and healthy, though there was neither air, light, nor a continuous supply of water. Some boxes were allowed to remain for one hundred and twenty days, and still the ova were healthy and the moss growing. The temperature had been about 32° the whole time. From both sets a fair proportion were afterwards hatched out. Still more remarkable than this was the case of one box placed in the dry compartment of a patent refrigerator, surrounded by ice, and proved to be air-tight by inclosing in it a lighted candle, which went out soon after the lid was shut. On the ninetieth day this box was opened, the moss was damp though the outside was dry, and no less than seventy per cent. of these ova were hatched. But by far the best results were obtained from a box in the ice compartment of the refrigerator, with blocks of ice (renewed as they melted) piled upon it, the water being allowed to percolate through it. Of these ova the extraordinary number of ninety-nine per cent. produced healthy fish, after they had been under this treatment ninety days!"

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* "The Acclimatisation of the Salmonidæ at the Antipodes: Its History and Results." By Arthur Nicols, F.G.S., F.R.G.S. London: Sampson Low, Marston, Searle, and Rivington. 1882.

† "The Report of the Otago Acclimatisation Society for the Year ending December 31, 1881." Dunedin: Wise, Caffin, and Co., Princes Street. 1882.

Mr. Youl's patient researches were thus crowned with complete success, and in the words of the Tasmanian Commissioners, "The result of these experiments constitute one of the most valuable discoveries yet made in the art of pisciculture, and must ever indicate an important era in its history."

(*To be continued.*)

NOTICES OF BOOKS, &c.

"FLOAT FISHING AND SPINNING IN THE NOTTINGHAM STYLE." Being a treatise on the so-called Coarse Fishes, with instructions for their capture, including a chapter on Pike Fishing. By J. W. Martin (the "Trent Otter"). With illustrations, crown 8vo, 150 pages; price 2s. Sent post free on receipt of stamps by the publishers, Sampson Low, Marston & Co., Crown Buildings, 188, Fleet Street, London.

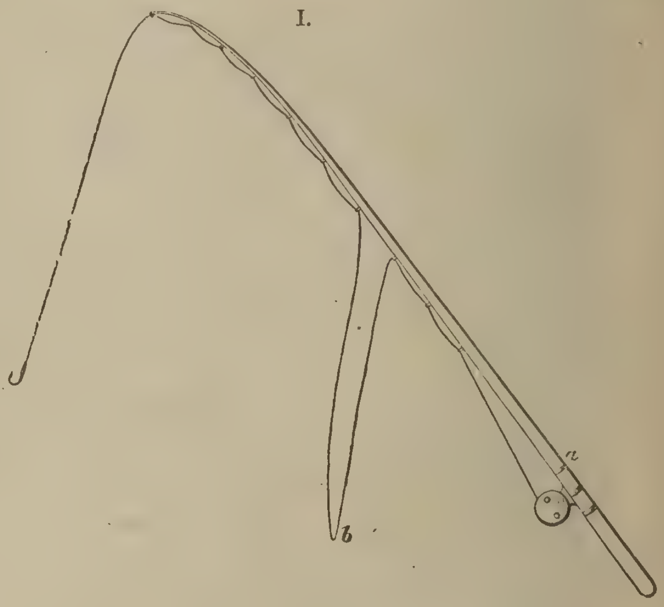
> "Ye who stand behind the counter,
> Or grow pallid at the loom,
> Leave the measure and the shuttle,
> To the rippling stream come, come."
> —"The Invitation."

In his preface to this very capital book on bottom fishing in the Nottingham style, Mr. Martin says:—"There is a vast army of bottom fishers in the kingdom, and the great majority of them are working men who can only get a day's fishing occasionally; it is to these working-men anglers I am more particularly addressing the remarks contained in this little volume. I myself am a working man, but I have had very considerable experience in Trent angling when I could spare the time from my work. . . . The extent of the pocket of the working-man angler has been constantly before me when describing his outfit, and there is nothing mentioned that cannot be bought or made cheaply. Perhaps, also, the better class anglers may derive some instruction from this little book The plainest possible language has been used, so that the veriest novice can understand what I mean, and I have been very particular in my description of the tackle, baits, &c. In Chapter II. will be found a full description of the outfit of a Nottingham angler; how to make his tackle, and how to use it, and some recipes that are very valuable to the fisherman."

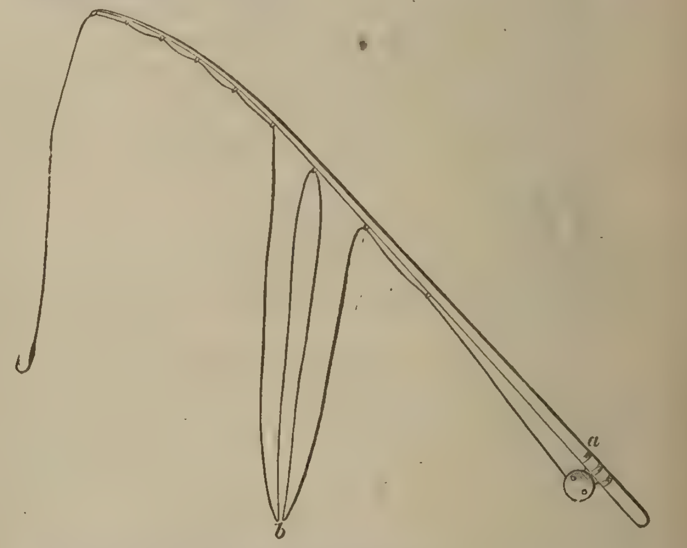
Although, as the author says, his book is mainly intended for working-men anglers, we are sure it will be found quite as valuable by the richer brethren of the rod, for the Nottingham style of fishing is rapidly becoming general—thanks in a great measure to the writings of Mr William Bailey, of Nottingham, and especially to his "Angler's Instructor," which we spoke so highly of a year or two back.

The merit of Mr. Martin's book is owing to the fact that while he covers the whole field of bottom fishing in the scientific Trent style, he goes into all the details thoroughly; he writes for those who wish to learn, and not for those who know, though we venture to think even the most knowing "old hand" will get many useful hints from Mr. Martin. The woodcuts of tackles and the various ways of holding the rod have been made from his sketches, and, as far as we know, have never before been illustrated. We give specimens of one or two. The following extract describes the illustrations, and also will give our readers a very good idea of Mr. Martin's style, and some very useful information as well.

"Having now given the outfit of a Nottingham bottom-fisher, it will be as well to give some idea as to the method of using it. Now, the tyro must bear in mind that the motto of a Nottingham angler is 'fine and far off,' the chief object being not to let the fish see or hear him if he can help it. If he has not already selected a swim, he walks along the bank until he sees a spot that looks likely to yield sport, where the stream is steady and not too strong, and which looks about the right depth. The first thing he does is to ascertain how deep it really is. Now, a London angler would drop in a lump of lead, and work it up and down all over the swim, and scare the fish to begin with. A Nottingham fisherman, however, adjusts his float at what he thinks to be about the right depth, and casts his tackle out to the exact distance from the bank at which he intends to fish, and allows his float to travel down the stream. If it floats in an upright position without either dragging or bobbing, he is not deep enough, and so he loosens the cap on the float and increases the length below it. If now the float bobs under, the shots are on the ground, and the line must be shortened under the float. After he has had a swim or two, he can by this means hit the proper distance between hook and float, which allows the bait to trip along the bottom without any of the shots coming in contact with it. Should the bait during its passage down the swim at any time hang, the raising of the rod point will loosen it.



a. Angler's right hand holding rod just above the reel.
b. Angler's left hand pulling down line in order to make a cast with light tackle in Nottingham style. Page 34.



a. Angler's right hand holding rod just above the reel.
b. Left hand pulling down two lengths of line in order to make extra long cast. Page 34.

Illustrations from Martin's Float-Fishing and Spinning in the Nottingham style.

"Now, having found the exact depth and had a swim or two down the entire length he intends to fish (for a Nottingham angler's swim is very often twenty or twenty-five yards in length), our fisherman throws in his ground bait so that it is distributed over the swim. Considerable judgment is required for this, according to the strength or set of the stream, for it is necessary to fish over your ground bait, and you must calculate carefully whereabouts your ground bait is likely to fall. If it is thrown up the stream too high it will ground too soon, or if too low, it grounds out of your reach below the swim. There is a good deal in this, and many a bad day's sport has been ascribed to any other cause than the right one in consequence of a miscalculation on this important point. We will now suppose the swim the angler has selected is from twenty to thirty feet from the bank, and he is fishing with very light tackle, too light to be cast from the reel (for the reel would not revolve sufficiently for casting with such a light weight), and that he cannot coil it on the grass at his feet, nor allow any to hang loose from the reel; the fine line he is using would twist and tangle up. He cannot reach the swim with the rod, and what line there is is hanging from the point. What is to be done? A Nottingham angler holds the rod in his right hand, and with his left takes hold of the line as high up the rod between the rings as he can reach, and draws down as much line as he requires. He then has some four or five yards of line in his left hand, and with what is hanging from the point of the rod, he can then throw the distance he requires, which he does by bringing the rod away from the river at about an angle of 45 deg. He then sends the point of the rod smartly over the river, at the same time letting go the line he held in his left hand; the line will now go fair and neatly to its destination without tangle or catch. Some Nottingham anglers, when they want to cast extra long distances, draw down two lengths of line from the rod, the rings, of course, parting them, and throw in the same way as before. By these means, after a little practice, one can throw to nearly any distance he likes.

"Now that the float is cast to its destination, the angler changes his rod to his left hand, and with the finger and thumb of his right he takes hold of the line close to the reel, and pays it off gently and continuously, so that it shall run freely through the rings and never check the swim of the float. By this means the line between the float and the rod point is tight (but not too much so, or the float would lay nearly flat on the water), and enables him to strike the very moment he perceives a bite. Failing in getting a bite, he allows the float to travel down stream until he has completely covered the space where he supposes the ground bait to be, when he winds up the line and repeats the cast. Sometimes the hole to be fished is from twelve to twenty, or even more, feet in depth; and when this is the case, it is difficult to fish it with the ordinary floats, and for this purpose a float, called a 'traveller,' 'slider,' or 'running float,' is used. As may be supposed from its name, this float slides or runs up and down the line, and can be easily made from one of the ordinary swan quill or cork floats. A small upright rod ring is whipped about half an inch or so from the top, and a very small ring about an inch from the bottom. This ring can be made out of a piece of very thin copper or brass wire, as follows:—Wind the wire two or three times round a small knitting or stocking-needle, and then draw it off; cut off each end to within three-eighths of an inch, which must be left for the purpose of whipping it to the quill; this small ring will just allow for the passage of the line. Thread the line through the rings on the float, and when you have got the exact depth, knot a little bit of line or wood or straw in the line above the float. When the float is out of the water it drops down to the loop of the tackle, and when it is thrown in the water, the shots or sinkers carry the line through the float rings until it is stopped by the little bit of wood, &c., mentioned above. If the Nottingham bottom-fisher uses a cork float and a heavier tackle, he mostly throws his bait from the reel—that is, in a manner somewhat similar to that of jack spinning. He winds up the line until the float nearly touches the top ring of his rod, and then gives it the desired swing over the river. I have seen baits cast by this means thirty, or even more, yards. This plan is chiefly used in barbel fishing, and the swim is a good distance from the bank, and I shall touch upon it, as well as on ledgering and plumbing, in the chapter on barbel. I ought to just mention that when the slider float is used, the little piece of line that is knotted in the line should be so contrived that it will run with freedom through the rings of the rod, so that when winding up or playing a fish it does not catch. The different baits used in bottom fishing, when and how to use them, will be fully explained in the chapters on the different fish.

"I have now, I believe, described the outfit and the general *modus operandi* of the Nottingham bottom-fisher. He is not beholden to punts and puntsmen for his sport; he can wander along the banks, select his swims, and fish them in the deadly and scientific style I have been attempting to pourtray. He pursues his avocation amid scenes of natural beauty; he follows the windings of the river, and becomes acquainted with its course. He knows the solitude of its silent depths and the brilliancy of its shallows; he is confined to no seasons; he salutes Nature with the budding spring, the rustling leaves make music in his ear before the mist has rolled from the water, or the dew been kissed from the grass by the rays of the sun. He throws his line when ruddy autumn, with its wealth of fruit, hangs heavy on the bough, or the cornfields wave in golden abundance on the slopes of the uplands, the storm and the tempest scarcely check him, and he can pursue his sport when winter's winds blow cold over the meadows, and the trees glitter like diamonds with a wealth of hoar frost. If he is an ardent sportsman, he cares not for the rude blasts of winter, for now is the time for pike and chub; he can tramp over the snow to his sport with as much zest as though the meadows were clad in the gayest garb, and when the big pike seizes the glittering spinning bait, and when the thin, tapering wand is bending double from his powerful rushes, the angler forgets that the day is cold, and that there is snow under his feet. Let none say this sport is ignoble. 'Ignoble,' indeed. Let him answer who has felt the powerful rush of a 10 lb. barbel on the fine tackle of a Nottingham bottom-fisher. What hopes and fears he has had,—what a time of pleasurable enjoyment until, wearied out, the grand fish lies in the landing-net. Such, then, is the tackle and sport of a Nottingham bottom-fisher. I wish to initiate the tyro into this beautiful art; and although it is impossible to teach it thoroughly in a book, yet much may be learned this way; and as I am more particularly writing to working-men anglers, I have used the plainest possible language, so that the veriest tyro shall have no difficulty in understanding what I say."

We can most confidently recommend Mr. Martin's book to our readers, for his instructions are sound and practical, and based on personal experience. A good index, which the author has added, makes reference easy to his descriptions of fish, rods, lines, reels, hooks, baits, ground baits, &c., and the various methods of fishing in the "Nottingham style."

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

THE usual monthly meeting of the West Central Association of London and Provincial Angling Societies was held at the Portman Arms, Great Quebec Street, Baker Street, on Friday evening, November 17th, Mr. Beckett occupying the chair, Mr. R. Murphy facing him in the vice, Mr. L. Bonvoisin officiating as secretary in the absence of Mr. T. Hoole, confined to his bed by a severe attack of rheumatism.

After the reading and passing of the minutes of the previous meeting, Mr. Bates proposed, and Mr. Buttery seconded, that a reward of one guinea be given to P. C. 26, Frederick Tunsell (Oxford City Police) for a conviction recently obtained against a poacher in that neighbourhood, which was unanimously carried. After some remarks from Messrs. Bates, Harrison, Boalch, Copeland, Murphy, Buttery, and others, Mr. Bates proposed, and Mr. Field seconded, that the balance-sheet be passed.

Anent the International Fisheries Exhibition and the London angling clubs, a long and interesting discussion took place on this important subject. Mr. T. R. Sachs was prevented by illness from attending, but his colleague, Mr. Thomas Crumplen, made some plain practical remarks on the above subject, which were listened to with the greatest attention.

Pressure of business, &c., having compelled Mr. Beckett to relinquish the office of representation from this association at the meetings of United London Anglers' Central Committee, Mr. Crumplen proposed, and Mr. Bates seconded, Mr. Copeland to fill the vacancy, which was unanimously carried, a hearty vote of thanks being passed to Mr. Beckett for his past valuable services.

The following correspondence was then read by the secretary *pro tem.* It seems to me of such public importance that I have asked our Editor to allow me the necessary space for its insertion *in extenso.*

West Central Association of London and Provincial
Angling Societies, November 6, 1882.

DEAR MR. BUTLER,—In the absence of Mr. T. Hoole, on sick-leave, I am directed by the Committee of the West Central Association of London and Provincial Angling Societies to forward you, in your official capacity as secretary of the Reading District Thames Angling Preservation Society, the enclosed copy of a letter received from one of our members. I need scarcely remind you how important to us is the maintenance of the undoubted public right to use the Thames towing-paths, quite 90 per cent. of our thousands of members being exclusively "humble bank fishermen." And as this arrogant claim has been set up in the district under your association's immediate care, we thought it right in the first instance to call your attention to it.

The next general meeting of the association takes place on Friday evening, November 17, and if you can possibly manage it we should like to have your reply in time to submit it to the representatives of the various societies on that evening.

I remain, dear Mr. Butler,
Yours very truly,
LEO BONVOISIN, sec. *pro tem.*

To Arthur Butler, Esq, Hon. Sec. Reading and District
Thames Angling Preservation Society.

[Inclosure above referred to.]

October 17, 1882.

MR. BONVOISIN—

DEAR SIR,—May I trespass on your valuable time to give me some information on the following:—

On Sunday last, accompanied by my old fishing friends, Messrs. Stead and Billings, I went to Tilehurst, the station that you gentlemen of the Angling Association have so kindly got us London anglers concessions to. We had not been fishing long before we were ordered off the tow-path by a gentleman, who said the tow-path was his private property; and, moreover, that unless we did not leave off fishing he would fetch such of his servants as would quickly remove us. Of course we immediately left off, not wishing to bring discredit on the association to which we belong.

I must tell you, Sir, for the edification of my brother anglers, that this owner or property, whose name, he told us, is Major Storer, states that the banks for miles are his property, and that he intends to stop all fishing from the same, and will order off or prosecute all such as may persist in doing so.

My reason for troubling you is that many anglers may go and do as my friends and self did, and be put to the trouble and expense of being summonsed—or, if report in the neighbourhood speaks true, may stand a chance of losing their tackle, the same being taken from them by the "Major." Hoping I am not troubling you too much,—

I remain, yours very respectfully,
ED. SMITH.

Leo Bonvoisin, Esq.

Reading and District Angling Association, Great
Western Hotel, Reading, November 13, 1882.

DEAR MR. BONVOISIN,—Thanks for your favour and inclosure of the 6th inst. I brought them before a meeting of our committee on Saturday last, and am instructed to inform you that the members of this association have always found Major Storer, of Purley Park, a very courteous gentleman. We understand that he entertains a very strong objection to Sunday fishing.

I am also asked to point out to you that if Major Storer did order anglers off his portion of the towing-path he simply exercises an undoubted legal right.

We were very sorry to hear of Mr. Hoole's illness, and trust he has quite recovered by now.

Very faithfully yours,
ARTHUR BUTLER, hon. sec.

Leo Bonvoisin, Esq.

After the reading of the above correspondence, a proposition was made by Mr. Field, seconded by Mr. Starr, that this matter be referred to the Thames Rights Defence Association, which was unanimously carried. Upon the roll being called, it was found twenty-nine societies were represented, while Mr. Ghurney was present on behalf of the United London Anglers' Central Committee. A hearty vote of thanks to the chair and vice-chair and secretary (*pro tem.*) brought the meeting to a close.

READINGS IN ANGLING SOCIETIES.—A series of readings among half a dozen angling societies in the north-west district have been arranged, and will shortly be inaugurated. Among those who have volunteered to read papers are Messrs. Geen, Hill, Bonvoisin, and Torr.

[We are delighted to see that the practice of having "Readings" is gradually gaining ground amongst the London clubs.—ED.]

CLUB REPORTS.

AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday, November 19th, the show of fish was contributed principally by Mr. F. Arnold, roach, 8 lb. 12 oz., and one jack, caught with paste, 1 lb. 1 oz. The result of the pegged-down match at Cheshunt was nil. Those who have been in the pegged-down contests the last three weeks can go where they please for the six prizes. Mr. Metcalf was re-elected as trustee and delegate for the U. L. A.; Mr. Farebrother re-elected as delegate for the W. C. A. The annual supper will take place on Monday, December 11th, in the club room. The general meeting adjourned to Wednesday, November 29th, when all interested in the alteration of rules are requested to attend.—T. WORLEDGE.

ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Sunday, the 19th inst., several of our members were out; the following weighing in:—Messrs. J. Bowling, A. Glass, T. Bowling, and C. Daniels, all roach. A peg-down match will take place on Sunday, December 3, at Ordnance Factory, for four valuable prizes.—D. DAVIS, sec.

ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Since my last report, I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of 8s. from the donation box of the Great Northern Brothers' Angling Society.—R. GHURNEY, sec.

Nov. 23.

BRISTOL GOLDEN CARP ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

An angling contest by the members of the above association took place in the canal at Bathampton this day. Forty-two members competed for £5. in prizes given from the funds of the association, with a large number of other valuable prizes given by tradesmen and others having a high regard as to the welfare of the association. The contest took place in very boisterous weather; and the catches were not so large as may be expected, there being many old and experienced anglers as well as expert and good gentlemen anglers contesting. Under the management of the president, Mr. J. W. Hadden; vice-president, Mr. H. Inch; and the judge and weigher, Mr. John Inch and assistant, the day's proceedings were a success, the members thoroughly enjoying themselves. I may state that the funds have allowed us to use £20 this year, to be given in prizes, and we have the strong support of a great many tradesmen and friends. As the association is a highly flourishing one, they have many applications as to membership, but are particular as to whom they accept. The whole of the prizes contested for not being won, we intend to hold other contests before the end of the season. I may state we have a good balance in hand at our bankers.—J. W. HADDEN, President.

BRUNSWICK PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

At a meeting of this society held last evening the secretary informed the members that he had not received from Mr. Copeland, the late secretary, the books and property belonging to this society, or a reply to his application for their return. It was unanimously voted that proceedings be taken for their recovery. I am pleased to inform you several gentlemen have been enrolled within a fortnight as members. After the business over, a very enjoyable evening; music and song; pianist, Mr. W. Allsop.—MILES DOUGHTY, secretary.

Nov. 23.

CAVENDISH ANGLING SOCIETY.

The above society has removed from the British Lion, Cavendish Street, to the commodious club room at the Duke of York, Wenlock Street, Shepherdess Walk. The shows of fish on Sunday last were below the average with one exception. Mr. Soillieux had a pretty show of roach about ¾ lb. each. Members are reminded of the competition on Sunday next.—E. CHAMBERS.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our shows of fish have been very small of late, but we have not yet had a blank this season. On the 12th, Mr. Castell weighed in roach, from the Stort; on the 19th, Messrs. J. Chambers and Castell weighed-in—the former, bream, from Amberley; the latter, roach, from Rickmansworth. Our general return visit of the United London Anglers will take place on Tuesday, November 28, at our club house, Cogers' Hall, Bride Lane, Fleet Street, which can be easily reached, by 'bus, rail, or tram, from all parts of London.

DUKE OF CORNWALL ANGLING CLUB.

The fifth half-yearly supper and distribution of prizes of the Duke of Cornwall Angling Club, will be held at the Duke of Cornwall, Lismore Circus, Haverstock Hill, on Monday, December 4. Chairman, Mr. J. Heckford; vice-chairman, Mr. England.—J. HECKFORD, sec.

HAMMERSMITH UNITED ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 15th, Messrs. Hobden and Geen, fishing at Handborough, had mixed bags of roach, dace, perch, and chub; and on Thursday, Mr. Geen took a small jack; Mr. Mansell had a jack of 8 lb. 15 oz. on Friday; and on Sunday, Messrs. Lewis and Reynolds had dace and roach, from the tidal waters.—ARGUS.

HIGHBURY ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 19th inst., the Highbury Anglers had a very nice display of jack, roach, and dace, contributed as follows:—Mr. Anthony, 3 lb. 11½ oz. and Mr. Samuel Stowell, 3 lb. 9½ oz. of roach and dace, from the Lea; and Mr. Higley, some fine jack, from Basingstoke. Several other members were out, and added to the trays.—JAS. EDWD. WHEATLEY, sec.

LEEDS ROCKINGHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The fourth annual dinner of this society was held on the evening of Thursday, the 16th inst., at the Rockingham Arms, when nearly fifty members and friends sat down. The president, Mr. E. F. Atkinson, occupied the chair, and the secretary, Mr. G. W. Hellewell, the vice-chair. Messrs. Thompson and Johnson, the president and secretary of the York Angling Association, attended as a deputation, and several other gentlemen from whom the society has the right of fishing were present as guests. Mr. Superintendent Stansfeld, of the West Riding Constabulary, to whom the society owes much for his assistance in suppressing illegal practices in different waters, was also among the guests The president, in reply to the toast of the evening, "Success and Prosperity to the Leeds Rockingham Angling Society," said that he could not help feeling a great amount of pardonable pride when he considered the small beginning o the society four years ago, and how by the exertions of an energetic executive it numerical and financial position, placed it in the foremost rank of such societies as are formed not only for catching fish, but for the propagation and preservation of the species. He also urged every member to strictly obey all laws piscatorial, and prosecute in every infringement of the same, and thus induce the county gentlemen to extend the assistance already conceded in many intances and also earn for themselves a reputation as a society second to none in the kingdom. Mr. Thompson, of York, replied to the toast of "the Visitors and Kindred Societies," and during the course of a long and interesting speech urged the necessity of a conference of various societies, in order that the "Fisheries Acts" might be considered, and various alterations and additions made. Mr. Johnson also responded, and Mr. Hutchinson, of Roall House, on behalf of the visitors. Amongst the other toasts were "The Keepers and Police," suitably acknowledged by Messrs. Stansfeld, Hodgson, Thompson, &c. The dining-room was profusely decorated with flowers and plants, in addition to the preserved specimens of fish, and birds, and pictures belonging to the society, and the members may fairly congratulate themselves on the most successful and brilliant gathering they have yet experienced.—E. F. ATKINSON, president.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

A special meeting of the above society will take place at the White Hart, Aylesbury Street, Clerkenwell, on Monday, November 27, to arrange the date for the half-yearly supper, when other important business will be laid before the members.—J. OBBARD, sec.

Nov. 21.

PECKHAM BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

THE dinner which took place in connection with this society on the 7th was a grand success, 29 gentlemen partaking of the good things provided, and one member was heard to declare that Mrs. Reed was as successful in her cooking as Sir Garnet is in warfare. After we had satisfied the inner man, "Oh, that the fish would feed as well," the chairman, A. Brodie, Esq., proposed the "Queen and Royal Family," followed by "Success to the P. B. A. S." which was received with cheers by the company, who now numbered about 80. The hon. sec., in response, spoke of the general affairs of the club, and expressed a hope that the limit number might be reached before the close of the season. The following gentlemen sang during the evening: Messrs. Brodie, Matthews, Blank, who sang "Robin Adair" in German, Mr. Bignall, whose "On Guard" met with a wish for an encore, in response to which he sang the "Flipperty Flop Young Man," Messrs. Parkins (City of London Angling Society), Haines (Anglers' Pride), Davis (Anchor and Hope), and Stidolph, Minard, Duke and others, until the clock showed we had time to drink the chairman's health, and then "God Save the Queen" brought to a close the most successful meeting of the above society.

W. H. PAGE, Hon. Sec.

PORTSMOUTH WALTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Thursday, the 16th inst., the president (Mr. Leon Emanuel) read the instructory paper for the opening of the winter session. The subject was "The Habits and Capture of the Dace." The subject was fairly handled, and a vote of thanks was accorded at the finish. During the evening two beautifully illuminated certificates were presented, for the heaviest catch of fresh and salt water fish during the past season. The winners were Mr. F. Mortimer (fresh water), Mr. Redward (salt water). Mr. Ritchie was successful on the same day of landing a fine jack weighing over four pounds, caught in the Rother. This is the first that has been shown in the club this season. Others, we hope, will follow.—DAGGERWOOD.

RODNEY PISCATORIALS.

Our worthy host and Mr. Hockley had a few days' sport last week, but the weather became so rough that (it was even more than stones could stand, for they either got blown or washed away) they had to return contented with a few jack and about 30 lb. of roach, some of which turned the scale at 1 lb. 12 oz. On the 22nd a warm discussion took place on the laws of fresh and salt-water fishes, and why the latter should be allowed to be taken and considered in their prime when in a condition in which the former are not allowed to be taken, and at times when allowed to be taken are in such condition that salt water fish in the same condition are not reckoned worth the while of catching. The question was well handled by Mr. G. Hockley, who got so warm, and his hearers so interested in the discussion, that it was not until it was reported that the tail of the comet was in sight that we adjourned the discussion to another time, and retired to our respective abodes. A gentleman, well known in this neighbourhood, has offered £12 for a 3 lb. roach in good condition; anyone catching one of that weight and forwarding it to Mr. G. H, the Swan, Old Kent Road, will stand a good chance of handling that £12. Discussion for Sunday night, "The Voracity of Pike.—PIXIE.

ROYAL GEORGE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Chart turned up on Sunday with a nice little lot of roach and dace, weighing 5 lb., and Mr. Guynan followed suit with a similar show 2 or 3 oz. behind. On Tuesday Mr. Bernhardt took a few dace and a barbel. We shall be busy next Sunday, as we have arranged to test our respective merits in the tidal waters. The collection of preserved fish has received an addition in the form of a handsome case containing three roach beautifully set up by Mr. Cooper. The fish were taken by Messrs. Chart and Holden last June at Amberley, and weighed 5½ lb.—C. W. W. BERNHARDT, hon. sec.

SOUTH LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

I beg to inform you that the officers of No. 3 district have appointed Thursday, Nov. 30, for the rotation visit to the above society, Mr. Bonvoisin in the chair. The committee and members will therefore be glad to be favoured with the company of as many members of your society as can make it convenient to attend. Also on Sunday next, Nov. 26, we fish a pegged-down match against the Walworth Waltonians at Sawbridgeworth for a supper to be given by the losers.—G. H. FIELD.

THE FITZROY ANGLING CLUB.

A new society has been formed at Mr. F. Kemp's, The Crown, Cleveland Street, Fitzroy Square, and at the preliminary meeting there were fifteen members enrolled; Mr. Hyde being appointed chairman, pro. tem.; Mr. Hawesby, secretary pro tem. Many anglers attended at this meeting, and they have every prospect of success. They will be called the "Fitzroy Angling Club," and will be enrolled in the W.C.A.L.A. Their next meeting will be Tuesday, November 28th, when they will be pleased to see any angling friends who are willing to give their advice on the formation of rules.—J. W. AMIES.

THE LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our members were out last Sunday, and our trays were very well filled, the members having some fine shows of fish. Mr. H. Moore had another very fine jack, also Mr. Raine had a fine jack and roach. Mr. Hurwood had a fine show of roach, perch, and rud; Mr. Petrie, roach and dace; Mr. Keene, jack; Mr. Humphreys, roach; Mr. Scott, roach and dace.—W. H. EVANS, secretary.

THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The annual pike competition for fish taken out of public waters, and not limited to the Thames, took place on Monday last. Those members who visited the public waters of the Avon met with more or less success, and together placed on the table of the club-room at Ashley's Hotel on Monday evening a handsome show of fish. The first prize, of four guineas, was awarded to Mr. G. Robinson, with six pike, weighing 44 lb. 12 oz., the largest, 11 lb. 2 oz. The second prize, of two guineas, was secured by Mr. Thomas Huggett, with seven fish, weighing 29 lb. 2 oz. Mr. Walker weighed in a handsome pike of 15 lb. 4 oz., in splendid condition, which has been sent for preservation. Had there been a special prize for the heaviest fish, as in the other competitions, it would have been deservedly given to Mr. Walker. It was arranged on this day to fish for the second prize of the Shentonian competition of pike from the Thames, which was not won when that competition took place. This prize was won on Monday last, by Mr. E. Foreman, with two pike from Clieveden, weighing 11 lb. 12 oz, the largest 8 lb. In addition to the above fish Mr. G. Robinson weighed in one tench, 4 lb. 13 oz. from the Avon. Mr. F. C. Hatfield, one pike, 4 lb. 9 oz., from Hendon; Mr. Wheatstone, one pike, of 3 lb. 13 oz., from Hendon, and Mr. Andrew, one roach, of 1 lb. 4 oz., from the Thames. Mr. M. H. Blamey presented to the museum of the Society a magnificent specimen of a carp, taken by himself. It weighed 13 lb. 4 oz, and the fish is now in the hands of Mr. John Cooper for preservation. The chub competition, which is the fixture for Monday, the 4th of December, promises to be a great success, provided the water is in suitable condition, as a large number of members have already expressed their intention of competing for this favourite contest. The meeting on Monday evening last was attended by about forty members presided over by Mr. James Pattisson, who was heartily presented with a vote of thanks for the very able manner in which he had discharged his duties.—B.

THE WATFORD PISCATORS' CONCERTS.

The members of the above society held a smoking concert in their club room on Monday, November 6th, 1882. The chair was taken by Mr. F. Horn, ably faced by Mr. H. Bigwood. Although the evening turned out wet, there was a large attendance. The chairman made a capital opening speech, in which he said that the concert was the first of a series which would take place on the first Monday in each month. He thanked the members for the great interest they had shown in the society during its existence, and he felt sure, had it not been for their mustering in such strong numbers at the meetings, that the society would have never arrived at such a perfect state in so short a time. He felt great pleasure in being able to open the concert with the first song, which he did in fine style with "Why Rouse the British Lion?" Mr. Bigwood much amused the company with a comic, entitled "Guy Fawkes." Some capital songs were sung by Messrs. Lucas, James, Haywood, Williams, Griffiths, Spicer, and Vincent. Mr. Williams played a pianoforte solo in his usual brilliant manner, and Messrs. Haywood and Spicer, the Watford Nightingales, both received a double encore. Mr. Lovejoy proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Williams for the able manner in which he had accompanied the singer, which was seconded by Mr. Beach and carried unanimously. Mr. Vincent proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Horn for the able manner in which he had filled the chair, which was also seconded and carried, and, with "Auld Lang Syne," thus ended the first of the many pleasant musical evenings that the Piscators hope to enjoy.—BANJO.

UNITED LONDON ANGLERS.

Secretaries of societies enrolled on the Central Committee will oblige by adding to the new list the following club, to be placed on the visiting list:—The Buckland Angling Society, the Middlesex Arms, Clerkenwell Green; secretary, Mr. L. V. Dileau; meeting nights, Wednesday and Sunday.—R. GHURNEY, sec.

Nov. 23.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

A number of the members of the above society are to meet a number of the members of the South London on the 26th, at Sawbridgeworth, to contest as to who shall pay for a supper for the whole party. Members of this society are requested on this occasion not to bait "the fender swim," but muster in as large a body as they can "down by the old mill stream" for the honour of the society. The next competition will take place on Sunday, December 10, for the following prizes:—First, box of best cigars, given by Mr. Taylor; second, 1 lb. of tobacco, 1 gross of vesuvians, and a pouch, also given by Mr. Taylor. —PIXIE.

SILVER TROUT ANGLING CLUB.

THIS society was in existence when comparatively few angling clubs were established in London, and has always been conspicuous in the encouragement of true sport and upholding the principles of fair and honest angling. Since its location in its present quarters, at the Star and Garter Hotel, in St. Martin's Lane, Charing Cross, where Mr. F. C. Hatfield is the popular piscatorial proprietor, it has given birth to new institutions, which have become developed and grown into gigantic proportions, and the members have occasion to feel proud that in their club room such associations as the West Central and the Central have been nursed and got to maturity. In all these matters Mr. F. C. Hatfield has occupied a most prominent position, and secured the respect of all classes of anglers. It has been usual on the occasion of the dinners of the Silver Trout Angling Club, to hold them in the club room, where Mr. Hatfield catered for those present with magnificent hospitality, never failing of late years to place on the table, amongst other luxuries, a magnificent salmon, served up under his personal carving and superintendence. The society for some time has been anxious to put Mr. F. C. Hatfield in the position of chairman, and this year, finding it more convenient, on his suggestion, to hold the dinner somewhere else, it was finally determined to have it in St. James's Hall, inasmuch as the Holborn Restaurant had no room at liberty, and Mr. Hatfield consented to become chairman. The half-yearly dinner was therefore held on the evening of Wednesday last, Mr. F. C. Hatfield ably discharging the duties of the chair, and Mr. Hawkins that of the vice-chair. There were present Mr. J. T. Carrington (Westminster Aquarium), Mr. W. H. Brougham (T. A. P. S.), Mr. C. P. Wheatstone, Mr. G. E. Walker, and Mr. W. Jarvis (Stanley Anglers), Mr. J. C. Murray, and Mr. R. Stebbings (Central Association), Mr. J. H. Stead, Mr. W. Griffiths, Mr. E. Bromley, &c. Mr. Mollett and Mr. Jouse, of the Grand International Fisheries Exhibition, had accepted invitations to be present, but at the last were unavoidably prevented. The guests altogether numbering about 100. After the loyal toasts had been given and the National Anthem sung, the chairman, in appropriate terms, gave "The Army, Navy, and Reserve Forces," referring to the successes of our arms in India, Zululand, and Egypt, as evidence of the bravery of our soldiers and sailors. He coupled with the toast the name of Sergeant Upton, one of their soldier members. Sergeant Upton in reply remarked that some people considered the British Army had degenerated, but the late successes had proved otherwise. After noticing the tribute of respect that had been paid to the returned troops from Egypt, he said nothing pleased soldiers more than the appreciation of their countrymen. Colour-Sergeant Williams, who had been through the whole of the Egyptian campaign, also returned thanks. The chairman then proposed the toast of the evening, "Success to the Silver Trout Angling Club," assuring those present it was in a state of great prosperity, and no words of his need be added to ensure a cordial response. Mr. Hawkins, whose name was associated with the toast, briefly replied, as one of the oldest Silver Trouters. The chairman, in highly complimentary terms, gave "The Thames Angling Preservation Society," and whilst regretting very much the absence of Mr. Thomas Spreckley, he was glad to find they had their old friend, Mr. W. H. Brougham, amongst them, and whose health he should give in connection with the toast. Mr. W. H. Brougham, after observing the pleasure he always felt on receiving an invitation from the Silver Trouters, said there were only two points to which he would refer in reference to his society—the first one was the netting of the reservoirs, which had enabled them to put into the river over five tons weight of good stock fish, all capable of reproduction, and the second was the action that had been taken in reference to the proposed new Bye Laws, and he had little doubt the result would be an eminent success. The vice-chairman proposed the "Three Central Associations," coupling with the toast the names of Mr. J. C. Murray and Mr. R. Stebbings. Mr. Murray replied on behalf of the "United London Angling Association Fishery Society," stating its object was to do for other rivers what the Thames Angling Preservation Society had been doing for the Thames, and to get additional waters for the benefit of the club anglers. Mr. R. Stebbings returned thanks on behalf of the "Central Association," which was now firmly established, and in a very prosperous condition. The vice-president, in giving "The Chairman," said that words would not express the feeling of respect that all held for their chairman—the name of Hatfield resounded throughout the length and breadth of the land. He was a great angler, a liberal supporter of all matters connected with angling, and always ready to work for their benefit. He called upon them to drink with great enthusiasm the health of Mr. Hatfield, and long life and prosperity to him. Mr. Hatfield, evidently overpowered with the ovation he had received, thanked them all very much for the great compliment they had paid him. The chairman them gave "Success to the Grand International Fisheries Exhibition of 1883," assuring them that arrangements had been made to afford every facility to the clubs in contributing specimens of fish, and instead of there being only one prize, other prizes would be offered. He coupled the name of Mr. Carrington with the toast. Mr. J. T. Carrington replied, and said it was intended in the proposed exhibition to have an immense aquarium fitted up with large tanks and table tanks, and which would doubtless be one of the best aquaria in the world. He considered that it would form a school of fish, and teach those who did not know it, how fish fed. He expressed his great indebtedness to Mr. Hatfield for his kind assistance in the Westminster Aquarium in contributing such large shoals of fresh-water fish, and he sincerely hoped in the proposed aquarium in the International Exhibition, there would be plenty to follow Mr. Hatfield's noble example, and assist him to fill the tanks with some splendid examples of all kinds of fish. Mr. Poole, in very concise terms, gave "Success to the Press," and connecting Mr. Brougham's name with it. Mr. W. H. Brougham replied. The evening was an enjoyable one, Mr. J. H. Stead, Mr. Packer, Mr. Hatfield, and others contributing some good harmony, and the chairman discharging his duties so effectively as to maintain the feeling throughout. As was well remarked at the close, "the evening had been an extremely pleasant one."

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

The river has rapidly run off from flood, and is now, as I write, in first-rate winter trim for any kind of winter fishing. At Henley, during the past three weeks, some forty-two jack have been had from Marshand New Mill pools, the only fishable waters out of the stream. At Medmenham and Hurley takes of 6 lb, 7 lb, and 11 lb. of roach have been had by Messrs. Girkie, Brooksbank and Lee respectively, and a Mr. Rodwell and house have also been tackling the roach. Thursday: Thames hourly improving in colour and condition, and prospect good all round for jack, roach, and perch for ensuing week.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Ancholme District.

But few anglers have been out during the past week, owing to the many and vexatious changes in the weather, but the few veterans who have faced Boreas and his snow blasts have been rewarded, in the upper pond, with some medium-sized pike in reward for their perseverance. I say pond, but the three together form a tolerably long one, of about 16 miles, *i. e.*, from Bishop Bridge to Ferriby Sluice, and taking it altogether it is as fine a piece of waterof its kind as can be found in any part of England. Vast contingents of anglers come from all the contiguous towns—Sheffield, Barnsley, Hull, Leeds, Rotherham, Wakefield, &c. Still, they seem to make no impression upon the numerous fish which crowd the waters. At present the stock fish is the bream, but there is a whole string of fish which might be profitably introduced, and which would thrive well, viz., carp, tench, rudd, barbel (?), chub, and last, but not least, black bass, which our friend, Mr. Silk, has again so successfully brought across the briny. The Commissioners make a nice thing by the sale of tickets, but I am sorry to report that they seem to be behind the spirit of the times With proper cultivation the water, in their hands, would recoup them six-fold the outlay spent on the introduction of any of the above varieties. If I lived a little nearer the water, I would make a reasonable bid for the fishing, and see what a private individual could do. Of one thing I should feel assured—it would pay. Why, we have here a stretch of water to which the Welsh Harp Fishery is small. Then we have, within easy railway communication, centres of population which would send their legions with weapons of warfare to kill, not their enemies, but their friends the fishes, and there would be such a frizzling in the frying-pans of the neighbourhood, that the odours would reach the noses of the aristocrats as guide along in the Pullmans, and lead them to fancy it was the savoury cooking of their own dinners, and not the steaming exhalations wafted on the wings of the western winds from the cottages of the poor; but I am poor-ly this week, so stop. THOMAS FORD.

Chichester.

Stormy weather the past week has proved beneficial to the pike fishermen, several fish coming to hand, but nothing exceeding 3½ lb. Live bait proves most successful. Trolling or spinning in the basin is out of the question, weeds and sunken timbers causing loss of temper, flights, &c. It is in the deep water pike most do congregate. I have not heard of a single fish being taken in the lower reaches. In the weekly competition, Mr. Levy took first prize with a pike of 3½ lb. with live bait. A second prize for the second best pike of the season is offered by the vice-president, Mr. Kerwood. The weather here is stormy and wet, not at all inviting to rodsters.—GEORGE F. SALTER.

Derwent (Chatsworth).

I am not able to send a favourable report, as the weather of this week is altogether dead against fishing, and will be for some days to come. There has been no bottom-fishing done since Saturday, and is now quite out of the question.—WHEATSHEAF HOTEL.

Dove.

The waters of the Dove are in excellent fishing order after the floods of last week, and capital sport has been experienced this week on all hands. The weather, however, appears somewhat unsettled, and is bitterly cold Grayling are biting voraciously at the bumble and cock-winged dun, the returns of sport to hand up to the time of writing being of the most encouraging nature. Some of the most frequented reaches of the river about Rocester have yielded better sport than for several weeks past, several anglers having carried off baskets of large-sized fish. Pike, too, are well on the feed, and are being taken freely with the large Derby killer, which is the best lure at the present time. Near Uttoxeter, several good specimens of the last-named fish have been landed, one weighing nearly 10 lb. Many anglers have been out, but I hear of no complaints of lack of sport. So far as my own success enables me to judge, I should say that followers of the gentle art have every reason for satisfaction.—SPLODGER.

[Arrived too late for last week.—ED.]

Owing to further heavy rains our river is again rising very high and thick, and piscatorial operations are practically dropped. The trout are now busy ascending the rivulets for the purpose of spawning, and I hope the water bailiffs will keep a sharp look-out for poachers whilst the fish are there. It will be several days before the water (even in the event of no more rain falling) gets clarified sufficiently to admit of decent fishing. When the weather becomes dryer and frostier I fancy both pike and grayling will be found well on the feed.—THE SPLODGER (Wednesday.)

Ilfracombe.

Sea fishing, Saturday. About fifteen maize of herrings was brought in by all the boats. Sunday and Monday, blowing a gale, a fine cod was caught from the Jetty, weighing 24 lb. Tuesday, several boats out and after a short drift they hauled some two maize, others only a dozen or so of herrings; one man said while hauling his nets a tremendous sea struck the boat and almost swamped it. Two conger were caught from the Jetty weighing 24 lb; an old man hooked a fish, he tried to haul it up but found it too much for him; he got a man to go out in his boat and haul up this large fish. When brought to the surface it was a small thornback. The old man was disappointed. Wednesday morning, boats out, but very few fish brought in. A cod, 18 lb.; a conger, 21 lb., and a ling, 16 lb were caught from the jetty with hand lines. Thursday, blowing a gale from S.W. with heavy rain.—E. COMER.

Leicester.

The change in the weather during the past few days has been very beneficial to anglers, and a fair number have been out, and, for the period of the year, have met with fairly good success, as both roach and perch have been biting well since last Monday. Among the most noticeable catches was that of Mr. J. Gilmore's on Monday, when he took twelve very nice perch; the largest weighed 15½, and the smallest 12 oz. Some good roach have also fallen to the share of several rodsters, and Mr. Jacques secured a good lot out of the waters in Hack's Meadow, several of which weighed over three-quarters of a lb. Other fishermen have shown moderately large takes of roach and perch. The Aylestone waters have been fairly patronised during the week and many have had nice catches of roach, perch, and chub. From Barrow-on-Soar reports are quiet. A few anglers have visited the Wreake, and, taken on the whole, have met with a fair reward for their endeavours. The weather on Thursday was showery all day, but extremely mild, and the waters in this locality in fair condition for angling.—ALERT.

Medway (Tonbridge).

The river has run down nicely, and by Sunday, in the absence of rain, will be in nice condition for all kinds of angling. A few hours' rain will, however, spoil it all again.—YE MEDWAY WATER RAT.

South of Ireland.

The weather continues unsettled, and the Lee and its various tributaries remain bank high—a hopeful indication of good sport in the Spring, and the best preventive against the devices of the poachers. The Inspectors of Fisheries have announced their intention of holding an inquiry next week with regard to drift nets. The object of the inquiry is to have a bye-law to make it illegal to have drift nets in boats in parts of the harbour other than where they are allowed to fish. The present bye-law against drift-net fishing only proscribes it within the harbour. Outside the limits of the harbour persons may drift, and licenses have been taken out under the pretence of fishing there, whereas in reality it is only a cover to enable them to fish inside the harbour. In consequence of the protecting clause, unless the bailiffs find a net in the act of illegal fishing, they cannot touch it, even though it is got in a boat miles away from the proper fishing ground. It is to obviate this evil, and to enable bailiffs to seize nets they have reasonable suspicion of being engaged illegally that the present inquiry has been promoted. This mode of poaching being extensively adopted nearer home, it is important that the power should be vested in bailiffs of seizing any illegal engine, though it may not be in operation at the time; and of all the subtle and destructive inventions for the capture of salmon the drift net is the most effective.—ANGLER.

Thames (Goring).

Water in very good order for jack and perch; a little too high for jack; water very clear, but by Sunday if it keeps fine, water will be a lot better for jack fishing. Water going down very slow. I have had two days' fishing since my last report; best day, 8 lb. of good perch, fishing with Frederick Marsh, 324, Oxford Street, London; perch biting very well. Here to-day, Thursday, Mr. Mills, of the Swan Hotel, Streatley, took some good perch, some going to lbs. Perch are biting very well with minnows.—JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Marlow).

F. Plumbridge, fishing with Bob Shaw's punt, caught ten fine perch, best weighing 1½ lb., in the Marlow Reach. Hibbes had a good run for a jack, but no luck. Water getting better for fishing.—A. MASKEN.

Thames (Oxford).

Yesterday and to-day the water has gone down very rapidly, but it is quite beyond my power to prophesy when it will be possible to get along the banks dry-shod. The Cherwell and the Thames are in splendid condition, both being as clear as crystal, or, as our Nottingham friends phrase it, gin-fine, and if we could only enjoy a little settled weather and bright sunshine, the river would very quickly return to its usual limits. On Sunday, Mr. Shirley, when fishing above Godstow, had six jack and eight fine roach, the former turning the scale at 9 lb., and the latter at 7 lb. respectively. I saw several people on the same day trying the city waters, but nothing worth recording had been taken. I was very much amused at the cursory remarks of an aged vendor of watercress, who was fishing with a stout ash pole and a whipcord line off the side of the fisher-row. Because he was unable to get any sport, every now and again he gave his line a vicious drag, emphasized by a sounding full-flavoured expletive. I am informed by my friend, Mr. Jas. Corbett, of George Street, who catches more chub out of the canal than any other fisherman who resorts to its banks, that a 12 lb. bag, consisting of nine fish (all chub) was taken on Tuesday last by one of the company's employés. Mr. Corbett was out to-day, but owing to the strength of the winds his take was a very poor one; one day last week he landed a rather unusual fish. Whilst whipping under a bridge hole, to his great surprise, a large mussel had seized the bunch of gentles he was using as a bait. I went to Godstow this afternoon *via* Wolvercott; I first tried the meadow pools, where I succeeded in bagging half a dozen decent roach; but finding sport grow slack, I proceeded through the village to Godstow Lock, where I had a struggle with a large chub, which escaped through the binding of my hook giving way, so I packed up my tackle in disgust and came home, gaining a wet jacket and a touch of neuralgia for my trouble, and to pile up the agony, I found I had lost my tobacco. So I had to tramp two miles and a half through a pelting rain storm, and do the best I could with some partially dried hawthorn leaves, which, to say the least of it, did not quite possess so fine a flavour as Wills' Bristol birdseye

P.S.—I hear that a jack weighing 27½ lb. was caught to-day in Sandford Pool; but I cannot vouch for the truth of the statement until I write again.—CHERWELL OTTER.

Thames (Richmond).

The water has now got into very good order again, and the sport is coming to the fore. The bank anglers have had a very good time of it with the roach, dace, and bream, one bank angler on Saturday last got 19 lb. of splendid roach and dace. I have not been able to let you have any reports of our own doings, as they have not been worth reporting, though we had plenty of patrons down. The prospect for next week looks good, and I anticipate a good report next week, as I fully expect some good sport. The time each fisherman has been out with patrons during the week is as follows:—C. Brown three days, E. Brown three days, H. Wheeler two days, Joby Brain three days, H. Howard one day, John Bushnell three days, and the average takes are between two and three roach and dace per punt each day.—JOHH BUSHNELL, fisherman.

Trent (Newark).

The weather has been unsettled most of the past week, and the water has been in a very unsatisfactory condition. During the latter part of last week, and the beginning of this, the water was still running at a great height, but was not amiss for colour. A few anglers tried their luck, but sport was not very good. I heard of a decent chub being taken with live bait weighing 4 lb. The back waters had fined down very nicely, and pike fishers got out their tackle, but nothing beyond a few small fish were taken. Heavy rains have again put a stop to angling operations, for the river is now running bank full, and very much coloured. No angling at present. Those giant chub that I referred to last week have got a further respite.—THE TRENT OTTER.

Trent (Nottingham).

The river in this district is again in flood, and all attempts at angling are futile. Sport, in fact, for days past has been most indifferent, only a few small lots of roach, dace and bream having been brought in from Shardlow and Weston, which are two of our best reaches for winter fishing. The other day some fellows were publicly hawking on a barrow in the streets of Nottingham an enormous quantity of pike, the largest of which, I am certain, did not weigh 3 lb. The general average may be set down at ½ lb. Where the fish were got from no one seemed to know, but it was evident they had been poached. Rain fell in torrents on Thursday, and had not ceased when this report left.—THE MAN AT THE CLUBS.

Tweed and Teviot.

Since my last paragraph detailing the salmon angling on this border stream, some further excellent takes have been effected. On Thursday week the weather was favourable to angling, and the river being in excellent condition, good sport was obtained on the various casts in the vicinity of Kelso. On the Floors lower water Mr. Moffat captured eight salmon, the weights of which were 27, 24, 23, 20, 19, and three of 16 lb. each; and on the Floors upper water, Dr. Mackenzie, Kelso, had six to his own rod, the average weight of which was about 18 lb. Mr. Alfred S. Caldwell secured a fish of 21 lb., and on Sprouston Dub Mr. Whymper had also one of 19 lb. On the Ednam House (Junction) water Mr. G. Forrest, Kelso, killed two salmon of 21 lb. and 22 lb. respectively. On the Hendersyde water, same day, Captain Griffith caught four salmon, the heaviest two weighing 20 and 27 lb.; and on the Under water Sir George Waldie Griffith had a couple to his rod, the heaviest of which scaled 26 lb. Mr. Moffat killed two salmon on Floors Upper water on Friday; and on the Sprouston Lower water Mr. Calden secured two, 12 and 21 lb. Mr. Whymper took a 24 lb. salmon out of Sprouston Dub, and Mr. Wood, London, one of 15 lb. On Saturday almost every angler who plied his line had good sport. On Floors under water, Mr. J. Croall, Kelso, killed ten fish, which is the largest take that has yet been obtained this season—the weights being 23, 23, 21, 21, 20, 20, 20, 20, 19, and 18 lbs—the gross total being 205 lbs. On the upper Floors water, Mr. Moffat captured three salmon and a grilse. On Birgham Dub, Mr. Denison caught three fish of 20, 19, and 18 lb. respectively; and Mr. Drummond obtained one at the Junction weighing 15 lb. Out of three fish caught in the Hendersyde Upper water by Captain Griffith, the heaviest two scaled 27 lb.; and on the lower cast Sir George Waldie Griffith had also three fish, the largest of which turned the beam at 27 lb; and on Sprouston Dub Mr. Whymper had one of 14 lb. On Sunday last both rivers were in flood half a foot, the water being of a "snow-broo" colour: but fair takes were got all the same. On the Hendersyde water Captain Waldie Griffith had a 20 lb. salmon and a grilse, and on Sprouston water Mr. Whymper had a brace, while on the Dub at Birgham Mr. Denison killed one. On the Ednam House upper water Mr. Gibson, fisherman to Mr. Drummond, had a pair. On the Floors upper water Mr. A. Steel killed five—30, 26, 21, 21, and 21 lb., and on the lower water Mr. Forrest had a couple. On Tuesday, on the Floors upper water, Mr. Croall killed three—25, 23, and 19, and on the lower water Dr. Mackenzie had six—24, 24, 21, 18, 14, and a kipper grilse of 12 lb. On the Sprouston lower water, Mr. Somerville had a brace, and on the Dub at Birgham Mr. Denison had a like number of salmon, while on the Ednam House water Mr. Drummond killed one fish. Owing to Tuesday night's rain both rivers are to-day flooded to the extent of nearly three feet, which will put a stop to fishing for a few days. We regret to announce the reappearance of the fungoid disease in the Tweed. As far as has yet been ascertained, however, it is principally confined to bull-trout, although a few salmon have also been observed with the malady on them. Several cases of early spawning have also occurred, two or three 'kelted' fish having been caught lately. The salmon angling on these rivers finishes next Thursday.—MAXWELL.

Wharfe (Yorkshire).

There has been very little sport worthy of record during the past week, and although several crack local hands have been out "swimming the worm," only small catches have been the result. The weather is stormy and wet, and quite unlike that usually experienced at this season of the year; every one attributes it to "the comet."—FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

Witham (Boston).

Swollen waters, rain, and frost are the general drawbacks to angling in this district, and among anglers there is a good deal of grumbling as the hard times, for now something like a month has elapsed without a couple of days of favourable weather at a time when the water has been at all fit. All the way down the Witham is inaction—the larger drains are unfishable, and the smaller have been clogged with ice. The little sport there has been has comprised pike only. On Friday there was a brace taken at Langrich, and on the same day some were taken from the South Fortyfoot. The best fish of the lot was one of 4¾ taken at Hubbert's Bridge. At Cherry Corner, this week, there were several taken, the best being one by Mr. Bellinson, rather over 5 lb. Roach fishers have been quite out of it, and what had been required for bait have been very difficult to get. The prospects as I write are not very bright. The weather has been milder, and Wednesday brought rain. This morning it is rather better, but the barometer has a downward tendency again.—THE YELLOW BELLY.

Wye and Derwent.

The continual rises on the Derwent since my last report have prevented anything like good sport, in fact, the Derwent had a very large flood on it, and was out in the meadows between Rousby and Ambergate, and the nets were at work. I hear that there was a fair quantity of fish killed during the time the river was in flood. The Derwent is running down nicely to-day (Thursday), and will have some first-class bottom waters on it for next week. There will be no fly-fishing in Derbyshire for some time now. Maggots and cockspur worms are the best baits that can be used for either grayling or coarse fish.—G. J. EATON.

Yore (Hawes).

True to my prognostication in my last, snow fell to a considerable depth. On Tuesday night a thaw set in with much rain and a heavy west wind, so that by Wednesday morning the river was over its banks. Water in splendid trim this (Thursday) morning, but will in all probability be again in a flooded state before the week's end. Weather very cold and boisterous, so that fishing is anything but comfortable.—JOS. CORRY.

Yore (Lower waters).

The salmon fishing on this river for the past season (which terminated November 15th) has been a complete failure, for there were no heavy floods at the proper time to enable the fish to ascend the numerous weirs which impede their progress to the upper portions of the river. The autumn grayling fishing also has not been so good as it was last season, owing, no doubt, to the continuance of high waters and absence of frost, which is always needed to bring the fish thoroughly on the feed. Last week, however, sport was rather better, R. Coldbeck killing several nice dishes chiefly with the red worm. On Saturday I had a nice basket of twelve brace, weighing 8¼ lb. These were taken partly with fly and partly with worm, the flies which killed the best being the October olive dun, and the local pattern known as the "fog black"; this last named is considered "great medicine" on the Wharfe.—FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

THE CLOSE OF THE FISHING SEASON IN KILLALOE.

The 1st November came, and with it the annual merry-making of the sportsmen of this town. Every year at the close of the fishing season an extensive "spree" is given in this place in honour of the veteran Isaac. Like true sportsmen, this time they celebrated the eventful day of their sporting calendar, not in a gay dining hall with grandeur and carpet warriorism, but with their larder and provision beside the river's bank. Like every gathering of convivial Irishmen, they had their pipers and dancing; and such a scene of harmony and joy was set up that we are sure no pen could adequately describe. The cry was "On with the dance; let joy be unconfined!" from every one around. When the whiskey and music galore had roused the spirits of those happy sons of Walton, and when the piper and dancers had done their part, our noble warrior, Mr. John White Malone, took the chair, and formally opened the joyous proceedings in a short few words, which gained for him the loud applause of his brother anglers. On his right sat Messrs. J. R. Wall, Christopher Macavoy, J. P. Hayes, and Daniel B. Ellis; on his left were Messrs. William T. Ellis Sylvester, J, Hurley, and James MacAuliffe. Several others of our noted anglers were present at the fête. In the evening the happy meet was concluded by a vote of thanks to the chairman, which was received with great applause; and as the revellers were homewards bound, they cheered loudly for Isaac Walton, Messrs. Malone, and Hurley, the Killaloe correspondent of the *Irish Sportsman*, &c.—CLEVELAND.

A GOOD TAKE OF PIKE.

MR. JOHN KNECHTLI, who has on many occasions distinguished himself in large captures of pike, and contributed some handsome specimens of these fish to the Gresham Angling Society, has again been well in amongst some big fish, and on this occasion brought away with him nine splendid fish weighing from 5 lb. to 16½ lb. The three largest fish weighed respectively 16½ lb., 15¼ lb., and 12 lb., all in first-rate condition. There are few anglers who fish with greater patience and perseverance than Mr. Knechtli, and, speaking from personal experience, none more deserving of the good specimens that he has placed upon record as proofs of his skill. In addition to those he has presented to the Gresham Angling Society, he has in his office, in Carey Lane, a case of three handsome examples of pike, well worthy of inspection and admiration. B.

THE "FISHING GAZETTE" OF ENGLAND.—One of the brightest journals that comes to our desk is the English FISHING GAZETTE, which literally sparkles with good things. From the "frontispiece" the portrait of good old Izaak Walton casts a benevolent look of welcome, and on either side are picturesque scenes of sea and river fishing. Considerable attention is given to American fish and fishing; an elaborate article in a recent issue being devoted to "Grayling Fishing in Montana."—American *Turf, Field, and Farm.*

THE BURBOT OR EEL-POOT.—This curious fish (*Lota vulgaris*), spoken of by Pliny as the "Mustela" or "weasel-fish," is very rare in our immediate rivers, but a very fine specimen has recently been taken from the Lark, near Mildenhall. They are not often found over a pound in weight, but the one under notice weighed 4 lb. It has been sent to Mr. William Howlett, naturalist, Newmarket, to be preserved, and will form a very interesting specimen in the collection of fish to be exhibited by Mr. Howlett at the forthcoming International Fisheries Exhibition.—*Norwich Argus.*

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. B. J.—We think you will find No. "O" in Mr. Hall's sizes of eyed hooks quite small enough for the Derwent in winter or spring. Of course when the water is at low summer level and clear as glass you may want the smallest sizes; it depends a good deal on the size of the natural fly which is "on." For instance, when the stone fly is on, and for some time after, its imitation is the most killing fly you can use either on Rye or Derwent (we wish we knew some maker who used a permanent yellow for the hackle), and yet it is one of the largest flies.—Ed.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

FLY TYING ON EYED HOOKS.

Sir,—I have much pleasure in sending a description of new method of fly-tying on eyed hooks, according to your request. Although the original letter in the *Field* of August 5th was written very hurriedly during a railway journey, and might perhaps be more lucid in parts, I have thought it best, for several reasons, to reproduce the following extract without any substantial alteration:—

"As there are still many different opinions in vogue as to what an artificial fly should represent—whether it is to be a monstrosity of the angler's invention, or a close imitation of a natural insect—I may as well state at once that I have very little faith in what Kingsley calls 'casualty flies,' and for trout fishing in southern streams I depend almost entirely on a knowledge of entomology, and the use of the most life-like and skilful imitations that I can get. This being premised, it follows that I do not pretend to have reduced fly-tying to a uniform system, which will suit under all circumstances for every fly alike. Duns and spinners, alders and sedges, black gnats and midgets, bumbles and palmers, all present little peculiarities of their own, about which no definite rules can be laid down, and a method of tying which suits one kind of fly in every details, requires judicious modification when it is applied to the imitation of an insect of a totally different species. But if a man has thoroughly mastered the dressing of one class of flies, his own common-sense and ingenuity will do the rest, and will be more valuable than any written instructions. My present remarks, therefore, will be limited to an attempt to describe a method which makes a good floating fly of the ephemeral class—one which shall be very durable, and at the same time fairly neat in appearance, and which, if properly thrown, will alight with wings erect, and float down attractively over the rising fish.

Take a small eyed hook, No. O or OO (Hutchinson's, of Kendal, number and make), and give three or four turns of well-waxed silk up to the eye, and two turns back again; this is merely as a substratum on which to tie the wings without danger of their slipping round the shank of the hook. Place the hook in the vice, and, to keep the tying silk taut, twirl it two or three times round the screw-head. This is a useful dodge, which I use constantly, to avoid unnecessary half-hitches. Then pick out a starling's feather, and strip off all the fluffy part at the quill end up to where the fibres of the feather are pretty nearly of one length. Mark off with the dubbing needle a nice even strip of about half an inch in width, pull the fibre gently back with the forefinger and thumb of the right hand, till they all stand even and at right angles to the quill; then, with a smart twitch, pull the slip off. Go through this process again, and put the second slip evenly on the top of the former. Fold the double slip down the middle, and you then have a compact quadruple slip, about a quarter of an inch wide, or rather less when the stray and errant fibres have been discarded. Take the wings in the finger and thumb of the left hand and apply them to the hook, with the butt end towards the bend of the hook, and the soft fibrous extremities projecting over the eye, while the silk is fastened tightly round once or twice with the right hand. Then the wings are pulled back into the natural position, and three or four turns of silk made in front between the feather and the eye. The wings are then divided with a needle, and the silk passed between them once, then round the hook, and through again to the front. The silk thus forms a cross between the wings on the top of the thorax. Then take the hackle, and tie it in by the butt between the wings and the eye; leave it there to finish off with. Snip away the greater part of the refuse at the butt end of the wing feather, leaving enough to tie down and slightly taper the body, as the silk is carried down to the bend of the hook. Put in the whisks, body-silk, quill, or dubbing, and bring the tying silk up to the wings, and take a half-hitch. This, it will be noticed, is the first knot which is necessary. Follow up with the body, and finish it off. Lastly, with the tip of the hackle in the tweezers, take one whole turn in front of the wings, then between, round, and back, making a figure of eight knot with the hackle, just as before with the silk. Fasten off behind the wings with a couple of half-hitches, trim off stray fibres and hackle points, and the fly is finished.

"If the fly is wanted for fishing wet, I should put only half as much feather on, and omit the figure of eight between the wings.

"However elaborate this method may appear, it is really extremely simple and rapid in execution; and, of all the methods I have tried, this makes the most killing fly, though not perhaps the neatest. Anyone who considers excessive neatness the first desideratum will have to pick his two wings separately from right and left feathers, and indulge in all sorts of niceties, which may result in a very pretty fly-book; but the flies will not float so well, and will not kill so well—that, at least, is my experience.

"I puzzled out fly-making for myself, without any hints from anyone. After making two or three hundred flies, I made the acquaintance of two other amateur fly dressers, with whom I have compared notes frequently during the last two or three years, and to whom I am indebted for several wrinkles. Beyond this I never had a lesson in fly-making in my life, and I have never so much as seen a professional fly-dresser at work; so that I must ask readers of this letter to take it for what it is worth, and not be too critical. Still, I have proved beyond a doubt that, for duns and spinners the method I have described makes an admirable fly. So well satisfied am I with the results this year, that I think it is extremely improbable that I shall ever adopt any other style."

Since I wrote the above, I have had another month's experience of small flies tied on this principle, and I especially claim for them that they fish well, as I said last week. To show what I mean, I enclose for your inspection, Mr. Editor, two flies which I was using at the end of the season, and which are now picked out of an odd dozen or so, taken off my hat at the close of the last day. They have both had considerable use, and I venture to say they would float as well and kill as well now as they did when quite new. To my mind, this is a much better quality in a fly than great neatness, for, as every angler knows, the delicate works of art which look so pretty in the fly book frequently prove very disappointing aften minutes' use.

Your correspondent, R. A., asks about dyed hackles. I use them constantly; one of the enclosed flies has an olive dun hackle, of a shade which can only be got by artificial means. But I admit that blue shades are more difficult to get fast and permanent than any others I have used. For the most part, I use Judson's dyes, and find them very handy, and the colours do not wash out. In Mr. Frost's letter, "Indian dyes" was a misprint. He told me a few days ago, he was referring to Judson's dyes, such as I constantly use.—I am, &c.,
H. S. Hall.

[Our fly-fishing readers will join with us in thanking Mr. Hall for his description. The flies are splendid specimens of fly-tying. We only wish that Mr. H. S. Hall were a professional fly-tyer; we would give him a good order at once! We once before referred to a fly he sent us as being beautifully made, and we have now the pleasure of saying that we caught a 2-lb. trout with it, which had refused two or three other flies we put over him.—Ed.]

HOW TO DRESS THE "CUSS."

Sir,—I notice "R. A.'s" communication in your issue of the 4th inst. relating to fishermen's "cusses," as he terms them.

I should be glad if he would try the following imitation and give his opinion after a trial:—Instead of making the body of black silk, let him take a strand from the long black feather of a cock's tail, and wind neatly and closely up to the hackle, which must be a small greenish coppery feather from the neck of a starling's wing—young starling's quill. This is somewhat like I dress the fly called "Broughton's point." I knew the inventor of it well, but I think he used deep blue silk in the dressing. As it is an old and a great favourite of mine, I give my style of dressing it. Body rather short, of a couple of strands as above; legs full, by winding round the whole of the long pointed copper-coloured feather from starling's neck, in the midst of which a very small portion of red worsted should show; wings, starling's quill, and to stand slightly apart; hook, No. 1. The red worsted must not by any means be a prominent colour in this fly—only enough to swear by—and must not project below the hackle. It is a handsome little fly when well-dressed, and has afforded me great diversion at times; there really can be no better general point fly used through the season, particularly on showery days. It is essentially a point fly, and should never be used as a dropper. Over thirty years ago I killed 20lb. weight. of trout, all good fish, with this fly alone, without a stoppage, on a small tributary of the Eden.

I am partial to dressing small flies with the strand of some feather I can generally hit upon, and in conjunction with silk, either spun with, or ribbed over it, produce a better and a neater imitation than with a mixture of dubbing; besides, there is a sheen, more or less, on most feathers selected for this purpose, which, I think, is favourable in the artificial. Of course there are flies of a decided colour, which no old angler would hesitate about the materials necessary for dressing them. I speak merely of particular instances where I adopt this method, not that there is anything new in it, seeing that strands from peacock, ostrich, &c., have been used in this way for generations; yet I think if anglers who make their own flies were to pay more attention to this method, they would find it advantageous. There is hardly a bird of any size that he cannot make a selection from, though the strands should not have much "stem" in them, or, as the housewife might say, the less "bone in 'em" the better.—I am, &c.,
J. T. H.

Southport, Nov. 21, 1882.

THE RED CATERPILLAR.

Sir,—In common, no doubt, with many of your readers, I have often been driven nearly to desperation by seeing the grayling on the rise, and my best endeavours to get them to touch my flies useless. I notice in the *Scientific Angler*, by Mr. Foster, of Ashbourne, an allusion to the killing powers of the red palmer caterpillar. Will you or any of your readers kindly state whether you have found it a killing fly for grayling, and whether it is superior to worms?—I am, &c.,
Arncliffe.

Bradford.

[The red palmer, whether dressed small or large, is, of course, a standard fly for trout or grayling. We have not tried it much in the way described by Mr. Foster, *i.e.*, to let it sink a foot or two under water, and work round a pool with the current. We have tried in this way twice when the grayling were midging, but it was useless. Grayling are taken on the Dove with Foster's caterpillar, as we have seen them.—Ed.]

SELLERS OF BIRD-SKINS FOR FLY-TYING.

Sir,—Noticing the queries about the above on page 546 of the Gazette, I beg to send you the following addresses in Germany where bird-skins can be obtained:—Mr. W. Schlüster, 8, Wucherer Strasse, Halle a. Saale; Mr. H. B. Möschler, Kronförstchen bei Bautzen; Mr. Rudolph Koch, Münster; Mr. T. F. G. Umlauff, St. Pauli, Hamburg.—I am, &c.,
Max v. d. Borne.

NOTTINGHAM REELS—SPINNING FOR PIKE.

Sir,—The writer of the article, "Discussions at our Club," states that he prefers the "Nottingham" reel to have a slight check. This is easily arranged by taking the brass nut off the spindle and substituting a leather one, cut from a bit of good English bark-tanned sole leather. Any shoemaker will give you a bit and cut a hole through it with his eyelet punch to fit the spindle of the reel. This can be tightened or slackened, allowing the reel to run easy or tight as required. Mine are all fitted that way, and I use no other kind, whether for pike, fly, or bottom fishing.

These reels are now made so that the revolving part overlaps the other, making it impossible for the line to catch between the two. If the reel is placed far enough from the bottom of the rod, only one hand—the left—is required to make the cast, as the butt need never be taken from the hip, the reel being controlled with the thumb of left hand. In winding up the line, I find it best to let it run over the first finger, or it coils too loosely on the reel.—I am, &c.,
S. Howarth.

Burton-on-Trent.

HOW TO HOLD THE ROD IN NOTTINGHAM SPINNING.

Sir,—I was pleased to read the article in last week's Fishing Gazette under the heading "Discussions at our Club, by the Secretary," and think the instruction there tendered upon Nottingham style of casting would enable would-be spinners to acquire that much to be commended mode of fishing. My object now is to point out the one vital fault, to my mind, where the writer says he prefers the left hand to be below the right and alongside the reel, as the time taken in changing is "inappreciable." Surely, Sir, if it be requisite to change the hands after checking the winch, why not start with the right hand alongside the winch, and prevent bungling and an unsightly style of fishing? Again, the right hand has a far better command of the reel, as it is nearer the outer rim than the left hand. As to the change experienced when getting tired, the spinning from right or left shoulder is sufficient relief.—I am, &c.,

THAMES NOTTINGHAM.

[We quite agree with "Thames Nottingham" (who is, perhaps, the best hand with the Nottingham reel living), that in learning the style it is much better to use the left arm, in fact, the writer of the article referred to said so, but added he preferred the other way himself. The fact is, a man ought to practise so as to be able to use either arm in casting, whether in spinning or fly-fishing.—ED.]

SPINNING—THE BATTLE OF THE STYLES.

SIR,—The discussion at that model club, the "Occabot," as described by the secretary in your last week's issue, was unfortunately interrupted by the entrance of "Red Hackle," or we should, no doubt, have heard the reply of "Ledger" to "Plummet's" arguments in favour of the Nottingham as against the Thames style of spinning.

With permission of our friend, the secretary, I will endeavour to describe from imagination the conclusion of the discussion had it not been so abruptly terminated:—

Ledger—(By the way, I think I am acquainted with this gentleman, as, indeed, are most anglers; but does he not spell his name without the "d"? after a few sips of the "Scotch," so kindly provided by "Tweezer."—"Plummet, old friend, you are a partisan, and like most partisans are scarcely fair to your opponents. I have never heard it claimed for the Thames style that it was equal to the other when fishing from the bank, nor when wading in the water; that superiority in the Trent style is conceded, but there the concession ends. What I maintain is, that in spinning from a boat or punt, the former is the better system You will never convince me that you can impart as taking a motion to your bait by the winding of a winch, as can be given by an adept of the other art by the delicate finger manipulation with the left hand, combined with the working of the point of the rod with the right. Let me here read an extract from a letter which appeared in the FISHING GAZETTE soon after the first tournament. The writer says:—'Now as to the true art of working the bait, and the keen sport of playing your fish when hooked, there can be no comparison between the two systems. The one man plays his line with the tips of his finger and thumb, wherein is situated the most acute sense of touch; the other, with the mechanical winding of a wooden reel. And, although by winding in the bait with the reel it spins more evenly the whole way back, still, to my mind, that is less attractive to the fish than a bait played with a series of graceful leaps, as many of our Thames men know so well how to work it. Again, in playing the fish when hooked; of course, grinding him on the reel is an effectual way of putting the screw on him, but there cannot be the same exquisite sense of sport as is enjoyed by the man who feels every struggle and plunge communicated through the line to his fingers; much in the same manner and as acutely as the other sense—hearing—is excercised by two persons conversing from a distance by means of the telephone.' I noticed that when casting, you actually recommend turning your back to the object aimed at. This seems literally as well as figuratively a roundabout way of throwing straight. The Thames spinner goes to work much more directly. With the rod grasped firmly in his right hand, the butt being planted in the hollow within his hip, the line gently clasped by the forefinger and thumb of his left hand, he stands with his *face* to the water, and can throw with equal ease from his right or left shoulder, thus being more independent than the Trent spinner of trees or bushes which may be growing on either side, and in case of trees on both sides he is as much master of the situation as is your Nottingham man on the bank amidst the brambles and weeds you so much affect; for the latter requires so much room in order to allow his line to describe a vast semicircle ere it reaches the point, that on a narrow river bordered by trees he is simply 'not in it.' You say that 'Your Nottingham adept can work fully three times as fast as your Thames style will admit.' Surely, my friend, your zeal for your pet style is running away with you. I say that your Nottingham adept cannot. And if he could it would be of no advantage to him, unless he wanted to see how nicely the bait spins on the surface. Plummet, your're wrong; and if you want further proof how wrong you are. I will tell you that you are wrong in the practice of your art. The changing of your hands in casting I don't like at all: it is anything but graceful, and in case of a run immediately on reaching the water, might be disastrous. With regard to the distance capable of being thrown by the two styles, we fortunately need not resort to theory, but can prove it by figures. On examining the scores of the professionals at the two FISHING GAZETTE Tournaments I find that on the first occasion the Thames representative threw 50 yards, and the Trent man 45 yards; and on the second occasion the former 55 yards, and the latter 44 yards."

Tweezer.—"Well, that last argument reminds me of that terrible hammer at the Richmond Piscatorials. It is a 'clencher.' Ledger, pass the Scotch to Plummet: he will need a little after that."

Ledger.—"Gentlemen, I hope that you and my old friend Plummet will forgive my warmth in defence of my favourite sport. Recollect, I don't claim for it that it is superior to the other in every respect; it has its disadvantages as well as its advantages, but in my humble opinion the latter decidedly prevail; and in this I have the concurrence of no less an authority than Mr. J. P. Wheeldon, whom I had the pleasure of hearing discourse on this subject to the Richmond Piscatorials, of which capital club I happen also to be a member."

On Ledger resuming his seat the subject was continued by other members, the general opinion being that although their best thanks were due to Plummet for his able exposition of the Nottingham style, he had failed to prove its superiority to the Thames method.

The above, Sir, appears to be the more correct termination of the discussion, to your obedient servant

V.

PIKE SWALLOWING FISH TAIL FIRST.

SIR,—The other day I caught a pike about 4 lb., and seeing it was very much distended, I opened it and found therein a young pike of about ½ lb. That did not astonish me so much as the fact of it having been swallowed tail first; while the tail was partly digested, the head was perfect. Several friends also saw it and wondered.—I am, &c.,

Wisbech. C. S. S.

[This is curious, because we know the general opinion among pike-fishers is that pike always swallow fish head-first.—ED.]

NETTING THE ASSOCIATION'S WATERS.

SIR,—Will you kindly allow me to say a few more words upon this subject? I do not wish to occupy space in your valuable paper without good reason, nor to carry on a long correspondence with "L. B.," who thinks he has hurt my feelings by misapplying the word "pitiful" to my letter. I am not so thin-skinned as he thinks, but I consider it necessary to correct his mis-statements, and I cannot allow him to be the judge as to whether he described my "effusion," as he terms it, truthfully or not by using that word.

I beg to confirm my report as being true in substance and in fact, and am prepared to give Mr. Hoole such information that will satisfy him I was justified in making it, and I may add my motive was good in doing so, which "L. B." will not do me the justice to allow; on the contrary, he now makes statements which are not correct, and he carefully avoids answering my queries in my last letter, which certainly proves a weak case on his part, and I am sorry for him. He says Mr. Hoole, of course, pointed out to "Red Fisherman" how his report erred on all points. Mr. Hoole did no such thing; and I refer "L. B." to Mr. Hoole's answer. Again, "L. B." says that I promised to follow his advice. Why, I never thought of such a thing—I prefer my own judgment. I merely commented upon his advice, and what I said was, that I should take immediate steps to have the nets set wrong. I have no objection to fair criticism; but, when a person takes upon himself to criticise a correspondent's truthful report, and, by making mis-statements, conveys just the opposite meaning, I do object, and say it is very unfair, and, moreover, I hold that "L. B." has no right whatever to question the truth of my report, unless he can show proof to the contrary, and this he cannot do.

I am indebted to a friend, who has been good enough to send last week's FISHING GAZETTE on to me here in Scotland, for the opportunity of correcting in this week's GAZETTE "L. B.'s" erroneous statements. I shall return to England at the end of this week, when I shall be prepared to meet Mr. Hoole by appointment, if he thinks it necessary, and get my report both supported and justified.

"L. B." asks if that smile of the simple native was like that of Bret Harte's "Heathen Chinee"? Oh dear, no; it was a pitiful smile, and the native is not simple.—I am, &c., THE RED FISHERMAN.

MANCHESTER AND DISTRICTS AMALGAMATED ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

SIR,—Will you kindly allow space for a few lines in further reply to your anonymous correspondent, who still delights in signing his letters "Trout."

On referring to our weight-book, I find that the trout weighed in last January is the only instance where this class of fish has been weighed in for a prize during close season since our society commenced. The fault in our laws was then pointed out, and by our resolution of April 22nd we remedied the evil. Why "Trout" should write you on this subject in October (six months afterwards) I cannot understand, unless he is a renegade member of our society, and has some private grievance, and adopts this style of bringing our society into disrepute, and hide the authorship by signing "Trout."

How is it that "Trout" has not given the same prominence to the small jack, about 6 oz. weight, that was caught by either himself or his informant on the same day and in the same water from which our member caught his trout? What would your Thames anglers think of taking such a fish, no matter what season of the year?

In conclusion, our members are not ashamed of anything they have done, and have not hesitated to explain the whole matter to your readers; but I must say that I think your correspondent "Trout" has acted a very cowardly part throughout this correspondence in not affixing his name to his letters. I shall consider that he is heartily ashamed of his own opinion unless he does so.—I am, &c., W. ASHWORTH.

Salford Friendly Anglers' Society,
November 21.

ROACH BITES AND CRACK ROACHERS.

SIR,—I and, I daresay, many more of your numerous readers, have been very much amused at some of "Mark Antony's" theoretical effusions on angling matters. I say theoretical, for I cannot conceive how any practical man could publish such statements as appear in his last production on roach-fishing with paste. Allow me to inform "M. A." that for a roach angler using paste to lose two bites out of six would be a heavy percentage, but for a man to lose four out six and call himself a "Roacher," would be ridiculous in the extreme.

Fancy, ye London anglers, if you can, sitting on the banks of the Lea fishing with paste, and having bites which take your float down, and then losing four out of six. Why, it's enough to make the hair of brethren of the roach pole stand on end to think about it!

I should like to hear the opinions of some of our Lea cracks on the subject —I am, &c., ANTI-THEORY.

BRUNSWICK PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

SIR,—Having noticed again, and this time in your world-famed journal for anglers, that the Brunswick Piscatorial Society had broken up, allow me to inform you that it is an unwarrantable assertion. The society has not been dissolved. The fact is, several of the members feel greatly surprised at such a report being put forth. There was certainly a little unpleasantness between the Treasurer and Mr. Copeland, which, to a great extent, was owing to Mr. Copeland insisting upon taking the receipt books home every meeting night in his bag. Mr. Copeland has tried to start another society at Walworth, and succeeded in inducing two or three of the members to join, but I have discovered that it has fallen through.

A resolution was passed at our meeting on Wednesday, the 15th, desiring Mr. Copeland to furnish a balance-sheet, and also to return the books belonging to the society. Trusting you will insert this, which will greatly oblige the members of the Brunswick Piscatorial Society,—I am, &c.,

Nov. 23. MILES DOUGHTY, secretary.

TO "BITTERN."

SIR,—We have a letter for you, but have mislaid your address; kindly send post-card to THE EDITOR OF THE FISHING GAZETTE.

SPRATS AS SPINNING BAIT.

SIR,—Will you kindly inform me, through the FISHING GAZETTE, if sprats are good bait for spinning and trolling for jack or perch?—I am, &c,

Walworth. J. HART.

[Sprats make splendid spinning bait for jack, being brighter than any dace; the only drawback is that they are rather tender. When we use them, we use an F. G. spinner, and then they last a long time, and spin splendidly.—ED.]

FISHING IN THE MOLE NEAR REIGATE.

SIR,—The following particulars about the Mole, near Reigate, may be of some service to your readers. Sidlow is about 2 miles from Reigate by the Brighton main road, and the fishing on both banks left of the road is, to the best of my belief, free (as I have never been questioned). Jack are caught mostly on the side nearest Reigate; but roach, though numerous, run rather small. The bream run large, but are rather difficult to catch.

Flenchford Bridge is about 2½ miles by way of the Heath. The fishing is free on the right bank nearest Reigate but the opposite side is preserved; roach and chub are plentiful under and near the bridge, depth about 4 feet; it is shallow till nearly the end of the field, where there are good chub and roach. In the next field are some fairly good roach swims average depth, 5 feet; there are plenty of jack in the deeper parts, but they run small, and in all parts of the river the sunken roots are troublesome, and great care has to be taken or breakage is the result.

Rice Bridge about 2½ miles, is by far the best of the places I have mentioned, and good jack, chub, and roach are taken; free on right of the bridge nearest Reigate, and good fishing on the bridge with fly (blow line) under the trees. Permission is also given for the left side of the bridge, and good jack and chub are taken by the waterfall. Over the fence (right side) are some very good roach and chub swims, but almost all are difficult to fish on account of the roots. Jack are plentiful near the Copse, and also rather large. Round the Copse, and close to it, is a good swim for chub, but when caught they are difficult to land on account of the high bank and the bushes. Farther on are some good jack, but the best part of the river is now strictly preserved. Sunday return tickets in the summer months 2s., being only 2d. over single fare. Return four days, 2s. 9d. from any London station of the S E. R —I am, &c., C. T. PADFIELD.

Dalston, E., Nov. 21, 1882.

[Many thanks for this useful information —ED.]

HENS AND FEATHERS.

SIR,—Regarding Andalusian feathers, I never heard of them being used in the North, but having tried some, found them kill well—in fact, better either than poot or hooded crow (both good bloa feathers). They killed the best on wild, cold, wet days; as the fibre of the feather was stronger than the two named, this may explain matters. I see your correspondent "R. A." alludes to blue game feathers. I have a blue cock, and should like to meet with some pullets. I don't know the feather, but generally think the smaller the bird the closer and finer the fibre, and consequently the nearer approach to nature I have dotterel feathers in plenty. As regards blue game, although a fancier, I don't know the feathers—would gladly exchange a few dotterel —I am, &c.,

Bradford. ARNCLIFFE.

FISHING NEAR LEWISHAM.

SIR,—Whilst passing along in a Lewisham train I saw a piece of water. Kindly let me know whether it is fishable, and if so to whom should I apply for permission.—I am, &c., E. R. M.

[The Ravensbourne must be the stream our correspondent refers to; the best part is between the Silk Mills and the waterworks at Deptford, where the stream runs by the side of the road; we believe it is quite free, but there is very little to be caught.—ED.]

THE JACK "INCIDENT."—FISHING PLACES ON THE ALT, &c.

SIR,—Mark Antony seems to be a querulous, discontented being, as his many letters in the FISHING GAZETTE prove, and I feel proud in having astounded him. When he recovers his equilibrium, and will let me know, I will make enquiries from "Jack" himself as to how long that particular roach was in his gullet, and whether he swallowed him head or *tail* first, and his ("Jack's") reply will be a *tale* worthy of "M.A.'s" best attention. Replying to your foot-note, Mr. Editor, I can only repeat what the witnesses, some seven or eight, affirm, "that the roach was swallowed.".

Will "Yorks" kindly look through his own letter and inform me if the passage ending with the words, ' nearest to the corner of this big county where he resides" is not a little, only a little, obscure and mixed up?

If "Cottonopolis" will travel to Hightown, midway between Liverpool and Southport, and there make enquiries of the courteous station-master, he will be put on the right track to fish the Alt. This small river is well stocked with fine roach and graining, jack, and eels. Trout are not plentiful, but I have taken several good sea trout with the worm, two one afternoon weighing exactly 1½ lb. each, and one of over 2 lb. on another occasion, besides others of less weight But these are scarce, and at the best of times the river is very uncertain. It flows through land belonging to the Earl of Sefton, who is very strict (though people say it is the agent, Colonel H. Wyatt), and does not allow a rod on it for fear the game might be disturbed. I know several piscators whose rods have been destroyed by the keepers, and who have been summoned and fined for angling. By the bye, Sir, can the rods be taken in this way, and broken up (legally)? It seems to me most unjust if it is so, as surely the loss of the rod, &c., should be considered in fixing the fine. Our members have permission to fish in the Alt from T. Weld Blundell, Esq., where it runs along his land for two or three miles; but this concession is strictly confined to this association, their tickets having to be shown by the anglers when the keeper comes across them.—I am, &c., RD. WOOLFALL,

Hon. sec. Liverpool Angling Association.

[We do not think a keeper has the right to destroy an angler's rod and tackle. We will look the matter up, and let you know next week.—ED.]

PIKE TAKING A SWALLOW, AND OTHER INCIDENTS.

SIR,—I can fully testify to the statement of Mr. Woolfall that the pike will take birds, as I witnessed exactly the same occurrence while jack fishing a few years since, at Ferry-boat Fishery, Tottenham.

The following occurrences may be interesting to your readers.

Fishing at the same place, and proceeding up the water, on the bank lay a fine eel, I should say at least 3 to 4 lb in weight, with a water-rat half out of its mouth, and both dead, being in a far advanced state of decomposition.

One day, fishing at the same place, I caught a roach with the upper jaw partly gone, and blind one eye: the scales were off one of its sides as if at some time it had been seized by a jack. After handling as tenderly as possible for the purpose of extracting the cold steel, I returned it to the water as an old pensioner deserving of everything that might come within reach, barring the hook.

Sitting down quietly one day at the same place roach fishing, all at once —splash! splash! splash! in the water; looking about, nothing to be seen, nothing to be heard; looking above, a balloon was sailing quietly over me, and had evidently been discharging its sand, much to my annoyance. But I may mention, I had a bad time of it before, but afterwards had one of the finest and best dishes of roach I have ever taken from the Lea.

Jack fishing at the same place, I hooked a jack, and it ran me (that is the line) into a bed of weeds, and all the power I could or possibly dare put upon it failed to remove it. After procuring a boat and rowing to the spot, I managed to take it with the aid of the scull, and brought up with it the perfect skeleton of another jack, with trace, float, and pilot attached.

Fishing at ——, a water rat was swimming leisurely on the surface of the water; all at once a jack seized it and carried it under. All was quiet for a few moments, and evidently Mr. Jack had taken it to his abode, as a few seconds afterwards a scuffle and crying was heard in the sedges on the opposite bank. The cries of the rat I shall never forget, and I have no doubt Mr. Jack was the victor. What do I hear you say, Mr. Editor?—Wonder if I tried to part them? Not I, but I tell you what I did do: quickly put on a nice bright dace and cast it within 12 inches of the spot; but Mr. Jack was evidently satisfied with one course, much to my disgust.

Fishing one day within a few miles of the same place, anxiously watching the movements of my float with live bait attached, a young colt belonging, I presume, to the noble proprietor of the water, took a fancy to my landing net (which was folded and lying on the grass behind me), and stole it. Hearing something, I turned round quickly, and he dropped it; but again he returned some time afterwards and stole it again: this time cost me a trot over a six-acred field, with the result that about a dozen of the meshes were made into one. On this occasion I landed about twelve nice jack, and threw them as caught in a heap on the grass, and after the afternoon's fishing found two locked jaw-in-jaw, dead.

Once, fishing at the same place, I left my bait-can on the bank with the lid open, containing, I should say, about half-a-dozen fine gudgeon, and proceeded about a hundred yards along the bank for the purpose of casting in a jacky spot. Turning round some time afterwards, I saw a wild duck busily engaged devouring the contents of my can. Putting down my rod, I proceeded to the spot, and it did not move until I got within ten yards of the scene, when I saw it had only one leg. This duck stole four gudgeon, and although the jack were on splendidly, I freely forgave it. What must have been the loss of the leg to the duck!

Roach fishing at Bouveney Weir with a 20 ft. light cane roach rod, and sitting behind a bush, a kingfisher settled on the rod and began to plume its beautiful feathers, I holding the rod as steadily as possible; it stayed there for a few seconds until a knock at my float, which I could not resist, compelled it to leave its resting place.—I am, &c., G. CLARK.

Crouch End, N., Nov. 23, 1882.

NORWICH ANGLING CLUB.

PRESENTATION TO THE SECRETARY.

THE annual dinner of the above club was held at the Walnut-tree Shades, Old Post Office Yard, on Tuesday evening. Mr. George Diggens presided, Mr. Wm. Cooper being in the vice-chair. Amongst those present were—Mr. Councillor Matthews, Messrs. G. Daniels, T. E. Gunn, F. Powell, O. Winter, M. J. Bailey, J. D. Beeston, W. Womersley, J. Womersley, D. Belson, H. Flowers, T. Lord, G. C. Whincop, J. L'Estrange, H. Campling, J. Lowe S. F. Howitt, Ellingham, Cox, C. Daniels, W. Burrage, and R. Moll.

The Chairman, in giving the toast of the evening, said, "The Norwich Angling Club," and stated that in future they intended to have an early match for pike, when he hoped they might catch a few more "stuffers." The club was the oldest and premier club of the city, and they would have no difficulty in filling up the two or three vacancies which he apprehended might soon occur. With the toast he coupled the name of Mr. R. Moll, the hon. secretary, in whom they had a most exemplary officer. It would be difficult to speak in too eulogistic terms of the way in which he kept the accounts and made all arrangements, all of which he had at his fingers' ends.

Mr. Moll said after seven years' tenure of office he could say the success of the club was owing to the individual endeavours of the members. He thought they could not find another club where the members could read such interesting papers on various subjects on winter evenings. Shortly, amongst other things, there would be presented an article on the *flora* of the rivers and broads of Norfolk, with illustrations by another member—Mr. Daniel and Mr. Howitt. The register of catches showed them to be equal or beyond those of other clubs, although emulation was not their aim. Year by year they had increased in the amount of prizes and in sport, and the club was the first to introduce a roving match where members were properly trusted. There was a wall of partition among angling clubs, but he hoped when the Yare Preservation Society called a meeting in St. Andrew's Hall for the purpose of doing away with netting altogether (applause), that there would be more fellowship originated among the different clubs.

The Chairman then presented to Mr. Moll a sign of the appreciation of the members in the shape of a gold watch, to which all had contributed, and which the chairman hoped he would always look upon as a token of the brotherly affection and testimony of the value of his services (applause).

Mr. Moll said he appreciated the kindness more than he could say, and if in the future it were possible, he would do more than he had done in the past.

Mr. C. Daniels gave "The Yare Preservation Society," alluding to the great benefits it conferred upon anglers.

Mr. Whincop and Mr. G. Daniels responded, the latter remarking on the need there was for angling clubs to give their adherence to the society.

Mr. R. Moll gave "The Press," which was responded to by the representatives of the *Argus* and *Chronicle*.

"The Visitors," "The Host and Hostess," and "The Ladies," concluded the toast list. During the evening excellent songs were sung, and especial mention must be made of Mr. Beeston, who, bearing the designation of the "club poet," gave an original song entitled, "The Norfolk Fisherman."

THE GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

TUESDAY last will long be remembered as a red-letter day in the annals of the Gresham, their room at Masons' Hall Tavern being crowded with members and visitors, all anxious to participate in the special business of the evening, S. C. Harding, Esq., having been unanimously voted to the chair, the hon. secretary read the notice convening the meeting, called for the purpose of voting the necessary funds for the purchase of a bookcase to receive the many volumes now forming the library of the society, and afterwards to distribute the prizes offered for the past year. Among the successful competitors were Messrs. Barrett, Barnard, E. Bennett, G. Bennett, Cartwright, Cooper, Chambers, Crumplen, Mc Dowall, Frost, Parker, White, Dr. Defreiz, and Dr. A. C Tucker.

The chairman gracefully handed the prizes to the recipients, who were warmly applauded as they proceeded to the table. It was quite clear the ladies were not forgotten on this occasion, and a very handsome bracelet, chosen by Mr. Parker for Mrs. Parker, gave rise to some witty remarks from the chairman, whose tact and good humour were conspicuous throughout the evening. A brief interval followed, during which angling topics were freely discussed by Dr. Brunton, Mr. Wheeldon, and Mr. Jardine, after which followed the presentation of a testimonial to Mr. Crumplen, the very able and respected hon. sec. of the society. This took the form of a massive jug and two goblets, all in solid silver, the former being a beautiful facsimile of a fine Elizabethan model known as "The Armada," richly frosted and chased, the figures standing out in bold relief, and the whole being the work of the eminent firm of Martin Hall and Co., of Bouverie Street, E.C. Mr. Bates, on rising to present the testimonial, said his only regret was that such a duty had been entrusted to one so unable to perform it as he thought it ought to be performed. (No, no.) He was sure there was not a member of the society that was not proud of their secretary, who was a man of such sterling worth, that they could only present him with the true metal—(hear, hear)—which he was sure he so well deserved. There was one great characteristic about him, and that was his perfect frankness. He said what he meant, and they knew he was in earnest. They could hardly imagine what his labours for them had been, and it was gratifying to know that outside their society he was equally respected, and honours of all kinds, involving much hard work, had been justly showered upon him. Need he remind them that their friend Crumplen was one of their delegates at the West Central Association; a member of committee of the Fisheries Society; of the committee of the Anglers' Benevolent; and last, but not least, that he had the high honour of being selected as one of the two sole representatives of *all* the London angling societies on the special sub-committee relative to freshwater fish, of the Great International Fisheries Exhibition of 1883? Mainly through his exertions, their society had attained its present popularity, and he trusted this small token of respect, which was in no sense a compensation for his priceless services, would long remain to remind him, and his children after him, of the sincere regard they had for his personal worth, and their thorough appreciation of the great services he had unquestionably rendered, not only to their society, but to the whole of the angling world. The testimonial was a spontaneous offering from the Gresham Angling Society, and, as such, he begged Mr. Crumplen to accept it. (Vociferous applause.)

Mr. J. P. Wheeldon desired to endorse every word of what had been so well said by Mr. Bates, and to thank Mr. Crumplen for the useful information he so often and quickly supplied for the use of the Press.

Mr. Crumplen, on rising to respond, received a prolonged ovation of no ordinary character. He said that his first words must necessarily be words of thanks for the magnificent work of art which they had so generously and unexpectedly bestowed upon him. All he could say was, that he endeavoured to do his best for them, and they were under no obligation to him for doing it, because it was his duty, and that duty he hoped always to be able to do. (Applause.) He could not but feel proud to be their secretary, and proud of their society, for whether he went among the humbler anglers of the East-end, or the more cultivated denizens of the west, whether in London or the provinces, he was always welcomed, which he believed arose largely from the fact that theirs was not an exclusive society, but held out the right hand of fellowship to all who had the true principles of sport at heart. At such a moment they must excuse his brevity; he feared his speeches had sometimes been intolerable—(No, no)—but he could say little now. In the past he had doubtless said things he would wish unsaid, and omitted what he should have said; but he knew they would forgive him. In a society like theirs all must work together for a common purpose, and if anything could stimulate a man to work for them it would be not so much in receiving so elegant a testimonial (costly though it was), as in knowing that, however small his services, they were fully appreciated. (Rounds of applause.

Dr. Brunton afterwards moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Bates for the able and satisfactory manner in which he had arranged for the presentation.

Mr. Bates, in reply, stated that he was greatly indebted to the gentlemen who had acted with him, Captain Alfred, Mr. Darling, Mr. Harding, and others, adding that their work had been a labour of love.

Among the visitors were Mr. J. C. Murray, chairman of the Central Association; Mr. S. Morgan, chairman of the East Central Association; Mr. J. A. Fitch, jun; Mr. G. Hockley, and several others.

Mr. Murray, in responding, first for the visitors, expressed his earnest hope that the time was not far distant when the three associations would amalgamate, a remark that was greeted with rounds of applause.

The proceedings were interspersed with harmony, in which Messrs. Harding, Cartwright, Wheeldon, Bendon, Copeland, Parker, and Neville took part; and at the close the Chairman's health was given with full musical honours.

"Auld Lang Syne" and the National Anthem brought this interesting evening to a close.

THE BLACKWATER FISHERIES.

CORK, Nov. 16.

AN important decision affecting the entire fishing interests of the river Blackwater, has been rendered in London. For fourteen years a contest has gone on between the Duke of Devonshire on the one hand, claiming a right to a riveral fishery on the Blackwater from Lismore to the sea, a distance of thirty miles; and the net fishermen, on the other hand, questioning that right, and setting up a prescriptive right themselves to the fishing. The interests involved were very large, affecting the means of existence of some hundreds of hardy fishermen and their families, who have for fifty years been exercising the unfettered privilege of drift net fishing along the splendid reach of water from Cappoquin to Youghal. There have been no less than seven trials arising out of the contention. Two have resulted favourably to the fishermen, who, as champions of the popular rights against a vast monopoly, have been sustained by the public. In two of the actions verdicts were had for the Duke of Devonshire. Three of the cases resulted abortively. There were numerous motions, and at length the main issue came to be determined by the House of Lords. On Tuesday their lordships decided in favour of the Duke of Devonshire, who, relying on old charters granted in the eleventh century to predecessors of His Grace, has secured his title to the entire bed of the river Blackwater, over which the tide ebbs and flows. It is impossible yet to foresee what will be the immediate consequence of this great and valuable acquisition by His Grace. The Duke, who has ever maintained the reputation in this country of a just and liberal landlord, will not be likely to exercise his rights with severity. His process of getting rid of the numerous fishermen will doubtless be gradual. The restriction of the drift-net fishing, which is notoriously excessive in the Blackwater, will first receive attention. That the angling interests will be greatly benefitted by the recent decision is a recognised fact, and probably this is the branch of the subject which will most interest the readers of the FISHING GAZETTE. For some years the Blackwater, as a salmon river, had been going back. It was felt that between the operators of the great weir of His Grace at Lismore, and of the immense number of drift nets on the tidal part of the river below Cappoquin, that no fair proportion of the spring fish was able to reach the upper waters. Efforts were made to have modifications made in the Lismore Weir, which, from its construction, forms a huge trap for salmon, but without success. Attention was also turned to the necessity of restricting the rights of drift fishing; but the question lay in abeyance until the principal issue was decided by the House of Lords. The subject has been now settled, and it would be mere affectation to deny that there is joy among the anglers of the Blackwater, who look forward to halcyon days of sport and enjoyment with the Springers.

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4.15	Wilson Bros.—Treble Parterre Act	10.15
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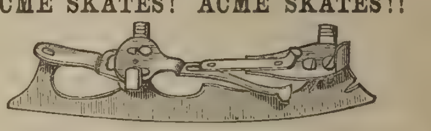

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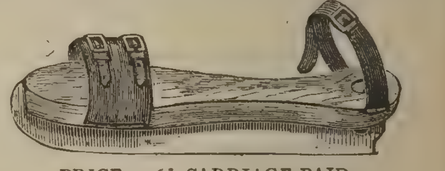

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Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1882.

LONDON ANGLING CLUBS AND THE GREAT INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION.

Anglers generally, and members of angling clubs in particular, will be very glad indeed to hear that all the difficulties, or supposed difficulties, as regards the question of exhibits from London clubs, have been entirely done away with, and it now only rests with the clubs to send exhibits which shall be worthy of the exhibition and reflect credit on the senders.

THE ACCLIMATISATION OF THE SALMONIDÆ AT THE ANTIPODES.

(*Continued from page* 562).

The First Successful Shipment in 1864.

Mr. Youl was now satisfied that "there was nothing to prevent the arrival of living ova in Tasmania if a sufficient stock of ice could be preserved throughout the voyage, and to this point his attention was particularly directed. In January, 1864, just at the most suitable time, Messrs. Money Wigram & Sons offered a space of fifty tons, by measurement, in their fine ship, the 'Norfolk,' declining the hundred guineas which Mr. Youl had offered them on his own account, in discharge of the freight, and wishing this to be their contribution to an undertaking of so much scientific interest and commercial value." The packing of the ova was done in the following manner :—

"I describe it (says Mr. Nicols) from personal observation, having assisted in packing a subsequent consignment with Mr. Youl, by the 'Oberon,' in January, 1873, in which the method was the same as that employed in 1864. The box to contain the ova was of inch pine, measuring about 12 inches by 8 inches, by 5 inches. At the bottom was first spread a layer of charcoal, in small lumps; next a layer of broken ice; then a nest of fresh, carefully-washed, living moss, with the roots attached, and on this springy cushion were distributed the ova from a wide-mouthed bottle half-full of water, and in such a manner as to obviate contact with one another as far as possible. Over them was lightly laid a covering of moss, then a double handful of broken ice, and the whole was saturated with ice water, and screwed down. 181 of these boxes, containing 100,000 salmon and 3000 trout ova (*S. fario*), were packed closely on the floor of the ice-house, and upon them were piled cubical blocks of ice, to the height of 9 feet. Nothing could prevent the wasting of the ice, but the ova would get the benefit of it as long as it lasted. They would rest as securely as might be on their mossy bed, the charcoal would absorb the gases of decomposition, and the living moss would probably give out some little oxygen for their benefit. Mr. W. Ramsbottom took charge of the consignment; the vessel sailed on the 21st of January, 1864, and arrived at Melbourne on the 15th of April, where the ice-house was first opened, and, to the intense satisfaction of all concerned, three-fourths of the ice was intact, and a very large proportion of the ova in a box tested found to be in splendid condition."

Mr. Youl had thus solved the problem of how to send ova alive such an immense distance, and across the tropics. On the 4th of May, 1864, the first trout emerged from the egg, and on the following day the first salmon which had ever yet swum in the southern hemisphere, and by May 25 there were two hundred healthy young trout, and by June 8 several thousands of salmon sporting in their new home, enjoying their rations of boiled liver morning and evening, and affording a living testimony to the perseverance and scientific foresight of one who had laboured for ten years single-handed at a problem in acclimatisation, which both scientific and practical men had often declared to be insoluble.

The ova were hatched in the rearing ponds prepared for them on the river Derwent, in Tasmania. Mr. Youl had advised that the trout should not be put into the same stream as the salmon, but by some neglect they did escape into the Derwent, and they have done so well that "the river now contains thousands of heavy trout." Fish of 9 lb. weight were caught within four years of the importation. Mr. W. Senior ("Red-spinner.") in his charming work, "Trout and Travel at the Antipodes," gives most interesting accounts of his trout-fishing in the Derwent and other streams. He refers also to the "vexed question" as to what has become of the salmon which were put in at the same time as the trout? The trout are, as he says, there to speak for themselves, but it is by no means clear that the solitary specimens of salmon said to have been caught were really other than trout. Mr. Youl tells us that he was passing a fishmonger's shop in London the other day, with a friend who had caught these disputed "salmon," and his friend, who had not seen English salmon before, at once said that the fish he had caught and the fish on the slab were identical in appearance. Mr. Francis Francis, in reviewing Mr. Nicol's work in the *Field*, thus refers to the matter:

"We wish that we could speak with as much certainty of the success of the acclimatisation of the salmon. We have no doubt in our own minds that the salmon have been acclimatised, but much of the head waters of the Derwent are so wild, unfishable, and almost impracticable, that it is difficult to judge of what may be in them; added to this, there are many difficulties in the identification of species. In the first place, there was a crusade against the smolts, and when they do catch even a larger fish, the fishermen keep it to themselves, pretty much as Mr. Nicols puts it :

"'They have all along endeavoured to destroy evidence of the success of the attempt to acclimatise the salmon, because they were put under some restrictions against scraping the river at all times and seasons with their nets. They could not apparently give up for a few days in the year their systematic efforts to exterminate the native fish, in order that they might one day have a far greater source of profit in the salmon, and a little judicious bribery revealed an organised system of murder of all strangers found in the river.'

"In fact, the smolts were cleared off wholesale in their descent, and everything else carefully slaughtered in secret. In the face of such a revelation, it would be, no doubt, not only difficult to ascertain whether the salmon were acclimatised, but to acclimatise them at all. A well-stocked river could not stand against an animus like this. It seems, however, fairly clear, though not absolutely proven on indisputable scientific testimony, that salmon have been caught by anglers, though even here the sea-trout theory has a disturbing influence. We know that ova from the sea-trout, or bouge as it is called, of the Itchen, was taken and sent to Tasmania, because we ourselves obtained leave to take it, and instructed the person who was sent for it; and these sea-trout or bouge often run to 20 lb. in weight. It is most unfortunate that the question is not more definitely settled."

HONOUR TO WHOM HONOUR IS DUE.

Our readers will have seen that whatever may be the case as regards the salmon, the trout ova which were sent out by Mr. Youl in the "Norfolk" have undoubtedly stocked Tasmania and New Zealand "with the best fish they possess." In November, 1879 we published an account sent us by one of our subscribers, Mr' E. S. Cawthorn, describing his fishing in the Derwent. The following extract will come in well here. He says:—

"It is now sixteen years since the young salmon, salmon-trout, and trout were turned out of the ponds into the rivers, and we have been catching the trout for about seven years. There have been several salmon taken in the salt water by nets when fishing for other fish, and I believe some have been caught by rod and line about New Norfolk, and at and near the mouth of the Plenty. I have killed a few myself, which I have every reason to think were salmon, but as I am a native of Tasmania, of course I cannot speak with that certainty that those who have been in the habit of catching salmon in England can do, but I can only say they were quite different in appearance from the trout. The largest trout caught in 1876 was 16 lb., in 1878 20¼ lb.; in this year (1879) two of 20 lb. each; and my brother caught one this year 11 lb., and several 5 lb., 6 lb., and 7 lb. each."

From a subsequent letter, enclosing a list of his fishing that season, we find that Mr. C.'s average for twenty-four hours' fishing—distributed over several evenings—is about thirty trout, weighing 70 lb., and English anglers say the fish are superior in flavour to English trout.

Such accounts as this might be multiplied to any extent, and prove conclusively what a grand success the introduction of trout into Tasmania and New Zealand has been. Now, to whom is due the honour of this success? Mr. Nicol answers this conclusively. In writing of the shipment per "Norfolk," he says:

"Almost at the last moment Messrs. Francis Francis and Frank Buckland sent 3000 trout ova to the docks. Admiral Keppel requested Mr. Buckland to collect some ova from his preserves on the Itchen (he collected 1000) and forward them as a present to Mr. Youl. Mr. Francis Francis also sent two lots, one from Mr. Spicer's mill at Alton, on the Wey, and another from Mr. Thurlow's mill at High Wycombe, Bucks (2000 in number), which were packed by Mr. Youl in the same way as the salmon ova. But, though this valuable present has stocked the Tasmanian and New Zealand streams, the official reports make no recognition of it; while praise and thanks were bestowed upon some who, however well they did their duty, were paid for their services. But for the energy of these gentlemen in collecting the trout ova at a time when it must have been no easy task, there would have heen no trout at this moment in the Antipodes, for no subsequent shipment of trout ova has been successful."

Mr. Nicol very fairly adds: "The whole cost of the 'Norfolk' shipment was about £700, and the colonists cannot consider that a high price for the result—two thousand salmon and an unlimited stock of tront, to which must be added the breeding ponds in Tasmania. Each of the colonial legislatures has done Mr. Youl the justice at least to record its sense of the value of his services." It is a pity they did not also thank Mr. Francis Francis and Mr. Frank Buckland for their part in the work. We need not follow Mr. Nicol further in his interesting accounts of subsequent shipments of ova from this country by Mr. Youl, Mr. Frank Buckland, and Mr. Charles C. Capel. Mr. Capel sent 1500 trout ova in 1878 to Wallace Town, New Zealand, and as they arrived in excellent condition, it is only fair to that gentleman to mention the fact that his part of the work was done, and evidently well done, when the ova arrived at their destination.

We must thank Mr. Nicol heartily for this most valuable history of the great work done by his friend Mr. Youl and the other gentlemen whose names we have mentioned.

As an appendix to this account of the "Acclimatisation of the Salmonidæ at the Antipodes," we give the following extracts from papers which Mr. Wilkie, of Dunedin, has been kind enough to send us. The first is from the

"REPORT OF THE ACCLIMATISATION SOCIETY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1881."
W. Arthur, Hon. Sec.

English Salmon.—During the year there have been the usual reports of specimens of the *Salmo salar* having been seen and taken, but as none were examined by any expert, the "council cannot state that there is yet positive proof of the success of this valuable fish in our waters." The Otago Society had joined the Marlborough Society in getting over 100,000 salmon ova from England, but they were all dead on arrival.

American Salmon.—"Neither can we find any proof of the success of the Californian salmon (*Salmo quinnat*) liberated in 1877." *

Sea-Trout.—Many of these fish have been captured in Otago Harbour; it is said the fishermen live on them; little can be done to protect them until the law is altered.

Brown Trout.—These fish continue to increase in number and size in some of the New Zealand streams; in others there is a reported falling off this year. Fish up to 25 lb. have been caught. The number of trout ova collected by Mr. Deans, the society's manager in this department, amounted to about 72,000.

The ova of trout distributed by the Otago Society were for the year 1881—to the Auckland Society, 15,000; Marlborough Society, 15,000; Wanganui Society, 6,000; to A. M. Johnston (Opawa), 2000; Mr. Geo. Denton, Wellington, 500. These all arrived at their destinations in good condition, making a total of 38,500 trout eggs safely transported distances of from 200 to 900 miles. They were packed between layers of moss in small boxes, and a supply of ice added for the longest of the passages.

The operations at the Opoho ponds, from the taking to the hatching out of the ova, may be summarised thus: Ova from Water of Leith, box 16, impregnated July 12th; eyes visible August 23rd, or in 42 days; hatched out September 27th, in 77 days. Box 11, ova impregnated July 18th; eyes visible August 27th, or in 40 days; hatched October 1st, or in 75 days. Boxes 9 and 13, impregnated August 17th; hatched out on October 26th, or in 64 days. The temperature of the water in the boxes ranged from 41° Fahr. to 53° during above hatching; and from October 20th to November 15th, the highest temperature to which the young trout were exposed did not exceed 52½°.

The young trout turned out for the year were altogether 43,245. These were made up of the last of the 1880 hatching and the first of that of 1881.

Perch.—Of perch 480 were distributed during the year.

Carp.—Of these fish 6 were sent to Mr. Alfred Bell, Waihemo.

It will be seen that this flourishing society is doing a great work. We wish it every success.

NOTES ON PIKE FISHING.

By "Saxon."

When I first began to fish for pike—now, alas! more years ago than I care to count—I was under the impression that such a voracious monster as friend Esox was described to be in all the accounts I had read of him, would require but little humouring to bring him to bag.

Surely, thought I, a lively dace was a better lure than a donkey's nose, a swan's head, a boy's leg, a dog's tail, or even a many-bladed pocket-knife, all of which in fishing stories have served to make a *bonne bouche* for our omnivorous friend, and at first I must admit that my credulity had to receive many a rude shock before I found out my mistake in supposing that anything in motion would do for a pike bait.

For several years I have lived within a couple of miles of what ought to be a first-rate pike stream.

"Happy man!" I hear some of my readers exclaim; but I am not therefore happy by any means. The river in question contains some very decent pike, I am willing to admit; but it is so abominably poached, that the rod fisher has but little chance of any extraordinary sport.

The *modus operandi* of this poaching fraternity is simplicity itself. On any pikey day during the winter months, an innocent-looking rustic may possibly be seen, with a milk-can or ordinary garden water-pot containing a dozen or so moribund roach, wending his way to the river. In his pocket are eight or nine liggers, not of the ordinary floating kind, but mere wooden stakes or pegs, with some stout cord wound thereon, a perforated bullet to anchor the bait, and an ordinary bottle cork to keep the fish off the bottom.

One of these lines he throws into a hole, sticks his peg in the edge of the river, and leaves it to its own devices. A little further on he repeats the dose, and so on, until all his lines are out. On the expiration of an hour or so, he takes his lines up. The fish, if there are any, are hauled out pretty well by main force, and the lines shifted to fresh ground.

There are two or three spots where the over-fastidiousness of the riparian occupiers puts some slight check on this style of fishing, but the rascals manage easily enough to set their lines after dusk in the afternoon, and take them up very early the next morning before the farmer is stirring.

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* At the request of the Auckland Acclimatisation Society, Professor Spencer Baird and Mr. Livingstone Stone despatched some hundreds of thousands of ova of *Salmo quinnat* to New Zealand in 1877; the ova arrived in excellent condition.—Ed. F. G.

There is not much artifice about fishing in this style. The line is stout enough to dry clothes on, and the hooks, wire-snooded generally, but sometimes on coarse gimp, would hold a shark almost, but yet—and now comes the curious part of the business—these men catch half-a-dozen pike at least for every one caught by fair fishing with the rod, and the best fish are taken by them. I confess this is a hard nut to crack, but it is strictly true.

Still, I get my share of the sport, although it is not such a large one as it ought to be; but I console myself with the idea that it might be even smaller than it is.

Some time ago I was induced to try traces made of twisted gut for spinning and live snap fishing—personally, I fish for pike in no other way—and I have found them far preferable to gimp. They last longer and are less visible in the water. Lengths of twisted gut can be bought easily and cheaply, and the fisherman should always be able to make his own traces. This is advisable on the score of economy, as well as convenience. You can make them of any length that may be required, and put on as many or as few swivels as you please.

Where gut traces are used, it will be necessary to have a few inches of gimp in the neighbourhood of Mr. Pike's teeth, which are apt to make short work of gut.

In my opinion, people are not nearly particular enough in adapting the tackle for snap fishing to the size of the bait. The hanging triangle should be well clear of the belly of the fish, and a tackle that would suit a dace of medium size would be far too short for a roach of the same length.

Indeed, the further down the pike's throat this triangle is at the moment of striking, the more likely is it to catch hold in the tongue or the softer parts of the mouth.

One trial will convince the sceptic of the truth of this. When I first began to snap-fish, I put the small single hook on much too close to the triangle, and, in consequence, I lost many fish. This, coupled with the fact that I hooked a good many only slightly in the edge of the lips and lost them after a run or two, set me thinking, and I made the necessary alteration, and, moreover, I had every reason to be satisfied with the result of my experiment.

With this pendent triangle some care is necessary in throwing out the bait, or the hooks will become entangled; but this is all the better for the liveliness of the bait, for the more gently you deal with it, the longer it will live on the hook.

I have tried hooks of many different shapes, and my experience is that those known as "sneck-bend" are far superior to all others. They not only take a better hold than the other shapes, but they appear to keep their hold much more surely. I should be glad to hear what other fishermen have to say on this subject.

It is not always easy, in the country especially, to procure dace for bait in the winter time. Roach, however, can generally be had, and these make a better bait than most people suppose. As a rule, they live longer on the hook than dace, they make quite as much show in the water, and really, after having repeatedly tried both in the same water and on the same day, I am hardly able to say which the pike preferred.

It is but fair to add that our river contains a large number of both roach and dace, and therefore the pike, when foraging for themselves, would be likely to take the first that offered. If river roach cannot be had, those caught in a pond will do; indeed, many people who have tried them both aver that pond-roach are superior to any other bait. I know I am travelling out of the orthodox road in what I have just stated about roach being equal, or even superior, to dace as a bait, but I speak from experience.

With the ordinary three-triangle, or with any modification of the Pennell flight, the roach is hardly a success as a spinning bait; but a flight must be made to suit his peculiar shape.

Two triangles with a fixed lip-hook will make an admirable flight for roach. The gimp loop may be passed through the gills of the bait, and the lip-hook pulled through likewise, and then hooked through both lips. The first triangle (which may be larger than that at the end of the flight) can be hooked firmly at the tail-end of the back fin, thus giving a spoon-like curve to the body of the bait. The second triangle stands out clear just beyond the tail. This second triangle is very useful, for oftentimes a pike will run short, or the fisherman spinning by hand on the bank unconsciously draws the bait away at a critical moment, so that Mr. Esox misses his aim. In cases like these it is possible, nay, it is extremely probable, that the triangle clear of the bait's tail will come into play. If the bait is somewhat larger than usual, it may be found convenient to hook the top triangle firmly into the shoulder, and give the crook to the body with the tail triangle.

It must be confessed that a roach seldom, if ever, spins so evenly as a dace or bleak; but I am of opinion that pike like a little wobbling. Look how a spoon bait wobbles, and yet most people will admit that, as an artificial bait, the spoon has not yet been beaten. And now a word about striking. Many fishermen strike but once when a pike has taken their bait. If you attempt to argue the point with them they will tell you that the first stroke fixes the hook or hooks, while any more are likely to pull them away from their hold. Of course, it is quite possible to pull the hooks free, but I feel sure, from my own experience in the matter, that when this is done, the hold must necessarily be very slight indeed, and that the fish would be sure to shake himself free before he could be landed.

It is extremely difficult to lay down a hard and fast rule as to the "when" of striking—experience and practice alone will teach this; but in my opinion the "how" is very easily described. Strike hard, and not merely once, but two, three, or even more times, until a kind of sawing struggle is felt on the line. To do this, you must have every confidence in your tackle, which, as far as flights and traces are concerned, should be new—that is, fresh each season.

Three or four shillings will go a long way in purchasing raw material, and every fisherman worthy the name should be able to make his own flights and traces. I generally make mine on wet days during the summer months; this gives the varnish on the lapping plenty of time to get properly dry before the tackle is wanted.

Shellac dissolved in spirits of wine with a lump of gum benjamin makes a capital varnish, and if corked up tight, it will keep good for any length of time. The stiff feathers from a partridge's wing make excellent brushes, and I always keep a bundle of them among my stores in my tackle box.

It is not easy to say where in a stream pike are most likely to be found. The safest plan is to fish all the water carefully, taking the shallow parts of the water as well as those that are deeper. Pike have their favourite haunts, and these vary much in different streams. There are spots in our river which I always fish, and where I never yet had a run.

Although I have for some years made a careful note of the wind, water, and weather every time I have been out, I am quite unable to give any rule on this subject that shall be more than general.

A good breeze is an advantage, certainly, and in our river the clearer the water the better are the chances of sport.

Pike are very capricious about biting. Sometimes they are well on the feed, while at others, under apparently just the same conditions of weather and water, one may fish the whole day and not have a run.

For a man of robust constitution, I know of few things more exhilarating than a cold, breezy day in winter time spinning from the bank; and if you wish to have some real sport as well as an anxious quarter of an hour, leave your landing net at home, and hook a lively ten-pounder where there are plenty of weeds, and the banks not convenient for bringing your fish to grass.

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE ANGLERS WHO FORMED THE DEPUTATION IN THE LORD MAYOR'S SHOW.

MR. C. HATFIELD, of 33, St. Martin's Lane, to whom belongs the honour of having organized the deputation, has sent us a very capital photograph of the anglers who carried the banner displaying the words "The Corporation and the Rights of Thames Anglers." Mr. Hatfield proposes to sell some copies of this photograph, in three sizes, *i.e.* cabinet-size, 1s., carte-de-visite, 6d.; and in large size, 11 inches by 9, price 3s. 6d. The money thus obtained will be given to the Anglers' Benevolent Society, and we are glad to hear many have been sold. Mr. Hatfield is also collecting an amount which will enable him to present a small silver medal to each of the anglers who formed the deputation, viz.: Mr. J. Clarke, Mr. Deacon, Mr, J. A. Fitch, Mr. J. K. Fitch, Mr. F. Inker, Mr. W. Parkin, Mr. C. Watling, Jun., and Mr. T. Wright. We understand that Mr. T. Crumplen has given half-a-guinea, Mr. Bates a guinea, and other subscriptions are promised. There is no doubt whatever that this demonstration was most valuable, both as advertising the matter largely, and identifying the City with the movement.

I ENJOY a good jouk or argyment, but I doun't think thet swearin' improves the flaver. I doun't think metch uv a men oo uses sitch words ez "bloomin'," "s'help me," leavin' aloun wuss. Darns in stockins is signs uv 'onist en' unobjekshinable poverty, but in conversyshin they shou a poverty of lengwidge.—*The Kaukneigh Awlminek.*

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

THAMES FISHING.—ROACH AND CHUB.

By "Creel."

Anglers should be on the alert and quite prepared, as soon as the flood subsides, and a little colour is left in the water, to take better weights of roach and chub than any the season has yet afforded. The rush of water will have well cleansed the river, all weeds and vegetable *débris* will have been removed, by the scouring of the bottom of the stream, the golden gravel or silver sand will again court the tempting bait to trip over the pebbly pavement, and the fish, for lack of their autumn salad, will eagerly accept most baits of a tasty nature. The fisherman must not be dispirited by cold weather; if his fingers are sufficiently warm and supple, the expectation of sport will keep him in a healthy glow of excitement, and with every fish he secures, he will breathe more freely the health-giving ozone Nature so unstintingly supplies him. But let him go about his work in a scientific and methodical manner. There is nothing gained by putting his rod together as he crosses the meadows—indeed, he may find he has lost a middle or top joint in the heedless haste of preparation. If this occur, let him retrace his steps—the track he had taken ought to be easily distinguished, particularly if the grass is dewy or a hoar frost prevails. And when he arrives at the banks of the stream, he may then open his rod bag, and adjust the rod and line, taking his plummet, which ought always to be found in one particular pocket, and with this try the depth within reach, say, for fifty yards up and down both ways, or altogether a range of one hundred yards, in which distance the probability is he will find a suitable swim, which ought to be from five to six feet deep, if the water is not much coloured; but if opaque, four, or even three, feet will suffice. To assure himself of the character of the bottom he should provide himself with a piece of mutton fat, and attach it to the plummet, with which he will bring up a sample of the deposit; if of mud, he should try another place until he finds gravel or sand. An even bottom consistent with the length of the line he permits to travel is indispensable; but if a gentle rise takes place at the end of the swim, not only will this arrest the ground bait from being carried too far down by the stream, but permit of the bait lodging for a time upon it in a natural and therefore a deceptive manner.

Don't let the amateur accept the notion that the roach is a silly fish, easily to be lured at the will of the angler. This may apply to small roach not worth the room in your basket, and which have not learned to hold their scales on; but roach above a quarter of a pound and upwards are as 'cute as Yankees or as cunning as Yorkshiremen. You have only to watch these patriachs amidst a shoal of comparative fry, and see how meditatively they look at the bait—how quietly they sail by it, and with a knowing cock-o'-the-eye, they give it a fillip with their tail in passing, often rewarded, if the bait is paste, by its disengagement from the hook, and then the intelligence of Mr. Roach is most conspicuous, for the released pellet is then acted upon without artificial restriction of hair or gut, and is down the throat of the clever Cyprinus rutilus, to the astonishment of his juniors, who, if they are left to live long enough, will most assuredly profit by so practical a lesson. Besides this fact, the bite of the adult roach in no one particular resembles that of the spratty fraternity. The latter dashes at the hook, carries the float over with a rush, and if the fish is not hooked, the inexperienced angler declares it must have been a "good un," by the eager way the bait was seized. Whereas the roach of a more sober and staid character approaches the bait (I am speaking of paste) with a calm and almost aristocratic dignity, and, satisfied of its bona fides, draws it in, with a quantity of water, with one inspiration which has but the slightest indication on the float, and then finding something adhering to it—the line, it, by an immediate expiration, expels it from the dangerous cavity of its mouth. Now I have had many an evening with some of the best roach fishers, and this plan of roach fishing has been discussed, the result of which was to convince me that there were a duality of tell-tales indicated by the float, although the first is by some fishers let pass unresponded to. In other words, the inspiration scarcely drew the shot on the line out of the perpendicular, and consequently did not affect the float; so the fisher waited for a second call upon "the turn of his wrist," and that took place when the shots were affected, and the bait was no longer in the fish's mouth.

There is one great error often, I consider, committed by quasi roach fishers—that is the overloading the line with shot and the use of a heavy float. The best float, in my opinion—and as it does not possess any attractions for the "butterfly fishermen," and nothing to afright by gaudy or meretricious colour, is not a general favourite—is simply the quill of a swan, with an inch or so of the feather end left for a ring to be whipped upon. This is used upon the Trent, and now, after most determined obstinacy on the part of the ancient fisherman, its use, together with the Nottingham reel, and fishing fine and far off is becoming the practice. This float does not require a cap, two half-hitches of the line preventing all slipping, and thus far again getting rid of colour, which, in my early novitiate cheated many a foolish whippy, jelly-backed jack to prefer my float to the bait below it.

Creel.

(*To be Continued.*)

George James Eaton, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[Advt.]

FROM THE LAND OF "LORNA DOONE."

Two lovely, lively, clearest of streams flow, or rather dance and run, through the woods and meadows near my house; lively, handsome trout abound in them, but they are a cute, sharp-sighted race, and have a strong objection to the intrusion of the human family, and a stronger one to being dangled at the end of a long line into the air. Readers of Izaac Walton, lovers of nature, would be sportsmen, and the practised angler are all to be met with on the banks of the rivers on many days from the 1st of March until the end of August, and amusing, exciting, and interesting are the various tales poured into the sympathetic ears of a listener. As a public individual, I am frequently applied to with the enquiry, "Is yours really good trout fishing?" Knowing as I do that unpolluted streams running direct from the mountain source, through miles of moorland, then passing a small village, next dividing miles of woodland before arriving at another village, must of necessity contain trout in abundance, my reply is always "Yes." But I am afraid that many unsuccessful fishers do not bless me when going away again. My assurance that I can nearly always depend on catching trout is not always believed, and yet such is the case. But it is a hard matter to make would-be anglers understand in what point they fail—they first blame the flies, then the weather, next the water; seldom themselves. They are generally out too soon or too late, or they lunched just at the taking time, or the fish are not at all on the feed. Probably they will only take the worm, or possibly the minnow. One unfortunate has tried everything, and finishes with the complaint that there are no fish in the water. Another says it is too early in the season or too late, the sun is too bright, the banks are too wooded, or too many rods are on the water. Perhaps the March brown is on, then everyone knows that nothing is to be done; or it is an east wind, or the fish are expecting rain. Another says his cast is too coarse, or his line is too heavy, or he had no waders, or was very unlucky, or some one had tried all the pools in front. One arrives having broken his rod, another having lost his book of tackle, and, worst of all, one has fallen into the water, and borrows my spare suit while his own is drying. One brings a small dish of eight fair fish, and paternally advises his brother anglers to always fish up-stream, as nothing is to be done in any other way. One brings six, and has only just missed a two-pounder, all from a special fancy fly of his own. The practised and (generally) native angler arrives last, bringing five-and thirty takeable fish (which are a most handsome dish), quietly laughing in his sleeve at the theory of exclusive up-stream fishing. On one occasion, two anglers, staying at the same hotel, brought in daily respectively from eight to twelve and the other thirty to thirty-five trout. The former could not understand the reason of the difference in the bag, and determined to devote one day to accompanying his friend. On their return he was pleased to say that everything was done fairly, and all the fish were caught with the fly in a sportsman-like manner. The method of his friend was to start early, to fish none but the best spots, which a long experience of fishing revealed to him, to try them skilfully and carefully, to waste no time in going from one spot to another, and to fish assiduously the whole day; and, although it was low water, with a bright sun and a sharp east wind, the average of thirty was upheld. Many beginners wish to know the royal road to fishing well: there is no such road—the lane of patience, the hill of perseverance, and the gateway of experience have in turn to be plodded, climbed, and groped to make the successful fly-fisher, and, even then, natural aptitude serves an excellent turn.

C. W. N.

NORTH-WESTERN ANGLING CLUB.

The 31st half-yearly supper of the above took place on Thursday, 23rd inst., Mr. W. Aldis ably fulfilling the office of chairman, and Mr. R. Marshall in a like manner the vice, Mr. Ernest Symons presiding at the piano. As usual on such occasions with us, it was a complete success. Our most worthy host and treasurer placed upon the tables a most sumptuous repast, to which fair justice was done by both members and friends. Amongst the visitors present were Mr. Packman, sen. (hon. sec. Waltonian Angling Club), Mr. C. P. Wheatstone and Mr. W. Jarvis (Stanley Anglers), and Mr. J. Jennings (hon. sec. Bostonian Angling Club), and letters of regret at not being able to be present were read from Messrs. P. Geen, T. Hoole, R. B. Marston, Revill, and Sawyer, upon which Mr. Hill proposed a vote of condolence with Mr. Hoole in his sad illness, and called upon those present to drink to his speedy recovery, which was done.

Upon the cloth being cleared, the chairman proposed the usual royal toasts, which were drank, and upon being called upon by the vice to commence the harmony of the evening, gave "Jack's Yarn," being followed by the vice with "The Temperance Band," both songs being well received.

The chairman then called upon Mr. Kelsey, who sang "The Powder Monkey" in his usual good style. Mr. Stead followed with "Be Happy While You Can, Boys," and received that ovation which Mr. Stead always receives whenever he rises for such purposes. The chairman then proposed "The West Central and Kindred Associations," coupled with the name of Mr. Packman, jun. In the mean time, while Mr. Packman was recovering his scattered thoughts, Mr. Dawes, a visitor from the Haverstock Cycling Club, gave "Our Boys Down at Westminster," and received great applause. Mr. Packman, replying to the toast of the association, in a few chosen remarks mentioned the amount of good work that was being carried out, and further said he could not conclude without first calling the attention of those present to the late sad bereavement that had fallen to Mr. Geen, and also the present illness of Mr. Hoole, but trusted before long to see them both back at their respective posts, as two harder-working gentlemen, in his mind, in the course of angling it was not possible to find. Mr. J. Harding, being then called upon for a song, sang the "Gay Cavalier," and an encore being called for, gave "Let Me Like a Soldier Fall," both songs being cheered lustily.

The chairman then proposed the toast of the evening, "The North-Western Angling Club," coupled with the name of Mr. Hill, the secretary, which was drunk with musical honours. Mr. Shackell then gave "Blue-eyed Nelly," and which received a very deserving reception. Mr. Hill followed, thanking the members and friends present for the very kind manner in which they had received his name, and further said it was gratifying to him to know, by the style in which the members had expressed themselves this evening, they were satisfied at the manner in which he carried out his duties as their secretary, and trusted, as long as he held the office, to continue to do so. *Re* the club business, the aggregate weight of fish weighed-in during the five months being 616 lb., made up by 28 members, calling upon those who had not assisted to make an effort during the present half year, and so hold good their names as worthy members. In reference to the financial part, he was happy to inform the members they were prospering, having commenced the half-year with £21 19s. 5d. in hand, and would finish with £27 6s. 6d., showing an increase of £5 7s. 1d., which was received with cheers. In a few concluding remarks, he called upon the members present to give him that assistance necessary to ensure success to the club by attending the meetings as often as laid in their power, and he would assure them nothing should be wanting on his part for the club to continue in the path that they had once more struck. Again thanking the members for the very kind and encouraging manner in which they had received his name, amidst cheers he resumed his seat.

The vice-chairman then proposed the health of our worthy host and treasurer, which was drank with honours, being followed by Mr. Bonvoisin presenting the prizes in his usual humourous manner, giving a word of encouragement to each as they stepped to the front, Mr. Shackell taking a very elaborate cruet, presented by Mr. Revill, of the Upper Welsh Harp, for the heaviest jack; Mr. Marshall, for the gross weight of jack in July, 10s. 6d., presented by Mr. Plumpton, jun.; Mr. North, two spinning prizes of 10s. 6d. each, by Messrs. Hatch and R. Clarke respectively; Mr. Grindley, for the heaviest jack, 1st Sunday, 10s. 6d., by Mr. Hill; Mr. Bonvoisin, gross weight of roach, pair of boots, presented by Mr. Kelsey; Mr. Marshall, ditto, 10s. 6d., by Mr. Billings; Mr. Hill, 10s. 6d., by Mr. Holmes; Mr. Hillier, pair of boots, by Mr. Gainsford; and Mr. Wynn, 10s. 6d., by Mr. Hillier. The gross weight all-fish prizes presented was as follows:—Mr. Aldis, pair of pictures, presented by Mr. Pearse; Mr. Weaver, portraits, by Messrs. Taylor and Jennings, of the Bostonian Angling Club; Mr. Underwood, pair of opera-glasses, by Mr. Shackell; Mr. Hayes, jack rod, by Mr. M. Lemon; Mr. Harris, 10s. 6d., by Mr. G. Lemon; Mr. L. Roxbee, 10s. 6d., by Mr. Lealand; Mr. Foreman, 10s. 6d., by Mr. Harding; Mr. Billings, 10s. 6d., by Mr. Harris; Mr. G. Lemon, 10s. 6d, by Mr. Culpitt; and Mr. Wynn, 21s., by Mr. Gannoway; Mr. Stead, for the heaviest perch, portraits presented by Mr. Mayman. Our late respected member, Mr. Smart, also won two prizes, gross weight all-fish, 21s., presented by our treasurer, Mr. Wetenhall, and 10s. 6d. worth of tackle, presented by Mr. Price—both of these will be handed to his aged mother.

Mr. Bonvoisin then made an appeal to the generous minds of those present for prizes for the present half year, heading the list with 21s. in his own name, being followed by Messrs. Packman, sen., Wheatstone, Jarvis, and about forty other members and friends; in all, value to the amount of £30 being given. Mr. Halse followed with "The Anchor's Weighed," which was met with applause, the amount of business, &c., to be got through not allowing of time for an encore, which was called for. Mr. Wetenhall, making his appearence in the room, replied in a short, well-chosen speech, thanking the members for the very kind manner in which they had received his name, remarking for thirty consecutive half-years he had had the honour of giving away the prizes in that room (cheers), but regretted, on account of a domestic affliction, he was compelled to forego the same upon this occasion. The chairman then proposed "The Visitors," coupled with the names of Messrs. Packman, sen., Jarvis, Wheatstone, and Jennings, being followed by Mr. Stead singing "I am Jolly well Drunk," which was received with applause. The visitors having briefly responded, and as time was drawing to a close, the chairman proposed "The Press," coupled with the name of Mr. Widdicombe of the *Camden and Kentish Town Gazette*. Mr. Widdicombe replied, and said he always felt an additional amount of pleasure in attending the North-West suppers, and he had done it now for fourteen consecutive half-years. (Cheers.) Mr. J. Harding then proposed "The Chairman and Vice-Chairman," with Mr. Bonvoisin's name added. All three gentlemen having briefly responded, a most enjoyable evening was brought to a close with "Auld Lang Syne." H.

LIVERPOOL ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

THE members of this association celebrated their third annual reunion by dining together on the 16th Nov. at the Strawberry Hotel, West Derby Road (their present quarters). A good substantial English dinner by Mr. W. Jones—host and treasurer—was provided, and about forty sat down to enjoy it. The table was neatly and elegantly set out, and reflected the greatest credit on Messrs. F. Schmidt and H. Wood, under whose hands the room was made quite attractive, and looked as if a fairy's wand had touched it. After a hearty meal the table was cleared, the company reassembled, and, with Mr. Pratchett in the chair and Mr. W. Pearson opposite, prepared to enjoy a pleasant hour or two. After the punch and tobacco had been set going, the loyal toast of "The Queen and Royal Family," was given, and suitably received. Then followed that of "The Army, Navy, and Volunteers," Captain Hoblyn eloquently responding. "The Liverpool Angling Association," came next, coupled with the name of the chairman (Mr. Pratchett), who, in reply, made one of his terse, to-the-point speeches, assuring those present of his continued loyalty to the fortunes of the society, and trusting each of them could and would say the same. "The officers of the Association," coupled with the name of the hon. sec. (Mr. R. Woolfall), was then given and received with the greatest cordiality. Mr. Woolfall, in reply, thanked the meeting for the more than kind manner in which the toast had been accepted, and trusted and believed that the same brotherly feeling common to all genuine anglers would always exist amongst the members of the association, and strongly urged upon the meeting the absolute necessity of union and the sinking of all petty and personal differences for the common good. He then gave a digest of the doings of the association during the past season, from which it appeared that the members had had eleven public outings and competitions, five in the river Vyrrnvy at Llanymynech, two "go where your please" at Eastertide and Whitsuntide, one in the canal at Rufford, one in the canal at Mollington, one in the mere at Newton-le-Willows, and one in the lake at Ellesmere. At these contests the following prizes had been won:—£12 3s. 6d. cash in various sums by the association, 5s. by Mr. J. Evans, cigar holder by Mr. Avann, aquarium by Mr. W. Jones, reel and line by Mr. Pratchett, fern case by Mr. Chandler, box of cigars each by Mr. Leaman and Mr. Perkins, 10s. 6d. by Mr. J. H. Jones, ham by Mr. W. Walker; £1 1s. by Mr. W. Pearson, and a half-barrel of beer by Mr. T. Baxter. There is also the handsome challenge cup, presented by Messrs. Ellinger and Boulding, for the three heaviest trout and grayling taken during the season at the recognised club contests, to be won twice, in different seasons, before it becomes the absolute property of any member, each winner, however, to have his name inscribed thereon. In addition to the foregoing prizes there are the following: 10s. 6d. and 10s. 6d. by Mr. J. Wilkinson, one for the heaviest basket of fish, and one for the heaviest single fish taken out of the lakes, ponds, and canals of Lancashire or Cheshire; fly-rod and reel and line by Mr. Pratchett, one for the heaviest trout or grayling, and the other for the heaviest coarse fish taken by members who had not won a prize at the end of the season; aquarium (a second one) by Mr. W. Jones, for the heaviest basket of fish weighed in at the club house and £7 1s. 6d. in cash by the association for gross weights and single specimens. Was not this, the hon. sec. asked, a grand total; and did it not conclusively prove that within itself the association had a vitality that promised a long and prosperous career? They had had a bad season, and most of the members had done nothing very big; but they were not alone in this respect, as the results of other competitions published in the FISHING GAZETTE would amply prove. In any case, their excursions had been enjoyable ones, and they must not complain if the elements had in the main been against them; this was not their fault, but their misfortune. They had now acquired the right of fishing in the reservoir at Pen-y-cae, near Ruabon, which was well stocked with fine trout, and the executive were on the track of other water which would be secured early next year if it was found suitable and within their means. In concluding, the hon. sec. appealed both to those present and those absent to simply pull together, and to avoid all jealously and differences, and they would then be assured of that success in the future they had had in the past. The "Donors of Prizes" followed. Mr. W. Walker cordially responded and promised a prize, as did also Messrs. Pearson, Chandler, W. Jones, and Pratchett, for the next season. "The Health of the Treasurer" was next given, and Mr. W. Jones replying, made a heart-stirring speech, which was enthusiastically received and applauded to the echo. Several other toasts were given and heartily acknowledged, and at the call of time the company separated, all well pleased with the evening's entertainment. Mr. O'Brien ably presided at the piano, and Messrs. W. Jones, Evans, H. Robinson, Langley, and H. Ellis—the latter being in especially good voice—sang some capital songs, which greatly added to the common enjoyment and harmony. R. WOOLFALL, hon. sec.

THE LIFE IN INFUSIONS.—If lately collected rain-water be examined in the hope of discovering any of these minute forms of life, disappointment will occur. But if some hay, or any vegetable matter be allowed to soak in pure water exposed to the air, or if pieces of flesh, brain, blood, or any animal substance, be placed in water, and also exposed for a day or two, a great many species of these animalcules, or Infusoria, the individuals being in vast multitudes, will be distinguishable. Certain kinds of these animalcules are almost invariably to be found in water in which particular vegetable or animal substances have been soaked, and a succession of kinds is often observed to occur as the infusion gets old. The free access of air is requisite for all this, and the hay and animal substances form the food of the minute creatures, whose derivation is not from the minute structures or broken-down tissues of the plant or animal. The air contains the extremely minute spores, or reproductive particles, whence the animalcules spring. There is no spontaneous generation of these animalcules, and no turning of dead animal or vegetable tissue into them. The term Infusoria, or animals of infusion, merely relates to where they are to be found in most instances, but not invariably, and it must be carefully noted that the animalcules are not derived from the infusions. Certain infusions suit particular kinds of Infusoria, and these particular species are to be found in them.—From *Cassell's Natural History* for November.

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

The river is now in prime all-round order for any class of winter fishing, and although the stream is still strong, those who know how to go to work will find themselves amply rewarded, as roach are well on lobworms, perch and minnow, jack, or anything kicksome, and chub, doing the cheese, or anything in the snail line. At Bray, Plummer, junr. has lately had three nice Jack, and some 15 lb. of perch; and at Hurley Mr. A. Arter has had two jack of 6¾ lb. each; Mr. Gersie, perch, of 1½ lb., 1 lb., 1 lb., 1 lb., and ¾ lbs. respectively, besides roach in galore, all taken with the retiring tail of lob. Thursday evening, water in first class order for any winter fishing, perch being best on of all, with minnows for bait.—MARLOW BARR.

Chichester.

On the whole the weather during the past week has been fairly favourable for piscatorial pursuits, although when "Old Sol" hides his face it has been too raw cold to make a long sojourn by the water-side. Pike have been fairly on feed, but live baiting proves most remunerative. A fish of 3½ lb. was taken, at the basin, yesterday. Roach fishing is at a discount here, except for bait. In the weekly competition Mr. Young took first prize with roach from the Rother, which is in too high flood at present to repay the journey. I hear of some fair pike from the Selham portion of the water. A clearance of weeds by the aid of a chain and ropes from the basin has been resolved on by a few energetic rodsters, when spinning may be indulged in. Large fish there are, but at present nothing but small specimens have been taken.—GEORGE F. SALTER.

Dove.

Water still too plentiful for fly-fishing. We scarcely ever remember the river being so long in a state of flood. Rain falling every alternate day or so, prohibits the settling down of the stream to anything like its customary height, and as a consequence the grayling fishing is practically stayed until more favourable weather sets in. With regard to the trout the present weather is not without its advantages for the spawning operations; the necessary migrations are being unattended with so many chances of molestation and injury in the small rills annually ascended by them—THE SPLODGER.

Exe (Exeter).

Until now we have had a very bad time of it for anglers, owing to heavy floods and gales, and the river has been very full and cloudy; it is now fining down. You no doubt saw from the Exeter paper I sent you last week our canal burst its banks between Salmon Pool and Double Locks; much damage was done, and many fish were left quite out of their element; the repairs were, however, executed with commendable promptitude, and I hope it is the first and last accident I may have to report to you. Very little sport has been had, but there is one thing that has done remarkably well, viz., "Strawson's waterproof," which is unrivalled in the opinion of most all our anglers. Thanks to the generosity of Mr. King, I gave his natural bait a good trial in a private pond, and I caught roach innumerable and several perch. Wild fowl shooting has been excellent, one sportsman at Exmouth succeeded in bringing down five out of eight Brent geese, and the wild duck and widgeon have been our neighbours for the last few days. I hope to send a better report next week.—J. A. KELLEY.

P.S.—The wind is south-west, and very warm; our creels should, therefore, have some work now.

In my last report I mentioned about the overflowing and bursting of the bank of the canal here. The town council, through the town clerk, have offered a reward of five pounds for the discovery of the offender or offenders who caused the damage by lifting up the sluice gates at the hacks, near Exe Quay. I have only heard of one good take of perch in the canal with live minnow. The river is still cloudy and thick, but gradually fining down; should the bright weather we have had to-day be continued, bank anglers will soon be well at work again. A gentleman took two pike in the river last Wednesday, 6¼ lb. and 5½ lb. respectively, and this evening we had one of the finest golden sunsets I have seen since I have been in "Sunny Devon." If the present weather continues, pike rodsters should muster good creels between this time and the sending of my next, which I hope they may.—J. A. KELLEY.

Ilfracombe.

Sea fishing has been very slack this week, owing to the weather; nothing but gales of wind until to-day (Thursday). This morning three boats caught a slant and had a short drift. They hauled four maize of herrings and a few hake. All boats are out now drifting. Some good hauls of fish are expected. The spoil has been very good from the jetty with hand lines. Several pollack and ling from 12 to 14 lb. each have been caught, and some small congers. Weather at present mild.—E. COMER.

Leicester.

Since my last report the weather has been more favourable for angling operations, and the few bright days we have had have been in favour of roach fishermen, and several have shown some fair baskets of roach and perch. At the Leicester Angling Society's preserves one of the most favoured spots lately has been at Hacks Meadow, and some very fine roach have been taken off the bottom, baiting with small red worm. Pike fishing is very quiet, although numbers have been trying the best-known spots. The best fish that I could hear of being captured was one weighing about 5 lb. The Aylestow waters are now in capital condition for winter fishing, and the subscribers to these preserves have had some good sport during this week. I heard of several brace of chub being taken. At Barrow-on-Soar pike fishing has been the principal business during the week and several out-town anglers have been rewarded by some nice catches of sizeable fish. A few of the devotees continue to pay visits to the Wreake, and some fair quantities of fish have been caught at Brooksby and Frisby. On Thursday the weather was very bright and fine, and the waters are now in good condition for fishing.—ALERT.

Ouse (Littleport).

I have had nothing to report for the last few weeks owing to the river being in flood, and the weather being so cold the fish would not draw up on the flats to feed. We got a little turn among the roach on 23rd and 24th inst., the weather being a bit mild on those dates. On 23rd, Mr. C. Howe, of Thurfield, near Royston, got fourteen roach, going 5 lb. the lot. I also got about the same weight; on 24th, Mr. George Bassingbourne got 13 lb. good roach, in a little over 4 hours; since that date they have again been off the feed. The water would have been down nicely into its bed by Saturday, but I am afraid a heavy rain we had this morning will make it unfishable again for several days.—C. SOUTH.

Ouse (Blunham).

For some weeks past these rivers have been very much flooded, but now they are in first class condition for fishing, with a good chance of sport.—S. P.

Thames (Chertsey).

Looking at the water to-day dropping quietly by the boughs where I have seen several good jack break away, it looked tempting for paternoster, and one or two places for floats, nice cosy nooks, water along the boughs as bright as summer time. I had a peep at a favourite place further off, where I had about three hours with Mr. Allen once. We took eight jack not less than 5 lb., and the largest 8 lb.; and I have had good takes besides at the same place. The water is all that one could wish, high, but I always get the best jack then. Presently comes rain, and then we shall be again done for a time. Whether I shall get a customer in time I do not know, but if I do I shall have some good takes to account for.—JAMES HASLETT.

Thames (Eynsham.)

Last week I was unable to send you a report of angling, owing to the rise in the floods and the general rough weather we had here, but I hear that a few jack and perch were taken in the quiet spots off the floods. A distinguished angler from town paid us a visit this week. I went with him to the Evenlode on Wednesday, and a nice day's sport we had amongst the roach, perch and chub; but the rain Wednesday night, which was very heavy, caused the water to be in such bad condition on Thursday that nothing could be done. Altogether the floods have receded considerably, and we hope very soon to be able to fish in the Thames in this neighbourhood.—W. B. HOWE.

Thames (Goring).

Water now a little thick, in good order for roach fishing; by Sunday, if it keeps fine, water will be in good order for all round fishing; I have had two days fishing since my last report, best day, one jack, 4 lb., and some good perch, largest perch about 1 lb.; prospects at present look well for the next few days.—JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Oxford).

Last night's heavy rain has slightly altered the height of the Cherwell, but the Thames still continues in splendid condition; the water is slowly subsiding, and the grass is at last beginning to show, brown and slime covered, on the soddened meadows, but the miasmatic effluvia which arise from the rotten vegetation is not quite so fragrant as "Araby's balmy breezes." On Saturday I tried the Holywell Mill Stream, and the back water at Mesopotamia; but after wading for about 300 yards, and getting thoroughly wet about the legs and generally uncomfortable before I could reach the banks of the river, when I arrived there I found it impossible to fish, so I gave it up as a bad job and came home. The same day Mr. Gray had a few good perch and roach, at the base of the old dog kennels, a continuation of the piece I was trying, but I cannot give their weights as I have been unable to see that gentleman. On Sunday I only managed to get as far as the Fisherrow, but no sport had been obtained there. Mr. Corbett was out one day at Kirklington on the Cherwell, but he only caught one chub of about ¾ lb and a few fingerlings, which were returned to their native element. He tells me that the water meadows are still badly flooded, and that the water was beginning to thicken. The big jack I mentioned last week was a canard, emanating from a—I suppose I must say—gentleman, who aspires to the title of angler, and it was put about for the benefit of a friend of mine, who reports for another leading sporting paper. Why we unfortunate senders of news are to be considered the butt of every idiot whose shallow brain is capable of hatching a lie is beyond my comprehension. I hope he is satisfied with his work. If he is, I do not grumble, or wish to interfere with his innocent amusement, and I think every right-minded person will agree with me that he has justly earned a right to be considered a consummate liar.—CHERWELL OTTER.

Thames (Richmond).

The fishing of the last week has not been so good as I expected, owing to the heavy rain of last Thursday night and the cold winds that have been blowing during the week. The water is now in capital order, and, with reasonable weather, I anticipate some good sport during the next week.—JOHN BUSHNELL.

Thames (Twickenham).

Wind, N.E.; the weather like spring, and the water has run off lower than we have had it for the past six weeks, and I am pleased to say we have commenced work again and have had some very good takes. This day Spong has been out with Mr. Munford, of Islington, and caught nine dozen good fish, and Mr. Barlow and friend, with Ted Brown, took a nice basket of fish. Tides suit for whole-day fishing.—ALFRED PERRIN.

Trent (Newark).

Water came on to-day high, thick, and unfishable; no sport as far as I can learn, for the past week. Prospects for the next few days *nil*, unless a decided improvement takes place in the water. The fish in the Trent are having another close time, for it is nearly eight weeks since we had a chance of wetting a line.—THE TRENT OTTER.

Trent (Nottingham).

Although running at a great height, the river in this district on Thursday was in excellent condition for bottom-fishing, with either worms or maggots. The flood-water quickly ran off, and on Tuesday the gentle swims were fishable above Nottingham. Some nice lots of dace were got with the cockspur worm in the Wilford Allotment; and on Thursday a basket of splendid roach came to hand from the vicinity of Stoke. A few bream were also caught. The weather was all that could be desired, and in the upper reaches satisfactory accounts reached me of the doing amongst roach and dace. In this instance nearly all were caught with maggots. Apart from the river, the pike contingent have been very busy in the lakes and reservoirs. On Tuesday, a friend of mine took two fish, the largest weighing 13 lb. and the other 6 lb., besides letting four others escape. Several very large fish have also of late been taken with the spinner in Mansfield dam.—The Man at the Clubs.

Wharfe (Yorkshire).

There have not been many anglers out during the past week, neither has the river been in proper condition for grayling fishing. I had a turn last Saturday on a preserved length of the river in company with one of the best fly-fishers in Wharfedale. The weather was something fearful, a sudden tornado of rain and hail recurring about every hour. The river was very full and discoloured, but by the advice of my companion I stuck to the quiet back eddies and places where the becks ran into the main river. At the close of the afternoon I had nine nice grayling and I consider that I earned them, as at times my hands were so benumbed as to render it a matter of some difficulty to hold my rod. I gave half-a-dozen to a friend in Leeds who told me yesterday that two of the largest were full of spawn. I did not see it to form an opinion, but think that they must have been feeding upon trout ova, as they could not possibly be spawning themselves at this season of the year.—Francis M. Walbran.

Witham (Boston).

The rain which I spoke of last week has caused considerable rise in the waters around this centre; but by Monday most of the drains and other streams, except the Witham itself, were again in angling trim. The main river is not yet in condition, but is running down fast, and supposing the present weather holds, will soon be affording its accustomed sport. In consequence of the state of things prevailing, there has been little pike-fishing done. And no wonder. There can be no pleasure in patrolling the banks of the streams just now under any circumstances, for many of the meadows are more like quagmires, and the work, besides being uncomfortable, is positively laborious. Some few, however, have been killed on the Stickling drain, and also at Cherry Corner; and on the South Forty-foot, near the junction of the Twenty-foot, and at Wyberton Bridge. No heavy fish has been amongst them, but two or three went to from 5 lb. to 6 lb. At the last-named place some nice perch were killed on Tuesday with worm. On the Boston drain there have during the week been a few fairly good roach takes, and also some on the Aqueduct water, but this kind of sport has been limited to a few instances, and those in the middle of the day. A sharp frost, and afterwards snow and rain, stopped the anglers on Wednesday; but as I despatch this circumstances are more favourable.—The Yellow Belly.

Wye and Derwent.

Both rivers have run down nicely during the last week, and will soon be all right for fly-fishing, especially the Wye, which ought to yield some good baskets of grayling next week between 12 o'clock and 3.30 p.m. The furnace and dyed hackle flies will be found to kill grayling well up to Christmas, weather and water permitting. Fish are found to rise the best at this season of the year in the deep, slow runs. Sport all up and down the Derwent with the Bottom fishers during the week has been first-class, and good baskets of both grayling, roach, and dace have been killed by the aid of cockspur worms and maggots for baits. Weather greatly improving.—Geo. Jas. Eaton.

Yare (Norwich).

The weather has again been most unfavourable for angling in this district, only those who can seize the favourable opportunity being able to get at their favourite pastime, it being really no use making any arrangements in advance, as the probability has been that severe gales and storms would prevail. One member of the Champion Angling Club was at Brundall last Saturday, and was successful in landing a nice lot of very fine-conditioned roach. Another member of the same club took several good jack, one turning the scale at 16 lb. These were all taken spinning with the Pennell flight, and I am quite of opinion that no bait can be more deadly that a nice dace, well arranged on one of these flights. I mean during the coming season to persevere in this direction, and will let you know the result. We are hoping for a change of weather during the next month, when jack fishermen should be busy. Hail, rain, snow, and sleet have to be faced at present by the ardent lover or the angle.—Robert Moll.

Yore (Hawes).

I was out a short time on Saturday last and got a brace and a-half of grayling weighing over 1½ lb. Fish under half-a-pound are the exception in this district, although they seem to be the rule in the lower waters of the Yore, according to Mr. Walbran's report of last week. Snow fell in considerable quantities on Monday last. Tuesday was a most favourable day, but no anglers out. To-day (Thursday) the water is in fine trim, and is likely to remain so for the next few days, as the barometer is rising.—Jos. Corry.

CLUB REPORTS.

ACTON AND EALING ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Tuesday, Nov. 21, we had a quiet spread at the George and Dragon Hote, High Street, Acton, after which the president, A. C. Bocking, Esq., presented the prizes that have been won this season up to that date. Mr. W. Howell took a gold pin, first prize, and 10s 6d., the latter for the largest fish in the competition. Mr. Townsend took second prize (for second gross weight) 24s., which was a sweepstake of 2s. each, subscribed by the twelve competitors in this match. Mr. A. Eydmann took, as third prize, a rosewood winder, with set of lines and floats complete. Mr. T. Eadbrook, in another competition, was first, winning a pair of fishing boots, value one guinea; the second and third prizes were not taken, owing to the state of the water, the match having been fished when the floods were out 3 weeks ago. The healths of the officers was drunk during the evening, the prize-givers' and the winners' healths were also drunk; all the gentlemen responding in brief and suitable terms, especially the chairman, who works hard for the welfare of the club, as does the vice, Mr. W. Eydmann, and secretary, C. Simpson. Since the supper another competition has been fished, the result being: Mr. W. Eydmann, 1st, winning waterproof coat; Mr. W. Howell, 2nd, roach rod; Mr. T. Eadbrook, 3rd, silver-plated fruit basket: Mr. Cook, 4th, a splendid time-piece. Mr. W. Eydmann had a capital show of roach, dace, perch, and one rudd from Eel-Pie Island, which we thought a fish rarely caught in that locality. Perhaps Mr. Marston, in one of his useful footnotes, will say if such is the case or not? Are they common in the tide-way? I forgot to say before mentioning this competition that some capital songs were given during the evening of the supper, one of which was composed and sung by the secretary for the occasion. Our vice-president has presented a handsome silver cup, under glass shade, to be fished for on Saturday, Monday and Tuesday next. The conditions are from the bank, only any public water, jack only to weigh, the largest fish to take the prize, not the gross weight. We have had some capital shows this past fortnight, the heaviest take being by Mr. Slatter; the least quantity, if any at all, by—Black Bag.

AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Arnold, roach, 4 lb. 1 oz.; Mr. Carrington, dace and perch; Mr. Dwelley, roach, dace, and chub; Mr. Lewis, bream; Mr. Hunt roach and perch; Mr. W. Lake, roach and perch. The annual supper will take place in the club room, Dec. 11, and the distribution of prizes on Wednesday, Dec. 20. —T. Worledge.

Nov. 26.

ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Very few of our members were out on Sunday, the 26th, Mr. A. Shakle saving the club from a blank with 3 lb. roach from the Lea.—D. Davis, secretary.

ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Augustus Harris, Esq., proprietor of Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, has granted, in the most generous manner, two nights during the run of the pantomime for a ticket benefit in aid of the funds of the Anglers' Benevolent Society. Full particulars will be duly published.—R. Ghurney, secretary.

BERMONDSEY BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Frost saved a blank on Sunday with fish from Pulborough. The half-yearly supper takes place on Tuesday next at 7.30.—A. G. Crocker.

BRISTOL GOLDEN CARP ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

The distribution of prizes won at the contest described in your last publication were presented to the winners on Monday evening, there being a large gathering to witness same. The prizes were of good value, consisting of several tackle books, well-furnished rods, several sets of jack tackle, reels, landing nets, bait tins, fishing baskets, several sets of artificial baits, cruet stands, birds and cages, with many other valuable prizes One given by Mr. Hamilton, the talented artist and photographer, of Paul's Street, Kingdown (£2 2s.), who, on the day of the contest succeeded in taking several groups, also one of the committee, in a most artistic manner—a great number of the photographs being purchased by the members present. The evening's proceedings passed off in a most satisfactory manner, each winner being much satisfied with the prize he had won. Arrangements were also made for future contests, many prizes being again promised; and also arrangements as to an annual dinner, &c.—J. W. Hadden, president.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed in on the 26th:—Mr. Nitz, a jack 3 lb. 2 oz., from the Rye House, and Mr. Castell, roach, from Rickmansworth. On the 10th December we fish a pegged-down match at Weybridge for four prizes. Our return visit on Tuesday was well attended, twenty-two clubs being represented, viz., The Amicable Brothers, Amicable Waltonians, Hoxton, Brothers, Great Northern, City of London, Odds and Evens, North Eastern, Knights of Knightsbridge, Good Intent, Star, Eustonians, Little Independent, Bermondsey Brothers, Anchor and Hope, Barbican, Beresford, Bostonian, Buckland, Crown Piscatorial, Duke of Norfolk, Peckham Brothers, and the United Brothers from Deptford. We had some good singing by the following gentlemen:—Messrs. Watts, Frost, Neale, R. Smith, Burwash, Martin, Jennings, C. Watling, Vanhagan, Stevens, Stidolph, Sparrow, Page, A. Barr, Fitch, Gottschalk and Pratt. Mr. Watts, of the United Brothers, in the chair, faced by Mr. Frost, of the Bermondsey Brothers; Mr. Benningfield, pianist. The next visit will go to the Odds and Evens.—Cas.

GOOD INTENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

There was not many fish brought to the club on Sunday last. Mr. Cox, jack; Mr. W. Hughes, jack; Mr. Maybury, roach. The prizes for November were taken by Mr. G. Bates, first; Mr. Maybury, second; Mr. Donovan, third. The members will fish at Bourne End for 12 prizes on Sunday, December 10th, all pegged down.—R. Murphy.

HAMMERSMITH UNITED ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday, the 19th, Messrs. Lewis and Reynolds had dace and roach from the tidal waters. Messrs. Aldridge and Walters had roach and chub from private water on Thursday. Mr. Lewis, roach and dace from Kew Bridge, and Mr. Reynolds, roach from Brentford Docks. On Friday Messrs. Steadman, Burbidge, and Lewis had dace from Kew, and the two latter weighed in on Saturday. Mr. Hitchcock, fishing at Kew on Sunday, had some roach, and and Mr. Lewis, dace, and Mr. Pitts, 6 lb. 3 oz. of perch and roach from Henley. Next Thursday being quarterly night, the subscriptions are due; and members are desired to attend, as arrangements for Mr. Pitt's prize and a tripe supper will be made.—Argus.

IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The two special prizes given by Messrs. C. Green and T. Dennison, jun., for the heaviest weight of any kind taken on the four Sundays in November, were were won by Messrs. G. Manning and G. Wood. The half-yearly distribution of special prizes took place on Wednesday, the 29th inst., on which occasion the members had a supper, which was put upon the table in a very nice manner. Mr. A. Rogers (the host) occupied the chair, Mr. G. Wood the vice-chair. After the cloth was cleared the chairman, with a few very appropriate remarks, presented the following prizes:—W. H. Hawks, a pair of lace curtains; H. Butt, a music-stool; G. Bliss, a cruet stand; J. Barnes, a box of cigars; H. Butt, a sewing machine; G. Wood, a fireguard; W. Mecham, a rod; J. Barnes, a lamp; G. Manning, a gold ring; W. Mecham, a work entitled the "Fern World"; H. Auburn, a pair of slippers; W. Mecham, angler's knife; W. Wilkinson, a silk umbrella; G. Wood, two fancy cabinets. After the prizes were given, the chairman presented the secretary with a fishing box, stating it was from a friend who did not wish his name mentioned, saying it was given as a mark of the esteem in which he was held. There was seven special prizes, the conditions of which are to be arranged by the members on the next meeting night. This brought the meeting to a close. The remainder of the evening was spent in harmony; and after some capital songs and recitations, a vote of thanks was given to the chairman.

MARLOW ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday last the members of the above association held a fishing competition for two prizes, first prize a jack rod, second a roach rod; five punts starting for the above, the weather being very uncomfortable, the wind enough to blow you out of the punts, and sport so bad that some of the competitors did not stand it; fish would not bite. At four o'clock, the time to weigh-in, only one jack, 3¾ lb., was caught, and five small perch; the former prize by Mr. Stockbridge, and the latter prize by Mr. Scott. Afterwards an excellent dinner was provided by Miss Compere, of the Complete Anglers Hotel, when about thirteen sat down, the chair being taken by J. Rawson, Esq., vice-chair by R. Jackson, Esq., hon. sec. After partaking of the good things provided, which was the best bite of the day, the remainder of the evening was devoted to some excellent songs given by Dr. Shone, Mr. C. M. Footitt, Mr. Bedford, and others. The evening was brought to a close at ten o'clock.—A. Maskell.

RODNEY PISCATORIALS.

The members of this society will compete for four prizes in the association water at Weybridge, in the river Wey, on December 3, 1882. All fish to weigh according to society's rules. I am requested by the members of this society to return their most sincere thanks to the donors of the following prizes:—Mr. and Mrs. T. Hughes, £6 6s.; Mr. G. Lee, £6 6s.; Mr. G. King, £1 1s.; Dr. Canton, £1 1s.; Mr. Hatmon, 10s. 6d.; Mr. G. Hockley, silver-plated tankard; Mr. R. Grant, a handsome bronze lamp. I also return my sincere thanks for the able manner in which they have assisted me in my endeavours to form a society among my brother anglers in this neighbourhood, who, like myself, have only the one day in the week which they can devote to angling. In regard to the society, I must say that we are in a flourishing condition, as our balance sheet will show when produced on Wednesday next, our quarterly night, on which occssion all prizes won during the past quarter will be distributed. Messrs. Grant and Chaplin will represent this society at the meeting to be held at the Foresters' Hall, on December 6.—Pixie.

November 30.

ROYAL GEORGE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed in on Sunday last:—Mr. Wood, 4 lb. of roach; Mr. Parsons, 2 lb. of roach; Mr. Guynan 4½ lb. roach and dace; Mr. Chapman, 1½ lb. roach; Mr. Palmer, 3 lb. roach; Mr. Bernhardt, 1 lb. roach. —C. W. W. Bernhardt, hon. sec.

Nov. 30.

SILVER TROUT ANGLING CLUB.

In the report of the half-yearly dinner in the Fishing Gazette last week, the name of Mr. John Pascoe was inadvertently omitted amongst the vocalists on that occasion. Mr. John Pascoe is a rising baritone, and the skilful and pleasing rendering of his songs were most highly appreciated and loudly re-demanded. His services thus kindly given to the Silver Trouters are deserving of of every acknowledgment.—B.

SOUTH LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 26th six of the South London fished six of the Walworth Waltonians a pegged-down match at Sawbridgeworth for a supper, the losers to pay. The weather was bad, very cold, and the wind so strong that the Stort was a miniature sea; there was no telling when had a bite. There were only two roach taken, weighing 5½ oz. They were taken by the Walworth Waltonions, who won. The take could not have been much less; but we were informed the river had been netted five times in the last three weeks, so we could not expect much.. Weather and take of fish excepted, both sides declared it was one of the most pleasant days they had spent. There was not a hitch in it; and we, the South London, hope to meet them with better weather next time.—G. H. Field.

ST. JOHN'S ANGLING CLUB.

The members of this club had reasons to be well satisfied with themselves on Sunday, the 26th, for every tray in the club was full of fish. The following is the list of members and places:—Mr. Rushton, perch and roach from Windsor (the perch were all good fish); Mr. Fudge, roach, dace, and jack from the Lea (the dace and jack was in splendid condition); Mr. Hunt, perch from the Thames; Mr. Clark, some fine chub from the Thames; Mr. Thorling, roach and dace from the Colne; Mr. Stevens, roach from the Lea. Messrs. Bray, Leacock, Mathews, Hebben, Reynolds, and Wolf were out, but had very bad sport, as the water was out of condition and the river Way all over the fields. —F. Thorling.

Nov. 27.

THE JOVIAL ANGLERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

I have the pleasure to inform you that we had a fishing competition on Sunday last for three club prizes; 1st for the heaviest fish of any description, 2nd for the heaviest weight of fish, 3rd for the second heaviest gross weight. Our "Jovials" turned out in earnest, and, although the weighing in was not very heavy, it showed that we had all been doing our best. Messrs. Steade, Webber, and Davis were the successful competitors. At the same time, it gives me a pleasure to tell you we keep adding to our members and funds. The water here now is in capital condition, and there are some splendid roach being taken to-day (Nov. 28).—Harry Platt.

THE LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Wednesday evening we held our half-yearly supper, which proved a great success. The brother members and friends sat down to a sumptuous repast, provided by our esteemed host, Mr. W. Loomes, which reflected great credit both for himself and our worthy hostess. After supper, Mr. Brown, of the Coffee House, Charlton Street, Somers Town, taking the chair, and Mr. Pipe the vice, Mr. Brown opened the harmony with the old song, "The Little Brown Jug," and was followed by Mr. Pipe with "The Slave Ship," both meeting with great applause. After that the following gentlemen obliged:—Mr. Letch, Hurwood (Titmus of the Phœnix Angling Society), Mr. Matthews on the whistle, Mr. Hopton sang "My Lively Polly" in fine style. Mr. Revill, of the Upper Welsh Harp, who could not attend, sent £1 to be spent towards the harmony, and promised a handsome present towards our fishing contest. Mr. Brown (Coffee House) likewise gave some valuable prizes to be competed for; also, Mr. Price gave us a handsome prize. The pianist, Mr. Brown, played throughout the evening in a manner thoroughly appreciated by all. The evening closed with everyone being only sorry it ended so soon.—W. H. Evans, secretary.

Nov. 30th, 1882.

THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

At the weekly meeting on Monday evening last, at Ashley's Hotel, Coven Garden, with Mr. H. J. Inderwick in the chair, Mr. Thomas Huggett has been again to the fore by weighing in from Henley 15 lb. 2 oz. of good perch, the largest 2 lb., and a tench of 3 lb., 4 oz. The capture of that quantity of fish in water that was out of condition, furnishes another example of Mr. Huggett's skill and perseverance. He was highly complimented by his fellow members, but the best compliment they can pay him is to follow his example and add to the society's gross weight of fish in the register book. The prospects are regarded as very favourable for the club competition on Monday next.—B.

TRAFALGAR ANGLING SOCIETY.

A few members of this society were out on Sunday last, but their usual bad luck was with them, only two small fish being taken by J. Gaze, fishing the Thames at Sunbury Lock, viz., a roach and dace, weight 8½ oz; water very high, but a good colour. A visit will be paid to this society on Monday next, December 4th, hoping to see a good muster of brother anglers.—J. Gaze, hon. sec.

WALTON WALTONIANS.

The result of the competition that took place between this society and the South London last Sunday ended, after a great struggle to get fish on both sides, in favour of this society. Two of the six that represented this society, Messrs. Bayley and Delchaye, junr., managed, each of them, to land a roach. This is the second competition between these societies, and on each occasion "The Southeron" has come off second best. Never mind, W. Breewood and Co.; better luck next time. We will have it out in the supper.—Pixie.

WALTONIANS.

On the 22nd Mr. Rushbrook weighed in 3 lb. 5½ oz.; Mr. Malcolm also weighed in. On the 26th Mr. Starr had 3 lb. 14¾ oz. of roach; Mr. Packman, 2 lb. 8 oz. of roach. Messrs. Malcolm and J. Moose also weighed in fish.—A. Marriott.

Nov. 28.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

Re International Fisheries Exhibition and the London angling clubs.

A meeting of the representatives of angling societies will be held at the Foresters' Hall, Clerkenwell Road, on Wednesday evening, December 6. The conditions originally decided upon by the International Fisheries Exhibition Executive Committee having, after careful consideration, been so altered as to meet the generally-expressed views of loan exhibitors, should remove all difficulties, and leave the meeting on the 6th nothing to consider except how best to acknowledge the concessions made by the executive by getting club representatives present to pledge their societies to send their, in many instances, magnificent collections of preserved fish and other trophies in such numbers as to make a display worthy of the anglers of this huge metropolis.

The Cavendish Angling Society has been removed to the Duke of York, Wenlock Street, City Road.

I was glad to read that Mr. Crumplen's valuable services received recognition at the hands of his brother members. There are none among the foremost representatives of the London anglers ever ready when called upon to make any effort or sacrifice of time and money to promote the interests of their brethren, or those of the sport we all love so dearly, more deservedly respected than Mr. Thomas Crumplen, and nothing short of a serious indisposition, accompanied by violent physical pain, prevented my being present on so auspicious an occasion.

The half-yearly supper of the North-Western Angling Club took place at the club house, the Lord Southampton, Southampton Road, Haverstock Hill, on Thursday evening, November 23rd, between 50 and 60 members and friends sitting down to partake of the capital repast provided by host Wetenhall. Messrs. Aldis and Marshall faced other in the chair and vice-chair respectively, and among the visitors present were Messrs. C. P. Wheatstone, Jarvis, Jennings, W. Packman, Clark, &c. A number of capital prizes were presented to the successful anglers, quite a formidable list being made up to be fished for during the coming half-year. Some first-class songs, toasts, &c., made the remainder of the evening pass pleasantly, and only too quickly.

The usual monthly meeting of the United London Anglers' Central Committee will take place at the Bald Faced Stag, Worship Street, Finsbury, on Monday evening, December 4th; Mr. S. Morgan in the chair.

A West Central Association, No. 2 District, visit will be paid the Trafalgar Angling Society, George and Dragon, Greek Street, Soho Square, on Monday evening, December 4th.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

BAYONET-POINTED HOOKS.

Sir,—One very often hears complaints made by anglers that, after having hooked a fish and played it, it has got off. This is due in most cases, especially in fishing for pike and leather-mouthed fish, to a fault in the hook, not having been "barbed"—I mean driven home. Penetrating power in the hook I have always considered an essential in fishing, and on purpose to have my hooks in the sharpest condition, I constantly keep a fine watchmaker's file in my pocket-book, and use it when necessary. But there is something more than sharp pointing required, if you want the fullest and quickest penetration, and that is to have the hook's point, from the barb, instead of being round, as it is now in all hooks, made three-edged—or bayonet-shaped. I do not know that the idea is new. I have never seen a hook for sale so made, and I have taken my idea from practical experience. Both the surgeon and the shoemaker know how easily the skin can be pierced by a bayonet-pointed or triangular needle, and how difficult it is to stitch a wound or sew leather with a round one. Hence, for the last few years, I have often filed my hook-points to this shape, with the most marked advantage, having found that the slightest touch will drive them home; and if the hook touch the fish anywhere, there is little chance of its escape—such is my experience. As a pattern, I sent to Messrs. Hutchinson and Son, Kendal, a surgical needle (as enclosed), and from it I have received patterns (as enclosed) which, for penetrating power, I should think are unsurpassed. Any shape of hook can be so pointed, and I feel sure if such pointed hooks were used once, the angler will feel inclined to discard all others.

I have given Messrs. Hutchinson the privilege of making these hooks in their manufacture or sale. I have no monetary interest.—I am, &c.,

John Brunton, M.A., M.D.

Nov. 27, 1882.

P.S.—Sample of hook is untempered. I could give many instances of the value of this hook, but do not wish to encroach too much on your valuable space.

[We think this is a *very capital idea.* The bayonet-shape *must* be better, for the simple reason that the sharp sides of the point *cut their way in,* whilst the round point has only the sharpness of the extreme point (which may be equal, of course, in both shapes) to rely on for making the hole.—Ed.]

YOU NEED NOT FEAR THE BLACK BASS.

Sir,—I have your two letters of October 18 and November 3. Have just returned from the Adirondacks, or would have replied before.

In regard to black bass and their relations to other fish, it will be well to bear in mind that while they feed to some extent upon small fishes they do not confine themselves to that diet.

There are no large cyprinoids in America except the so-called "chubs," *Semotilus corporalis* and *S. bullaris* (both of which are the *Leucosomus corporalis* of Günther, Catalogue Fishes, Brit. Mus., vol. vii, p. 269). These grow to a pound weight in some parts, but are not plentiful anywhere. Other cyprinoids are called "chub" also, but few grow to over a finger in length. You have several large fishes which come within this family, as roach, dace, &c., and they should be able to breed freely and resist the bass, which is not as greedy as a pike. Your pike have not yet depleted your waters of other fish, and I doubt if the bass will do it. I think your anglers will prefer bass-fishing to the less exciting barbel, bream, and dace, and will do their share in keeping the Yankees within a reasonable limit as to numbers.

It seems to me that the best place to look for a solution of the question of extermination of other species is not about New York, where the bass have only lived for a dozen or more years, but to the south and west, where they are indigenous. The rivers of Florida, Georgia, the Carolinas, and Virginia, as well as those of the states on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers and the great lakes, have always had black bass in them, and they contain plenty of other fish. Those waters swarm with *cyprinidæ* and a related family of soft fins, the *catostomidæ*, which we call "suckers," from the mouth being formed for sucking mud and worms from the bottom. You have not these fishes, but in some of our rivers they grow to six and more pounds in weight.

As for "worms" in the bass, it is true. At certain times of the year, say in August, our perch, *perca fluviatilis*, bass and other percoid fishes have a burrowing parasite, whose life history appears to be unknown, which looks like a larva of some insect, but may not be one, and many will not eat the fish then. I have eaten them, as I have taken worms in cherries; in fact, I never look for them nor care about them.

Perhaps your fish will not have them if they have now passed from them.—I am, &c., Fred Mather, fishing editor, *Forest and Stream.*

New York, Nov. 16, 1882.

[We measure from the platform on which the caster stands. Sometimes he was a foot or more back from the edge where the measure begins.—Ed.]

BITES LOST WHEN ROACH-FISHING.

Sir,—"Anti-Theory" cannot have the slightest conception of the number of roach bites lost out of every twenty by ordinary roach-fishers—not crack Lea roach-fishers. We must really bar these, my friend, "Anti-Theory," for I have heard some of these said crack Lea gentlemen are so fearfully clever that I have been given to understand if the fish only smell the paste it is all up, and the roach knowing this, that is one reason they so seldom catch a good dab. The next time "Anti-Theory" goes out roach fishing with paste, with the fish in the same peculiar humour as described, in fact, "not on," let "Anti-theory" honestly state how many bites he loses out of every dozen, and I think even he will be surprised.

Examples:—The very day I wrote the letter on bread-fishing there was an ordinary roach-fisher paste-fishing for roach on the opposite bank, and I will undertake to say he lost five bites out of six—yes, and his float went under nearly every time. I have seen hundreds of times some good roach-fishers lose three bites out of six in the Trent, Thames, Ouse, Colne, and Mole. Now, there is variety enough for you. The last time I was at the Mole there were some very clever London roach-fishers fishing with paste, and I will undertake to say they lost three bites out of six. Why, even "strict pegging" with the worm, you would be surprised, Mr. Editor, the number of bites lost in comparison with the fish hooked, especially with dace. I am fully borne out by "The Trent Otter." See his article on roach-fishing in his new work,* and if he is not a practical roach-fisher I should like to know who is. In fact, I actually received a letter from him last week quite coinciding with my "*theory*," and I was quite delighted to think that such a master of the art agreed with me. If I have very much amused friend "Anti-Theory," he has a great deal to be thankful for, for it is no joke to amuse people in these dull times. An angler belonging to a London club—you can have his name if necessary—told me some of these crack Lea roach-fishers would sit on the banks of the Lea the whole day and be content to take away five or six decent fish, say ¼ lb. each, perhaps one would be ½ lb. I should like to know how many bites they lost on such occasions. Will R. Woolfall kindly answer my question? He is quite right, I am dreadfully querulous. I believe people generally are when they want information. Pope, I believe, was called "a little crooked thing who asked questions," and everybody knows why he asked those questions and the splendid use he made of the information. I am excessively happy to inform friend Woolfall I have at last regained my equilibrium, and if he will keep his promise I shall be very grateful.

I suppose he is laughing at my idea of saying the pike might have swallowed the roach tail first. Poor fellow. I have not had a pike fourteen months within reach of my hand for nothing; and there was a good deal depending (in more ways than one) on the answer to my question. However, let him read the letter in your last issue signed "C. S. S.," which I sincerely hope and trust may alter his opinion.

Mr. Woolfall, fair play, if you please, but no punning! What, a secretary in all the majesty of office, lowering himself to follow such a commonplace pursuit! I am not only dreadfully sorry, but more "discontented" than ever. Has it ever struck you, Mr. Editor, what a particularly dull place this world would be if everybody was contented?

Thank heaven, that is over; now to business. It may interest, and mayhap amuse "Anti-Theory," to know that the last time I visited the Welsh Harp, I lost so many bites, it would not only make his hair stand on end, but very likely come off altogether, if he knew all. The failure was too complete to be passed over lightly, so, from mere curiosity, I asked five or six other anglers how they had fared, and the answer was the same in every instance, "We can get plenty of bites, but catch very few fish." And in an angling career extending over nearly forty years I have heard the very same remark from the very best anglers, both living and dead; and few knew the reason why, that is more.

I never said, or even hinted at, crack roach-fishers losing four bites out of six. I said "they were often and often too late." I say so still. My words were: "In fact, I know—and you know—ordinary roach-anglers will lose four bites out of six." I say so still. It appears to me "Anti-Theory" does not even know the difference between a "crack" and "ordinary" roacher. The sooner he finds out the better. And the next time "Anti-Theory" goes roach-fishing with paste, crack or no crack (especially if he puts on the great round pieces I have seen used), I should feel obliged if he would take an account of the bites missed in every twenty. I have watched most minutely hundreds of roach-fishers when they have been using paste, and taking one man with another, they have always lost quite as many bites as they have taken fish. That is my experience.

Facts are stubborn things, and I have an idea the result would rather astonish him. Now for a few remarks on roach-fishing by the "Trent Otter"; see his new work, page 84. I should imagine he is a man practical enough for all ordinary purposes. Page 84, we read:—"How many times has an angler seen his float give a hardly perceptible bob, and has waited until he has had another and more decided one, and then found, on striking, that his bait was gone, and there was no fish on his hook." Let "Anti-Theory" carefully read the reason of the above, and then read my letter, "Fish at the Aquarium," and he might say—"Why, one has copied the other." But such is not the case. I allude to where he describes the roach "blowing" the paste out of their mouths, and so eluding the hook—see page 85.

It is, nevertheless, true anybody can catch roach sometimes when the fish are quietly sucking down the bait and hooking themselves, but it is not very often he is "on" like that.

This is wonderfully true—page 85 again—"But the big fellows in a quiet water, when they are not well on, are not to be taken by anybody."

On the same page—"More roach have been lost by waiting for a trifle—for a second bob—than have been taken."

On page 88, again, when fishing with gentles for roach—"The angler strikes time after time, and yet cannot hook his fish." And then he tells you, in the most masterly manner, why.

In conclusion, I cannot help remarking what a strange thing it is a man should want to put his knife into you because you happen to be of a different opinion to himself.

Our friend, "Anti-Theory," seems to forget I am not speaking of roach-fishing at a time when, as the "Trent Otter" says—"Anybody can catch them," but when they are in that particular, fastidious, peculiar, finicking, lackadaysical humour as described, when a "crack" roacher has all his work cut out to nail them, leave alone an "ordinary" roacher.

However, sincerely hoping "difference of opinion," &c.,—you know the rest—I am, &c., Mark Antony.

N.B.—I should certainly like to hear what a few "brethren of the roach pole" have to say on the subject—it is positively getting interesting. Whoever would have thought that a visit to the Aquarium would have caused such a hubbub?

P.S.—If R. Woolfall, Esq., did not think it a most extraordinary and "astounding" incident, why take the trouble to be at so much pains to describe the occurrence, and publish it?

[We hope some other roachers will give their experience on this matter. Our experience is that there are times when you can kill fish at every bite, and others when from some peculiarity in the biting you miss 50 per cent. at least. What does friend "L. B." say? or Charlie South? or Mr. Pattison of the P.S.? or Dr. Cooper? or other well-known roach anglers?—Ed.]

ROACH BITES AND CRACK ROACHERS.

Sir,—I have read your reply to "Mark Antony's" theoretical effusions on angling matters, and, as "Anti-Theory," would like to have the opinion of some of our Lea cracks, not that I consider myself an adept at roach-fishing—still, from my own personal experience and assiduous practice for the last 25 years at the favourite sport of roaching, I think I may claim to know a little about the subject, and am prepared not only to back myself, but a good dozen of my friends, who are well up to the game, that we each and every one of us will strike ten out of twelve bites. I think myself that the great secret in missing fish is on account of the toughness of the paste; and I should certainly consider that he can be but a very poor roacher who could not only catch his fish, but know how to make his paste. Roach-fishing in the Lea is not as it used to be: the great difficulty now is not in striking the fish, but in getting them on the feed.

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* A work every angler should read.

Can any friend give us poor Lea roach-anglers the tip to get them "on"? We should soon prove the contrary to "M. A.'s" statement. I daresay at first we might miss a few on account of the stiffness of our arms, but that would improve in a very short time, and he would be, as our friend "Anti-Theory" states, but a very poor specimen of a "roacher" who could not hit his fish ten times out of twelve.—I am, &c., J. F. Waters.

STRIKING ROACH.

Sir,—I am not by any means a "crack" roach fisher, but know how to hit a fish pretty well, and quite agree with "Anti-Theory" that to miss four out of six knocks in fishing with paste is not only enough to make your hair stand on end, but to turn grey.

I should certainly give up the sport and take to something else if I were to miss fish in that way. I manage, as a rule, to hit eight or nine fish out of very dozen fish; but I have frequently watched some "Lea cracks," who rarely, if ever, miss one in two dozen knocks.—I am, &c., E. W. A.

FEATHERS, FLIES, &c.

Sir,—Referring to "Arncliffe's" note regarding blue game fowls, although "Blaine's Rural Sports" distinctly states that South Wales is the place *par excellence* for obtaining fowls of that breed, I, although a resident in the principality for some years, have failed to meet with the variety.

Perhaps some of your Welsh correspondents will place us right on the subject. Local fly-tiers, both professional and amateur, use the Spanish or Andalusian blue hackle for winged flies, and coot or dotterel for buzz, and disclaim all knowledge of the blue game—unless, indeed, it is the hackle tinged with brownish or brassy edges, and these I consider are very unsuitable for tying the blue dun, yellow dun, and other flies requiring pure blue hackles.

"Arncliffe" asks for information of the red caterpillar. I find the most killing method for using Foster's particular dressing for trout is by sink and draw, working it up and down close under the banks in deep pools, especially when the river is full and slightly coloured. I sometimes stick a gentle on each of the hooks, but I do not think they are particularly advantageous.

I have not done much with it, as I seldom use it; but I remember one afternoon last season getting nine fish rather above the average size with it, when I could do nothing with ordinary flies. The water at the time had a slight brown hush on it from mine pollution.

In hot weather and low bright water it is to me useless; but perhaps I do not know how to use it.

As it was my query that drew from Mr. Hall his very clear and instructive letter on dressing on the eyed-hooks, allow me to thank him most cordially for it. I, too, have seen some of his handiwork in fly-dressing, and all I can say is, I would give my best rod to equal it.

As "Arncliffe" has some dotterel feathers to spare, will he sell me a few? I have nothing to offer him in exchange. If it is blue Andalusian pullets he requires, I will tell him where to get them, or eggs, if he will write me, and I have no doubt but that you will, sir, kindly forward his letter to my address.

Good furnace hackles I find exceedingly rare—I mean those more particularly with the black-tinged edges. These are indispensable in dressing the fatal coch y-bondhu with us. The ordinary kind with the black middle are common enough. I would remind you of the letter you have for me, and herewith send my postal address. I thank you in anticipation for your courtesy.—I am, &c.,

Cardiff, Nov. 26, 1882. Bittern.

THE BATTLE OF THE STYLES.

Sir,—This time I must beg to differ with V., who is enthusiastic upon the Thames style of fishing in opposition to the Trent style, his main argument being the advantage in handling and manœuvring his bait, and delicacy to be obtained in the actual feel of the line when playing a fish. Now, I must claim that the Nottingham mode is as capable of manipulating the bait, particularly the various artificial baits so often used, as the Thames method, and I think many well known anglers will bear me out. As to the question of playing one's fish, I fancy there are many occasions when the Thames fisherman would give much for his line to be snugly coiled upon his reel than dangling about his feet, or mayhap scorching his fingers beyond endurance during the first and succeeding runs of a good Thames trout or large pike. I am also satisfied that during a long day's fishing the Nottingham disciple will certainly excel the Thames man in his number of casts by reason of the line not becoming entangled so frequently, if at all. Your correspondent says that your Fishing Gazette Tournaments prove the superiority of the Thames method, and he samples the distances cast by the professionals. His argument fails when he applies his test to the amateurs, and had he compared the competitions where the Thames and Nottingham styles met in actual rivalry he would have found that the Nottingham exponents secured both prizes for accuracy and distance. Probably this goes for nothing, as the excitement and novelty of the situation might affect some men more than others—still there is the fact. No doubt "Secretary" was wrong in suggesting a man spinning (Nottingham) should turn his back to the position he is going to fish previous to actually throwing. He should most decidedly keep his eye upon the spot, and let his skill manipulate his rod ready for the cast sideways or overhead.

Now, sir, to summarise: I am bold enough to say that before many years are past the Thames method will be ignored, if not forgotten; that all anglers should practise to acquire the Nottingham style (I know it takes a long time); they will then be able to fish anywhere and for any fish, and as Mr. Martin ("Trent Otter") says in his book you referred to last week, they will be able to fish *fine and far*—far finer than the Thames man, who cannot use an undressed fine line, and with practice they will feel they may become almost as accurate and independent as the fly-fisher, and experience the same delightful feelings of an angler who wants no boat or level platform to pursue his much-loved pastime.—I am, &c., Thames Nottingham.

SPINNING FOR PIKE—NOTTINGHAM v. THAMES STYLE.

Sir,—I read with interest the article "Discussion at our Club," in the Fishing Gazette for Nov. 18, and endorsed every line of it with the exception of the position of the hands when throwing: the left hand must be above the reel, and the right hand immediately below it, the forefinger acting as a "brake" on the outer rim of the reel, and so prevent its over-running itself and causing an entanglement, which all young beginners are apt to experience. I have also read this week the imaginary conclusion of the discussion by your correspondent "V.," and I maintain that either on the bank, wading, or in a punt the Nottingham style is not only the most effective but more graceful. You may also make fully two casts while the Thames fisherman is making one. I also maintain that you can with your rod when spinning in the Nottingham style impart equally as graceful leaps and dashes to your bait as your Thames fisherman can. I remember some short time ago spinning from a boat in the company of a gentleman who used the Thames style. The result was five fish to me and one to my friend, who was continually getting his line entangled either in the boat bottom or by the line catching some obstacle as the bait was being thrown out, or he either threw too hard for the amount of line he had coiled out, or he did not throw half hard enough, and could not recover the line until the bait was fast on the bottom.

In casting the bait from the reel you must incline your head and body sideways, but not necessarily turn your back upon the place you wish your bait to alight.

I admit that at the F. G. tournament the distances thrown in the Thames style were further than the distances thrown in the Nottingham style; but I think forty yards is quite far enough for all practical purposes.—I am, &c.,

York Sher.

FISH CREELS, &c.

Sir,—Would you, or any of your subscribers, kindly inform me through your valuable journal of the best way of keeping fish distinct from food, tackle, &c., in a rather large basket, as I do not like the usual way of putting fish in a bag and then in your basket, as the fish can't readily be seen, and at the same time I don't think it looks "nice"?—I am, &c. Crystal.

Bristol.

[We never keep the tackle and lunch in the same creel with the fish, but carry them separately in a light leather bag, hung over the other shoulder. "Crystal" should have wo light tin compartments made to fit, one at each end of his creel, leaving space for the fish in between—this will keep the food from getting a fishy flavour, and the tackle-book, &c., from dirt. Fish keep best in a perfectly air-tight creel, and for next season we are thinking of having our creels lined with waterproof canvas. We abominate all bags for carrying fish; if you happen to slip and come down on the bag you spoil your fish to a certainty, and it is the same in travelling—the fish get mashed up fearfully if carried in a bag. The north-country wooden box is the best thing, but it gives an angler the appearance of a milliner's assistant. We think the French creel, made waterproof as we suggested, will be *the* thing.—Ed.]

FISH AT THE AQUARIUM.

Sir,—I must apologise for the delay in answering your note with the enclosed. As I daresay you observed when you saw the black bass, they were more or less injured on the tip of the under lip, caused by the violent rolling of the ship during the heavy weather experienced by the ship during their passage across the Atlantic.

In every case of injury, whether in confinement or in a state of nature, fish, in my experience, are always attacked by what appears to be a fungoid growth; if they survive the injury, they cast off this fluffy appearance, as have done the whole of the black bass here, with one exception, and that appears to have commenced this process.

All the fish sent to me by the Marquis of Exeter are in good health and feed well, with the exception of one which died an hour after arrival. I have every reason to believe that I shall be able to keep in as good health and as successfully the black bass as I have the Thames trout, which have now been here so many months in perfect health, and which are the admiration of all who understand fish who see them. If your correspondent would care to see the trout spawned in the course of a few weeks, and will send me his name and address, I shall probably be able to convince him that fish may be kept in confinement, and that not in the wretched condition which he seems to infer.

Of the forty-two carp kindly presented by Sir Robert Harvey, M P., last February, I have not lost a single specimen; but one of the disadvantages of associating aquaria with places of amusement is that some of the visitors dine before viewing the fish.—I am, &c., John T. Carrington.

WEIGHT OF GRAYLING.

Sir,—Can you inform me the greatest weight grayling attain in this country? I have caught them at Lössæt in Norway 8 to 10 lb. in weight. Do they run to as much here.—I am, &c., J. Hewetson.

Putney.

[A five pound grayling is a great rarity in this country.—Ed.]

A LEGAL QUERY.

Sir,—In reference to Mr. R. Woolfall's question, the 7th and 8th of George IV., cap. xxix., sec. 35 enacts, "That if any person shall at any time be found fishing against the provisions of this Act, it shall be lawful for the owner of the ground, water, or fishery where such offender shall be found, his servants, or any person authorised by him, to demand from such offender any rods, lines, hooks, nets, or other implements for taking or destroying fish which shall then be in his possession, and in case such offender shall not immediately deliver up the same, to seize and take the same from him for the use of such owner. Provided always that any person angling in the daytime against the provisions of the Act, from whom any implements used by anglers shall be taken, or by whom the same shall be delivered up as aforesaid, shall, by the taking or delivering thereof, be exempted from the payment of any damages or penalty of such angling."

I cannot say if this Act has been repealed, or others have been made; if not, it is certainly illegal to convict after the rod and tackle have been destroyed or delivered up.

It is much to be regretted that some "anglers," when told that they are trespassing or that the fishing is preserved, reply with insolence and, in some cases, blackguardism, instead of a polite apology, and thus all are made to suffer for the faults of a few. It is easy, except in rare cases, to obtain information about fishing, and whether preserved; also if leave is likely to be granted. If information cannot be obtained, civility costs nothing, and often ends in an invitation to continue fishing. Much damage is often done to hay, crops, &c., by the "thoughtlessness" of anglers, and one can hardly be surprised that permission is so seldom obtainable.—I am, &c.,

Dalston. C. T. Padfield.

MANCHESTER AND DISTRICTS AMALGAMATED ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

Sir,—Just a line in reply to Mr. Ashworth's letter of last week. In it, he says the trout weighed in January last is the only instance when this class of fish has been weighed in for a prize during close season. Does that mean that they allow rough fish to be weighed in during close season—as I know they have no rule to the contrary? As to my not writing till October, I will explain. The subject of this particular trout being taken out of season was brought before the delegate meeting in January last and left over till April. At the April meeting Mr. Ridgway's notice of motion was given; at the July meeting Mr. Cribb's proposition was carried. This, of course, appeared on the minutes, and as the secretary is generally very late in sending them out—I did not know what had been done till October 1, and then I thought I was perfectly justified in writing to the Gazette. I may also say that I am no renegade from either his or any other society, nor have I any private grievance, nor do I wish to bring his society into disrepute, as I consider they have already done that for themselves.

With regard to the 6 oz. jack, I think Mr. Ashworth is trying to guess who I am, and his guessing appears to be as far from the mark as his replies to my letters. I may say that up to March last I had never saw the water, consequently I could not have taken the jack, and his letter is the first intimation I had of one being taken.

As to Mr. Ashworth's members not being ashamed of anything they have done, I should only be surprised if they were, as shame seems to be a scarce commodity with them. I don't understand why Mr. Ashworth should object to my signing myself "Trout," unless it is that, unlike the other trout, I have not been caught. But so long as my opinions are right, I shall not be ashamed of signing myself Trout.

Nov. 28, 1882.

THE RAVENSBOURNE.

Sir, I notice in your last Gazette a mention of the Ravensbourne River, and recollect many years ago I used to fish in it, and killed fine trout about Catford Mill and above, and all the coarse fish—dace, roach, &c.,—were of the finest kind from any river I ever fished.

It takes its rise from the same source as the Wandle, and would yield the same results, if taken up by our energetic London anglers, and can be made one of the best trout rivers in England. It is some miles long, and may be worth an enquiry.—I am, &c., Fly-Fisher.

November 30.

SALMON ANGLING ON TWEED AND TEVIOT.

In consequence of heavy rains both rivers came down in full flood on Wednesday week, the gauge at Kelso Bridge registering fully four feet of flood water, thus putting a stop to angling for the time being. So quickly, however, did the river subside, frost having again set in, that anglers recommenced operations on Friday, notwithstanding the fact that the colour of the waters was much against success. Reverting, however, to Tuesday, the 21st, we may state that the Earl of Howe, on the Birgham water, killed six salmon; the whole of the fish being got after half-past twelve o'clock, and the weight of which were, 29½, 25, 18, 17, 17, and 15 lb. respectively. On Friday, on the Junction water, Mr. Drummond, Ednam House, killed three salmon, the weights of which were 21, 18, and 15 lb. respectively. On the Hendersyde water, the same day, Sir George Waldie Griffith had a brace, and a similar number was killed by Captain Griffith on the under Hendersyde water. On Saturday the rivers were still very full, and of a really bad colour; and on the deep-water "casts" angling was almost impossible; but, strange to say, that veteran angler, Mr. Denison, fishing on Birgham Dub, had excellent sport, killing five salmon, the weights being 30, 24, 20, 20, and 20 lb. respectively. Taking into consideration the heavy state of the water, and also its "snow-broo" colour, this take was certainly something astonishing, the more so as all the other waters in the neighbourhood were fished blank, with the exception of Ednam House (Junction) water, where Mr. Moffat killed a brace of salmon, one 24 and the other 18 lb., while only one of 20 lb. was killed on Sprouston water by Mr. T. Pringle, fishmonger. This take stamps Mr. Denison as one of the most expert salmon anglers who ever handled rod or threw line over the monarchs of freshwater. The elements on Monday were rather more favourable, and fair sport was got on all the "casts." On Birgham Dub Mr. Denison had three, 20, 18, and 17 lb. On Floors lower water Mr. Walker, Scarborough, got a brace, 31 and 19 lb.; while on Floors upper water Mr. Forrest had a similar take, 15 and 16 lb. On the upper Hendersyde water the same day Sir George Waldie Griffith had one, and on the Hendersyde water Capt. Griffith killed one, and on the upper water Colonel Beden one of 24 lb., while Mr. Somervaille, Edinburgh, on the Sprouston water killed a beautiful grilse of 9 lb. On the Ednam House water, the same day, Mr. Drummond had a 15 lb. salmon. Tuesday was a good day for angling, and sport was fair all round. On the lower Sprouston water Mr. Caldwell had one of 20 lb., and on the Hendersyde lower water Sir G. W. Griffith a brace, while Capt. Griffith had three on the Hendersyde water. Mr. Moffat fishing on the Junction water, had three, 25, 20, and 18 lb. On Birgham Dub Mr. Denison killed four salmon, 20, 19, 17, and 14 lb.; he also landed a kelt, which was returned to the river. Mr. Walker, on Floors lower water, got a brace, 19 and 20 lb., and on the upper water Mr. Clapham, Broomhouse, Dines, killed four, heaviest 20 lb. On Tuesday, on Birgham Dub, Mr. Denison killed a brace, 20 and 16 lb. On Floors lower water Mr. Goall, Kelso, had a pair, 22 and 17 lb., and on the upper Floors water, Mr. Walker, Scarborough, killed five fish, the heaviest weighing 25 lb. On the Junction (Ednam House) water Mr. Drummond killed one of about 20 lb., and lost three others. On the Teviot Mr. Adam Lamb, Kelso, had a couple of salmon, the heaviest being about 20 lb. In the Galashiels district, on Friday, on the Fairnilee water, Mr. Cape had one 24 lb., and Mr. Robert Shortreed, on the West fishings, had one the same weight. The rod salmon angling season closes to-day, and a *résumé* of the season will appear in our columns shortly.—Maxwell, Kelso, Nov. 30.

THE GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

This society met on Tuesday last; Dr. Defreiz in the chair. The secretary announced that a specimen pike of 16½ lb. had been weighed in by Mr. G. R. Hunt, a statement that was warmly applauded. During a pleasant discussion upon angling topics, Dr. Brunton produced some hooks made specially for him, from his instructions, by Messrs. Hutchinson and Son, of Kendal. The peculiarity of these hooks lay in the nature of their points, which are bayonet-shaped, giving them, it was explained, a penetrating power over all other hooks. The idea, or principle of action, was taked from the triangular-pointed needles used by surgeons and glovemakers. No one would suppose how difficult it was to pierce skin with a round needle till they tried it, or, on the other hand, how easy it was to do so with a surgical needle, as was demonstrated by experiments on a leather glove, much to the surprise of several of the gentlemen present. Dr. Brunton narrated some of his experience with hooks so pointed, stating that if the hook touched the fish it was sure to penetrate, the wound made by the point greatly facilitating the passage of the hook beyond the barb, or its "barbing," as commonly called. Notice has been given of a special meeting on Tuesday, December 19, to consider Mr. Parker's resolution that life members and country members be admitted to the society. Dr. Brunton will read a popular scientific paper before the society on Tuesday next, at Masons' Hall Tavern, "On the Special Senses of Fishes," the paper being illustrated by diagrams; the chair will be taken at 7 p.m., and all anglers interested are welcome to attend. Mr. T. R, Sachs attended as a visitor on Tuesday last, and was very cordially received. The treasurer and secretary were present at a large gathering of anglers on Thursday evening, November 30, held at the club-house of the South London Angling Society, one of the oldest and best societies south of the Thames.

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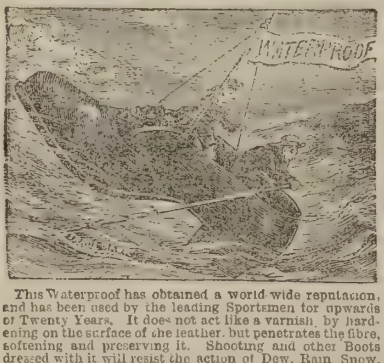

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3.15	The Troubadours ...	10.30
3.30	Vonaie—Contortionist...	10.45
3.45	Mr. Harry Hawke and Miss Witty Wren ...	10.0
4. 0	The Tilly Family ...	8.30
4.15	Wilson Bros.—Treble Parterre Act ...	10.15
4.30	Astarte ...	8.45
4.45	The Lenton Brothers—Acrobatic Act ...	9.0
5.0	Maud and Charley Ross—Speciality Singers	8.15
5.15	Coopers Performing Lions ...	9.15
5.30	Miss and Willie Beckwith ...	9.45
6.0	Organ Recital by Mr. Albert Lowe...	—

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AT PRICES TO SUIT ALL.

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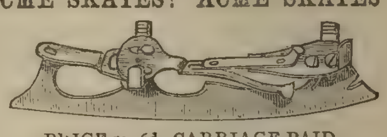
CONDITIONS OF SALE.—As soon as you receive the Skates, if not well satisfied with your bargain, write to us, and we will return you the money.

ACME SKATES! ACME SKATES!!



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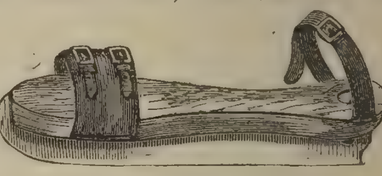

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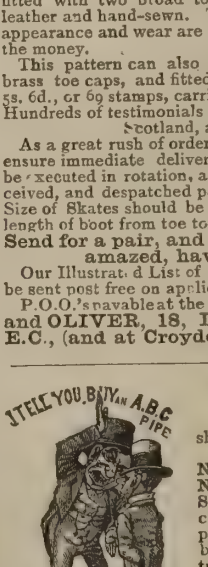
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Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., must be addressed to the Editor of THE FISHING GAZETTE, *No. 12, Fetter Lane, London, E.C.* and should reach the office not later than Tuesday morning.

Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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ADVERTISEMENTS.

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N.B.—All Remittances must be sent, and all Cheques and Money Orders must be made payable to Messrs. SAMPSON LOW, MARSTON AND CO., the Proprietors.

The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1882.

A HINT TO THAMES ANGLERS.

WE earnestly ask all anglers who fish the River Thames to read the first letter in our Correspondence columns this week. It is from an angler who himself is ever ready to support any good cause by his contributions. That there should be only too much need for such a letter, is a thing which Thames anglers ought to be ashamed of. We venture to say that Mr. Thomas Spreckley himself, in addition to the immense amount of work and time which he so willingly gives, also gives from his own purse more towards the improvement of Thames angling, than do all the anglers and angling clubs of London put together. Is this fair? No; and we must all come forward and show him by our subscriptions that we appreciate the work he has done, and intend to support him in carrying it on even more extensively.

SCOTCH FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION.

INTERIM REPORT BY THE COUNCIL TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE HALF-YEAR TO NOVEMBER, 1882.

MR. J. BARKER DUNCAN, Hon. Sec. of the Association, has sent us a copy of the half-yearly report, from which we make the following extracts :—

As formerly, the Council of the Association have though it proper to submit an Interim Report against the half-yearly meeting of the members, though such is not required by the rules.

Membership.—The number of members (individual and corporate) continues at 160. The council regret the retirement from the Association of Sir James R. G. Maitland, Bart., who, whilst one of their number, was most active in promoting the objects and interests of the society. Sir James placed the society under special obligation at the time their first report was issued, by kindly allowing his Norwich Prize* Essay on the Salmon Disease to be printed and circulated along with that report. By the deaths of Captain N. S. Kennedy, of Allerton, and Mr. Robert Lindsay, Tighvonie, the association has lost two valuable members.

The Scotch Fishery Board.—Since the issue of the second annual report in May last, a very important step has been taken by the present Government. The "Fishery Board (Scotland) Act, 1882, introduced by the Lord Advocate, the Solicitor-General for Scotland, and Mr. R. W. Duff, of Fetteresso, M.P., received the royal assent on 18th August last. It provides for the establishment of a Fishery Board for Scotland, and makes provision for the same taking cognisance of everything relating to its Coast and Deep Sea Fisheries, without inference, however, with existing public authorities or private rights. But what is of special interest to the members of this association is the further provision that the board shall also have the general superintendence of the Salmon Fisheries of Scotland.

* * * * *

When the bill was before Parliament, the council forwarded a memorial to Lord Rosebery and the Lord Advocate, expressing cordial approval of the measure, and respectfully suggesting certain amendments, with the view of improving its efficiency.

Now that the Act is passed, the council are much gratified to find that Scotland is at last to be placed on a footing with England and Ireland by having an inspectorate of its own. The annual report, which will fall to be issued by the board, will be a means of affording valuable information regarding our Scotch Fisheries, and will form a yearly record from which statistics long wanting may be compiled.

It is only needful briefly to advert to the opposition which from certain quarters was offered to the Bill in Parliament. It is believed that this opposition was founded on quite a mistaken understanding of the character of the measure. It is subject for regret that one object gained by the opponents was the exclusion of the Tweed and its tributaries from the operation of the Act.

The council feel that it is due to Lord Rosebery and the Lord Advocate to say that the passing of the Fishery Board (Scotland) Act reflects, through them, the highest credit upon the present administration, inaugurating as the Act does a marked era in the history of the Scotch Fisheries.

The Old Fishery Board met for the last time on Monday, the 16th October, for the purpose of being dissolved in terms of the Act.

* * * * *

Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State has appointed Archibald Young, Esq., Advocate, Inspector of the Salmon Fisheries of Scotland under the Act. Mr. Young is well deserving of this appointment, having for fifteen years past faithfully and successfully discharged the duties of a commissioner of Scotch Salmon Fisheries, and having during that period acquired a thorough acquaintance with their details and requirements.

Her Majesty has been pleased to approve of the appointment of Captain Dugald Graham of the Northern Lights Steamer "Pharos" to be secretary of the new board.

Amended Legislation.—In the memorial recently submitted to the Earl of Rosebery and the Lord Advocate, by the council of the association, in support of the Fishery Board (Scotland) Bill, the following representation was made:—"That your memorialists being in communication with almost the entire body of fishery associations and angling clubs in Scotland, they feel entitled to express the general opinion of these associations and clubs, in suggesting that fresh water trout should be taken cognisance of in some form in the present Bill, so as to bring this class of fish under the superintendence of the board along with the salmon-fishings. In Scotland, where there are numerous rivers and lakes well suited for the breeding and nurture of non-migratory trout, and, in many instances, wholly unfrequented by salmon, no statutory protection of any kind exists, and no close time is fixed."

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* A £10 prize given by the Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE.

In the returns obtained by the council, in 1881, from Scotch angling clubs and associations, all were unanimously in favour of an annual close time for trout.

Now that Scotland has an inspectorate of its own, there can be little doubt that before long proper protection will be given to trout, and a fence time fixed by law, a consummation as devoutly wished for by English as by Scotch anglers.

Fish Culture.—This science is rapidly advancing and becoming more widely known in Scotland. Many millions of trout ova are now annually incubated at the Howietoun Fishery,* Troutdale Fishery, and Solway Fishery. The Tay commissioners still annually turn into the river Tay many thousands of smolts, and the council are informed that the Tweed commissioners have been making inquiries as to the probable cost of the erection and management of an establishment for hatching a million of salmon ova annually in connection with the fisheries in the Tweed. In August last the District Board for the river Forth had some 13,000 salmon fry turned into the Teith, near Ochtertyre, the eggs having been incubated at the Howietoun Fishery. Amongst other stocking operations, it may be mentioned that Messrs. John Anderson & Sons, Edinburgh, have, during the past winter, incubated some 40,000 to 50,000 eggs in their hatching-house at Cobbinshaw Loch, the fry from which were turned into the loch in the course of the spring. The hatching-house, which was erected some three years ago, has now been enlarged, so as to provide for the incubation of 150,000 eggs annually.

As showing what angling clubs may do in this direction, Mr. John Clark, Secretary of the Echaig Club, Glasgow, reports as follows:—"The operations in salmon hatching at Benmore, Kilmun, have been carried on for the last few years with very marked results, not only in the greater number of salmon caught, but in the increased weight of the fish. Prior to the first introduction into the hatching boxes of ova from the Tay, the grilse usually caught weighed about 3½ lb., rarely exceeding 5 lb., salmon weighing about 7 lb. Now we seldom get a grilse under 5½ lb., whilst the heaviest salmon caught this season weighed 18½ lb. In Loch Eck, fish have been taken with the net weighing nearly 30 lb. We turned into the river this spring, after the umbilical sac was absorbed, about 80,000 young salmon from Tay and Tweed ova."

The Lochleven Angling Association have placed in the loch 3000 two-year-old trout, besides turning into the Gairney—one of its feeders—some 50,000 fry. It may be mentioned that the directors of this (the Lochleven) association have resolved to erect hatching-ponds in connection with the loch.

* * * * *

In England, angling clubs and associations have of late been leasing and stocking waters. In Scotland, it is thought this might also be done with immense advantage, seeing that from wholesale and unsportsmanlike capture of fish, pollutions, &c., our streams have been, and are still being, notoriously depleted. Why, for example, should the reservoirs of our Water Trusts and Municipal Corporations not be more largely stocked than they are? Mr. Byram Littlewood, of Huddersfield, a well-known English pisciculturist, has, it is understood, turned into the Huddersfield Corporation Reservoirs, at various times during the last five years, somewhere about a million of different kinds of trout and char. In large bodies of fresh water, animal life, in the shape of insects and grub, more or less abounds; and the presence of fish, especially trout and char, is known to improve the water by keeping down such. The Paisley Water Commissioners have, it may be stated, let the fishings of their various reservoirs to parties resident in the Burgh, who have formed themselves into angling clubs. In some cases the leases have been for periods of years, and in other cases simply annual tacks. The lessees attend to the stocking, and in one of the largest reservoirs have placed some 5000 young fish.

In the vicinity of Edinburgh there are some thirteen reservoirs, which supply the city with water. Why should these, or some one or more of them, not be leased by the Edinburgh angling clubs, or a united association of these clubs, and systematic stocking be followed out? Indeed, why should the Water Trustees, recognising the salutary effect of the presence of trout and char, not make a special grant each year for the proper stocking of their several waters? Annual expenditure would no doubt be recouped by the issue of angling licences, at say 2s. 6d. or 5s. each, for the year, and under restrictions as to the size of fish allowed to be taken, the lures to be used, &c.

Under the control of the Edinburgh and District Water Trust, there are 13 fine reservoirs, with a combined area of 1122 acres. What splendid fishing these might most easily be made to yield!

* * * * *

Angling Clubs.—A number of angling clubs and associations have been formed during this year, and the council are now in communication with about ninety of such societies in the various districts of Scotland.

Fish-Passes.—The council feel that the subject of fish-passes is one that touches closely upon the improvement of Scotch Fisheries.

* * * * *

Pollution.—The prevention and curing of pollution in our rivers and streams is another important object of this association. When skilled chemists have reported that there are ways and means of obviating disastrous results of this kind, there can be no excuse for offences so distasteful and wanton, besides being so hurtful to public interests.

* * * * *

Fishery Exhibitions.—In quick succession to the recent International Fisheries Exhibition at Edinburgh, a Maritine Exhibition was opened at Tynemouth, on 6th September last. The chief departments of exhibit were naval architecture and marine engineering; although there were also departments for fisheries and life-saving and coast-lighting appliances. The exhibition was continued open to the 14th of October, and was very largely visited—the total number admitted being somewhere about 250,000. Like other exhibitions of the same class, it has been a financial success, the committee having announced that they are able to predict a substantial surplus.

But all exhibitions that have hitherto taken place in the United Kingdom must be held as only preparatory to the Great International Fisheries Exhibition, to be held in London in 1883. A prospectus has been issued showing how powerfully the scheme is to be supported—Her Majesty the Queen being chief patron.

In every division of the catalogue, England will, it is understood, be fairly represented. From Scotland there is (as yet) to be only a partial and limited collection, and a want of representation exists in the principal interests of the Scotch fisheries. Of course, it is not too late for this to be remedied by any society, committee, or other agency, capable of gathering together a representative collection for national and philanthropical objects.

If a committee for Scotland were to be successful even now in procuring a fully representative collection, the London committee would no doubt be both willing and glad to provide room for it.

* * * * *

Salmon Disease.—This scourge still exists. Many thousands of fish have been killed by it during several past years in the Tweed, the Tay, the North Esk, and in other Scottish rivers, including those flowing into the Solway Firth.

In the twenty-first annual report of the inspectors of fisheries for England and Wales, issued in April last, Professor Huxley, at very great length, treats of the character, symptoms, and effects of the disease.* The fungus which grows on diseased salmon is known to be a species of the genus *Saprolegnia*, and it is commonly identified with *S. ferax*. The *Saprolegnia* appear to be "a kind of water moulds, which usually live at the expense of dead and snbmerged animal and vegetable substances, and are specially common upon dead insects," &c. The report, amongst other things, states that "the disease appears to be a purely cutaneous affection, and the fish seem to die partly from irritation and consequent exhaustion, and partly perhaps from the drain on the resources caused by the production of so large a mass of vegetable matter at their expense."

* * * * *

New Fishery Districts.—In September last, the bye-laws requisite to bring the Orkney Islands under the scope of the Salmon Fishery Acts of 1862 and 1868 received the sanction of the Secretary of State; and it is understood that the bye-laws for erecting the Shetland Islands into a fishery district have been drawn up by the commissioners of the Scotch Salmon Fisheries, and will shortly be submitted to the Home Office for the sanction of the Secretary of State.

On behalf of the council,
J. BARKER DUNCAN, Hon. Sec.
6, Hill Street, Edinburgh, November, 1882.

At the half-yearly meeting of the association, held in Edinburgh, on November 30, Mr. David Milne-Home in the chair, the report was discussed, and some valuable suggestions made in connection with questions referred to in it by the chairman, Mr. T. G. Murray, Dr. C. Bell, Mr. Handasyde, Mr. Johnston, Mr. Gordon Mason, Mr. Archibald Young, Principal Williams, the Hon. Secretary, and other gentlemen.

As we said when noticing the first report, this young but energetic and flourishing association is doing a most valuable work, one which cannot fail to prove of immense advantage to the interests of the important Scotch Inland fisheries. In wishing the Association every success, we know we are only expressing the feelings of all English anglers; as also that Scotland will be worthily represented at our exhibition next year.

NEW FISH FARM ON THE TAY.

We learn that the Tay Fishery Board have just completed the erection of a salmon hatchery, after the model of Sir James R. Maitland's famous one at Howietoun.

The Weather and the Birds.—Owing, no doubt, to the recent tremendous storms raging along our coasts, and rough weather, many of our rarer sea and aquatic birds have been driven inland. Several were found in the fens lately, especially Isleham and Burwell fens. Amongst the specimens found were several Guillemots, two red-throated divers, several Shearwaters, one Skua Gull. This morning from Isleham fen a beautiful Little Ouk (Murgulas Melanoleucus), and on the Newmarket heath several gulls have been picked up almost dead from exhaustion. Most of the specimens have been sent to Mr. Wm. Howlett, naturalist, of Newmarket, to be preserved.

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* This is now the largest Piscicultural Establishment in Europe, producing upwards of twenty million trout ova yearly.

* Reference is also made to the Report on the Salmon Disease by Messrs. Buckland, Walpole, and Young, of date 22nd August, 1880.

THE TEES SALMON FISHERY.

IMPORTANT MEETING OF ANGLERS.

A MEETING of anglers and licencees of the River Tees Salmon Fishery, convened by Mr. W. A. Wooler, of Sadberge Hall, was held in the lecture room of the Central Hall, Darlington, on the 28th ult., for the purpose of discussing the best means of ameliorating the baneful effects of "hush" in the river Tees; the better watching of the river and tributaries; and other important matters affecting the general interests of the fishery. There were present anglers from various parts of the district, amongst whom were the following:—Mr. W. A. Wooler, Sadberge Hall; Messrs. F. Mewburn, T. M. Barron, Geo. Webster, W. Lascelles, Darlington; J. B. Ramsay, Gainford; W. Sang, Barnard Castle; H. Wright, Yarm; A. Moses, J. H. Moses, W. Sewell, W. E. Brown, E. Hutchinson, R. A. Luck, J. W. Law, J. Bamlett, Darlington; J. Winteringham, Croft; T. W. Deighton, Stapleton; W. Russell, D. Brebner, J. Teesdale, J. Durham, W. Lear, Darlington; Mr. Wilson, Coniscliffe; R. Byers, Croft; C. Eade, &c.

On the motion of Mr. T. M. Barron, seconded by Mr. G. Webster, Mr. W. A. Wooler was unanimously elected to take the chair.

The Chairman, in opening the meeting, remarked that it would be unnecessary for him to say much with regard to the important subject which had brought them together. He had taken the liberty of asking their presence on that occasion in the belief that it was high time something was done to protect the interest of so important a body. In the first place, the baneful effects of the hush from the mines and quarries in the upper reaches of the river Tees had been felt by all of them. This should be and, he contended, could be remedied. (Hear, hear.) The Duke of Rutland, at his mines in Derbyshire, had provided a remedy, and it was stated that the water went out very clear into the adjacent river. If so much had been accomplished in Derbyshire, the same could be surely done in Durham by providing ample subsiding tanks. The artificial hatching and rearing both of salmon and trout and—if they thought it desirable—grayling was also one of the most important subjects that could possibly claim their attention. These and other matters he wished them to consider well; but he was quite certain of this, that the Tees would never take that high position it was entitled to take unless they adopted some system of hatching and rearing fish. He suggested the advisability of forming themselves into an association, of passing such resolutions as they thought desirable, and of ultimately appointing a deputation to wait upon the Board of Conservators at their next meeting with a view of making known their wants and grievances. If that deputation was both numerous and influential, he felt sure a good impression would be made upon the Board. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. G. Webster (Darlington), said he had fished in the river Tees for nearly twenty years, and had had personal experience of the baneful influence of "hush." It was in short the bane of all anglers, as every one present would admit. (Hear, hear.) One of the first questions an angler asked before he went out fishing was whether there was much hush in the river. The influence this hush had upon fish was that it prevented them from feeding, and therefore under its influence they did not rise and take the bait. Hush, as they all knew, was produced by the refuse from the lead mining industries in the higher reaches of the Tees, and that people on the lower parts of the river should therefore have to suffer was most unfair.

Mr. T. M. Barron seconded, observing that nothing was more disgusting to the angler than to find the river full of hush, and it was astonishing how very small a quantity prevented the fish from feeding. (Hear, hear.) He contended that it was unfair that the anglers of the district should be called upon to pay the sum of 25s. for the privilege of angling in something very little better than a ditch. (Hear, hear.) The past had been about the worst season for fishing he had ever known, and although this might to some extent be due to other causes, it was in a very large measure attributable to the existence of so much hush in the river.

Mr. Wilson (Coniscliffe) said he was in a position to corroborate all he had heard as to the injury done to the fishery by the existence of hush, but he thought there was one defect in the statements put forward which it would be well to face. They were well aware that the principal lead mining company in the upper reaches of the Tees was a very old-established concern, which, in the absence of any legal knowledge, he should almost think had derived a prescriptive right, by virtue of their long establishment, to foul the water if it should suit them to do so. (No, no.) But, again, it was their duty to regard the interests and feelings of others; and as the London Mining Company had for many years past been struggling against great difficulties, they ought to bear these facts in mind. (Hear, hear.) He did not wish to discourage that meeting in the slightest degree; at the same time, he did not desire that anything should be done to materially injure the interests of an industry on which the livelihood of so many persons depended. He was in favour of all that had been suggested, provided their proposals could be carried out consistently with the interests of rhe industry he had spoken of. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Sang (Barnard Castle) endorsed such proposals as had already been put forward, and suggested that in the resolution some reference should be made to the stone-chipping nuisance. In some parts of the river, it was impossible to comprehend the injury done to the fishing, notably near Barnard Castle, by the secretion of these chippings. It seemed to him that accumulation of these chippings had caused a very marked deficiency in the food of the fish. Another cause that contributed to the same result was the existence of so many "water ouzles," which were very destructive to the fly and other things that constituted the food of the fish.

Mr. D. Brebner (Darlington) suggested that under the provisions of the Rivers Pollution Act mineowners might be compelled to use every precaution in their power to prevent hush from coming into the river. He knew the difficulties that usually surrounded the proofs attending these matters, but under the circumstances he thought there would be no difficulty in the present case.

Mr. Barron pointed out that the Act referred to simply applied to anything that poisoned the fish; but hush, so far as he was aware, did not poison them, but merely prevented them from feeding.

Mr. Brebner said that a man had recently been poisoned by drinking water polluted by means of it.

After further discussion, in which Dr. Fothergill, Mr. J. B. Ramsay, and others took part, the resolution proposed by Mr. Webster was unanimously adopted.

The subject of watching the river was next introduced.

Mr. T. M. Barron proposed that the gentlemen present should be formed into an association to be called the Tees Angling Association, and that a sub-committee be appointed to draw up a code of rules to be submitted at a future meeting.

This resolution, having been duly seconded, was carried *nem. con.*

Mr. Wooler presented the association with a legal work on the subject of salmon fishery, and the meeting terminated.

[We are delighted to hear of the establishment of this association for the protection of the Tees, and wish it every success. It is a pity the Swale anglers do not combine in the same way, for the Swale suffers terribly from the same cause—refuse from mines. This refuse does not appear to kill the fish directly, though it does so indirectly, by killing the aquatic larvæ on which they exist. But it sickens them and spoils all sport.—ED.]

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

THIS (Friday) evening a meeting of the Committee of the Anglers' Benevolent Society will take place at the Foresters' Hall, Clerkenwell Road.

The usual monthly meeting of the United London Anglers' Central Committee was held at the Bald-Faced Stag, Worship Square, Finsbury, on Monday evening last, Mr. S. Morgan presiding. After the reading and confirming of the minutes of the previous meeting, a long and interesting discussion ensued, in which Messrs. Manning, Theobalds, High, Kidd, and others took part, ending in a proposition that the rule passed some years since—"That a member of an angling society leaving the said society in arrears and joining another society, should, in the event of his applying for a privilege ticket, be refused same until he had satisfied the past demands of his late society"—be rescinded, which was carried. Messrs. Ghurney, Morgan, and Bonvoisin then spoke a few words about the coming Great International Fisheries Exhibition, urging the anglers to at once apply for space for the exhibition of their club collections of stuffed fish. The half-yearly balance-sheet, May 1 to November 6, 1882, was distributed. From this it appears that during the six months the association has enrolled three new societies, and issued 1064 railway privilege cards. The expenditure side shows, among other items, a gift of £5 5s. to the Thames Preservation, £10s. 3s. 6d. printing, £14 1s. 4d. for the preservation of the River Lea, including rewards for four distinct convictions, bill-posting, watching river during fence months, bailiffs' salary, Waltham, Edmonton, &c.; the balance in hand and in Post Office Savings Bank amounting to £101 7s. 6½d. The accuracy of the balance-sheet were personally vouched for by the auditors, Messrs. Baylie, High, and Dymond. During the evening Messrs. Crumplen and Bates entered the room and were heartily cheered. Some routine business was transacted, the roll called, after which a hearty vote of thanks was passed to the chairman, and the meeting brought to a close. At the meeting of the West Central Association's Working Committee yesterday week, a new angling society, viz., the Grafton, was enrolled, subject to confirmation at the next general meeting.

A No. 3 District W. C. A. visit was paid the South London Angling Society, George and Dragon, Camberwell Road, on Thursday evening, Nov. 30. Mr. L. Bonvoisin occupied the chair, our old friend Mr. Buck facing him in the vice. The snug club room, the walls of which are well covered with good specimens of the finny tribe, were comfortably filled by representatives of the following societies:—Beresford, Junior Piscatorials, Kennington, United Brothers, Walworth Waltonians, Piscatorial Society, St. Albans, Gresham, Rodney, Good Intent, Great Northern, Silver Trout, and North-Western. Among the singers were Messrs. Head, Hampson, J. Hotham, Grant, Mitchell, Bonvoison, Woodman, Beckett, Watts, J. Fitch, Dawes, and Fox. The toast of the "South London" was proposed by the chairman, who coupled with it the names of Mr. Secretary Palmer and Mr. Field. The toast, needless to say, was drunk with great enthusiasm, and responded to by both those gentlemen in a few well-chosen words. To the toast of the visitors, Messrs. Beckett, Hatfield, Crumplen, Wheeldon, Bates, Hatfield, Stebbings, and Fitch briefly responded. The usual vote of thanks to the chair and vice-chair brought this pleasant and successful meeting to a close.

Mr. T. Hoole, who, I fear, will be confined to his bed for some time to come, writes me this (Wednesday) morning:—"Please put a line in your notes in this week's GAZETTE, urging secretaries to send me full particulars of clubs, correct name, address, meeting nights, secretaries' name and address, ditto, for incorporation in a list I purpose issuing next month, and which I am desirous of making as complete as possible."

A No. 2 District West Central Association visit was paid the Trafalgar Angling Society, George and Dragon, Greek Street, Soho, on Monday evening, December 4, Mr. Humphries ably filling the post of chairman. The attendance was not so good as had been hoped for, but the songs and recitations were capital, making time pass pleasantly, and only too quickly. Among the societies represented were the City of London, Great Northern, Royal George, West Central, North-Western, St. John's, Bloomsbury, Crown, Piscatorial, and the Buckland.

The Thames Rights Defence Committee are about to issue a report, the perusal of which will, let us hope, induce many anglers to support so important a society.

A No. 3 District West Central Association visit will be paid the United Brothers' Angling Society, the Druid's Head, Broadway, Deptford, on Tuesday evening, December 12. The United's club room is a very large one, and capable of accommodating a goodly number, so it is hoped brother rodsters will muster in strength.

"Bites lost in roach fishing." I thank our Editor for the compliment he pays me in asking my opinion on the above knotty question. I have followed the controversy with great interest and much amusement, and am of opinion it is one of those questions to which it is extremely difficult to apply any hard and fast rule. In fishing with gentles, a much heavier percentage of bites are lost than in fishing with paste; this is so generally admitted, and the reasons for it are so patent, that we may dismiss gentle-fishing at once—to put "Mark Antony's" case into simple language, as I understood it, that gentleman states that an ordinary angler fishing with paste will, on the average, miss four bites out of six. I cannot help thinking this is placing the average of bites missed far too high; at the same time, there are undoubtedly occasions when the number of misses are alarmingly increased—so increased as to make the patient rodster wonder whether his right hand has lost its cunning. I have no hesitation in stating that, in my opinion, the Lea men are the keenest roach-anglers in the world; but even here I have heard, not ordinary roach-fishers, but A 1 men, exclaim, as they disjointed preparatory to rebaiting: "Bite, yes; had two or three fair knocks, but can't hit 'em.' Yet these men's tackle was perfection, rod striking instantly and from the point, line shotted to a shade, only the merest speck of the light porcupine quill showing above the surface of the water, hook of the finest wire, bait a little ball of paste rarely larger, often smaller, than a dried pea.

[We thank Mr. Bonvoisin for his opinion given at our request; it substantiates our view of the matter, as also does Mr. Charlie South's interesting letter in this week's GAZETTE. There are few men living who could beat Mr. Bonvoisin at roach-fishing.—ED.]

THE GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

THE meeting of this society on Tuesday evening was very largely attended, Dr. Theodore Cash in the chair. At the previous meeting Mr. Henri Brett gave a particularly interesting account of his recent adventures in Ireland, describing the fishing as excellent, and the peasantry as giving him a very hearty reception, so that no angler need fear giving Irish waters a trial. Pending the arrival of Dr. Brunton, Mr. A. W. Parker described a refrigerating apparatus of a novel character, introduced by Mr. Brooke, the well-known salesman of Leadenhall Market, who, in response to a warm vote of thanks, very kindly offered to receive and keep any fish weighed-in by members, and present them fresh on the society's table for inspection any Tuesday evening. Dr. Brunton then gave his paper on "The Special Senses of Fishes." In opening, the Doctor remarked that he found his investigations would lead him into a greater dissertation than a single evening would suffice for, and he had, therefore, selected the sense of sight, as the principal topic of his paper. The structure of the eye, and the optical laws involved in the use of it, were very clearly indicated, the Doctor being aided by the use of diagrams and dissections. Space will hardly permit us to deal fully with this admirable paper, but the conclusions arrived at may be briefly stated. The eyes of fishes, viewed as optical instruments, are inferior to those of man. Their range of sight is limited, but can be used effectively with a very small quantity of light, although it is defective in bright sunshine. The eye of the fish is a means of self-preservation—quick too see food, and quick to see an enemy, in his own element and out of it. When the angler can see the fish, the fish can see the angler. The best light for fishing is a diffused light, such as when the sun is clouded over, for then the fish come out to feed, being able to see and search for their food without pain or discomfort. The worst light for fishing is brilliant sunshine, for then the fish, as a rule, are dazed, and seek shelter. There is apparently no provision for closing the eyes during sleep, although fish, in common with all other creatures, undoubtedly take rest and repose. A ruffled surface, by dispersion of the rays of light, utterly obliterates the fish's view of anything out of the water, beyond a very short distance from the surface, and a running water does the same, but to a lesser extent. Fish have a power of selection of colours for food. The colour of the angler's clothing is not of so much importance as keeping out of sight; a dun or green garb is the best, but it is the angler's eye and face which frighten most. At the conclusion of the paper, which was fully appreciated and applauded, Dr. Cash made a brief but lucid statement, endorsing the results at which Dr. Brunton had arrived, adding also a little supplementary information on one or two points not fully brought out. Mr. Frost, in the course of an amusing speech, put a number of useful questions; Mr. Jardine also giving some details of his experience. Dr. Lloyd and other members having addressed the society, Dr. Brunton replied *seriatim* to the queries that had been put, resuming his seat amid such tokens of appreciation as must have fully assured him of the interest his paper had evoked. Mr. Crumplen moved that the hearty thanks of the society be tendered to Dr. Brunton, which, endorsed by remarks from Mr. Clarke in his usual vein, was carried with enthusiasm. The hon. secretary announced during the evening that Mr. John Groom had weighed in two pike, one of 17½ lb. another of 13½ lb.; Captain Alfred, one pike of 9 lb. and one perch of 2¼ lb., all from private water. The visitors' book contained more than the usual number of signatures, including Mr. Wheatstone (President of the Stanley Anglers), Dr. Maclaurin, Mr. Leo Bonvoisin, Mr. Morgan, Mr. George, and many others. Mr. J. P. Wheeldon (honorary member) was also present. Dr. Defreiz gave the toast of the "Visitors," coupling with it the name of Mr. Wheatstone, whom he hoped to see with them again, and also Dr. Maclaurin, to which both gentlemen responded. The librarian having announced the presentation of several volumes to the library, and the Anglers' Benevolent box handed round to non-subscribers, Dr. Cash vacated the chair, which he had filled so ably; the usual musical selections being afterwards given. We may mention that papers are read regularly on the first Tuesday in each month, and on these occasions particularly, all anglers interested are welcome to attend. The question of river pollution will shortly be dealt with, and a collection of tackle, from the Continent, be shown at an early date.

DUKE OF CORNWALL ANGLING CLUB.

THE fifth half-yearly dinner of this society was held at the club-house, the Duke of Cornwall, Lismore Circus, Haverstock Hill, on Monday, December 4th, Mr. J. Heckford presiding, faced by Mr. Hyde. Mr. McCluer, the proprietor and treasurer, giving them one of his well-known dinners, which met with great satisfaction from the members and friends present, which would have been more numerous had not the dinners in the neighbourhood of the Temple occurred the same evening, thereby attracting many of their supporters. It being Queen's Day, the toast of "The Queen," proposed by the chair, met with a great reception, as did also "The Club's Prosperity." The "W. C. A. L. A." proposed by the vice-chair, coupled with the name of Mr. Jennings, of the Bostonian A. C., also met with the reception which it always deserves.

Mr. Jennings, in reply, thanked them for the manner in which they kindly alluded to the society, and after feelingly referring to the loss Mr. Geen had sustained, and the late illness of Mr. Hoole, gave particulars of the state of associations, which were very interesting to the members and friends present. The chairman then proposed "The Visitors," remarking how pleased he was to see so many brother anglers; their nearest society, the North-Western A. C. being well represented, and the toast was coupled with the name of their secretary, Mr. Hill, who, in reply, gave them some good suggestions in respect to management, and strongly advocated their attending the meetings in as large numbers as possible. Mr. Hillier also thanked them for the toast, and hoped their takes would soon be as heavy as in his own club, the North-Western. Mr. Harris and Mr. Walter Filby also ably replied. The health of the host, Mr. McCluer, was very cordially drunk, as was also the hostess, Mrs. McCluer, with musical honours, and on Mr. McCluer's rising to reply, he was received with quite an ovation, which he thoroughly deserved, and thanking them, promised to do everything in his power to make the society as successful as possible, at the same time regretting that their takes were not quite so heavy as he should have liked, as it would have pleased him to see their doings more often reported, especially in the FISHING GAZETTE. The chairman then proposed the health of their late treasurer, Mr. R. W. Galloway, which was drunk with musical honours.

Mr. R. W. Galloway, in reply, said how pleased he, as promoter of the society, was to find them in such a flourishing condition, and after alluding to the pleasure it gave him to see so many friends and old companions, assured them that although he was a member of the North-Western A. C., he wished them every success, and promised his support (which he certainly gave in the shape of prizes, as the list will show).

After the "Chair," "Vice-chair," and usual toasts, the treasurer distributed the prizes, which were taken by Mr. Kettle (3), including 15s. kindly presented by the Bostonian A. C.; Mr. Hyde (2), Mr. England (2), Mr. New (2), and Messrs. Mann, Heckford, and Parker 1 each. A capital list of prizes was offered for competition during the next half-year, and then the following list of gentlemen kindly gave recitations and music:—Messrs. Heckford, Hyde, Aldis, Bennett, Galloway, Amies, Hanold, Jennings, H. Green, Brown, Lealand, Rodell, McCluer, and W. Brown.

When we say that Messrs. Rodell, W. Hanold, and W. Brown presided at the pianoforte, it will quite speak for itself that a most enjoyable musical evening was spent.

CAVENDISH ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above society competed on Sunday last for three prizes. The conditions were Lea or Thames within a fare of two shillings and sixpence, all fish to weigh. Mr. Reeves was returned winner of the first prize with jack, Mr. Lee second with jack, and Mr. Mathew, jun., third with roach. Mr. Humberstone, the worthy host, was elected an active member on Thursday last. This will further cement the good feeling which exists between the members and Mr. Humberstone, whose interest is unquestionably with the society. Several other gentlemen were also elected, and others duly proposed. In all, affairs look very promising for the Cavendish Angling Society.—E. CHAMBERS.

CLUB REPORTS.

FITZROY ANGLING CLUB.

On December 3rd the members of this new society ventured for the first time to weigh fish at their club house, the Crown, Cleaveland Street, Fitzroy Square, Mr. Harris being the most fortunate competitor, having a fine show of roach from the Thames, thereby winning the first prize offered to what promises to be a very successful society. Meeting nights, Tuesday and Sunday evenings. —HAWKSIRE.

IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Three of the seven special prizes given on Wednesday, November 29th, will be fished for on the second Wednesday in January; all fish weigh; members to choose their own fishing water. The remaining four specials, given at the same time, will be fished for on the second Sunday in January. The members will meet at the Rye House previous to fishing, and then be at liberty to go where they please.

NORTH-WESTERN ANGLING CLUB.

Messrs. Harris and Browsell, two of our members, weighed-in on Sunday last a good show of dace, the former 10 lb. 9 oz., the latter 3 lb. 9 oz. Messrs. Grindley, Hillier, and Aldis jack, and Mr. Packman roach.—H.

ORIGINAL ALEXANDRA ANGLERS.

Most of our members were unfortunate last Sunday, but the following had fish:—Mr. M. Dymond had a fine brace of jack, Mr. E. Dymond had jack, and Mr. Towndrow roach.—E. DYMOND, sec.

PORTSMOUTH WALTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY

One of these pleasing little gatherings, which now and then crop up in connection with the above society, took place on Wednesday last in the shape of a complimentary dinner to Bro. Brooks, of the Commissariat and Transport Corps, on his return from the Campaign in Egypt at the club room, Golden Fleece, Commercial Road, when a splendid repast was served by the worthy host, Easton, in his usual liberal style. Among those present were the president, Mr. A. L. Emanuel; vice-president, Mr. J. E. Buck; Messrs. J. S. Dyer, F. C. Mortimer, C. Smith, Bracey, Warden, Hartley, Spinner, Daniels, Grenley, Brough, J. Buck, jun., Brooks, Howell, Pratt, Everett, Vaughan, Layton, Cleverly, Cap. Hill, treasurer; Tranter, secretary; and others. After the dinner the usual royal and patriotic toasts followed. The guest of the evening, in responding for himself and the army, said he was glad once more to be among his brother anglers, and after the fortunes of war to smoke the calumet of peace. Bro. Brooks, on the occasion, was decorated with four medals besides the Egyptian medal, which had been pinned on his breast by her Majesty at Windsor. The evening was enlivened with some capital harmony; Mr. G. Sylvester presiding at the piano, singing some of his favourite melodies. Mr. J. Buck, jun., gave the new topical song "Egypt," and Mr. J. S. Dyer, "The Fine Old Jolly Angler." Every one thoroughly enjoyed himself, and the old adage, "Happy to meet, sorry to part, and happy to meet again," brought to a close one of those merry meetings for which this club is famous. On the following evening (Thursday) the regular club night, after the usual business was disposed of, Mr. J. E. Buck, the vice-president, read a very interesting paper on "The Carp"—Mr. Buck being a first-rate angler, he handled the subject in a very practical manner, which was received with enthusiasm.—DAGGERWOOD.

RODNEY PISCATORIALS.

On the 3rd we visited Weybridge in time to be caught in a steady shower, which compelled us to seek refuge in the Hand and Spear, where the accommodation is all an angler can wish for. Here he can obtain bread, cheese, and pickles, roast beef, a ham cured bloater, or a leg of mutton. After having partaken of some of the former and sufficient moisture to counteract that already obtained outside—the rain in the meanwhile having left off—we walked across the common to the Association water, which we reached in about ten minutes. I must say that this water looks a "likely shop," and at some time or other might have have had, or will have, some good fish in it. We tried it for some time, undisturbed by either the inhabitants of the land or water, and some of the members began to long for the sight of one or the other; at last it was agreed that they should go on a voyage of discovery, which they did till two o'clock, when they returned and reported the result—"It's no good fishing here; the cut was all cleaned out a short time ago, and the fish have not had time time to get back again yet, and when they do, they will want more watching than they get now, and those who watch the water will also want watching. But if we go into that portion of the Wey that runs into the Thames, we might stand a chance of getting some fish." We now packed up and adjourned to the place alluded to, and we were soon on "the job" again, each in his own style, either Nottingham, Ledgering, or tight line, all trying his best to get a fish, till nearly 4 o'clock, when "yours truly" landed a roach just above the society's standard. Four o'clock having struck, and the rain pelting down, we packed up and retreated to Host Capell's, and indulged in a glass of ale, and then started for the Hand and Spear. Here we were so interested in eating and drinking, that only two of the members caught the 5.45 train up to London, the others managing to reach the platform in time to see the train go out. We now had two hours and more to wait for the next train, so we returned to Mr. Mason's, who, seeing we had missed the train, invited us to inspect his private collection of piscatorial, ornithological, entomological, and other trophies, of which I must say he has a very nice collection, the inspection of which caused our two hours to pass away very comfortably. We thanked him, and wished him good-night, caught our train, reached London and our headquarters in time to save the society a blank, and as no other fish was exhibited, I was declared the winner of the first prize. The other prizes not taken will be given for the 3 gross weights of all fish taken "where and how you like," from now to the end of January, 1883.—PIXIE.

ROBIN HOOD.

The following members showed a few roach on Sunday last:—Messrs. Baillie, Hutchings, Baker, Theobald, and J. K. Fitch. We fish for eighteen prizes on Sunday next, at Cookham and Bourne End.

P.S.—Total weight of fish for half-year, 604 lb. 3 oz.—J. A. FITCH, jun., sec.

SOUTH LONDON ANGLING CLUB.

The first visit that has been made by the West Central Association to the South London Angling Society, which is the oldest club south of the Thames, took place on Thursday, Nov. 30. Their room, which is a large one, and well-hung round with fish, some of which are to be sent to the Exhibition of 1883, was quite full of visitors; Mr. L. Bonvoisin in the chair, Mr. Buck vice. There were some capital songs by Messrs. Fitch, Beckett, Head, and others, also one written and sung by Mr. Fox, of the Walworth Waltonians, in praise of the South London Club, which was loudly applauded. On the roll being called, there were fourteen clubs from all parts of London represented, and among others were Messrs. Wheeldon, Hatfield, Bates, Crumplen, Beckett, Stebbings, Whittaker, and Besley. A very pleasant evening was spent by all.—G. H. FIELD.

THE JOVIAL ANGLERS.

Our "Jovials" mustered along the banks in good numbers on Sunday last, in spite of the inclement state of the weather; but their efforts were not very successful, as out of the dozen who weighed-in not one could weigh-in more than 6 lb. The fish, though few in numbers, were very fine, especially the dace. Our contingent from Shepperton were also unlucky, as "no fish" and "smiling faces" was all they brought to weigh-in. For the benefit of our absent "Jovials," I may state there are two prizes to be fished for next Sunday for the two heaviest takes during the day. One of our honorary members, Mr. Orvis, of the Locomotive Inn, gives three handsome prizes to be fished for on Boxing Day, when I hope to be able to report some better takes.—HARRY PLATT, sec.

THE LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our members were out last Sunday, and met with some good sport. Mr. Scott headed the list with a fine show of roach and some jack; Mr. Hurwood, the lucky man, having a fine show of roach; Mr. Raine some jack; Mr. Humphreys, tench; Mr. Petrie, dace —W. H. EVANS, secretary.

THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The annual club competition in connection with this society took place on Monday last, and is always looked forward to with great interest on account of so many members being professedly and practically chub anglers. The condition of the water was unfavourable for the sport, and the fish were not on the feed. One of the unsuccessful competitors remarked that in the upper portion of the river where he was fishing the water appeared to be in good order, but he could not get a single touch. There was a good attendance in the club-room on Monday evening to witness the return of the competitors, and Mr. T. R. Sachs was unanimously voted into the chair, the duties of which he most ably and efficiently discharged. The result of the contest was that Mr. Currie Banfield, of the Swan Hotel, Staines, was declared to be the winner of the first prize of three guineas with two fish weighing 6 lb. 5 oz., the largest 4 lb., the latter fish taking the supplemental prize of one guinea for the heaviest specimen. Mr. J. Ross Faulkner came in for the second prize of two guineas with three fish weighing 4 lb. 8 oz. Mr. C. P. Wheatstone, the donor of the supplemental prize, weighed in one chub of 2 lb. 12 oz., and Mr. J. G. Andrew a roach of 2 lb. 11 oz. All the fish were caught in the Thames. There was a goodly number of unsuccessful competitors. Dr. Brunton registered two grayling, caught with the fly, weighing 3 lb. 12 oz., the largest 2 lb. 8 oz. Mr. W. B. Adlington showed one pike of 7 lb. 2 oz. from private waters, but the crowning feature of the whole evening was the exhibition of nine pike by Mr. Thomas Huggett, weighing 61 lb. 13 oz., the largest 11 lb. 8 oz., from the Avon. A very pleasant and enjoyable evening terminated with a cordial vote of thanks to Mr. T. R. Sachs, the healths of the successful anglers having been previously drank with great enthusiasm and suitably responded to. The smoking concert, which is the fixture for Monday evening next, promises to be a great success, and some good talent has already been secured. Mr. T. Norman Harrison, who generally conducts the arrangements, is safe to bring it to a successful result.—B.

THE SHEFFIELD UNITED ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the above was held in Sheffield on Wednesday evening. A very encouraging report was made by the president, and a satisfactory balance sheet read by the secretary; besides saying that the latter showed a gain of £8 on the year's operations, and that the society had upwards of £106 in hand. We must defer other particulars to next week.

TRAFALGAR ANGLING SOCIETY.

Two of our members, fishing the Thames at Cookham on Sunday last, caught two jack; one caught by Mr. Abington weighed 4 lb 12 oz., and the other, caught by R. Gaze, 1 lb. 6 oz. The visit to this society on Monday, 4th, was attended by delegates from eleven clubs. Some capital songs were sung by the following gentlemen, who did their best to amuse the company: Messrs. Humphries, Stephens, W. White, H. White, L. Bonvoisin, J. Richardson, Potter, W. Neal, and several others The following is a list of clubs who answered to the roll:—Bloomsbury Brothers, City of London, Buckland, Reform, Royal George, St. John's, Hugh Middleton, Crown Piscatorials, West Central, North Weston, and Trafalgar.—J. GAZE, sec.

UNITED BROTHERS, DEPTFORD.

The members of the above society fished a pegged-down match on Sunday, the 3rd inst., at St Margaret's, with the following results:—First prize, shade of birds, taken by J. Jones, given by Host Wood; second, table cloth, taken by J. Currans, given by himself; third, pair of bronze heads, given by H. Muggeridge, taken by W. Tyler; one other prize not taken. A jack-fishing match will take place at Pulborough on Sunday next, the 10th, by members of the above society for money prizes. On Tuesday, the 12th, we receive a visit from the W.C.A.S., when all anglers who can make it convenient to come will be made welcome.—WILLIAM BELTON.

WESTBOURNE PARK PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The members of the above society fished a match (Thames only) on the 3rd instant with the following result:—Mr. H. Thompson, 1st prize, £1 1s. cash, and pair of framed chromos, value £1 1s.; Mr. Lines, 2nd, £1 1s.; Mr. Yarham, 3rd, 17s. 6d.; Mr. W. Thompson, 4th, 15s.; Mr. Severn, 5th, 11s.; and Mr. Perkins, 6th, 5s. The take was not large, the first prize being taken with 3 lb. $8\frac{1}{2}$ oz. The members have unanimously decided to support the committee of the International Exhibition, and have instructed the secretary to apply at once for space for twelve cases of fish. The last match of the season will take place on the last day of the season, December 31, previous to which members whose names are on the prize list are respectfully requested to forward their donations to the secretary. The annual dinner, when the prizes will be presented, will take place on Tuesday, January 23.—W. ADEANE.

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SPECIAL NOTICE.

THE ILLUSTRATED
DOUBLE CHRISTMAS NUMBER
OF
THE FISHING GAZETTE
Will be published on Dec. 23.

All Advertisements intended for this number should be sent by the 19th or 20th to

THE MANAGER,
THE FISHING GAZETTE,
12 and 13, FETTER LANE, LONDON, E.C.

RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

From what I glean from the various angling stations between Windsor and Oxford, good all-round sport has been experienced during the past week, both by punsters and bankers. As I scribble this, snow is falling fast, and likely, I fear to continue; still anglers should not stick at this, for many a fine take has been had from snow broth, and I myself well remember taking two trout below Cookham on the day Hermit won the Derby—a day memorable for its snowstorm. It is not the actual snow which falls into the water which takes the fish off the feed, but the melted snow from the land during and after a thaw. The flood has gone down rapidly, and the Thames, although the stream is still strong, is in prime fettle for perch, roach, jack, and chub. From Bray and Maidenhead my reports are meagre in the extreme, but I have unverified tales of decent takes of roach. At Cookham, Mr. Grazebrook has had jack galore, and tells me his private fishery, "The Strand," near the village, has been well stocked by the flood and otherwise, and is well worth a visit—tickets are, I believe, 2s. 6d. per day. At Hurley, on Thursday, Mr. Arter, in some five or six hours, obtained sixteen dozen and four roach from one swim, all excellent sized fish. Mr. Gerkie has had some capital perch, six of the fish nearly reaching a pound each. Mr. Bergar has been busy with the jack in the Hurley district, but missed more than he caught; and a foreign gentleman staying at that ancient and fish-like hostelry, "The Bell," went in for 18 lb. of pretty roach on Sunday last. Mr. Brooksbank (of tench notoriety) on Monday and Tuesday, got some grand roach by ledgering with lob in an eddy opposite Frog Mill Farm, just below Medmenham. Mr. Sturges, out with Bob Young (a civil and steady puntsman from Medmenham Hotel), has got hold of some jack, but not of any grand size. Mr. S. tells me, however, he lost a beauty the other day through some defect in his tackle, but means to "wait upon my gentleman" upon a future occasion. Tom Street has been fishing lately with the "Captain," taking some fair roach. The Henley waters are silent, but at Sonning, Wargrave, Maple Durham, and Pangbourne "good business" has been done amid roach and perch. Every prospect of severe frost and sport during coming week.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Ancholme District.

I was too unwell to go out to make the necessary enquiries last week, but find from reports since to hand that but little was done on the main river. No pike of any consequence were taken, and the only fish that gave moderate sport was the roach. Since then the weather has been too unsettled, and withal so uncomfortable that but few anglers have left home comforts for the uncertain attractions of the river.—THOMAS FORD.

Chichester.

The past week has not been a prolific one, but few fish being taken; but the weather has certainly not been favourable. Mr. Terry lost a couple of pike a few days since, one snapping tackle close to the hook, the other making for a weed bed and the hook breaking hold. Unlike the generality of lost fish, they were not heavy ones. The weed clearance at the basin was accomplished in a satisfactory manner, but a good breeze would be acceptable to mass the floating vegetation. The weekly competition proved a blank, heavy rain driving rodsters to shelter. King Frost has asserted his supremacy, the snow this morning being some inches deep. It is snowing hard at present, with every sign of a continuance.—GEORGE F. SALTER.

Derwent (Chatsworth).

I was unable to send a report last week owing to my not having anything to say worth recording, the very unfavourable weather being altogether dead against fishing; but there was a decided improvement in the weather at the end of the week, several sharp frosts having set in, which was a great improvement on the extremely "liquid" weather we had been having, and fish were well on the feed at the bottom. Yesterday (Wednesday) there was a heavy downpour of snow, which has rendered it impossible to fish, although it has not hurt the water, which is in fair condition; but even the most enthusiastic will hardly care to walk about in a foot deep of snow to try their luck. I hope to send a more favourable report next week.—WHEATSHEAF HOTEL.

Dove.

Weather very wintry, and I don't think we shall have much more angling this side Christmas. Snow is thick on the ground, and there is a further heavy fall going on as I write. Grayling, pike, and chub were well on the feed on Monday, and the same may be said of Saturday, when there were a few rods out below Tulbery, who succeeded in getting some fair samples of pike and chub. Below Rocester and Marchinton too, chub have been eagerly on the feed; but I am afraid anglers will now have to leave them alone for some time to come.—THE SPLODGER.

Exe (Exeter).

Winter has come upon us suddenly, and a very heavy fall of snow and frost has put a stop to all angling for a time. By this post I send you the Exeter paper for yesterday, giving a long and descriptive account of the Exe fishing and "Old Logs" last day on it for this season only; I hope sportsmen with their guns should have a rare time of it; and if the frost, which at present seems permanent, continues, some excellent bags should be made, as many wild fowl have been seen in the vicinity already. P.S.—In my last report for "hacks near Exe Quay," please read "Locks near Exe Quay.—J. A. KELLEY.

Ilfracombe.

Sea-fishing.—Our herring fishing is almost over. It has been a very bad season. The prospects were good at first; but the weather has been so stormy that the boats could not get a good drift. Thursday evening: Each boat caught about 200 herrings; one cod 20 lb., conger 18 lb., ling 15 lb. were caught with ground lines. Friday; The average of herrings brought in was about 250 in a boat and several hake; a large herring hog was caught in the nets. Saturday; Three cod, two 18 lb. each, one 16 lb., and a ling 14 lb. were taken from the spiller. Sunday: Average about half maize herrings each boat; six ling, one cod from the Spiller. Monday: About 50 herrings each boat; two ling, 16 lb. each, one cod, 20 lb., caught from the jetty with hand lines. Tuesday: Blowing strong; one cod, 20 lb., two ling, 16 lb. each, caught on the spiller. Wednesday: About 100 herrings caught, two cod, from 18 lb. to 20 lb. each, one ling. Thursday: Two large skate, one cod, and a thornback were caught on the spiller. Several fish have been caught with rod and hand lines from Torrs Point. Weather at present stormy.—E. COMER.

Lea (Cook's Ferry.)

The water after the floods is in splendid condition for all kinds of fishing. Mr Peel, of Tottenham, took a very nice jack on Saturday and two more since. Mr. Bond, of Edmonton, also took a very fine one to-day, besides numerous small fry taken by other persons.—T. A. WARD.

Lea (Ware).

Although the river is in capital condition as regards colour and height, still little or no fish have been had; and, as snow is falling at time of writing, prospects seem dull.—LION AND WHEATSHEAF.

Leicester.

The exceedingly wintry weather we have experienced since last Saturday has almost completely put a stop to angling in this locality for the present. We have had several heavy falls of snow, and the waters look like claypits. A few of the more persistent anglers were out on Saturday and Monday; Mr. Stafford, on the first-mentioned day, taking in one of the quiet spots a dozen and a half of roach. Mr. Prime, on Monday, whilst fishing for roach, caught a nice perch weighing 13¾ oz.; the fish was weighed in at one of the clubs in town. In the same swim the gentleman also took a fair quantity of roach. There has been no angling done hereabouts since Monday. Snow fell continuously the whole of Wednesday, and there was but slight improvement in the weather up to a late hour on Thursday evening.—ALERT.

Nene (Northampton).

We have not been able to indulge in any angling for the past fortnight on account of the flooded state of the river, but it is now going down nicely. I have been informed of one gentleman killing a nice pike of 16 lb. in the lower part of the Nene Angling Club water, and there have been some nice takes of roach. So things are beginning to look better for the future. The members of the Northampton Working Men's Angling Club have postponed their prize fishing until December 16th.—T. F.

[Received too late for last week.—ED.]

Ouse (Littleport).

I thought last week we should have a turn among the roach and pike, but the rain has again made the river unfishable. On Monday, however, Mr. Hills, of Ely, got three nice pike before the water came down too thick, 8 lb., 4½ lb., and 4 lb. I was very pleased, for I certainly thought when he started he would not do so well.—CHARLIE SOUTH.

Thames (Goring).

Water coming down thick—not in bad order for roach. Prospects look bad for the next few days for anything but roach fishing. Nothing much doing. My best day was Sunday: 2 jack and some good perch. Largest jack, 5 lb.—JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Oxford).

The condition of the river is all that can be desired from a fisherman's point of view, both in regard to height and colour; I scarcely ever remember the water being so fine at this time of year, and things generally, so far as appearances go, could not be more "couleur de rose," but appearances are too often deceptive, and so it is now—the piscatorial lament of the past summer, "No sport, and wot's more, we carnt get 'em to bite," is reiterated by every rodster along the banks; but "nil desperandum," it is an ill wind that blows no one any good; if the fish won't bite now, there will be all the more in the river next year to make up for the shortcomings of this one. For my own part, I have never experienced such a bad season; no fish have really fed well, even amongst the oldest fishermen. Some of them (lucky beggars), with both time and money at their command, who can go almost where, and certainly when, they like, the cry is the same; some even express an opinion that there are no fish in the river. Bosh! My brethren, use common sense; it is beyond your skill to lure them from their homes, but nevertheless they *are* there, and as plentiful as in the past seasons. On Thursday last, four small jack, weighing 8 lb., were taken by Mr. Munday from the ditch at the back of the G. W. R. engine sheds with a live bait. On Saturday, although there was a sharp hoar frost, which covered the trees with fairy festoons of sparkling white feather-work, and rendered my stroll very enjoyable, the fish obstinately refused to feed. A few fishermen were out, but none of them could show a fin. One gentleman with whom I fraternised—good, thoughtful man—produced a bottle of rum and water, "'Ave a sip, it'll do ye good; real cold work this for the toes," said he, as he handed it over. I sipped. On Sunday one small jack was taken in the Fisherrow, and two more about 1 lb. each were had from the G. W. R. ditch. I wonder the fellow—I can't call him angler—was not ashamed to take such sprats. However, I hope the bones tickled his throat when he was eating them. Since then I can hear of no one who has been out. As for myself, I don't intend going before Christmas, when we shall try a private pond, where there are such—oh such whacking big jack; but more of that later on. Two rather rare birds—a pair of black swans, which have escaped from Blenheim Lake, have taken up their quarters in company with seven or eight white ones on Post meadow. Wish some one would be kind enough to shoot the destructive brutes.—CHERWELL OTTER.

Thames (Windsor).

After a few weeks of nothing but floods and unfavourable weather, the water has settled down to fine condition for all-round fishing. From up stream I hear a certain local was well among the roach and perch, and caught one jack so large, he wouldn't like to say. A member of the Eton Angling Society, out yesterday, after the chub, failed to get a bite. On Monday last I was out roach-fishing with red worms; bagged 14 perch and 12 roach, largest perch, 1 lb. 8 oz.—G. LUMSDEN.

Trent (Newark).

A few ardent piscators took advantage of the weather last Friday and Saturday, but sport was not very good, water in bad condition. One angler succeeded in taking a decent chub, 4 lb 2 oz., with worm, but I could not hear of anything else worth reporting. Heavy rains have again caused a rise in the river. Yesterday we had a very heavy snowstorm, followed by a rapid thaw, so at the time of writing the river is bank full, and every prospect of a heavy flood.—THE TRENT OTTER.

Trent (Nottingham).

There has been little or no angling this week. The river on Sunday was in splendid condition for bottom-fishing, but on the following day a sudden rise was experienced, and subsequently a flood set in. On Thursday, the fields contiguous to the stream were covered with snow, and prospects of sport were dismal in the extreme. For weeks past the "brethren of the angle" have met with a very sorry time of it.—THE MAN AT THE CLUBS.

Witham (Boston).

Stern winter has set in with us. A heavy snow has fallen, accompanied by a strong wind, which has drifted it in many places very deeply, and according to latest appearances, angling has been put a stop to for some days at the very least. What little sport we have had for some weeks now has been of the meanest description, and on the whole very dissappointing. Even when the pike have been reachable the banks and watersides have been quagmires and swamps, and their pursuit has been a matter of infinite difficulty. Since last writing, the interval in which angling was possible was but short, and consequently the reports from the station are meagre in the extreme. Some few fish were taken on the Sibsey drain on Monday, chiefly pike; and on the Hobhole drain there were also an odd brace or so. None of them were large. Some were also landed at Swinehead on the Fortyfoot, the best running to about 6 lb. Roach have been extremely quiet, and with regard to other fish absolutely nothing can be said. Angling has been next to impossible owing to ice clogging the line, and the fish have been as quiet as if absolutely dead.—THE YELLOW BELLY.

Wye and Derwent.

Both last Friday and Saturday good sport was had with bottom fishers on the Derwent, with both cockspur worms and maggots—the worms killing the greatest quantity of fish. Since then the weather has not been favourable for any kind of fishing, great quantity of snow having fallen; in fact, it is my belief we shall have no more fishing with the fly this year. Snow now falling. —GEO. JAMES EATON.

Yore (Lower waters).

A snow storm of exceptional severity swept over this district to-day (Wednesday), which will effectually preclude any possibility of grayling fishing for some time to come. No catches of any note have reached my ears during the last week on either this river or the Wharfe. I can fully endorse Mr. Corry's remark in last week's FISHING GAZETTE that in the higher waters of the Yore the grayling attain a larger size than lower down the river. I never recollect, however, killing one over 1 lb. 6 oz., and even a pounder is considered a good fish for the Yore. I have no doubt that Mr. Corry's experience on this point will be identical with mine.—FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

THE SOUTH OF IRELAND.

The inquiry referred to in a previous letter of mine was held in the latter part of last week by Major Hayes and Mr. Johnson, Inspectors of Fisheries. The enquiry was directed chiefly to the adoption of safeguards against poaching—viz., to prohibit drift nets on board boats, and to number fishing craft with figures corresponding with those in their licences. The inquiry at Midleton, which is in the district whence the drift net poachers of the lower harbour belong, reveals the fact that ever since drift net fishing was prohibited within the estuary of the river Lee and the Harbour of Cork. The law had been systematically and persistently abused. It was admitted that though licences were taken out for drift fishing outside the limits of the harbour, no fishing operations were ever carried on there, and that the licences were, in point of fact, a cover for enabling the holders to break the law. Major Hayes remarked that this was an extraordinary state of things, and showed clearly the necessity for by-laws being passed. Evidence was heard as to the necessity of numbering the boats, and the inquiry terminated. It is likely, after the views expressed by the inspectors, and after the extraordinary statements made by the fishermen themselves, that the by-laws will be recommended by the inspectors.

A "BROAD" ADVENTURE.

IT was after the enjoyment of a very pleasant evening, spent with the Yarmouth Piscatorials at the Victoria Hotel, Great Yarmouth, that on the following morning myself and two other friends determined upon taking a drive to the Ormesby Broad, where some of the happy souls of the previous night had gone to fish, and we wanted to see what they were doing. The open carriages, numerous as they are during the season, plying for hire, were, in the chilly month of November, and with few visitors in the place, like "angel's visits, few and far between." There was one solitary vehicle on the ranks opposite the hotel, the driver instantly obeying our summons to come up to the hostelry. We soon came to terms, and, as one of my friends had to leave by the 5.45 Great Eastern train, he arranged at the Victoria for a little dinner at three o'clock, and invited me as his guest. At eleven o'clock "all three of us" were on our way to Ormesby, through the market-place of Yarmouth, one of the largest in England, and by way of Caistor and Filby. It was a glorious morning, and we were none the worse for the good dinner the evening before, and capable of enjoying a charming drive. With spirits "light as air," we chatted gaily as we went along—incidents of past life and scenes not to be forgotten flashed on the mind, and which the mother tongue was good enough to relate, sometimes creating a hearty laugh, and at other times more sober acknowledgments; but we were all bent on enjoyment, and wanting nothing to mar our pleasure. At length the little hostelry of the Sportsman was reached, which stands on the margin of the lake, and our driver instructed to rest and bait his horse for one hour. Our first resolve was to go to the bridge and try to find out what portion of the vast sheet of water our friends were fishing. They were nowhere to be sighted, but whilst remaining on the bridge for a little time my other friend enlightened us as to the whereabouts of a big jack which he had had on three or four times, and meant to have him out one of these fine days. "Sometimes," he says, "the monster is on one side of the bridge, and at other times on the other side." The plain, earnest manner of his language impressed us with the idea that he looked upon the result as a foregone conclusion, and he had our best wishes that it might be so. We then trudged back to the little inn, where only malt liquor was sold, through a muddy path, and then made for the water at the back of the house, where we found a boat in which we could row to our friends—but with a good quantity of water in it. My other friend, as I have termed him, is one of those who are ready for any emergency, and his idea was at once to scoop the water out of the boat, and taking hold of one of the sculls, to bring the boat up to the landing platform, he caught it against a ring which he wore on his little finger, and away it dropped right into the water. Here was an unfortunate occurrence; the ring was one which his late father had worn—it was therefore valuable, and, as its present owner remarked, he would not part with it for the world. The water was at this point about 18 inches deep and not very clear. The rays of the sun came in an oblique position so as to shade the water with the landing stage, which made it rather awkward. It therefore put a stop to our row on the lake, as the owner of the ring was determined to do his best to find it, and we did not care to leave him. Having removed his upper and under coat and turning up his shirt-sleeves, he soon commenced a diligent search. He lay down on the platform and first of all tried if he could see anything of it. This was of little avail, and then he commenced searching for it with his hands, without any result. Then, taking hold of a zinc hand-basin, he kept bringing up portions of the bed of the lake, and each haul was carefully searched. This was repeated for at least half a dozen times, but no ring was visible, and the fear was that the basin might possibly have embedded the ring in the muddy bottom. Once more he commenced the hand search, and time was wearing on, as we had to leave there at two o'clock. It appeared now almost beyond doubt as to the possible recovery of the ring; the hand kept returning out of the water with nothing in it, and, taking out my watch, I said, "The time is up for us to start," and almost simultaneously with those came these from the searcher, as he brought his hand out of the water, "And I have found my ring!" B.

SALT FOR SORE THROAT.

"IN these days, when diseases of the throat are so universally prevalent, and in so many cases fatal, we feel it our duty to say a word in behalf of a most effectual, if not positive, cure for sore throat. For many years—indeed, we may say during the whole of a life of more than forty years—we have been subject to sore throat, and more particularly to a dry, hacking cough, which is not only distressing to ourselves, but to our friends and those with whom we are brought into business contact. Last fall we were induced to try what virtue there was in common salt. We began by using it three times a day—morning, noon, and night. We dissolved a tablespoonful of pure table salt in about a half small tumblerful of water. With this we gargled the throat most thoroughly just before meal time. The result has been that during the entire winter we were not only free from coughs and colds, but the dry, hacking cough has entirely disappeared. We attribute these satisfactory results solely to the use of salt gargle, and most cordially recommend a trial of it to those who are subject to diseases of the throat. Many persons who have never tried the salt gargle have the impression that it is unpleasant. Such is not the case. On the contrary, it is pleasant, and after a few days' use no person who loves a nice, clean mouth, and a first-rate sharpener of the appetite, will abandon it."—*American Paper.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

"NETTING OF RESERVOIRS FOR THE THAMES."

Sir,—Under this heading there appeared in your issue of November 18, a letter from the President of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, which surely must not be allowed to pass without such notice as will lead to an attempt, at least, to realise the just expectation of the writer.

We are told that five tons of fish have been netted from reservoirs and placed in the Thames, that the work has been costly, and we who are benefited are asked to subscribe the money; that other waters, already at the disposal of the society, may also be netted.

It is not unfrequently stated that the anglers of London are mean and selfish, and unworthy of the labour which such men as Mr. Spreckley so cheerfully render them. I always held, and still hold, a totally different opinion, and I feel sure it is only necessary that my brother anglers, both poor and well-to-do, should be shown the merits of an appeal to cause them to come forward with their guineas, half-crowns, and shillings as generously as the state of their exchequer will permit.

If ever there was an appeal that all anglers should respond to, this is one; and if ever there was a name that should move anglers to generous feelings it is that of Mr. Thomas Spreckley.

Possibly I may be able to give a few facts connected with the last netting which did not appear to those gentlemen who, having received from Mr. Brougham a card of admission, attended for a few hours at the pleasantest time of the day while the excitement of good hauls was at its height. They and your readers generally little know the amount of labour which the organiser of these nettings has to get through to ensure success.

I can affirm of my own knowledge that Mr. Spreckley was on the bank of the reservoir at dusk, the evening before the netting, giving instructions to a policeman to guard the fish during the night against a possible raid of netsmen, who had learnt the water was down to four feet; that he slept in the immediate neighbourhood, and was the first on the spot in the morning; that he stuck to the work all day, removing the fish from the nets to the carriers himself; that he accompanied the fish to Kingston, and assisted to get them into the river; then, after fifteen hours' hard work, he started for home, which he could not reach for another two hours, by which time he must have been glad to pull off his long boots and get between the sheets.

Now, ye "Golden Barbels," "Good Intents," "Ne'er do Wells," and "Never Frets," we are one and all appealed to, and the man who appeals will think as much of the poor angler's shilling as he will of my guinea. We have no excuse—we must raise the money between us. Ye rich members of the Gresham and Piscatorial Society come to the fore, and you ever-ready Richmond Piscatorials help once again, and we shall soon have a sum sufficient to cover the cost of this good work.

It is clearly our duty to give this money. Will you kindly assist, Sir, by consenting to be treasurer of the fund? If so, I will do my best as secretary, believing that I shall have the active co-operation of the officers and members of the angling societies of London.—I am, &c., Philip Geen.

Lowther Lodge, Barnes.

[We shall be most willing to do as Mr. Geen suggests, and also to subscribe to the fund; it is clearly the plain duty of all who fish the Thames to support heartily such good work as Mr. Spreckley and other officers of the T. A. P. S. have done for us. We shall publish a list of the subscriptions as we receive them.—Ed.]

THE BATTLE OF THE STYLES.

Sir,—I must crave room for a few parting shots in this bloodless engagement, though I promise that my remarks will not require so much space as my last. "York Sher," after repeating the theory as to the Nottingham spinner making two casts while the other can make only one, which theory has already been demolished, makes use of one new argument; but that, I must say, is scarcely a fair one—not unfair towards me—oh, no! I don't complain of it; there is one with much greater reason than I to complain—I mean his friend with whom he fished on the occasion he recounts, and whose unhappy want of skill he has publicly contrasted with his own proficiency. My obvious reply is, that it is no sign of one art being inferior to another, because a novice of the one happens to be placed in juxtaposition with an adept of the other.

The temperate letter of "Thames Nottingham" provokes very little answer from me, except where he finds fault with me for citing the distances thrown at the two Fishing Gazette tournaments by the professionals, instead of those thrown by the amateurs. Surely I was justified in supposing that no one could better illustrate an art than its professors! But since I must quote the amateurs, I will do so, though I confess my task is less easy, in consequence of one extraordinary throw made by Mr. Little at the first tournament, and of his repeated success at the second, although not scoring such a long distance. Without this redoubtable champion, the scores of the other Trent performers certainly do not prove the superiority of their system, and I must here venture on an opinion I have formed, that the excellence of his style is in great measure due to his having, from association with Thames men, somewhat grafted their method on to the ordinary way of casting from the reel, and by so doing has rendered his throwing so powerful, that with all deference, Sir, to your opinion expressed in a note to "Thames Nottingham's" first letter, I would—if a match could be arranged—back Mr. Little to beat him. The following is a table of the scores made at both tournaments, showing the two longest throws by amateurs and (as a fair comparison of merit) by professionals, the latter being marked by asterisks:—

First Tournament.

Thames.		Nottingham.	
Powell	45½ yards.	Little	52½ yards.
Hoole	40½ ,,	Martin	47 ,,
*Wilder	50 ,,	*Bayley	45 ,,
*Andrews	45 ,,	*Foster	42½ ,,

Second Tournament.

Thames.		Nottingham.	
Hobden	47½ yards.	Little	47 yards.
Powell	48 ,,	Hobden	46 ,,
*Plummer	55 ,,	*Bailey	44 ,,
*Andrews	54 ,,	*Plummer	40 ,, (?)

From this we notice the fact that not only were the Nottingham professionals out-thrown by their brethren from the Thames, but were even beaten by the Thames amateurs; and one gentleman, who threw in both matches, threw his best in the Thames method.

These figures remind me, Sir, of another subject which has not received sufficient attention, viz., the expediency of abolishing the handicapping of rods at these competitions. Mr. Hobden, although using an absurdly short rod, actually threw farther than all the other six competitors save one, and one half-yard more would have equalled *him*; as it was, his allowance gave him the prize with some yards to spare. Nay, he even threw further with this short rod than he afterwards did with a long one, *but perhaps this was because he then threw in the Nottingham style.*—I am, &c., V.

P.S.—I propose, unless I am forced to write again on this subject, to send you a few remarks on the different ways in which a jack strikes a spinning bait. Perhaps they may have some bearing on a similar question now agitating the minds of the "roachers."

[Having seen Mr. Little make his wonderful casts, we know what he can do. All the same, we will back "Thames Nottingham" against him to any reasonable amount.—Ed.]

THE BATTLE OF THE STYLES.

Sir,—As one who has frequently practised both the Thames and Nottingham styles of spinning, I must agree with your correspondent who recommends the Thames style for fishing from a punt, but the Nottingham method when wading or fishing from the bank. With a level, clear space on which to coil the line, the Thames spinning is easier, especially against the wind, and numbed fingers do not cause an "over-run" of the winch. Moreover, in spite of what is said about the jerking of the rod tip in the Nottingham style, there is, I think, a more attractive spin in the bait in the Thames fashion. Except from a boat, the Thames style of casting the line is inapplicable.

As an instance of its disadvantages on the Lee and Blackwater in Ireland, worm fishing for salmon, is practised by casting in the Thames fashion of spinning; the fisherman is unable, however, to wade, and is restricted in his casts to suitable spots for coiling the line. Nottingham fishing would obviate these difficulties.

Last autumn an occasion arose which proved to me the benefits of being able to cast off the reel. I was trouting on a river known to contain good pike in many of its pools, and one of these pools was pointed out to me, densely wooded on both banks. Next evening I took down Nottingham appliances, and wading into the broken water below the pool, cast upwards with a small natural spinning bait. I immediately hooked a fish of 9 lb., which I drew down into the stream below me, and he afforded good sport. Shortly after, another pike of 10 lb. was treated in the same way. It was solely to the Nottingham method that my sport was due.

Two years ago, a friend was practising with me, spinning off the reel. As he was about to start for Norway, I advised him to try spinning an eel-tail for salmon by that method. In Ireland, a spinning bait is usually cast overhand like a fly, whilst wading, but the length of the cast is limited; and this method is "rough" on the rod, as some sinkers must be used to keep the bait low in the water.

The result of my friend's experience was, that he was enabled to kill many more fish than the two experienced rods on the same water, and one afternoon he killed seven fish spinning the eel-tail, while the others did not get a fish between them.

Amongst salmon fishermen especially, many are met who profess a pride in using the fly only—that being, in fact, the only way they can fish. I, for one, must enlist myself in the ranks of those who advocate fishing at top, mid-water, or bottom, according to requirements. Fly-fishing, whether for trout or salmon, is, no doubt, far the pleasantest and most sporting way; but then it does not always pay.

The difficulties of casting off the reel are, I believe, exaggerated so as to deter many from attempting to acquire the necessary skill, or rather knack. The most important point is to be certain that the gear is of correct pattern, and, to those who do not know that for themselves, Nottingham is the place to get it. With the directions that have already appeared in your paper, a *fisherman* will not meet with difficulties of any importance in casting. Scot.

ROACH BITES.—ORDINARY v. CRACK ROACHERS.

Sir,—What does friend "Anti-Theory" mean by this sentence, published in the Gazette of November 25th: "And having *bites which take your float down*, and then losing four out of six. Why, it is enough to make the hair of brethren of the roach-pole stand on end to think about it."

Surely, friend "Anti-Theory," you do not mean to tell me that you always get roach bites that take your float down? Well, if you do, four out of six would be a heavy percentage to lose. But how about those roach bites which *do not* take your float down? (But perhaps Lea roach are very accommodating, and plump the float down as though they meant business.) Trent roach, when not very well on, are cattle of a different stamp (please bear in mind that I allude to paste-fishing). Perhaps we are "stret-pegging"; our float is a dozen yards below us, when suddenly our float gives a little bit of a tilt over sideways, scarcely perceptible. Perhaps a novice has hold of the rod. If he notices this action of float (and nine times out of ten he does not), he says, "Oh! that was the bottom!" and then on pulling up found that half of his paste bait has gone in a peculiar manner. It was round when he put it in; now it is half-round—half of it hollowed out and gone. "Why, it is a bite, after all," says our angler, on discovering this.

Roach, when not on, will rob your hook continually of this paste bait. I have often wondered how the fish could bite half of my bait away and yet not touch the hook. I have had a dozen bites in succession, and yet not hooked a single fish. I have struck on the very instant the float tilted over; have waited a second; have changed the hook and the size of the bait, &c.—and yet it was no go. Says a Lea crack, "What a muff!" Well, I will admit I am a muff in this case (I am only an ordinary roacher); but then it seems queer that at other times I could hook the fish at every bite, and the real difficulty was to miss them; but when the roach are "on" like that once, the angler may go a dozen times after and not find them so very willing to take the bait and the hook. I maintain that an ordinary roacher will do well on the Trent if he hooks thirty per cent. of the bites he gets, taking the whole of the season through. "Anti-Theory" should try his hand on a 12 foot roach hole on the Lower Trent during September, when the roach are not on, with paste, and his float 20 yards below him, and let me sit by the side of him and watch his proceedings, and if he, as "E. W. A." says, "rarely misses one in two dozen knocks," why I should pay a visit to the nearest carpenters and order my coffin; but perhaps Lea cracks go to work in a different manner from what we Trent men do. I should like some information on the subject. One of our Newark anglers a short time ago was at work in the neighbourhood of the Lea for a few weeks. He gave us a very amusing description of the way of the Lea cracks. "In the first place," says he, "they have a rod any amount of a length; then they have no reel, merely a gut or hair line fastened to the loop at the rod-top. With the rod-point they follow the float down the swim, and if they get a bite and hook a fish they take off a joint of the rod and drop it down by their feet, and so on." He said he watched them a lot, but saw nobody get anything worth keeping. He was told one Sunday that a man had got a beautiful sample of roach. Curiosity took him to the individual in question; he had got 30 fish, and he says he would stake his life that they did not average 2 oz. apiece. A Trent angler would be ashamed to show them. I wonder if this is a correct account; if so, taking into consideration the smallness of the fish and the shallowness of the water, coupled with the fact that the Lea man's rod point is continually over his fish, he is not likely to miss many bites, for little roach bite as though they meant it. But let "Anti-Theory," J. F. Waters, "E. W. A." and Co. try a 12 foot roach hole on the Trent that is tenanted by a few pounders and mark the result.—I am, &c., THE TRENT OTTER

LOST ROACH BITES.—CRACK AND ORDINARY ROACHERS.

SIR,—If Mr. J. F. Waters, who, according to his own statement in the FISHING GAZETTE, "does not consider himself an adept at roach-fishing, after practising assiduously for twenty-five years," then, by all that is comical, I should very much like to know when a man may be considered an adept? He is willing to back himself to strike ten bites out of twelve, and yet he does not consider himself an adept!

If a man does not consider himself an adept after such a performance as that, what constitutes a fully-developed Lea crack?

No wonder there are so few roach left in the Lea. "E. W. A." says, "I have frequently watched some Lea cracks who rarely ever missed one in 2 dozen knocks." Dear me, is that possible? Name them! name them! Perhaps "E. W. A." will have the kindness to inform me under what circumstances these frequent watchings took place, and if he kept a record of his observations? That a man should deliberately take the trouble to undergo one such ordeal is certainly peculiar.

But that a man should frequently undergo such an ordeal appears to me quite inexplicable. Talk about "Patience on a monument smiling at Grief!" Twenty-three bites out of twenty-four, Mr. Editor, and frequently fishing with paste, with a rod 7 yards long, without a reel, and, when a fish is hooked, have to take off the two bottom joints, and pitch them on the ground! Exactly twenty-three bites out of twenty-four! Am I alive? Am I in my senses? If "E. W. A.," Mr. Editor, will kindly leave a note for me at your office when and where I can see this marvellous feat performed in the Lea, I should be deeply grateful. There can be no difficulty about it, as the feat is done so frequently. Let "E. W. A." carefully read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest the preceding letter, where Mr. J. F. Waters says, "Roach-fishing in the Lea is not as it used to be; the great difficulty now is not in striking the fish but in getting them on the feed."

It may amuse "Anti-Theory" to know that I often practise a style of roach-fishing I never yet saw adopted by anyone else, and without going too deeply into the peculiarities of this singular, yet killing, style, I may mention—

(1) I use no reel, and yet I can have either a tight or running line. Is not that peculiar?

(2) The rod is not more than 10 feet long; must not be too "whippy," nor too light, but nice and springy.

(3) The top of the float is never, under any circumstances, more than 20 inches from the top of the rod.

(4) It is absolutely necessary to be seated; and if you can draw the right leg under you, all the better.

(5) You must be close to the water.

(6) Paste is not the bait.

(7) That the fish are hit so beautifully, the fish seldom get off.

(8) That if you used the 7 yards of pole in these places which they are obliged to use in the Lea, you would not take a fish; in fact, you could not fish it at all, because you would get into a current—in fact, a "swirl,"—that would knock your float about, and in all probability take it out of sight altogether, and sometimes you would see it and sometimes you would not. What do you say, Messrs. Harry Hudson and "Trent Otter"?

(9) Practising this style I have taken, scores of times, 15, 20, 25, and 30 lb. in a day. Surely that is sufficiently practical?

Thanking you very much for your note to my last letter—I am, &c.,

MARK ANTONY.

P.S.—It may still further amuse "Anti-Theory" to know that I should never think of using but one hand when fishing for roach without a reel. Such is the difference between styles. The Lea roach anglers must be very much in advance of the Trent fishermen, for I do not believe there is a Trent angler living who could frequently kill 23 out of 24 bites or anything like it, when roach-fishing with paste. Ask them.

ROACH BITES.

SIR,—As "Mark Antony" says, I have no conception of the number of bites lost by ordinary roach-fishers, if the Welsh Harp gentlemen he refers to are such. His attempt at a sneer at the "crack Lea gentlemen," as he very facetiously calls them, is very poor even for him.

"Mark Antony's" 40 years' angling career must have been a very extraordinary one for him to have heard from some of the very best anglers, both living and dead, that they could get plenty of bites and but few fish. I—and I think I can speak for a great many more—would only like to get plenty of bites; the fish would answer as to the sticking.

His advice to find out the difference between a "crack" and "ordinary" roacher, and may I add a roacher pure and simple, as understood by us London men, should be taken to heart by himself; for he cannot know anything at all about it, or he would not quote from a book which, however good—and no one doubts it—it is on the Nottingham style, has nothing in common with the London style of roaching.

Of course "Mark Antony" has never used a roach pole, a fine line, and about a foot strike, or he would understand, which he assuredly does not at present, how so many roach bites are lost with, say, a ten-yard strike in one style, and so few with a foot strike in the other.

The remark as to a man wanting to put his knife into you because you hold a different opinion from himself is exceedingly rich, coming as it does from "M. A."

A few words more, and I have done. As "Mark Antony" seems to be very fond of advice, allow me to give him some. The next time he offers advice as to bait and method of angling (I refer particularly to his letter on Keston), let it be practical; and further, not to advise lovers of ferns to go where there are none.

I hope "M. A." will read the letters which appeared in the last GAZETTE, and others which are sure to follow on this question, and be convinced, notwithstanding what Mr. Woolfall rightly calls his generousness.—I am, &c.,

ANTI THEORY.

ROACH BITES.

SIR,—Being an amateur roacher, I cannot let "E. W. A.'s" remarks pass without saying something on the subject.

"E. W. A." must be blessed with extraordinary luck to hit eight or nine fish in every dozen knocks. Of course, by his statement, I presume he means that is his usual luck.

I know perfectly well that it is no uncommon occurrence to hook a fish nearly every swim. As an illustration, I once stood by Charlie South when he landed over sixty fish within the hour in the same swim. A year after, I landed 34 lb. in five hours, and lost two of the best it has been my luck to hook, which C. S. can endorse.

My idea with regard to the biting of the roach, or rather the non-biting, is that you get amongst a shoal of them off feed, and they simply rub against your bait. I don't think they take it in their mouth, or some others than Lea roachers would hit them. Why I think the above feasible, is that I have not unfrequently, when striking extra sharp, caught the roach either by the side or tail. I should much like to hear Charlie South on the subject.—I am, &c.,

Churton Street, S.W., Dec. 5. H. H.

BITES LOST WHEN ROACH-FISHING.

SIR,—I am afraid I shall sink beneath the notice of such anglers as "Anti-Theory," J. F. Waters, and E. W. A. when I say that the "Trent Otter" and "Mark Antony" are the sort of men I believe in, for it is my humble opinion that they know how to use a rod as well as talk about it.

I myself have handled both Thames and Nottingham rods; have fished with a 4-inch strike with the former, and with a 30 yards strike with the latter; but with neither rod should I like to say that I could at all times make sure of even one knock out of six.

You, Mr. Editor, have hit the nail fair on the head in your foot-note to "Mark Antony's" letter of 2nd inst., headed "Bites Lost when Roach-fishing," in saying, "Our experience is that there are times when you can kill fish at every bite, and others when, from some peculiarity in the biting, you miss 50 per cent. at least." Only, instead of using the word *biting*, the word *knocks* would have better applied—at such times they are knocks, and knocks only. For though they appear to be genuine bites and take down the float in a most aggravating manner, yet it is simply the roach butting the bait, without the ghost of a chance of their taking it into their mouths. How, in the name of wonder, any angler at such times can make sure of hooking his fish is beyond me. I have that branch of the art of angling still to learn. I have never fished the Lea, so am unable to say what the fishing is like on that water; but can hardly think there is so much difference between the fishing in one river and another that an angler can always make sure of three or even four knocks out of six. Anyhow, I do not think for a moment they could do it here—I have seen it tried by some of the best rodsters that ever handled a rod.

London club men—men whose word no true angler would think of doubting—men whom I respect, for they make roach fishing a science—they cannot do it at all times, though I have seen them with the roach well on hardly miss ten bites in an hour; and, if I felt at liberty to give names, men who would bear out my statement to the letter. If this should meet the eye of any of them, I hope they will take the matter up, and explain it away in a more able manner.—I am, &c., CHARLIE SOUTH.

[We have much pleasure in referring Mr. South to "L. B.'s" "Club Jottings" this week, in which this question is referred to. Mr. S. has given us a very interesting explanation of the reason why one does miss roach bites, or apparent bites, at times. As we said before, we can remember many days with the roach in various parts of the country when only the sheerest carelessness was the cause of missing any bites at all; and other days when, apparently, the float indicated bites which produced nothing to the most careful striking. They were not those downright pulls given by fish feeding in earnest, but jerky movements, not often taking the float clean under.—ED.)

ROACH BITES.

SIR,—I have read "Mark Antony's" letter with a very considerable amount of surprise. The only conclusion it seems possible to arrive at is, that he is not really a roacher.

As I stated in my last letter, I am not a "crack," but consider myself an average roacher.

In "M. A.'s" first "Example," he states "the float went under nearly every time." The question arises, Were they roach bites? I should imagine not. If they were, and were average-size fish, they were not hit quickly enough, and ought to have been brought to bank. "M. A.'s" remarks as to "Lea cracks" being content to take away five or six decent fish a day is easily explained. They fish in a water that is fished to death, and the fish over-fed. Has "M. A." ever tried such a water to fish in? If not, the sooner the better, for if he hits so few fish elsewhere, he would hit none there. I should certainly advise "M. A." to go and see for himself how many fish a Lea crack misses (he evidently does not believe what is stated). He would find on an average that not three in a dozen are missed, and the small fish returned to water.

There can be no wonder that fish are missed if, as "M. A." states, great round pieces of paste are used. Again, who ever heard of a roach-fisher waiting for the second knock; by doing so one might easily lose nine out of twelve fish, and the remaining three would in all probability hook themselves. "Trent Otter" may describe this in his book, but I will venture to state he is too good a roacher to practise it himself, and wait for the second "bob."

I am afraid M. A. has not watched the aquarium to any practical purpose; for he states that why the fish are sometimes missed is that they "blow" the paste out of their mouths. Undoubtedly they do; but to blow it *out* it must have been *in*, and then was the time to hit your fish. When they do this we usually say they are "not on feed"; but for all that, the float gives the almost imperceptible bob (especially if it be a big fish), and they ought to be hooked.

I have not fished for nearly 40 years, as M. A. states he has; so I hope he will not think I am trying to get my knife into him; but am simply stating what I myself have experienced. If he were a young angler, I would suggest his working gear for roach was somewhere out of order; but that would be presumption. I can only imagine he has not the keen sympathy and almost unity of action that must exist between the eye and the wrist, to be a moderate roacher. I well remember, when first learning roach fishing, a Lea crack "coached" me, and many a fish I have seen him hit where the float barely moved; in fact it is only by long experience such knocks can be detected, especially in roughish water. When detected, no second touch must be waited for, but an immediate response from the wrist. This is how Lea cracks get their fish, and for the matter of that, every other roacher.—I am, &c.,

E. W. A.

BAYONET-POINTED HOOKS.—BITES LOST WHEN ROACH FISHING.

Sir,—Will you allow me to state that the idea of "bayonet-pointed" hooks, so far from being a novelty, was made public by no less an authority than Greville Fennell in his admirable work, "The Book of the Roach," published some years ago. Much to my regret, I have lost my copy of that valuable text book on the art, but any possessor of a copy will be able to corroborate my statement that the worthy author's words are to the following effect:—"When the angler finds his book has become blunt he should use a small file or piece of stone to sharpen it, giving the hook a triangular shape from point to barb, so that it will cut in like a glover's needle." The words "glover's needle" are very deeply engraven on the tablets of my memory. The credit of having such hooks specially manufactured belongs, of course, to Dr. Brunton. At the same time I am sure he will readily admit that in this matter he has unconsciously walked a few steps further on the path previously trodden by an excellent and much respected writer on our common sport.

Dealing now with the second subject in the heading of this letter, I must say, that my experience is very much at variance with "Mark Antony's" theory that four bites are lost out of six by ordinary roach fishers. I have fished, principally for roach, in the Lea, Thames, Colne, Mole, Arun, and, in fact, most of the fishable water within the compass of a day's excursion from London, for the past sixteen years, and from close observation during that period I am inclined to the belief that three in twelve is the outside average of bites missed by ordinary roach fishers. By the term "ordinary roach fishers," I refer to those who are to be found in large numbers amongst our London anglers; men who bring judgment to bear on the selection of swims suitable to the season, and in the use of ground bait—men whose motto is neatness and delicacy in every item of their tackle and its manipulation. Without these qualities no man, in my humble opinion, is at all worthy the name of roach fisher. But the so-called cracks possess all these piscatorial virtues, with the extra share of knack or dexterity which distinguishes some men from their fellows in all branches of sport. I quite agree with "E. W. A." that these same cracks rarely miss one bite in two dozen.

"Mark Antony," however, bars the "cracks" from his imaginary table of averages; but surely he should also exclude from them such extraordinary roach fishers as the man who "loses five bites out of six, with the float going under nearly every time."

I myself am by no means a "crack"; but the expectation of a field-day with the "pounders" which are known to abound in my pet stream, the Lea, often induces me to spend a whole day on its banks with the meagre result spoken of by "M. A.," viz,, five or six decent fish; but I can safely affirm that on most such days I have struck every fish that has in any way affected the float in biting. When the water is in condition I use an eighteen feet pole, paste on the hook, and, for ground bait, crumb of bread one day old, soaked in cold water and kneaded with bran to the consistency of putty; should the fish be in the lackaidaisical humour referred to, I discard the white paste and employ the ground bait itself as the lure, using a piece just sufficient for a smaller hook than usual (see pattern enclosed). The fish on these occasions appear to be much less suspicious of the ground bait, and very small pieces thrown in serve to keep them together—remember they are feeding on it, and are soon satisfied. There must be no waiting for trifles or for a second bob, which, indeed, very few wielders of the roach pole dream of doing; and it is in this particular that the London style is to my mind much more effective than that of Nottingham—for roach fishing pure and simple, although I expect to bring a hornet's nest about my ears for saying so.

In conclusion, may I ask our friend "M. A.," as he appears to be residing near London, to pay a few visits to the Lea during the next few months—on Sundays if he can possibly manage to do so; let him watch closely the roachers then assembled on its banks between Broxbourne and Hertford, and then frankly state whether he has not had reason to alter the opinion he now holds. If I mistake not, he will then agree with J. F. Waters, that the difficulty is not in striking the fish, but in inducing them to bite at the bait on the hook.—I am, &c.,

J. McD.

[We are sure Dr. Brunton will under the circumstances pointed out by our correspondent, at once admit that *in substance* Mr. Greville Fennell is before him in the matter of the bayonet-pointed hook.—Ed.]

ROACH AND PASTE.

Sir,—Having had a varied experience in roach fishing, both in river and canal, I can fully endorse your remark in your last issue, that there are times when you can kill fish at almost every bite, and other times lose more bites, and miss fish by some peculiarity of humour they are in. I have fished in still waters with paste when I could barely see the float stir, and have caught roach, and good ones too; and at other times I have had great difficulty in making a catch when the fish have been giving good bites. When roach fishing with paste, either in river or canal, I always fish on the bottom, which I know from experience to be a more sure way of fishing for roach with paste than any other, as I think the paste looks more natural on the bottom, than hanging in midwater, or near the bottom. I am not surprised at our friend, Mark Antony having seen anglers lose five bites out of six, as there are plenty of anglers whom I know that have spent many years in roach fishing, and who, unless fish are in a good biting humour, can do very little. There are many reasons that I can give why so many bites are lost while paste fishing: one of them is, having too much loose line from the rod to the float, as a great many anglers have. Consequently, when fish are biting shy, they are continuously striking without success, causing a commotion and knocking the fish entirely off the feed; another is, having a float ever so many times too large, and which causes too much resistance to the fish pulling it. Again, having several inches of the line decorated with split shot, when one would answer the purpose, and a small one at that. Another reason why I think so many bites are lost is having a hook that is either too large or too small, in the former case with a lump of paste on that a fish is not in a humour to swallow but only nibble at. I think there are more bites lost through fishing with unsuitable tackle than any other cause. As it may interest some of your numerous readers, I will describe the way in which I fish with paste. The rod I fish with is 10 ft. in length, light and stiff, and for waters where I can fish 4, 5, or 6 feet deep, within two yards from the side, a longer one is not required. I can do more work with this length of rod than with one any longer, it being easier to handle and handier in every way than one of 14 or 16 ft. The line I use I make of chestnut hair, twisted at the top and single at the bottom; for the bottom hair I have the most round and finest hair I can get, consistent with strength. I generally fish with a No. 10 hook. Now, some anglers will say this hook is too small; but, when fish are biting shy, and, consequently, smaller baits have to be used to take them, better bites will be had, and more fish caught, than with a large hook and a bigger bait. I always whip the hook on with the hair inside the bend or shank of the hook, for two great reasons most essential to success in hooking a fish; as, when the hair is fastened outside the shank, and the point of the hook, say, put against the finger-nail and the hair drawn tight, the point of the hook will be found to describe an acute angle from the line. The whipping-on of the hook in this way will be a great cause of so many fish being slightly hooked and getting off. The other reason why I whip the hook on with the hair inside the shank or bend is, that the paste and point of the hook are uppermost when on the bottom, thus showing the paste well to the fish, without the shank being exposed. A hook that is whipped on any way, or on a hair that is uneven and not round, will be found by experimenting in a shallow place or vessel of water, where it can be seen, to be any way, and with the shank uppermost and the paste underneath. In this case how can an angler make sure of his bites unles the fish gulps the lot?—as it can only get at the point of the hook by turning the hook over. There will be many who will not understand how the hook can be made to lie on the bottom with the point up. It is done in this way: Whip the hook on as shown on a round hair, then take a small split shot, and about four inches from the hook fasten it on the hair, with the split of the shot towards the back of the hook; then make a runner or small ledger out of a piece of sheet lead, the same shape as about ¼ inch of thin pipe stem. This will slide up and down above your shot and keep the bait on the bottom, and does not impede the float from going down at the slightest nibble. The float that I use in slow waters is about three inches of peacock quill, and for river fishing with paste in this style the lightest float and smallest shot can be used. I should like to give the way in which I ground-bait, &c., but for fear of trespassing on your space,—I am, &c. W. H. B.

Salford.

HOOKS AND CREELS.

Sir,—A great deal is just now being written about eyed-hooks for fly-fishing, but I hear nothing of a similar kind for bait-fishing. I enclose needle-eyed hooks of old pattern, which I find very useful at times in its different sizes for worm, grub, and gentle fishing. The advantages of it are these: the ease with which it can be changed or renewed when necessary; the gut, from having been used, is moist, and only one knot instead of two is required to attach it, and its plain, smooth metal shank being more adapted for receiving the soft tissues of the baits before mentioned, than the rough, thick whipping of ordinary gut hooks. I knot it on by simply passing the end of the gut through the eye, and then doubling it back, and securing it with the ordinary gut knot, leaving about a sixteenth of an inch bristlewise on the top of the shank to assist in retaining the bait. I arrange my basket for carrying food, tackle, &c., thus: from the indiarubber shop I obtained a yard of drab mackintosh sheeting and some cement; I made a bag of this of the ordinary wallet shape, with expanding sides, but narrower on the top than the bottom, adapting the outline of the bag to that of the inside of the back of the basket, to which I attach it by means of a light strap and buckle passed through the strapholes of the basket, thus retaining it in position, and keeping it out of the way of the fish, and making it easily accessible at any time. I find the bag most useful, and before I hit on it was continually in a muddle, getting food and fly-books, and everything else in the basket wet and dirty. For this, or the hooks, I do not claim originality, but I never saw anyone use either but myself. The hook I picked up some years ago down in Cornwall, and have used it ever since.—I am, &c., Bittern.

[Our correspondent omitted to enclose the hooks, but we have no doubt he refers to the very useful eyed hook, brought out some years ago by Messrs. Warner, of Redditch. The eye is like that of a needle.—Ed.]

JACK TAKING DACE.

Sir,—I regret to find, from the tone and tendency of "Mark Antony's" remarks in last week's Fishing Gazette, that he is disposed to go further into personalities than I am, and I must, therefore, decline to follow.

Since the "incident" took place, I have been present on one occasion when a small roach was put into "jack's" aquarium. His jackship took no notice of the new-comer and made not the slightest movement. The roach, which had been behind jack for a moment or two, now attempted to go past; but, just as he got level with the other's head, an almost imperceptible movement of jack's body was noticed, and in the twinkling of an eye the roach had disappeared, and only the working of the former's gullet showed what had taken place. Not one of us (ten or twelve) could honestly say he had seen the roach taken, and we were all intently watching for the purpose of seeing if it was head or tail first. The only points were the roach attempting to pass, its instantaneous disappearance, and the movement in jack's throat.

I am very much obliged to Mr. C. T. Padfield for his letter, but, unfortunately, it does quite clear up the matter. If he, or yourself, Mr. Editor, will kindly supplement the information by stating the present law on the subject, an important point will have been set at rest.—I am &c.,

R. Woolfall,
Hon. Sec. Liverpool Angling Association.

Liverpool, Dec. 6.

PERCH-FISHING THROUGH THE ICE.

Sir,—Last Saturday week I went with a friend to a private pond perch-fishing with minnow. On arriving at the pond, to our great astonishment we found it covered with ice nearly an inch thick. We were determined not to be done out of our fishing, so we looked about for something handy to break the ice with, and having found a large branch of a tree, we made half a dozen holes, each about a foot or two square, at the best spots. We tried them all carefully with worm and minnow the whole afternoon, and only got one perch of about ½ lb. Have any of your readers had any experience in fishing through ice, and with what results? I may say I have fished this pond several times before, and have always been able to catch quantities of perch while trying for the trout.—I am, &c., Spider.

Derbyshire, Nov. 28th.

[Some fish—the chub, for instance—get ravenous in frosty weather; other fish seem to dislike cold and become partly torpid and will not feed. Barbel, carp, tench, and perch are examples; a very slight difference in the temperature makes all the difference in the world as regards their biting.—Ed.]

THE RAVENSBOURNE.

Sir,—In reply to "Fly Fisher," I beg to say I have fished in the Ravensbourne for the past twenty-five years, and with the exception of one field, what with boys bathing and dogs ratting, it is no good at all, being all railed off. If he goes he will see the usual caution on that square piece of board so repulsive to brethren of the roach pole.—I am, &c., Mark Antony.

THE RAVENSBOURNE.

Sir,—The information given by your correspondent, "Fly Fisher," is rather incorrect. The Ravensbourne rises at Keston, in Kent, and the Wandle near Croydon, in Surrey. Knowing the Ravensbourne well, I venture to give you a short account of it.

It rises from Cæsar's Well (named after Julius Cæsar, who encamped at West Wickham, close by, and who, as tradition tells, was short of water, and observing a couple of ravens continually passing backwards and forwards, had them followed, and so discovered the spring. He thereupon named it "Raven's bourne" (Anglo-Saxon, burne, a stream); it is also said that the three ponds were dug out by his directions for bathing purposes on Keston Common), and runs through three ponds, the first being almost on a level with the well, the second about a dozen feet lower, and the third about the same distance lower still. All three contain fine carp, rudd, and eels. The two top ones are public, but lucky is he who can entice one of the old stagers these contain. After leaving the ponds, it runs, forming a very inconsiderable brook, to Bromley, thence, through private grounds, to South End, Lewisham, where it opens out, and here we get the best of the river's very poor fishing. At this spot there are one or two trout and pike, a few perch, roach, dace, gudgeon, eels, and minnows. From here it runs to Catford, where it is joined by another stream, which has its rise near Norwood (this may have given rise to your correspondent's error), and, combining, they run by Catford Bridge to Ladywell and Lewisham, and finally into the Thames at Deptford. At the latter place it is called the Deptford Creek.

The only portions fit for stocking, supposing these could be obtained, would be the stretch above the second mill at South End, and the portions between the Ladywell and Lewisham railway stations, both of which, of course, are strictly private.—I am, &c.,

Ravensbourne.

[We think our correspondent's derivation of the name of the stream should not go beyond the Anglo-Saxon, unless there is evidence that the stream ever had a Latin name. In some cases Latin names given to our streams (or more probably to the Roman towns on those streams) have been retained to the present day.—Ed.]

FISHING-ROD TAKEN IN MISTAKE.

Sir,—The angler who took a trolling rod and telescope landing handle from the Rye House parlour, on Sunday, November 5, to catch the 7.15 p.m. train to London, may have his own he left behind on application to R. Ghurney, 10, Beeches Street, Charles Square, Hoxton, N.

Description of rod, &c., taken:—Cane trolling rod, three tops, one fitted with steel revolving ring; five joint; telescope landing handle, bag capped at bottom with leather.

Description of rod left in mistake:—Cane trolling rod, whalebone top; an umbrella stick, fitted with ferrule, for landing handle; bag slightly torn.—I am, &c., R. Ghurney.

KEEPERS *v.* ANGLERS.

Sir,—In answer to Mr. Wolfall's inquiry in your issue of the 25th November last, by section 24 of the 24th and 25th Vict., chapter 96, any one taking fish in a private fishery is guilty of a misdemeanour, and liable to a penalty of £5 over and above the value of the fish; and by the 25th section, the owner of the ground, water, or fishery where any person is found unlawfully fishing, his servant, or any person authorised by him, may demand any implement for taking or destroying fish in the possession of the offender, and if he shall not immediately deliver it up, the same may seize and take the same for the use of such owner; but the person from whom the same is taken is exempted from the penalty.—I am, &c., Wm. Boydell.

15, Warwick Court, Gray's Inn, W.C.,
December 5, 1882.

THE LEDGER PATERNOSTER.

Sir,—Mr. J. H. Keene, in his "Practical Fisherman," states in reference to live baiting for pike:—"For deep or rapid streams I attach great value to the ledger paternoster, such as is used at the Welsh Harp water continually." But he does not describe it. For the benefit of myself and other amateur fishermen who may be interested in the matter, would you kindly state in a foot-note to this letter how this paternoster is rigged up and used?—I am, &c., Piscator.

[The "Ledger Paternoster" is merely an ordinary paternoster used generally without float. To make one, fasten a lead to the end of the gimp or gut trace; then fasten a paternoster hook on gimp about 2 feet from the lead; but this point, as also the size of the lead, depends on the depth and strength of the stream. This is a very useful form of tackle for roving for jack. You throw out to some spot; let the bait have a swim or two there; then pull in a yard or two, and wait again, and so on until you reach the edge, and then you make a fresh throw. In this way you can search a water very thoroughly, and know that your bait must be seen by the fish. You can use two hooks, or three if necessary, as in the ordinary paternoster, and they should be fastened so as to revolve round the line.—Ed.]

PERCH FROM DAGENHAM.

Sir,—I have read in your valuable paper once or twice lately of several large perch having been captured from the lake at Dagenham. I beg to inform you that while fishing in that water for roach on October 13, 1859, I myself took a fine specimen of that noble fish, in splendid condition, weighing $3\frac{1}{2}$ lb. I was fishing very fine, with tight line, gentle, and No. 10 hook. The fish was very game, but after a sharp struggle (in which your humble servant came off victorious) I succeeded in bringing it to net. I had it preserved, and it takes a prominent place in my collection. On October 13, 1869 (ten years later to the day), I was fishing in my punt abreast the boat lock at Teddington for roach, dace, &c. I put out a paternoster with two small dace on as bait for jack, when, just before dusk, I observed my line quietly travelling up stream. I at once saw something had taken my bait. I took hold of the rod and gave a gentle strike. Away went the fish at a great pace down stream. After a little patience and time, in which he played me not a few pranks, I managed to turn him. He then came rapidly up stream, under the punt, and getting round two punt poles, or ripecks, I feared lest I should lose him; but, fortunately, my friend who was with me, aided by Ben Stevens, the fisherman, assisted me in safely passing the rod between the punt and poles. By this time my fish was nearly exhausted, and with a little care I succeeded at last in landing a splendid barbel of $10\frac{1}{2}$ lb. (not anglers' weight). I sent it to Messrs. Little, of 15, Fetter Lane, for preservation, and need hardly say it was set up to my satisfaction and to the credit of those who preserved it.

I should have mentioned that Ben Stevens, the fisherman alluded to, was not with me, but had placed his head pole close to the one at the stern of my punt, and we were thus fishing in the same straight line; hence it was the fish got round two poles.—I am, &c., H. Dickinson.

West-by-Thames, Kingston, Dec. 4.

FEATHERS, FLIES, &c.

Sir,—Blue dun as applied to the colour of fowls is not a self or original colour, I fully believe, but is the result of a cross with black and white fowls. Dun fowls are often met with in farm yards in all parts of the country—quite by chance, as it were, and the result of a mixture of black Spanish and white fowls The blue feathers of such first cross being not clear in the fibre, and worthless for fly-tying. The feathers from blue dun game fowls are infinitely superior in clearness of colour, and fineness of fibre and stem, to those of Andalusians. I find that however long I breed in (by which I mean breeding duns with duns, and changing the blood sometimes, but not the colour), out of every brood of chicks the original colours of black and white are produced. During the past summer, out of several broods from pure blue dun fowls, I have had black, white, and dun chicks. Some years since I had a breed of blue dun game bantams. The same thing occurred in the chickens. I never use black cocks after having obtained a strain of blue hens—black breasted red cocks, occasionally, and at other times blue dun cocks.

Your correspondent "Bittern," in Gazette of December 2, considers blue hackles tinged wth brown and brassy colour at edges as unsuitable for blue dun flies. I may have been in error, for I have always been aiming at producing grizzle or brassy cock's hackles, and getting a golden yellow edge to my hen's hackles—called commonly honey duns. Grizzle cock's hackles, when looked at through the light, are clear blue. There is not much difficulty in breeding blue duns, but a considerable amount of trouble and often disappointment in getting good honey duns.

If "Bittern" will obtain D. Foster's "Scientific Angler," he will see how and when to work the red caterpillar. I can quite endorse "Bittern's" remarks as to the difficulty of getting good furnace hackles. The foregoing remarks are the result of my own experience only, and I am quite open to correction, my object being to help my fellow anglers and to advance what I may term the science of breeding for colour in fowls.—I am, &c., W. T. H.

Macclesfield.

ANDALUSIAN FOWLS.

Sir,—I notice a good deal of correspondence among fly-fishers about Andalusian fowls. I keep this breed, and as I cannot otherwise dispose of the cocks, I am going to kill some, though it seems a great pity.—I am, &c.,

P.

[If any of our readers would like to buy some of the birds, they can have "P.'s" address from us.—Ed.]

Gregory's Spinning Baits. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[Advt.]

George James Eaton, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[Advt.]

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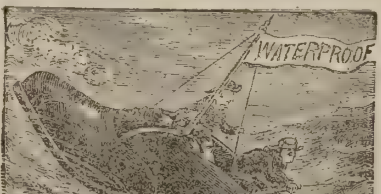

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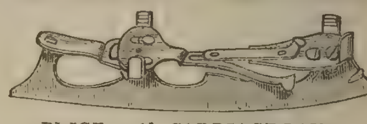

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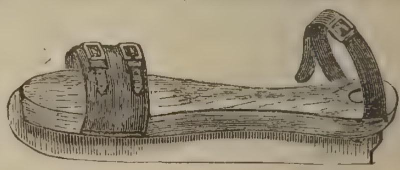

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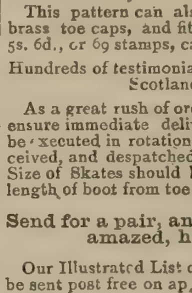
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JOHN STONE, Secretary.

The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1882.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL FISH CULTURE ASSOCIATION.

[Copy of a circular which has been sent out to gentlemen interested in the subject.]

“Sir,—Knowing that you are interested in the subject of fish culture, we beg to ask if you will kindly attend a meeting under the presidency of Edward Birkbeck, Esq., M.P., which is to be held at three o’clock on Wednesday, 20th December, 1882, at the Fishmongers’ Hall, London Bridge, kindly lent by the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers for the occasion.

“The object of the meeting is to form a ‘National Fish Culture Association of Great Britain and Ireland.’ We feel sure you will agree with us that such a society is wanted, and has an immense field open for it. At present all British effort in fish culture is individual effort, and not only do the public generally know little of what is being done, but our fish culturists themselves are often quite ignorant of what other labourers in the same field are doing; as proof of this, we may mention the difficulty we have experienced in getting the names and addresses of fish culturists, and we are aware that there are many whose names we have failed to obtain.

“We know from experience that in this country an increasing interest is being taken in fish culture and fish farming of all kinds; in other countries, including our own colonies, fish cultural societies are doing most valuable work. In view of these facts, and also of that Great International Fisheries Exhibition which is to be opened in London next year by her Majesty the Queen, it is unquestionably most desirable that such a society as we have referred to should be formed. It will, of course, be in no sense a commercial undertaking, but purely a scientific society, established on the simplest and broadest foundations, viz., ‘to promote the interests of inland and sea fish culture of all kinds in the best way possible.’

“Further details will be explained at the meeting. The following gentlemen have promised to support the movement:—The Marquis of Exeter, Sir James Gibson Maitland, Bart., Mr. E. Birkbeck, M.P., Lieut-Col. Custance, Mr. C. L. Buxton, Mr. T. J. Mann, Dr. Francis Day, Mr. Greville Fennell, Mr. Francis Francis, of the *Field*, Mr. C. C. Capel, Mr. J. A. Youl, Mr. H. Ffennell, of *Land and Water*, Mr. William Senior, of the *Daily News* and *Bell’e Life*, Mr. J. P. Wheeldon, of the *Yachting Gazette*, and many others.

“Will you kindly inform us if it will be convenient for you to be present at the meeting; or if you cannot attend, we should be glad to hear from you that the movement has your good wishes.

“We are, Sir, yours faithfully,
“W. Oldham Chambers,
(“Hon. Sec. Norfolk and Suffolk Acclimatisation Society.)
“R. B. Marston,
(“Editor, Fishing Gazette.”)

(Please reply to R. B. Marston, Crown Buildings, 188, Fleet Street, London.)

DISCUSSIONS AT THE OCCABOT CLUB.

By the Secretary.

Tweezer.—“A fire is very comforting this weather, eh, Swivel?”

Swivel.—“Very much so, especially if you happen to be insured!”

The members of the club were dropping in one by one, rubbing their hands, evidently glad to get out of the raw, foggy, nipping night air.

Ledger.—“Has anybody seen Plummet lately?”

Tweezer.—“He will turn up presently. I met him at Abingdon on Tuesday; told me he was staying at the house of a client of his, working the jack in some old moat there. Wonderful place for fish, I believe.”

Ledger.—“What an enthusiast that man is! All his clients seem to have good jack waters, and his chief business seems to be to ‘work them.’ ”

Gaff.—“Pray do not bring up that knotty Nottingham question again; I hear he is anything but pleased at the way he has been handled in the Gazette by ‘V.’ ”

Plummet.—“ ‘V.’? Who’s ‘V,” I should like to know? Cannot a man describe the style of fishing he likes best without being called a fool?”

Tweezer.—“Halloa, old man! thought you were miles away. Who has been ruffling your feathers?”

Gaff.—“What, have you not seen the correspondence in the Gazette, caused by our friend here, the secretary, sending an account of one of our meetings?”

Plummet.—“That ‘Thames-Nottingham’ is a sensible man—knows what he is writing about; but as for ‘V.,” he——”

Ledger.—“Writes very sensibly too, I think; and in spite of your injured tone, Plummet, I know you are the last man to grumble because another man does not think quite as you do.”

Plummet.—“I don’t grumble at that. What I don’t like is his dictatorial style—the only way to hold a Nottingham rod is the way *he* holds it. As if a man cannot please himself.”

Ledger.—“Well, there’s no harm done; there is nothing like discussion for getting at the bottom of things, and the conclusion I have come to is that there is a great deal to be said for both styles of fishing, Thames and Nottingham. You certainly said ‘V.’s style of holding the rod was perhaps the best, but that you preferred the other, and there I think ‘V.’ was a little hard on you; but you have ‘Thames-Nottingham,’ ‘Scot,’ and others on your side. I think I have more cause to grumble at ‘V.’ than you, for he took on himself to use my name pretty freely.”

Red-spinner.—“I confess, Plummet, your description of the Nottingham style interested me considerably; in fact, I have bought a Nottingham reel and been practising for a week past.”

Split-shot.—“What, Red-spinner going in for coarse fishing? Well, that is a revolution! Pass the whisky bottle.”

Red-spinner.—Not so fast, friend; I am not converted yet, and not likely to be, as long as there are salmon and trout and grayling to be caught. What I was going to remark was, that Plummet’s description of a man walking along a bank covered with long grass and bushes, or wading a shallow and spinning as comfortably as possible from the reel, gave me an idea which I intend to work out next trout season.”

Plummet.—“And what is that?”

Red-spinner.—“Well, I think I see my way to use that favourite style of yours in spinning for trout. You see, I have my share of trout fishing with the fly, and when that is even moderately good, I never try anything else; but at times, when the fish are feeding on larvæ and fry, nothing will lure them to the surface; then I use the worm—in clear waters only, mind you—or the minnow. I never was much of a hand at spinning, and the difficulty I find in getting my minnow out thirty yards or so without catching the loose line in twigs, &c., on the bank, and the necessity of being on the bank to make a cast at all, have often induced me to give it up in disgust. I had half made up my mind to learn casting with the line coiled round the thumb and fingers of the left hand, until I read Plummet’s panegyric on the Nottingham reel. It had never till then occurred to me that this was the very thing I was in want of, and, as I said before, I have been practising casting from the reel, with a view to using that method next trout season, and by following Plummet’s directions, modified, I must own, by some hints from ‘V.’ and other writers in the Gazette, I think I have ‘collared the bowling,’—in other words, controlled the winch.”

Plummet.—“Capital, I can almost forgive ‘V.’s sarcastic remarks if they have helped to convert such an old hand as Red-spinner, for, in spite of his modest assertion, I know he could hold his own with most men in spinning for trout in the Thames style. But you can’t take a boat up a rocky trout stream; in fact, the warmest advocates of the Thames style admit that a boat is a necessity, so that style is practically confined to comparatively a small part of the fishable water in a country.”

Blue Dun.—“May I ask you, Red-spinner, if you did not find your minnow rather a light weight to throw from the reel?”

Red-spinner.—“That was my difficulty. I found that I had to use a rather heavy lead as well as the lead cap on the minnow. You know I always use Hawker’s tackle when fishing the natural minnow, and the lead made too much splash to answer well in a broad, shallow trout stream, so I tried the Nottingham plan when float-fishing. I put one or two swan shot on the trace about a foot apart, and I found it answered admirably. I can get out thirty yards of line easily, and that, with the additional advantage of being able to wade as I cast, will enable me to reach even the most inaccessible parts of the roughest trout streams.”

Blue Dun.—“I have fished on most of our trout streams for the last half century nearly, and I never yet saw an angler using the Nottingham reel in spinning for trout, but in theory I see no reason why it should not prove a most valuable plan. Indeed, it was only the other day I saw a letter in the Gazette signed ‘Scot’—evidently a good all-round trout and salmon angler, from his style of writing—in which he describes the success a friend of his had in Norway, spinning from the reel for salmon, when other anglers could not get at the fish. But here comes Richmond! Welcome, fair Sir, biggest and best of chairmen and honoured guest of the Occabots."

Richmond.—"Gentlemen, your courteous reception o'erwhelms me. May I ask who is the father—excuse me, I should say the president—of your society?"

Tweezer.—"We are all fathers, all presidents."

Richmond.—"Delightful; but this letter of invitation to my most unworthy self is signed by the president of the Occabot Club?"

Plummet.—"Worthy Richmond, a word of explanation: by the unwritten laws of the club, every member must in turn be president, secretary, and treasurer."

Richmond.—"Ah, ah; now I see; then I take it you will *each* get a testimonial!"

THAMES FISHING AND THE RICHMOND PISCATORIALS.

THE long cessation of hostilities against the fish in the river Thames has been most discouraging to the army of anglers who are always ready to wage war against them, and who for some time have been eager for the fray. The pioneers, or in other words, the professional fishermen, like so many spies, have been watching the receding and advance of the flood, in order to invite their clients to some scene of action, each week indicating favourable prospects which have not been fully realised. Occasionally some of the skilful members have been at work with varying success, and the members of the Richmond Piscatorial Society have been fishing in the tidal waters with a certain amount of satisfactory results. The place selected was between Richmond Bridge and Teddington, and another portion has since been chalked out below Brentford Ferry. The worthy secretary is most sanguine as to the success of operations in the latter district. He says he has seen fish caught as low down as Mortlake, as large as he has ever witnessed—and he has seen a few in his time. There can be no doubt about this, and as some good prizes are to be fished for, it is hoped the water will be in condition to exhibit substantial evidence of first-rate sport. Some of the members are old hands at roach and dace fishing, and it may be that this competition will add fresh laurels to their well-known fame. In the last contest the size of the fish was fixed above the Thames standard, or results might have been different. There is no doubt that they would, for the winner of the second prize, had the size been the Thames standard, would have increased the weight of the fish fully four-fold. The approaching competition on Wednesday, the 13th of December, will be regarded with some interest and test the value of the fishing-ground as far as Kew Bridge, at which point it is hoped ere long, netting will be abolished. There can be no doubt the Richmond Piscatorials are a strong and active body of anglers, and have the interests of the tidal waters greatly at heart. The portion of water below Teddington is largely patronised by all classes of anglers. When the last census was taken of the number of punts used for angling purposes at Richmond, Twickenham, and Teddington, in July, 1881, there were registered no fewer than seventy-one, Twickenham, of course, possessing the larger quantity. Then as regards bank-fishers in those places, the members have been daily represented in three figures. Now it not unfrequently happens that the number of anglers in one punt is four, and seldom less than three. It would be difficult to make an approximation of the number of anglers visiting the tidal waters in the course of one season—it may safely be computed by thousands. But it all comes to this—that the tideway requires very great consideration. It is the great fishing place of London anglers, and so long as the sport is conducted on true sportsmanlike principles, everything should be done to promote their interests; but, first of all, let the anglers show their appreciation, which they have never yet fairly done, of the work of preservation and protection, and then means will be afforded to accomplish more desirable results. The great body of anglers have not as yet secured a very good name for rendering pecuniary assistance, and in far too many cases they have been found more ready to listen to idle gossip and worthless reports, so as to make an excuse for not giving, than by coming forward as men and contributing, as they ought to do, to erect the standard of fish preservation over the grave of poaching and all unfair fishing.

B.

* [This was crowded out last week; but the account of the match referred to will be found in this issue, we hope. If some of our "Roachers" would try ledgering for roach *below Waterloo Bridge*, we think they would get them "on," and to some tune, too..—Ed.]

George James Eaton, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[Advt.]

THE LAW AS TO FISHING IN PRIVATE FISHERIES, &c.

A CORRESPONDENT recently asked for some information respecting the question whether a keeper or owner of a fishery, finding an angler trespassing, has the right to seize the angler's rod, tackle, &c. The following extracts from that most valuable work, Oke's "Fishery Laws," edited by Mr. Willis Bund, M.A., will settle the question:—

"The tackle of fishers may be seized," (Sec. 25 of the Larceny Consolidated Act of 1861, applicable to England and Ireland, 24 and 25 Vict., c. 96)—"If any person shall at any time be found fishing against the provisions of this act, the owner of the ground, water, or fishery where such offender shall be so found, his servant, or any person authorised by him, may demand from such offender any rod, line, hook, net, or other implement for taking or destroying fish which shall then be in his possession, and in case such offender shall not immediately deliver up the same, may seize and take the same from him for the use of such owner; provided, that any person angling against the provisions of this act, between the beginning of the first hour before sunrise, and the expiration of the first hour after sunset, from which any implement used by anglers shall be taken, or by whom the same shall be so delivered up, shall, by the taking or delivering thereof, be exempted from the payment of any damages or penalty for such angling."

Under this section a summary and very useful power is given to owners of lands, water, or fisheries, to stop trespassers angling in the daytime. Care should be taken in exercising this power, for if it is irregularly done, or more taken than the law allows, the angler would have an action against the person who seized his tackle. It will be observed, therefore—

(1.) That only the owner, his servant, or some person authorised by him, can seize; therefore no occupier or tenant of the fishery, for a term of years however long, can do it, or authorise any other person to do it.

(2.) The seizure must be made on the owner's ground. If a man is fishing in a field, and on the owner coming up goes into another not the property of the same owner, no seizure can be made.

(3.) It is only the implements used for taking or destroying fish—rod, line, hook, net, or other implement—that can be taken; not the basket or the fish caught.

With regard to angling, the seizure exempts the angler from any further penalty, civil or criminal. It is not so, however, with a person fishing in any other way; his nets or implements may be seized, and he is liable to be prosecuted under the 24 and 25 Vict., c. 96, s. 24; or a civil action may be brought against him.

"Arrest of Angler."—An angler in the daytime—that is, between the beginning of the last hour before sunrise and the expiration of the last hour after sunset—cannot be arrested; but a person angling at night, or fishing by any other means than angling, either by day or night, may be arrested there and then without warrant by any person, and taken at once before a magistrate.

In addition to these remedies, an angler, if his tackle is not seized, is liable to criminal proceedings, or an action.

"Property in Fish Caught."—If a person illegally takes fish, it appears that he, not the owner of the fishery, is entitled to them; and if they are taken by angling, the owner would seem to have no remedy to recover them or their value. If taken by means other than angling, the owner can recover. The property, however, in the fish seems to belong to the person taking them. This is, of course, subject to the qualification that under certain acts certain fish—*e. g.*, salmon—are forfeited.

MR. JARDINE'S PERFECTED SNAP FOR PIKE FISHING.

WE know very many of our readers will be glad to see the following note from Mr. Jardine, and we, in their names, thank him for giving his invention to the angling world. Wood engravings of the tackle are in hand, and will be published with Mr. J.'s description next week if possible.—Ed.

"Dear Mr. Marston,—I have much pleasure in giving my guinea towards the fund 'for netting the reservoirs,' of which you are treasurer—cheque is enclosed—and I now furnish you with illustrations and description of my pike-snap, which I think I have much improved, if not, indeed, made perfect. I used them a short while since, and out of 18 runs, caught 17 pike and jack—one just under 20 lb. As soon as the waters clear and get into condition for 'piking,' I shall go on the 'warpath.' Are you likewise disposed? A happy Christmas and a merry one to you and yours—also a prosperous new year.—Truly yours,

Alfred G. Jardine.

[Many thanks, Mr. J. We say—with the Colonel—"Why, certainly."—Ed.]

Wair there's smouke there's fire, 'en very auf'en bad bakky or a wuss cigar.—*The Kaukneigh Awlminek.*

THE EXE FISHERIES AND ASSOCIATIONS.

From an Article by "Old Log" in the *Field*.

In a land of many waters, the Exe stands out as the largest and most important river of them all; and, keeping itself distinct from the network of streams which, springing from the heights of Dartmoor, traverse its slopes towards the Bristol Channel on the north, and to Torbay on the south, it runs through a beautiful valley of its own, fertilises the richest agricultural districts, and gives its name to the capital of the county. From its earliest sources on Exmoor at the extreme north, to its broad and navigable estuary at Exmouth, on the southern coast, it furnishes an almost unbroken series of more or less profitable fisheries.

It introduces one of its pleasantest and perhaps best-known fisheries when it enters the county of Devonshire, near Dulverton. On these happy shores you may meet all sorts of acquaintances from the most unexpected quarters of the world; and, though there is a variety of waters in different directions, you are pretty sure to see a rod or two waving in the field ahead of you, wherever you may seek for the solitude that delights an angler; for it seems to be the stereotyped answer to every querist, and the invariable advice to every piscatorial stranger, to go and try the fishing at Dulverton.

In spite of all this, there is no doubt that this too popular angler's resort is a very pleasant billet, and that the scenery is charming.

After receiving the ample tribute of the Barle, the Exe naturally assumes the dignity of a full-grown river of considerable size and importance; and every portion of its lower waters is claimed and guarded by the riparian owners, and the fishing clubs along the rest, of course, down to its tidal estuary. Probably the best trout-fishing in the whole river is comprised within the twenty miles or so of water between its confluence with the Barle and its reception of the waters of the Culme just contaminated with the off-pourings of the adjacent paper mills, a few miles above Exeter. Within this space there are no less than three distinct clubs, besides small intervals of private water. The largest and best of the open clubs is that at Tiverton, which extends its jurisdiction over a stretch of some six or seven miles, and, very wisely keeping the fishing to a select few, carefully protects it, so that it is rarely overcrowded with rival anglers. There are, however, some intermediate spaces reserved in the hands of private riparian owners, which, of course, are equally good, if not better, in comparison with the public fishery.

Below the Tiverton Fishing Club water there is a less restricted fishery, which would probably be flogged to death if it were not somewhat difficult of access. The head-quarters of this club are located at the little hamlet of Thorverton, which stands on the summit of a hill that is almost peninsularised by the circuitous course of the river. There are comfortable fishing quarters here, but they lie out of the track of railways, and have to be approached by a drive of several miles from either Tiverton or the small station of Stoke Canon on the Great Western line. I have spent some pleasant days at Thorverton, from whence there is a facile descent to various parts of the river, of which it would be difficult to say which is the best. Below this there is a large pool to be execrated and avoided by the fly-fisher, in which the local authorities boast that there is a grand old family of pike, who must have a merry time of it, and very pretty feeding on the young trout; and then, after passing some private water, you come on the domains of the United Exe Fishery Association. As the upper part of this fishery runs within half-a-mile of Stoke Canon station on the railway, and the lower portion within an easy walk of Exeter, it is apt to be a little crowded by the worthy citizens; and probably the trout have generally been well instructed as to the difference between a natural and an artificial fly.

HINTS TO AMATEURS ON THE TREATMENT OF OVA AND FRY OF SALMONIDÆ.

By T. Andrews, Westgate House, Guildford.

Ova.

Ova must be kept in running water at a temperature between 45 deg. and 55 deg.; the lower is preferable.

Two inches of water over the eggs is ample.

If the hatching trough is of wood it should be carbonised, or coated with asphalte varnish. The bottom should be covered with half an inch of prepared gravel or shingle.

The size of the hatching trough, and the quantity of water, depend on the number of eggs to be hatched.

All dead eggs turn opaque white, and must be picked out with forceps every day. When the eggs are hatched, the empty shells must be removed. To do this, draw off the water into a pail, and the shells can be poured away. The hatched fish must be returned to the trough, and allowed to remain there until the umbilical sac is absorbed.

Fry.

As soon as the sac is absorbed the fish require food; and if a suitable rearing place is ready it is best to turn them out at once. A suitable place is a small pond, or a part of a stream, where there are no fish of any kind, and where natural food of trout is to be found.

Natural food is crustacea, mollusca, larva, flies, &c. The rearing place should be fenced securely to prevent the young fish from getting away, and also to stop any larger fish from getting into it.

Artificial food, in the shape of grated liver, small worms, and gentles may also be used.

It is not desirable to keep many young fish in the hatching troughs after they begin to feed.

At ten to twelve months old the fish should be from five to eight inches long, and they may, with comparative safety, be turned into the main water with other trout; but as trout are cannibals, it is better to keep the different sizes separate, or in other words, not to put trout of 3 or 4 oz. with fish of a pound. When they have grown to ½ or ¾ lb. each there is little to fear, except, perhaps, from overfishing or poaching, or scarcity of food. No other fish should be allowed to remain in the same water with salmonidæ.

THE GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The meeting on Tuesday last was not so largely attended as on some previous occasions, but was nevertheless of considerable interest. Mr. C. S. Bentley occupied the chair. The secretary announced that some good takes of pike had been registered during the week, Mr. G. R. Hunt heading the list with 86 lb. 4 oz., the largest of this splendid bag going 16 lb. 4 oz. Mr. John Groom weighed in five, which turned the scales at 53 lb. 4 oz., the largest being a fish of 16 lb. 8 oz., and the smallest 6 lb. Captain Alfred again weighed in, his four pike weighing 27 lb. 12 oz., the largest 10 lb. The whole of these were taken in private water. It is to be hoped members will sometimes avail themselves of the kindly offer of Messrs. Brooke and Sons to store their fish to show them on the meeting nights. These gentlemen have adopted the very latest improvements of the Bell Coleman Refrigerator Company, using gas as the motive power, and the utility of the invention will be understood when it is known that several million pounds' worth of meat, fish, and vegetables have been successfully imported from very distant countries by its means.

The society purposes having a special musical evening on Tuesday next, when a number of musicians and vocalists have kindly offered to supplement the talent of the members, so that an unusually pleasant evening may be anticipated. Mr. Charles Bates will read the next paper before the society—subject, "Perch Fishing"—on the first Tuesday in the new year, and others will follow at regular intervals. Visitors are welcome to attend either of these gatherings.

NORWICH PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

This flourishing society celebrated the close of the third year of its existence on Thursday, the 7th inst., when the annual dinner took place at the club house, Walnut Tree Shades, under the genial presidency of Charles Daniels, Esq., president of the society. After ample justice had been done to a most sumptuous repast, provided by Hostess Cox in a manner that left nothing to be desired, the cloth was removed, and the real business of the evening began. Mr. Daniels took the chair, having Mr. F. F. Bradley, chairman-elect of the society, in the vice-chair, and being supported by Messrs. C. J. Greene, hon. sec. of the Yare Preservation Society; G. Daniels, president Champion Angling Club; R. Moll, hon. sec. Norwich Angling Club, and local representative of the Fishing Gazette; W. G. Capon, hon. sec., and a large number of the members of the club and visitors. The toast of "The Queen and Prince and Princess of Wales and the Royal Family" having been proposed by the chairman, was drunk with musical honours, Messrs. J. D. Turner and E. H. Corbyn rendering the respective solos. The toast of "The Army, Navy, and Volunteers" was responded to by Sergeant Wilkins for the Army and Sergeant A. S. Wilde and M. Grensfield for the Volunteers. The toast of the evening, that of "The Norwich Piscatorial Society," was coupled with the name of the hon. sec., Mr. Capon, and served as an opportunity for the chairman to present to Mr. Capon a silver sugar-basin and cream-jug, together with an address, which had been subscribed for by the members in token of their appreciation of his services. Mr. Capon, who was entirely taken by surprise, thanked the members most heartily for their most handsome present, which he received as showing that the members thought he had done his best for the society—a course he was ready and willing to continue in the future. The toasts of "The President," drunk with musical honours, "The Vice-Chairman," and "The Committee" followed. Mr. Howitt then proposed "The Yare and Bure Preservation and Kindred Societies," coupling with it the name of Mr. C. J. Greene. The hon. sec., in reply, referred to the work which had been done by the society, and argued that, as all present participated in the benefits it conferred, the least they could do was to make a point of becoming members. Among the concessions the society had obtained he noticed the early morning train, reduction of fares to anglers, late train in the summer months, &c., as showing that beyond preserving the rivers the society had not been idle in other directions. Mr. Greene also announced that he had that morning received a notice from the mayor consenting to convene a meeting to protest against the continuance of illegal netting, and to consider the means to be adopted to prevent it. The toast of "The Press," was responded to by Mr. Moll, who noticed the arrangements he had made for obtaining the state of the river at the various fishing stations, and urged that all members of the club should obtain weekly a copy of the Fishing Gazette. Other toasts followed. The enjoyment of the evening was much enhanced by the capital singing of Messrs. Edwin H. Corbyn, J. D. Turner, T. R. Newnam, E. H. Midland, F. F. Bradley, R. Bradley, and others, Sergeant Wilkins also favouring the company with a recitation, given in his usual effective style. Mr. R. Ford proved a most able accompanyist. J. D. T.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

Several London angling societies have, to my certain knowledge, decided to send selections from their collections of preserved fish for show at the Great International Fisheries Exhibition, 1883, and a number of others will doubtless follow the example thus set.

* * * * *

Mr. J. Gaze, of the Trafalgar Angling Club, took, while live-baiting in the old Wey, on Sunday last, a handsome chub, weighing 3 lb. 10½ oz.

* * * * *

The monthly meeting of the West Central Association of London and Provincial Angling Clubs will take place this (Friday) evening at the Portman Arms, Great Quebec Street, Baker Street. Among the business to be got through is the enrollment of several new angling societies.

* * * * *

The Fisheries Society, at its meeting on Monday last, decided to have half a dozen coarse fish propagation boxes built upon the lines of the model exhibited at the recent meeting at the Society of Arts Room by Mr. R. B. Marston, the said boxes to be placed in suitable waters during the coming spawning time. Nothing like being in time.

* * * * *

On Tuesday evening, Dec. 12, a No. 3 West Central Association meeting was paid the United Brothers' Angling Society, the Druid's Head, Broadway, Deptford. The chair was ably filled by Mr. Watts, who was faced in the vice by Mr. Tyler. The singing and pianoforte accompaniment were excellent, but the attendance was very small; possibly the near approach of the Christmas holidays and the severity of the weather were to some extent responsible for this. Among the societies represented were the South London, Bermondsey Brothers, City of London, and North-Western. Messrs. Bonvoisin and Field spoke a few words about the Great International Fisheries Exhibition, 1883, the Anglers' Benevolent Society, and kindred subjects.

* * * * *

The second smoking concert of the Watford Piscators took place in their club-room on Monday, the 4th inst. The chair was taken by Mr. Bowers, ably faced by Mr. C. Lovejoy. There was a large attendance. Some capital solos were sung by Messrs. Horn, Bowers, Spicer, Griffiths, Bigwood, Jefferies, Atherton, James, and Ambler. Pianoforte solos were played by Messrs. Williams and Bowers; Mr. Jefferies played a solo on the ocarina. A trio, which received great applause, was sung by Messrs. Horn, Spicer, and James. The next concert will be held on January 1st, 1883.

[It is good news to hear that the Lund hatching boxes are to be made and tried by the Society. We also intend to try one or two in a lake we have secured for the purpose. In making these boxes, it should be borne in mind that those to be placed in a river should have floats on each side to float them should there be a rise of water.—Ed.]

CLUB REPORTS.

AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The 29th annual supper took place in the club room on Monday, December 11th. Forty-one sat down to a most excellent spread, placed on the table by the host—consisting of soups, boiled mutton, roast pork, roast beef, veal and ham, all vegetables in season, plum pudding, custards, cheese and celery, and all during supper Mr. Medcalf occupied the chair. Mr. Patrick in the vice; Mr. Cousin, pianist. The following gentlemen contributed to the harmony of the evening:—Messrs. Say, Field, Carrington, Lewis, Cousins, Fletcher, Robinson, senior; Larkman, Dwelley, Deasey, C. Mees, Hunt, Bonnem, Kelson, B. Chevalier, Taylor, Rory O'More. Ptizes given for the present season:—Mr. Pedley, silver pin; Mr. Gabb, value, 10s. 6d.; Mr. Medcalf, 15s.; Mr. Patrick, Lamp; Mr. Dwelley, two prizes; Mr. Say, value, 10s. 6d.; Mr. Robinson, junior, 10s. 6d.; Mr. Tinson, value 10s. 6d.; Mr. Squire, 10s. 6d.; Mr. B. Chevalier, 10s. 6d.; Mr. Lake, 10s. 6d.; Mr. Binks, 10s. 6d.; Mr. Robinson, senior, length of doeskin for trousers; Mr. Howlett, 12s. 6d.; Mr. Arnold, 12s.; Mr. Dauniehiem, sealskin cigar case; Mr. Willis, scarf pin; Mr. Lewis, 12s.; Mr. Moore, 10s. 6d.; Mr. Deasey, 10. 6d.; Mr. C. Mees, 10s. 6d.; Mr. Marshall, 15s.; Mr. Larkman, 15s.; Mr. Hunt, 15s. Mr. Medcalf presided with his usual good humour and genial smile, and the evening and morning passed off in a most satisfactory manner, the time being extended till two o'clock. The usual toast being given and responded to in a very able manner, Mr. Patrick sang the last song of the morning, and the pianist played "Auld Lang Syne" and the national anthem, which concluded. All departed, satisfied with everything.—J. Worledge.

BERMONDSEY BROTHERS ANGLING CLUB.

The members and friends held their half-yearly supper on Tuesday, the chair being taken by Mr. Grant, "Ye Rodney Piscatorials," Mr. Mitchell in the vice. After doing full justice to the fare provided, good songs were given by Messrs. Grant, Mitchell, Frost, Mills, Allen, Conn, &c., and after one of the pleasantest evenings the company separated at a late hour.—A. G. Croker, sec.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 3rd, only two members weighed in—Mr. Nitz, a jack, 2 lb. 7 oz., from the Rye House; and Mr. Castell, roach, from the Thames, at Wraysbury. Our pegged-down match, at Weybridge, on the 10th, ended in a blank, the combined effects of frost and fog being too much for us, and we were glad when it was time to pack up.—Cas.

FITZROY ANGLING CLUB.

The members of the above club, who hold their meetings at the Crown, Cleveland Street, Fitzroy Square, are still increasing in numbers, and if they progress at the same rate as at present, will soon be quite as numerous as many clubs that have been much longer established. They have had during the past week several good shows of fish, the best being that of Mr. Weaver, having a capital take of dace, from the Thames. Their meeting night is Tuesday; and anglers will meet with a good reception from their genial host and treasurer, Mr. Frank Kemp.—W. Hawesby, hon. sec.

Dec. 13.

GOOD INTENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above club will fish a pegged-down match at St. Margrett's, on Sunday next, December 17. The first prize will be £2 and 20 lb. of beef, given by our treasurer, Mrs. Roberts; the second will be £1 1s. and leg of mutton; 3rd, £1 1s. and leg of pork; 4th, £1 1s. and bottle of brandy; and others at 10s. 6d. and bottles of spirits. Each member in the competition will pay 1s. that will make up other prizes. There was a good attendance of members at the club on Tuesday. Mr. Chas. Bates and Mr. Christie, from the Gresham, paid a visit to our club, and were most heartily received. Mr. Bates gave in his name to be a member, which was received with great applause. I am glad to say the members voted £1 1s. to the netting of reservoirs fund. I beg to forward the same, trusting other clubs will do the same, and support so worthy a fund.—R. Murphy.

GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS.

The prizes fished for on Saturday last at Cookham and Bourne End were not all taken. Only six members weighed in—viz., Messrs. Young, F. Watling, G. Watling, Stammer, Theobald, and Armstrong. The remaining thirteen prizes will be fished for next Sunday.—J. A. Fitch, jun., sec.

GREAT YARMOUTH PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The above society held its meeting at the club-house, Mr. Lark's, St. George's, King Street, on Monday evening. Chair, Dr. Mitchell; vice-chair, Mr. Bonfellow. This society continues in its prosperity, having now added Burton Steward, Esq., ex-mayor, and Mr. F. Hill on its roll of honorary members. Some very interesting conversation was engaged in by the members present relating to the vast resources around Yarmouth for the pursuit of the science or the pleasure of true angling. The secretary presented the society with a splendid specimen of a perch, well set up by Mr. Lorne, of Fuller's Hill, in a suitable case. We also note that the president is the successful winner of the Fishing Gazette prize, being a bound volume (which he in turn presents to the society for the use of its members), which was given for the heaviest roach caught in November. Taking into consideration the weather we had in November, it was anything but promising near Yarmouth to stand with rod and line for roach. We only hope the railway company will grant tickets available the same as in summer, so that our London friends can give us Yarmouthians a lesson, which I know they will not be backward in, for we have much to thank many for, considering how new our society is, and the courteous manner in which we have been assisted in many matters, and in return all we can say is, If you come to Yarmouth we will give you, from our society, all the assistance possible. Some of our friends have already sent for a list of prizes, but they will pardon me when I tell them our funds will not yet admit it. Remember, we started on *nil* in the exchequer, and we are not in debt now, and we are not six months old. Next year we shall, I hope, have a surplus which could be used to contest rights and put down illegal fishing; in fact, this society is determined to do so if it gets supported, which I am convinced it will, and heartily, too, when the summer comes.—J. Lark, sec.

HAMMERSMITH UNITED ANGLING SOCIEY.

On November 29, Mr. Geen had a good chub, weighing 3 lb. 9½ oz, and perch and roach, from Handborough; and on the 30th, he had roach from the same place. Mr. Lewis, on the same day, took a roach, between Kew and Putney Bridge, weighing 13½ oz.; Mr. Hobden had roach and perch, and Mr. Walters roach. On the 2nd inst., Mr. Lewis showed roach. On Sunday, the 4th, Mr. Reynolds had dace. Last Thursday, Mr. Lewis had roach, one going 13 oz. On Sunday last, not much was done, only Mr. Penny weighing in roach. —Argus.

ORIGINAL ALEXANDRA ANGLERS.

The following members had fish on Sunday last:—Mr. E. Dymond had a fine brace of jack; Messrs. Morton and M. Dymond had jack; Mr. Towndrow, roach and perch; and Mr. Stanton, our country member, had some very fine jack from the Thames.—E. Dymond, sec.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The distribution of prizes for the half-year will take place at the White Hart, Aylesbury-street, Clerkenwell, on Monday next, December 18th, on which occasion host Marshall will take the chair. Being an angler himself, he thoroughly understands how to make his swim comfortable for his members and friends. Chair taken at 9 o'clock.—Obbard, Sec.

RICHMOND PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

At this society, on Wednesday last, the chief attraction was the result of a competition for prizes, given by Messrs. Cockburn, A. J. Little, &c., for the takes of fish below Brentford Ferry, in order to test, if possible, the reports that fish were to be taken of good quality and quantity below Kew Bridge. Owing, however, to the unsatisfactory state of the weather, only one show was made, the other competitors failing to take any fish. The winner, Mr. E. H. Smith, of Westminster, taking the first prize with 3 lb. 14 oz. of fine roach. In proposing the health of the prize donors, the chairman said he was very glad to see those gentlemen trying the various parts of the river by offering prizes for takes below the old grounds, as it only proved that the fish were to be found much lower down than was generally thought for, and looked upon it as a great kind- and encouragement. In replying to the toast, Mr. Cockburn said he was very glad the idea was appreciated. He was sorry not to see more shows of fish, as the specimen before them to-night quite satisfied him that very fine fish were to be found below Kew Bridge. He should be very glad to offer a prize next season on the same conditions, and congratulated Mr. Smith on his good take and perseverance which he had exhibited that day. Mr. A. J. Little, one of the most practical and experienced anglers on the Thames, regretted very much his prize was not won by a show of fish, even if he had won it himself. He had fished throughout the day, but had failed to take anything. He had also seen Mr. Smith at work, and congratulated him on his success. He should be very glad to re-offer his prize at a future date, and suggested the competition in that part of the river should be earlier in the season, as the fish were now heading up. The chairman next proposed "The Prize Winner, Mr. E. H. Smith," stating he was personally pleased the prize had fallen to him that day; although only a young member of this society he had proved himself on many occasions to be a thorough sportsman and angler, and congratulated him on the success of the day. Mr. Smith, in reply, thanked the chairman for his kind remarks and gentlemen present for the way in which they had received the toast. It might be, he said, interesting for them to know he had taken the nine fish, weighing 3 lb. 14 oz., on the up or flood tide in about an hour and a half (failing all day previous to get a bite or run of any sort.) This he thought a fair proof of the old theory, of fish not feeding on flood tide, was not at all times correct; the fish were all that he had taken, and not one had to be returned undersized. They were taken with bread, and he was attended by Kit Brown, whom he could thoroughly recommend as a hard-working and energetic puntsman whom he recommended the members to try, as distance was no object for him to punt up or down, and did everything in his power to secure the success he had achieved that day. So quickly did the tide run up that he fished from nine to thirteen feet of water, until the punt poles would no longer hold for want of length; of course, this was hard work bottom fishing, as depth had to be altered every swim. He did not, however, regret the labour, as he had tried hard and was pleased at the success. The chairman next said it was one of the great features peculiar to the Richmond Piscatorial Society that they always cordially welcomed visitors among them. He had great pleasure in introducing to them to-night a gentleman of the Gresham Angling Society in the person of Mr. Bates, whose good works in the angling world, and his practical experience as an angler, needed no comment; also Mr. Grafton, whom he was pleased to say was about to add another society to those already enrolled with the angling clubs of London, which he had himself started and called after his own name. He was very pleased to have met him, and wished every success to the Grafton Anglers. Mr. Bates stated he had often heard and seen the good works of the Richmond Piscatorial Society, but never had the good fortune to be present; besides being a member of the Gresham, to which the chairman had kindly referred, he was on the committee of the Anglers' Benevolent Society, and there it was he had been struck with the magnificent donation and prize they had offered for competition on behalf of that society at Hendon; he could scarcely believe it when told the R. P. S. would offer a ten guinea cup, and thought it a joke; he was pleased to say it was too true, and the good work of that cup was following it—if not actually at the time, to a great extent it certainly had since. He hoped at a future date to come among them in a business point of view, which he was sure they would entertain, and thanked the members for the reception they had given him that evening. Mr. Grafton thanked the chairman for his kind remarks, informing him it was the intention of the society he had just formed to have at their heart strictly sportsmanlike anglers, conforming to all regulations laid down by the Thames Angling Preservation, and trusted his little exertions would be successful in forming and carrying out the undertaking satisfactorily. Mr. A. J Little proposed, and Mr. Houghton seconded, a vote of thanks be sent to Mr. Carrington, curator of the Westminster Aquarium, for his kindness in having the fish fed expressly for the members of this society on Friday last, when a great number took the opportunity of being present, and were very much interested. The supper on this occasion of competition, which is usual, was well attended and equally well served by Mr. Munro. The chair was taken by Mr. F. C. Clench, chairman, Mr. Dickinson, V.C.; there were also present Mr. Houghton, Treasurer; Mr. Davis, librarian; Mr. Gaynor, curator; Messrs. Terrill, Taman, R. B. Matthews, A. J. Little, E. H. Smith, W. E. Scantlebury, A. Turner, A. H. Neville, J. Plant, F. A. Crew, and W. Cockburn. Visitors Messrs. Bates, Grafton, &c.—John H. Gaunt, hon. sec.

SURREY PISCATORIALS.

Several members of the society competed for this following prizes: 1st. £2. 2s., given by Messrs. Moore and Morris; 2nd. ton of coals, by Mr. Richardson; 3rd £1. 1s. given by Mr. Hamlyn, at Richmond, and succeeded in getting about 16lbs. of very nice roach and dace. Mr. E. Bansbank won the 1st, Mr. Boalch the second, and Mr. Edwards 3rd. Mr. Beckett also has fish. On returning to the headquarters they were greeted by a good number of members and friends, who congratulated them upon their success. The rest of the evening was spent in songs and recitations that delighted all present. The next competition will take place on Wednesday, January the 10th, 1883, for £2 2s., given by Messrs. Hamlyn, sen., and Mr. Wymer; Mr. Towers will also give a box of cigars, value £1 5s., and a third prize will be given by the society.

Pixie.

THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The smoking concert in connection with this society in the club room at Ashley's Hotel, Covent Garden, on Monday evening last was a great success. In spite of the great fog outside there was an attendance of about seventy members and friends. Mr. F. H. Lemann, with his usual ability, discharged the duties of chairman, and was most ably assisted by Mr. Norman F. Harrisson in the vice chair. Mr. Render Buck commenced the programme by singing the appropriate song of "Welcome, Ever Friends," which was quickly responded to by Mr. Harrisson, with "I Fear no Foe." The singing was then relieved by a capital recitation by Mr. W. H. Rickatson. Mr. Norman F. Harrisson, who is very popular in the society as a vocalist, and more generally known as "Rogeroo," gave two capital songs, entitled "The Gay Photographer," and "The Man at the Nore." Mr. Green having given an excellent recitation, a solo on the pianoforte was performed in good style by Mr. W. H. Kendall. Mr. Heeney, during the evening, gave a variety of popular melodies. Mr. Kendall sang "The Muleteer's Song." Mr. Fennings evidenced great skill on the violin and on the violoncello. There were other recitations by Mr. Jacques, Mr. McLaughlin and Mr. Kendall, and as regards the singing, it would be invidious to make any selection, as all did their parts so well, and it would have been impossible to have had a better or more successful evening.—B.

TRAFALGAR ANGLING SOCIETY.

A few of the members of this society were out on Sunday last, trying for jack; but, owing to the frost and fog, they could not get a run. The only fish weighed in was a chub, weighing 3 lb. 10 oz., caught by myself in the Wey, at Woking, and it is now in the hands of Mr. Cooper, to be preserved.—J. Gaze, sec.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

The member of this society, in spite of the fog, frost, and snow that prevailed on the 10th, visited Egham to compete for Mr. W. Taylor's prizes, viz., first, box of cigars; second, 1 lb. of tobacco, a gross of vesuvians, and a tobacco-pouch. Mr. H. Bayley succeeded in winning the first with roach, and Mr. R. Cain the second, with a nice lot of gudgeon. The next competition will take place on Sunday, January 7th, on which occasion Mr. Boalch will give a guinea pair of boots for the first prize, and for the second Mr. Fox, jun., will give 1 lb. of hard tobacco. Several other prizes will be forthcoming from the society.—Pixie.

This evening Mr. Weatherhead exhibited 22 lb. of jack, the largest fish weighed 6 lb. 2 oz. On the 26th the following prizes are offered for competition:—1st £1 1s., by Mr. Delehaye, sen.; 2nd Mr. Taylor's second prize (Mr. H. Dale having given 2 gallons of gin for the first prize on the last competition); 3rd bottle of brandy, by Mr. Bansback. A deputation from the South London arrived late in the evening to state that the supper between six members of that society and six members of this society that was competed for at Sawbridgeworth would take place on the 16th January, 1883, at the headquarters of the South London, the George and Dragon, Camberwell Road. Members and friends of both societies can attend.—Pixie.

December 14.

CRICKET CLUB DINNER.

The annual dinner of Messrs. Spreckley, White, and Lewis's Cricket Club took place on Monday evening last in the Prince's Salon at the Holborn Restaurant. Mr. Thomas Spreckley presided on the occasion, with Mr. Samuel White and Mr. W. D. Lewis in the vice-chairs. There was an attendance of over seventy, including Mr. T. F. Spreckley, Mr. W. R. Spreckley, Mr. A. Spreckley, Mr. W. White, Mr. S. White, jun., Mr. F. C. Clench, and Mr. H. Brougham. A very excellent dinner was placed on the table, under the courteous superintendence of Mr. T. J. Hamp. There were the customary toasts given and responded to, and some capital singing. The evening was a thoroughly enjoyable one. The firm was represented by all the partners, and the respect in which they are each held by those in their employ was evinced by the reception they met with when their healths were proposed. The club is in a very prosperous condition, and, as was remarked by the secretary (Mr. Milbourn), this was in great measure due to the liberal support it received from the firm.

THE RIVER WYRE—HOW TO FISH IT, AND WHAT KIND OF BAIT AND TACKLE TO USE.

The fish in this water are chub, bream, trout, roach, perch, and gudgeon. The first I shall allude to is chub, or chevin. Anglers going for this class of fish should be careful about bait and tackle. The rod should be not less than 15 feet long, and not too slender for the length; a good reel with either China twist or silk will do, and a few gut bottoms from 4 to 6 feet in length. You must not fish with less than No. 10 hook—let the 10 hook be on the hanger and a No. 8 hook on the bottom. The baits for chub are lampern eel, worm, potatoe, dock grub, maccaroni, pith, and sometimes three or four gentles on the bottom hook, tipped with a chrysalis. The best mode of fishing for chub is swim-fishing. In swim-fishing, you first find a hole or backwater you think likely; then you go from 10 to 20 yards up the river, where you can see a stream or strong current of water (and be sure to fish with a hanging bait); let your line fall in the stream or current of water, spear your rod in the bank, and as the stream draws the line draw the line off the reel, so that the line will follow the stream. To keep your line well in the stream. you must get a large quill (one off a swan is to be preferred), and let it be 4 or 5 inches long. The best time to fish for chub is from August to the latter end of December. When you hook this fish get it to the top of the water as quickly as possible; if you don't, you run the risk of breaking your rod as well as losing your line. Have a landing net with you, as some of the places are very bad for landing your fish. You must fish this river when the water is fine.

The next fish I shall refer to is the bream. This fish is very shy, and when angling for it you should be very quiet. If you can get behind a bush, which there often is on the banks of this river, you must do so, as it will hide your reflection on the water. This fish is chiefly found in backwaters. You must fish on the bottom; by doing so you get larger fish. The principal baits are gentles; sometimes you may take them with paste. Place four gentles on the bottom hook and two on the hanger. A bloodworm takes well occasionally. The bream is generally on feed from June 1 to the latter end of August, but they have been known to be caught almost in every month in the year. You should use Nos. 10 and 12 hooks for bream, also a fine gut line, and rod 11 or 12 feet long.

The next I refer to is the trout. The dock grub is a splendid bait for this fish.

Roach fishing is very nice sport, especially when they are taking potato—you must fish well on the bottom with this bait. There are several other baits—namely, gentles, cockspur, wasp bait, paste, and bloodworm. This fish harbours in backwaters where there is a sandy bottom.

The perch you find in the backwaters generally, the principal bait being a nice lively dew-worm, wasp bait, and live minnows. You must fish with a hanging bait.

Gudgeon are very scarce in this river, but are to be found where there is a sandy bottom. There have been some very fine specimens of this fish caught in this river. T.B.

Bolton, Lancashire.

["T. B.'s" notes remind us that we have often thought of asking our readers if they have tried potatoes, maccaroni, or carrot paste and other similar delicacies, for roach, chub, &c. We know an angler who always works up a little carrot with his bread paste, and he considers it very "big medicine." It seems to stand to reason that roach, and especially Lea roach, must get very suspicious of the eternal little round ball of paste which has been dangled before their noses for centuries. Here is a tip for chub fishers: Try a piece of potted lobster. Send it down by the boughs, after throwing in a few bits for them to taste.—Ed.]

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SPECIAL NOTICE.

THE ILLUSTRATED
DOUBLE CHRISTMAS NUMBER
OF
THE FISHING GAZETTE
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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

The melted snow has had a deterrent effect upon the appetites of the Thames fish, and what with the indifferent water and the few and far-between anglers, nothing very grand has been scored during the past week. The river is now in good order, and the snow broth being eliminated quickly by the rapacious mouth of the Thames, so anglers for jack, perch, and chub may simply look forward to some real jam during the coming and Christmas weeks. From Pangbourne I glean that some capital roach and perch fishing has latterly been had; also at Benson and Shillingford, 19 lb. of perch falling to one rod on one occasion at the latter place of "beer." I have an item from Oxford, but fear to cross pens and purposes with your "Alma Mater" correspondent who (without meaning the least offence to the gentleman) seems to "rave in the lunacy of ink." From Henley, I have the following:—"Some really good perch have been had lately in this locality by Messrs. C. D. Johnson, Paton, C. Cook, and others, several of the fish going over 2 lb. Mr. Gordon, out with W. Parrott, on the 8th, got hold of and held two jack, going respectively 7 lb. and 4 lb." At Medmenham, Tom Street, out with the "Captain," has been doing some perch and roach; and at Hurley, Mr. Gerkie on Sunday got a handsome jack of 9¾ lb., besides perch and roach. Mr. Ornficke obtained some 6 lb. of roach, and Messrs. Berger and Harrison small samples of fish. Below Temple, on Sunday a banker nobbled a Jack of 9 lb. odd, and this day week at Marlow was taken the finest fish of the season, if not even the best as to shape and quality ever landed from the Thames with rod and line. The jack was taken by young Bristow out with R. Shaw, Junr., and scaled 27½ lb.; length, 37½ inches, and girth 22 inches. It seems strange that this fine specimen of *Esox lucinus* for its grand weight should have been so short, but the girth tells a tale, and the shoulders would have made a decent saddle for a jockey. The fish has been sent to Saunders for preservation, will doubtless be shown in the Fisheries Exhibition, and eventually adorn the walls of the Crown Hotel, Marlow, next to *confreres* not quite so Tritonic, caught by the late Mr. West in Marlow and Leeds Castle waters. Mr. Maskell, of the George and Dragon, Marlow, tells me he sent full information of this 27½ lb. beauty to the FISHING GAZETTE last week, and not being in, he felt the slight to his attention poignantly—in fact, I saw him shedding a tear in his bar this afternoon. Thursday Evening, 7 o'clock. River in nice colour and condition, roach should now be nuts on lobs, perch on minnows, chub on pith, jack on live bait, and piscatorial humanity dead nails all round.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Ancholme District.

Nothing is doing this week, owing to the advent of severe frost.—THOMAS FORD.

Chichester.

"Variety is charming," but with frost, snow, rain, and fog following in rapid succession, the variety is not at all charming to piscatorials. Sport has been meagre the past week, but few fish worth notice coming to hand. Mr. Terry took first prize in the weekly competition with but a few ounces of roach. Selham and Midhurst are patronised, especially by the Portsmouth rodsters, who have been rewarded with some fair pike. The scenery alone is worth a visit; comfortable and very reasonable quarters are to be had at Mr. Willison's, the Three Moles, Pelham. Rods, the early part of the week, gave way to skates; but now we return to our old love. This evening is dirty, wet, and miserable.—GEORGE F. SALTER.

Derwent (Chatsworth).

My report is not any more favourable than last week's. A succession of snowstorms in the beginning of this week has made fishing quite out of the question for a time. The river, notwithstanding the amount of snow that has fallen, is in very fair condition, having now recovered a good deal from the heavy floods. To-day (Thursday) the snow is thawing slowly, and is making but little difference to the water; if it continues anglers may soon have good sport once more; but if a rapid thaw should set in, the river will be again bank full and prospects of angling out of the question.—WHEATSHEAF HOTEL.

Dove.

Weather very winterly and quite unfit for fishing of any sort. There has not been a solitary rod out this week. The country is encircled in a mantle of snow a yard deep, and some of the villages are utterly cut off from communication with the outer world. Such a state of things has never before been experienced by even that venerable personage, "the oldest inhabitant." It is out of the question to expect any more fishing this side of Christmas.—THE SPLODGER.

Ilfracombe.

Our herring fishing has been very slack again this week; 250 has been the largest haul any of the boats have had, but there has been a quantity of cod caught, both with ground lines and spillers, weighing from 18 lb. to 24 lb. each; a lot of large skate, some ling, and a few conger have been taken from the spillers. Several pollack, conger, and ling have been caught with rod and hand lines from the jetty. Weather still squally.—E COMER.

Leicester.

Since last Thursday week we have had several heavy falls of snow in and around Leicestershire, accompanied by a severe frost, and with the exception of where there was a stream, the waters were entirely frozen over by Monday. This was the means of putting a stop to angling operations in this locality. The frost, however, began to break up on Wednesday, and a complete thaw set in but it will be some days before the waters are fishable.—ALERT.

Ouse and Ivel (Blunham).

These rivers are in good fishing condition; pike well on the feed, a fine basket being made to-day.—S. ELLIOTT.

Swale.

I was glad to see some remarks from the Editor last week about the "hush" from the lead mines. It is perfectly shameful to see the angling spoiled in this river by the pollutions from Sunnerside, Healaugh, Arkle, and other Becks. The valley is just now severely exercised about a local railway up the dale, and anglers may take comfort that if the matter goes forward, a fine batch of waters, literally full of trout, will be opened to the public above the pollutions in question, and at a moderate cost for journey only.—THOMAS FORD.

Thames (Goring).

Water in good order for all winter fishing; prospects look good for the next few days for jack, perch, and chub fishing. Have nothing to report this week; no boats out.—JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Oxford).

The severe frost of the past few days seems to have frozen the enthusiasm of the Oxford anglers, for I cannot hear of any one who has been out during the week, greater attraction being presented by a skim over the ice in company with some other fellow's sister—not your own, mind; that is no treat at all to standing shivering by the riverside; but if one has the courage to face the biting cold and its concurrent discomforts, numbed fingers, and the nuisance of clearing the line and rings every few minutes of their accumulated particles of ice, some execution ought to be done amongst the jacks, either live baiting or spring. If spring baits are scarce, a large sprat or a small fresh herring make good substitutes. The former fish are rather tender, and soon wear out, but as they seldom cost more than 1½d. or 2d. per pound, the loss of one or two from hard work does not very much matter. Both fish, too, make good trolling baits, but they require a very lightly leaded hook, which should be flattened on one side with a knife or rasp (to cause the bait to spin) to be really effective; at least such is my experience when using them. On Monday it was bitterly cold, so I had a run as far as the turn of the five miles drive, and along the canal path home. I found one enthusiast at work at a bridge hole after the chub. I enquired if he had had any sport. "Not much," he replied. "They don't seem to touch here, but I did get two little 'sewers' at that next bridge." I was rather puzzled at the word "sewer"—it sounded like swearing—so I enquired its meaning, and found it was Hindoostani for pig—rather a disappointment, but I shall use it the next time I have a cussing match. I should like to have been present at the Balloon Society's rooms on Friday evening to have heard Mr. J. P. Wheeldon's lecture. It has never been my good fortune to meet that gentleman; but I hope if ever I am in London when he is going to hold forth, he will favour me with a ticket, and I can promise him that I shall not be amongst the least appreciative of his audience. There seems a complete change in the weather this evening, for as I write the rain is coming down, and the temperature of the air seems much worse.—CHERWELL OTTER.

Thames (Richmond).

The fogs and frost that have reigned during the past week, to say nothing about the snow, have put the fish off feed, and there has been little doing since Saturday last, on which day they fed very freely. The water is a very good colour, and with the present change in the weather the fish should feed. The Richmond Piscatorial Society had their competition yesterday (Wednesday), and the winner turned up in Mr. Smith taking first honours with roach from Kew Bridge, who had Kit Brown as fisherman. Kit knows as much as most people about the netting district, as he has taken more than one illegal net from that quarter.—JOHN BUSHNELL.

Thames (Twickenham).

Wind N.E, the frost and snow having cleared off, the river is now in splendid condition, and we have had some good roach this week from the "deeps." The tides will suit for whole days' fishing, and if this weather continues, I hope to give better report next week.—Alfred Perrin.

Trent.

The river has fallen rapidly, and was on Thursday in very fair condition for chub and pike fishing. The backwaters, were, however, covered with ice, and what fish were taken were caught on the edge of the streams. From Holme, Pierrepont, news is to hand that several very good roach have been bagged with cockspur worms, and a large take of pike is reported from the district of Annesley.—The Man at the Clubs.

Wharfe (Yorkshire).

Angling affairs are at a complete standstill at present, as the cold is too intense to admit of even the most hardy piscatorial enthusiast paying a visit to the waterside. On Monday night the thermometer registered 17 deg. of frost, and even the water in the bedrooms froze. Mr. Eaton has written to me stating that he also has recently caught several grayling, full of spawn. Can any of your readers throw any light upon this remarkable occurrence?—Francis M. Walbran.

Witham (Boston).

The prospects of anglers are very mach better than was expected. Frost and snow had all but put an end to everything piscatorial for some little time. Little, if anything, has been done since last week, and were it not for the slightly better prospects this morning, anglers might have reckoned upon inactivity until Christmas. As it is, the downfalls of the last ten days or so have caused the drains to be bank-full; the stream has been rapid; and the frost has not locked them up in ice. The consequence is, that rearly, a mile or two out ot the town, the drains are not in bad condition, and business might be done in the middle of the day. Whether any have gone out or not I am not quite certain, but a friend tells me he heard of some fish being taken on the Aqueduct water one day this week. If we have no more wet and no frost to lock us up, angling may be resumed by the end of this week, and a fairly good result obtained early next. Winter angling is a feature with us because of the number of pike to be had, and many anglers are anxious to get at them.—The Yellow Belly.

Wye and Derwent.

We have had no angling of any description on these rivers since my last report, owing to the severity of the weather and the great quantity of snow which has lain on the ground the whole of the week. We have had grouse here all over Derbyshire by thousands, flying about from place to place, and not knowing where to go to; in fact, they have been completely lost. It is my opinion that the Scotch moors will know about loosing so many grouse and black game next year, as there has been great quantities shot all over Derbyshire. P.S.—A thaw has just set in, the snow going away nicely.—Geo. Jas Eaton.

Yare (Norwich).

The elements are still opposed to the interests of anglers in this district. I heard of two members of the Champion Angling Club being at Brundall last Saturday, and they were rewarded with a good catch of very fair sized bream; the river has been in a state of flood most part of the past week, and it will require quite a week's settled weather to make it in good condition for angling. Quantities of hail and rain have fallen, and this morning (Thursday) the country was covered with snow, but it had all disappeared by mid-day, and the air is much warmer. Prospects not at all encouraging.—Robert Moll.

During the past week the weather has been fine and frosty, but the river has been in a state of flood, the paths in several places being more than half covered by water, marshes flooded, and skates more thought about than rods and lines. Notwithstanding, I have heard of several very good catches of roach, one angler catching nearly 4 stone of good fish, many large ones; another brother of the angle, in two hours caught forty, one of which he informs me weighed 2¼ lb.; but as I have never yet seen a roach caught here, weighing over 2 lb., I doubt if it was not a hybrid, they are not uncommon. As the water settles down I anticipate some good sport, both bottom and jack fishing, but the former is very cold work just now, and only very ardent lovers of angling are found at it. I hope to be able to send a good account for next week, as the prospects are brighter.—Robert Moll.

Yore (Hawes).

On Monday last, Messrs. Jas. Hesseltine and M. Williams were both out, and each gentleman succeeded in bagging two brace each, weighing respectively 2 lb. 4 oz. and 2 lb. 10 oz. Since Tuesday, we have had a continuous downfall of snow, and to-day the roads are completely blocked; gangs of men are, however, clearing much of the obstruction away. A thaw seems imminent, and should it take place quickly, we may expect a very great flood. Fishing will be altogether out of question for the next few days at least.—J. Corry.

[Received too late for last week's issue.—Ed.]

My last report would no doubt be too late for insertion in the issue it was intended for. This was owing to the complete block we sustained to all communication. In some places the snow was eight yards thick. A thaw is looked forward to with great apprehension, as without doubt if a rapid one, a very large amount of damage will be done. Fishing has been altogether out of the question the last week. My experience with respect to the size of grayling in the Yore is precisely the same as that of Mr. Walbran. It will, perhaps, be of interest to some of your readers to know that grayling may be taken in the Yore as high up as Yore Force, just behind the Moor Cock at Hawes Junction. I have taken fine fish there. I saw a remark anent grayling taking the minnow in your pages a few weeks ago. Your correspondent stated that grayling would not take that bait. I know they will, as a neighbour of mine took two one one day whilst spinning for trout, and he said they came as "fierce as bull dogs." A working man hooked and played a "monster" for a good while only last year. Observers judged it to be about 4 lb. Grayling of this weight have been taken up here, and I have no doubt some good ones still haunt the fine deep holes about Hawes. Grayling will also take either trout or salmon spawn. I got a trio about a month ago, literally gorged with pellets of trout spawn. We are singularly free from that pest the eel in our water. One or two, and they will generally run from 2 lb. to 4 lb., may be heard of being taken during a season. Lemmer water, about 4 miles from Hawes, would be a very "Paradise" to roach, carp, and bream fishers, as the lake fairly swarms with them, as well as trout. I once took 45 trout in 3 hours. At the foot of this lake I drew two at a time for eight times. They are exceedingly numerous, and when on the feed afford fine sport. The coarse fish are never disturbed, as our natives do not understand how to angle in the Nottingham style, &c. Skepsful are sometimes taken by being pulled out with a hay rake during the spawning season, and occasionally a monstrous haul is made with a net.—J. Corry.

NETTING THE RESERVOIRS FOR STOCKING THE THAMES.

Subscription List for Expenses Incurred.

It is with much pleasure we have to acknowledge subscriptions to the above as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Mr. P. Geen	2	2	0
Mr. R. F. Lines, Kensington	1	1	0
Mr. A. G. Jardine	1	1	0
Mr. R. B. Marston	2	2	0
Mr. T. R. Sachs	1	1	0
Silver Trout Angling Club	1	1	0
Larkhall Angling Society	2	2	0
Hammersmith United Angling Society	2	2	0
Good Intent Angling Society	1	1	0

A number of societies have sent Mr. Geen promises to send subscriptions as soon as they can call a special meeting.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

P. Oxford.—We do not know anyone who would give 20s. for the skin of an Argus pheasant.

Secretary Angling Club.—The anonymous strictures on the management of the Anglers' Benevolent Society which have appeared in a contemporary are not justified by the facts. We may refer to this matter again. The writer's argument is that because it costs almost as much to distribute the benevolence as the latter amounts to in cash, something must be very wrong. There *is* something very wrong; and that is, that the officers of the club, who could *at the same expense* have distributed £400, have only received about £40 to distribute.—Ed.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

NETTING THE RESERVOIRS.

Sir,—I should like to endorse my friend Mr. Geen's remarks in his letter, which appears in your last issue, in reference to Mr. Thomas Spreckley.

I read Mr. Spreckley's appeal, which appeared in your paper of the 18th inst., and did expect that it would be followed by a circular to every angling club in London as being a surer means of gaining the desired end.

I am sure, now our President has taken the matter in hand, the appeal for funds will not be made in vain.

Mr. Thomas Spreckley, as most anglers know, is a gentleman who is always working for their interest, sparing neither time nor money whenever any work is to be done whereby they may gain something in the way of sport. The T A.P.S. has spent a lot of money in netting the reservoirs, and Mr. Spreckley makes his appeal for that Society; and I have very great pleasure in backing it up, and will do all in my power to make it a success.

I have also heard the slur cast upon the anglers of London, but it has been by men who could not make anglers swallow the silly fads they had projected, thinking thereby to add to the projector's prestige.

We, who are always amongst them, know better, and can tell the 'know-als" that the anglers of London, when appealed to properly and by persons in whom they know they have friends, are always ready and willing to support any movement for the general good.

My unfortunate illness prevents my being amongst my boys at present, but the numerous letters of condolence I am constantly receiving show me that they do not forget me, and are, as ever, anxious to do whatever they can to afford me pleasure. I beg to take this opportunity to return them my sincere thanks, and tell them that, next to my speedy recovery, my greatest pleasure will be to see their subscriptions pay the whole of the cost of these nettings, and I feel confident of that pleasure.

I would like, while upon this subject, to give the T A P.S. a hint.

When netting in future, ask as many anglers as are required for the work to assist, and I will undertake that a sufficient number will be only too pleased to give their services free, thus saving some expense Ask them to come and work, but don't let them find when they arrive that there are already too many labourers employed.

Is it not possible for the Society to have their own nets and their own keepers to work them? That would be another great expense saved in the long run.

No one knows better than myself how hard Messrs Spreckley, Brougham, and a few others of the Committee work from year's end to year's end, and I am sure the receptions they receive at anglers' meetings are proof that their labours are appreciated. Since Mr. Spreckley has been President of the T.A.P.S. he has done wonders for us, and I only echo the sentiment of every angler in London when I say, "May the day be very far distant that sees another in his place." He is to the T.A.P.S. what Mr. Geen is to the Association—indispensable.

Wishing you, Sir, and all your readers a merry Christmas.—I am, &c.,

T. Hoole.

[The "boys" will be very sorry to hear that Mr. Hoole is very little better, and is still compelled to keep to his bed. They will join us in wishing him as pleasant a Christmas as possible, and a speedy recovery. We hope the appeal which he makes in the above letter will not be in vain. His suggestion to the "T.A.P.S." is a most happy one.—Ed.]

THE BAYONET-POINTED—BETTER CALLED SURGICAL NEEDLE HOOK.

Sir,—Your correspondent "J. McD." thinks he can be wise after the event, but somehow that appears to be to him impossible. He makes an attempt to quote from an authority in order to detract from the merits of another. It is quite apparent that if he meant to praise and give credit to the authority—Mr. Greville Fennell—he would have taken care that the quotation was exact, instead of trusting to the thinness of his memory. It is all very well to regret that he has lost his book; but when he makes statements —the veracity of which is doubtful—in which there is no ground of truth, he brings himself, his writings, and your journal into discredit. If, as he says, "any possessor of a copy of the 'Book of the Roach' will be able to corroborate my statement that the worthy author's words are to the following effect: 'When the angler finds his hook has become blunt, he should use a small file or piece of stone to sharpen it, giving the hook a triangular shape from point to barb, so that it will cut in like a glover's needle,'" were this statement correct, I should be the first to give Mr. Fennell the credit of the idea, and accept the "faint praise" of "J. McD.," with which he means to "damn me." All that Mr. Fennell directs is that the angler is to carry a file to renovate hook points which have become blunted. There is no word of bayonet or triangular point in his book. But I had better quote the passage. The exact words are:—

"A small, fine, flat, watchmaker's file should be keep in the angler's book to renovate hooks when necessary. The points should be filed square, and not rounded, as the edges when left sharp cut in like a glover's needle into leather." ("Book of the Roach," p. 35. 1870. Longmans.)

Now the carrying of a file to sharpen hooks is a very common practice. I have done so for thirty-four years, and I know many who do so who never saw a roach nor heard of Mr Fennell's book. There is certainly in angling an advantage in renovating blunt hooks squarely or with many sides; but what I claim is that the three-sided point, like the surgical needle, is infinitely superior to any other form for penetration. In my former letter I used the expression "glover's needle." I find I made a mistake—withdraw the expression, and say surgeon's needle only. The hooks I have had made are devised to penetrate with greatest ease, not merely leather, but living skin, gristle, flesh, and fish-bones. I am sure if Mr. Fennell had thought the square points of so much advantage he would have brought out a hook so designed, or somebody else would, and not left me "unconsciously to walk a few steps further on the path previously trodden," as "J. McD." would have me, and which I certainly decline to do, much preferring my own path, even though it is triangular and not square.

When I introduced the surgical needle hook, and gave demonstrations to the Gresham and Piscatorial Societies, I then laid no claim to novelty in idea. In fact, I thought the matter so simple that I expected some member to rise up and say he had seen such hooks before. One gentleman did so at the Gresham, but, on producing his hooks, he found they were flattened, not triangular. "J. McD." gives me credit for having put the idea into practice, and having the hooks specially manufactured. I have no desire to take credit for anything that is not my own. I have freely made a present of the idea and practice to the angling fraternity, having no interest in the matter further than the pleasure afforded me by the thought that, by the introduction of this hook, I thereby increased the angler's delight by adding to the facility for catching those fish which the older members of the angling world know are year by year becoming more shy, timid, and difficult to take.

Perhaps it will be a pleasure to "J. McD." to know that I had never seen a copy of Mr. G. Fennell's "Book of the Roach" till to-day, when I took out my extract. I do not profess to be a roach fisherman. When I designed my hook it was purely from experiences as a fly-fisher. Its practical utility in that form of sport has caused me to extend it to all kinds of angling.

When "J. McD." takes upon himself to quote again, I would advise him to learn his "lesson by heart," or have the authority before him. Loose writing of this kind, bad as it is, is all the worse when the writer has not sufficient courage to append his name. To whom shall I compare him?—I am, &c.,

John Brunton, M.D.

21, Euston Road, Dec. 9, 1882.

[To save time we sent Dr. Brunton's letter to Mr. Greville Fennell, and publish his reply below. This is yet another question as to "who is the father?" All we can do is to let the anxious parents fight it out themselves; it does not pay to meddle in "domestic affairs" of this kind. It looks a little as though the Doctor's well-known skill had brought to life the apparently still-born "adaptation" of an eminent angler. In any case the angling public will get the benefit of the hook, which is a great improvement on the old shape as regards point.—Ed.]

Sir,—I thank you for the permission to peruse Dr. Brunton's letter before it appeared in print.

I have no wish to engage in a literary duel—either triangular or square—with the worthy medico, but perhaps he will grant me pardon when I say that it is a curious coincidence that he should in his first announcement of his presumed improvement have used the comparison with a "glover's needle," as the model to follow, which I did, and which I had, as I shall further show, in my mind when I wrote the passage quoted. I freely admit that in using the term "square" it was not closely applicable, as this shape presents four sharp angles instead of three. I have known so many instances of the same notions occurring to more than one mind that I freely and unconditionally exempt the Doctor from the slightest desire to plagiarise, and would suggest, with every sentiment of an angler's better nature, that it is just possible that the Doctor, although he was in darkness until now regarding the existence of my "Book of the Roach," may have heard the suggestion—I cannot call it an invention—spoken about by others, and thus mentally imbued, very naturally conceived his notion to be original.

That the principle of the triangular glove needle in its integrity was the object I had in view is shown by my instructions to a manufacturer, as well as to my ingenious fisherman, the late Henry Crystall, the designer of the crystal hooks, to follow explicitly the exact form of the glovers' and saddlers' needles sent with such orders.

If the "Book of the Roach," now out of print, should justify a second issue, I will cause the word "triangular" to be substituted for "square," and give the Doctor credit and thanks for pointing out an inadvertence which has now passed unchallenged for upwards of twelve years. Wishing you, Dr. Brunton, and "J. McD." a merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous new year—I am, &c.,

Greville Fennell.

8, Percy Road, Starch Green, Dec. 13. 1882.

BITES LOST WHEN ROACH-FISHING.

Sir,—Many, many thanks to "L. B." After reading his remarks, pointing out as they do the failure of some of the best A1 Lea men (the confession of failure coming, as it does, direct from themselves), I think we may safely say, "We still live."

"Anti-Theory" seems to have arrived at such a state of disgust, he simply says, without making any "bones" about it, that I "cannot know anything at all about it;" and as this remark applies to "E. W. A.," who is precisely of the same opinion, his words being, "The only conclusion it seems possible to arrive at is that he is not really a roacher," nothing more need be said. This is a settler.

Under these sad and mournful circumstances, Mr. Editor, what am I to say to Charlie South? One thing I will say, Charlie South, "I tender you my most sincere thanks for your kindly mention of my name." But what shall I say when I hear you make that astonishing confession where you say, "I myself have handled both Thames and Nottingham rods; but with neither rod should I like to say that I could at all times make sure of even one knock out of six"? What, not make sure of one! Is it possible! Well, do not be down-hearted; up to the present there are two or three more in the same swim, for here is "The Trent Otter," who has had a dozen bites in succession, "bites of all sorts and descriptions," and yet could not hook a single fish. And you know I have quite recently confessed my inability even to hook one in goodness knows how many bites. However, "as I am not a roacher, and know nothing at all about it," you scarcely need take into account my case. After this I am constrained to make the remark, for which I know both yourself and "The Trent Otter" will forgive me—

"When shall we three meet again?"

I respectfully advise my old opponent, "J. McD.," who is also of the same opinion, to carefully read the remarks of the Editor, "L. B.," "W. H. B.," and more especially "Charlie South," and last, but not least, "The Trent Otter." There is a lot of good, sound common sense in the letter by "W. H. B.," as well as a singular coincidence,to wit:

"W. H. B."—"The rod I fish with is 10 feet in length, light, and stiff, and for waters where I can fish 4, 5 or 6 feet deep (good—very) within 2 yards from the side (still better), a longer one is not required." Quite true, my friend.

"Mark Antony," No. 2—"The rod is not more than 10 feet long, must not be too whippy nor too light, but nice and springy."

Wonders will never cease. In fact, this style of mine is precisely on the same principle as the Lea style, minus the disjointing, until you hook a large chub, barbel, or carp, and then all similarity ceases.

I also think a number of these so-called knocks are occasioned as C. South says: "It is simply the roach butting the bait without the ghost of a chance of their taking it into their mouths"; and then he goes on, "How in the name of wonder any angler at such times can make sure of banking their fish is beyond me." Is it? He says, "I have that branch of the art of angling still to learn." Have you? Well, then, allow me, dear friend, to introduce you to Messrs. J. F. Waters, "E.W.A.," "J. McD.," and "Anti-Theory," and they will teach you, and that without the slightest fear of a break down—at least, only one in 24 tries.

Here is the take of an ordinary roacher, "The Trent Otter," this year:—31 fish, 17 lb.; 61 fish, 29 lb.; 20 roach, 15 lb. (8 over a pound); 15 fish, 11 lb.; 11 fish, 6 lb.; and 42 roach, 31 lb., 20 scaling 21 lb.

How would "Anti-Theory" like a dub or two like that out of the Lea?—I am, &c.,

Mark Antony.

P.S.—Lastly, I beg to say, because I know, a great many of these bites are lost (especially amongst the larger and elder roach) neither by striking too soon or too late, too quickly or too slowly, using too many shots or too few, using a long or short rod, gentles or paste, big or little float, reel or no reel, &c. I will tell you how they are lost—the fish bite at the wrong end. The cunning old buffers studiously knock off the paste with their tails.

[Come, "Mark Antony," we are all "honest men," you know, and we hope you will accept the invitation held out by "Anti-Theory," only for goodness' sake have someone to see that neither of you take dried fish with you to pretend you "caught" 'em. It might be as well also to bar the "other end" which you refer to. But there is much truth in your jest, for we have seen the bait-paste knocked off the hook as a shoal of roach brushed past. We cannot say it was done with a view to eating the morsel after it was clear away from the steel, for the fish would not touch it; they seemed to be playing "follow my leader" backwarks and forwards along five or six yards of a reservoir. They often touched the line and appeared not to notice it or the bait, but many of them have died in a proper roach-like manner since. What a curious thing it is that any controversy about angling matters inevitably leads to a row of some kind. We have had to use the "knife" pretty freely already before inserting correspondence on this roach-biting question. A man is not necessarily a liar or a fool because he does not agree with you on some angling question. We wish our correspondents would remember this. By the way, "Mark Antony" "thanks us for our foot-note," as though we had taken his side as against his opponents. We beg to assure him that we have only given our own experience in this interesting matter, without prejudice. The roach does not often get so much written about him as he has had lately, and he certainly comes out of the battle, with no loss of reputation as a wise and knowing customer—in public waters, at any rate.—Ed.]

ROACH BITES.

Sir,—I should like to put the original argument before your readers once more, as some of your correspondents seem to me to be arguing, as it were, in the dark. It is really not as to the number of knocks lost in general fishing, but as to the number of bites lost whilst "roaching" with paste. Also, that no roacher would think of using anything but the roach pole and tight line, and I think it is admitted on all hands that this is *the* style of roaching.

"Mark Antony," in his first letter on this question, which appeared in the Fishing Gazette dated Nov. 18 last, says:—

"The mere operation of the roach taking in the paste instantly sinks the float. . . . . In fact, &c., the ordinary roach angler will lose four out of six bites."

Now "Trent Otter," "Mark Antony," and Co. begin here:—Roach taking in the paste sinks the float.

The "Trent Otter" commences his letter with a quotation from one of mine, evidently not having noticed that the major portion of it was quoted from "M. A." He then goes on to say that in this case four out of six lost would be a heavy percentage; thus "M. A.'s" theory is condemned by his own friend. Further on, after referring to 12-foot holes and rods, and 20-yards strikes—neither of which do roachers interfere with—he arrives at the gist of the whole question, viz., why roachers do not lose such a large number of bites as "M. A." mentions, "that as the Lea man's rod point is continually over his fish, he is not likely to miss many bites." Just so. And I thank "Trent Otter" for putting it so "pat." As to size, no club man would be allowed to show such a sample of roach as that he mentioned.

Mr. South's explanation of "knocks" is rather extraordinary. I have foul-hooked fish on having what I have taken to be bites, and also brought up fish scales on the point of the hook. I remember one day in particular, fishing the upper Thames, besides getting a few roach from real bites, I foul-hooked two fish, and brought up at intervals during the day three scales on the point of the hook. My explanation of it is this: there were a number of fish in the swim, and on the bait travelling down it knocked against some of them, and I, mistaking it for a bite, and without waiting for a second, struck, and so hooked the fish or scale. The idea of fish "butting" the bait, with all due deference to Mr. South, I cannot credit.

"Mark Antony's" "Name them!" marking observations, &c., seem to me to infer that "E. W. A." is telling a falsehood. Would it not be as fair to enquire of "M. A." when and where he obtained his 25, 30, 35, and 40 lb. of fish so easily? As to his "singular killing, hitting fish so beautifully" style, I am afraid it is nothing more than having the line to reach to the butt of the rod, where it is tied for a tight, and "see-sawed" through the rings for a running line. If this is not it, "M. A." would confer a great boon on us poor anglers by enlightening us as to this wonderfully killing style.

"M. A.'s" letter on the "Ravensbourne" is a very peculiar one. How is it that during twenty-five years—what an age he must be!—he had not before August last fished the Keston portion of it?

Let me advise "M. A." to read and well digest the letters from "E. W. A." and "J. McD." in your last issue.

Would "M. A." give me the pleasure of his company for a day or two's roaching next spring? No excuses, "M. A." Yes, or no?—I am, &c.,

ANTI-THEORY.

P.S.—In last week's letter read "striking" for "sticking," and "querulousness" for "generousness."

ROACH BITES.

Sir,—I wonder what "Trent Otter" means in his letter by challenging me to fish for roach with my float 29 feet away from me. I have never stated that under these circumstances I, or anyone else, would rarely miss a fish. Certainly Lea cracks, and your humble servant as well, go to work in a vastly different manner to that. I cannot think that either "Trent Otter" or "Mark Antony" have ever fished in the Lea; if they have, they show a most lamentable ignorance. The description of "The Newark Angler" of a Lea fisherman is about correct, and I will guarantee that if the Newark man worked in a much different style than he describes, he did not get many fish. As he was at work near the spot, it would be interesting to know what his take was. As regards the small size of fish, it must be remembered that some of the very best roach fishers are working men, who can afford little time, and still less money. They consequently have to fish pretty close home, and for the pure love of the sport. The water is usually very bright, and the fish always exceedingly shy, being over-fed and over-fished; and besides, they run small as a rule; the larger fish are the exception. "Trent Otter" should have a day at one of these places himself, and I am much mistaken if he would not "turn it up" disgusted at having a few knocks, and he will find also that little roach do not always bite as "though they meant it."

As regards the rod "any amount of length," unless you use a 20 to a 24 ft. rod, you might as well not fish at all. Don't believe what I say, but go and try.

"Mark Antony's" letter seems a mixture of sarcasm, egotism, and unbelief. He asks a question, and because it is answered, exclaims, "Dear me, is it possible?" Yes, sir, it is not only possible, but it is done. Why he should as good as infer I am telling a deliberate untruth I cannot imagine. I simply state what I have seen and what I have done, and hope to do again many times yet. Others testify to the same thing, and surely he cannot imagine we are all exaggerating for the love of the thing. He then asks, "Am I alive?" I should say no doubt about that. Then, "Am I in my senses?" Well, that is quite another matter, and an opinion could not be given without an examination. I do not consider myself a "crack," because many others are far better roachers; but if "M. A." thinks that with the tackle he describes he can Lea fish, I am willing to go to battle with him, and the loser to give £10 to any charity the Editor names.

I can certainly inform "M. A." when and where these watchings took place, and take him to the spots. I see no ordeal in watching a crack at all, and if "M. A." were really a sportsman he would rather enjoy it. Why go and see a pigeon shot, or a game of billiards played by adepts at the science? I should say, both for instruction and pleasure. "M. A." would evidently fail to comprehend the one or enjoy the other. Let him go to the Lea and fish in the style he lays down, and I think he will look like "Grief sitting sorrowfully on a three-legged stool," instead of smiling on a monument. J. F. Walters is quite correct in saying roach-fishing in the Lea is not what it used to be, and that it is difficult to get the fish to feed; but what has that to do with striking them when they do feed? It simply proves, as I have stated, that almost every fish must be hit to get the baskets that are taken.

"M. A." must kindly remember he is now introducing another method of fishing altogether, and about which I have not said a word. I stick to my text, and that "M. A." may know it is bona-fide I give my full name and address, and shall be pleased at any time to see him at my house, or give him any "wrinkles" I may know that he does not.

As regards not hitting fish—can "M. A." or "H. H." tell me how it is that on some days you cannot hit a bird?—the gun is the same, the birds are the same, yet your bird gets away. Another day, you cannot make an ordinary hazard at billiards, you cannot keep the balls together, and run up a big break?—the balls are the same, the cue same. If they cannot, I can explain it to them. The fault is behind the gun and behind the cue; and, depend upon it, the fault is behind the roach rod, if so many fish are missed as seems usual with "M. A." and others.

Charlie South's letter is straightforward and plain enough. He states, "I have never fished the Lea." Until he has done so, I am afraid he will not understand this controversy. I can assure him that there is a very great difference in fishing the two waters. This he will find out when he tries the Lea for the first time.

One all-important point, which seems quite undecided, is as to whether the bites we imagine are roach are really so. I have over and over again in the clear Lea water watched fish as you throw in a pellet of paste. If the roach are on feed, they take it; if not, they look at it and turn away (I have never seen them run against it); but almost invariably you will see some of the small fry—minnows, bleak, and gudgeon—hit and hit it again, in fact, almost playing battledore and shuttlecock with it. Now, if you had been roach-fishing, and had not seen this, these might and probably would have been put down to lost bites.

Unfortunately, near London, we have not such happy hunting grounds as described by "H. H.," where the fish are so thick that they jostle the bait about and get foul-hooked. He might fish for twenty years in the Lea, and I do not think he will ever foul-hook a roach. (I mean, of course, whilst roach-fishing.)—I am, &c.,

EDWIN W. ALABONE, M.D.

Lynton House, Highbury Quadrant, N.

P.S.—"M. A." must not imagine Lea roachers always have small baskets. Three years ago, I fished all day, and do not think I missed more than three fish; and in consecutive swims I brought to bank three roach, weighing respectively 2¼ lb., 1½ lb.; and 1 lb. 1 oz. The fish taken through the day weighed 45 lb. This is the exception the other way. If "M. A." doubts this (he seems to be given to doubting), he can have full proof. On a subject like this, which simply resolves itself into a matter of truthfulness, I cannot see why name and address should be withheld.

ROACH BITES.

Sir,—I have read with some interest the arguments concerning roach-fishing published in your columns, and have been somewhat startled, and not a little mystified, with the ideas of some of your correspondents. Surely "E.W.A." must be joking. It is absurd for any roacher to maintain that he can at all times hit ten fish out of twelve; but, my dear sir, I cannot discover in any of the letters written—I presume some of them are intended for our instruction—any reference to the difference between summer and winter roaching.

Possibly "E.W.A." or "Anti-Theory" have not tried roaching at this time of year. The summer bite of a roach is, in my humble opinion, like unto a fair lady indolently reclining on an elegant garden chair underneath a shady tree, sucking—well, say, sweet pastry. The winter bite is much after the style of a bold sportsman, whether with gun or rod it matters not, returning after a successful day to his well-earned dinner, tired, hungry, and ready to demolish roast beef, gently done, or anything else that comes to hand.

I do not, for one moment, maintain that roach always bite well in winter, but I firmly believe that a fair roacher in the Thames (I know nothing about the Lea), with a 12-foot light cane rod and fine tackle, can hit a far larger percentage of fish in winter than in summer. The cold weather perhaps sharpens their teeth, but the loss of a great portion of their natural vegetable and insect food has more to do with this, I think.

Will "L B." kindly say in his weekly notes what he thinks of straw or caddis bait for summer roaching? In my opinion, it is preferable to any other. I find they will take this bait well when neither paste or gentles will do. Perch and trout are very partial to it; I have frequently taken both when using this bait for roach.—I am, &c.,

RENRUT.

BARBEL BITES.

Sir,—I have been very much interested in your correspondence on "Roach Bites," and I am sure it would interest many of your readers if you left the columns of your excellent paper open to the bites of other fish. Take, for instance, the knock of the barbel whilst ledgering. I mean the knock that nearly dislocates your arm, which comes on you suddenly, without the usual fine little tap, and when you strike you find not the slightest resistance, and your worm torn to pieces or cleaned off the hook in a marvellous fashion.

I have tried every method whilst the fish are biting in this manner, striking the very instant, waiting for the second knock, which never comes, and fishing with a small hook and the tail of the worm only—but I have never been able to hook them when they are larking.

It seems wonderful to me how this fish, with a knock like a galvanic shock and the line cutting your finger on which it rests, can clear your hook like a flash of greased lighting without being hooked in some way or other. Whilst fishing a barbel swim at Pangbourne last August, I had any number of these bites—in fact, as fast as I could bait my hook to throw it in. The only fish I caught that morning were, curious to say, five trout, but all under 2 lb., so, of course, I returned them. This, however, looks well for the increase of trout in the Thames.

Will you kindly tell a novice, and would-be slayer of barbel, what he should do when they are biting in this manner?—I am, &c.,

LAY BROTHER.

Finchley Road.

[Our experience in barbel-fishing is much too limited to warrant our expressing any opinion on the question our correspondent refers to. But we are sure "A Thames Fisherman" can and will give us a few notes from his great experience in this fishing, and doubtless other barbellers will join in—in a friendly way, let us hope.—Ed.]

THE BATTLE OF THE STYLES.

Sir,—I shall bet nothing, and do not believe in gambling; but I believe that a Trent man can fish a thousand yards much more effectively than a Thames man can 500 in the same time. I am sure I have seen the fork-stick throw the live pike bait further than ever I saw one thrown from the Nottingham reel, and I think that the Thames man can throw further, and when you have said that in favour of the last two named styles, you may then make a stop, for, as you, Mr. Editor, say, "we can stand on a hedge and fish." My first recollections of pike fishermen (and I can remember well 50 years ago) was that they all fished or cast with loose line, and had no reel. They used to lap their line on a square piece of wood and other such contrivances, and I can assure you that I have seen many hundredweight of pike caught in the loose line days; but my opinion is that the loose line style would not catch one pike to the reel style's five. I should be very pleased if some of the fish writers would fulfil their word and call to see me.—I am, &c.,

RIVER KEEPER.

Caythorpe, Lowdham, Notts.

THE BATTLE OF THE STYLES.

Sir,—Nottingham or Thames—which has it?—decide the point something after the fashion of the Irishman's cow, "Mine's as good as thine, aye, and ever so much better!" To those who prefer one more than the other, I say, learn both styles; you can then change about at pleasure. My angling tutor, from whom I received my first lesson some three-and-twenty years ago, could do anything in reason with a bait. His style, however, was neither the Thames nor the Nottingham, but a sort of combination of the two. He used no reel, neither did he coil the line at his feet, but after adjusting his bait and line to the rod, he tied the other end of it to a button-hole of his coat, then with the thumb and fingers of his left hand he coiled up the loose in layers of figures of eight—a simple process—the thumb guiding and forming the top loop, and the fingers the bottom one. Now, for nicety in casting I never saw his equal: were it the edge of a bed of weeds he wished to try, the off side of a submerged stump or bank, under a clump of osiers—a spot almost inaccessible—placing one foot slightly forward, and keeping his eye fixed on the mark, never turning his back to the river, a gentle swing of the rod, and out went his bait, skimming along, swallow-like, above the surface of the water, alighting noiselessly within a foot or so of the spot aimed at, and, be it observed, the commotion made was little more than that of a fish rising at fly.

He was sure of sport if they were on at all—rarely did he come home fishless. Contrast this method with the rocket-like motion of a big cast, either Nottingham or Thames style. What a splash after going swish through the air some fifty yards or more—Humph! you might as well have pitched in a big coggle! I fancy I see Mr. Luce spread his fins, turn up the white of his eye, as much as to say, "See any green there?" and like a flash shoot under cover, leaving the long caster to pelt away to his heart's content. I would give preference to the unassuming rodster who can comfortably cover half the distance, no matter what his style, so long as he performs neatly; the less commotion he makes the better I like him, and I venture to remark he is not the most unlikely man to weigh in big takes. Let us apply the same reasoning to casting spinning baits as we would to fly-casting: put your lure g-e-n-t-l-y over your fish, and you have him to a certainty if his appetite is in fettle; don't over-reach yourself by trying to show off a bit—your game should be more real. The satisfaction derived from making an extraordinary cast will in all likelihood be more than counterbalanced by the chagrin experienced at the tangled mess your line will get into, not to mention an empty creel.—I am, &c.,

The Boston Bittern.

THE BATTLE OF THE STYLES.

Sir,—As your correspondent "V." has referred to my casting in the tournament, I shall feel obliged if you will allow me space to make a few remarks agreeing with some of his observations. While not wishing to express any contempt for "the absurdly short rod," which served me in such good case, I would like to mention that it forms no portion of my angling effects; I had never previously seen the rod, which was kindly lent me on the ground, as also were the winch and line. I did not intend competing in the Thames style, as I had only my light Nottingham tackle with me, and this I did not intend straining by putting on the power required for a long Thames cast; I felt sure a short rod could throw almost as far as a long one, and the result verified my idea. I quite agree with "V." on the handicapping of the rods; now I also agree with him that my later throw with the long rod was "perhaps because I then threw in the Nottingham style." That is undoubtedly so, and the reason why it was so is a very good one, and not at all in favour of the superiority of the Thames style. Being at that time but a novice in the Nottingham style o casting. I was doubtful of entering the competition at all against such men as Mr. Little and Mr. Gregory. I feel sure "V." will not differ with me when I suggest that "it is no sign of one art being inferior to another because a novice of the one happens to be placed in juxtaposition with an adept of the other." I think I could make a better cast now, and will perhaps try at the next tournament, when it is much to be hoped all those gentlemen who have been so valiantly defending their favourite styles will also be present as competitors, thus adding to the keenness of the competition, and, what is more important, to the funds of the Anglers' Benevolent Society. If "V." could refer to the notes of the casts made at the last tournament, he would, I think, see that (what with tangles and such like troubles) the Thames amateurs made considerably less numbers of casts in the time than the Nottinghams.—I am, &c.,

R. W. Hobden.

HOW TO LEARN TO THROW WITH THE NOTTINGHAM REEL.

Sir,—Would you allow me, through the F. G., to give a hint to anyone desirous of learning to throw from the reel? First, get a good rod with big fast upright rings, and not many of them, on your rod, a good centre reel, well-varnished inside and out, and also a good soft silk plaited line, and then get a five ounce—say potato—and tie it to your line; take up your rod with the left hand, above the reel, then clasp your rod with the right hand, just below the reel, leaving the forefinger to act as a brake to the reel; then, when you are ready for a throw, do not attempt to throw far, as you would easily break your rod with such a big weight. The reason I recommend a big weight to learn with is that you can then feel the reel better than with a lighter one. I think I could teach any new fisherman to throw from the reel in a few hours; in fact, I have taught many, and if this helps anyone I shall be pleased.

Trent Veteran.

P.S.—Do not attempt to throw further than you feel you are master of, as you look soft to get tied up, as the Londoner calls it. I have seen men make long throws and then a tie up or two.

A SEA-FISHING QUERY.

Sir,—Can any of your readers tell me if I can fish from the sands at Ramsgate or Margate with rod and line, and how?—I am, &c.,

Angler.

[If "Angler" will refer to the *Angler's Diary*, under "Ramsgate and Margate" he will find some useful information. Next to boat fishing, the pier and jetty fishing is best. We do not think much can be done by fishing from the sands, as the fish do not often run in close enough. Bass, whiting, mullet, cod, dabs, eels, &c., are caught at the above places. We should recommend a stout jack rod, 100 yards of strong jack line, and gut tackle—stout, of course.—Ed.]

FERNS ON HAYES COMMON.

Sir,—I beg most respectfully to inform "Anti-Theory," in spite of his statement to the contrary, there is at least one fern on Hayes Common, and as it may interest and mayhap amuse that gentleman, here it is: *Pteris aquilina*—bracken—a common species of fern, the name itself (*Pteris*) being derived from the Greek word πτερον, signifying a plume or feather. And it is exceedingly probable if he were to open his eyes he might discover *Blechnum spicant. Filix* or *Filix mas, Polypodium vulgare, Scolopendrium vulgare*, and on an old wall in the immediate neighbourhood *Asplenium—ruta—muraria*.—I am, &c.,

Mark Antony.

FISHING THROUGH THE ICE.

Sir,—In answer to "Spider," when I first came here, fifteen years ago, I was very fond of perch-fishing, and remember going up Gully Lake, a well-known place close by the church. It was all frozen over. I broke the ice with the punt some 200 yards to get there, then made a large hole. I have taken some twenty to thirty perch with the paternoster and minnow, by just dropping it close by the edge, but you had to be careful of your line. I am afraid that time is past. If you get two or three out of a place now, you may think yourself lucky. Why it is so I cannot understand. The water is a very nice colour; there ought to be some good fish taken shortly.—I am, &c., W. H.

FOWLS FOR FLY MAKING.

Sir,—"Bittern" and "J. B. J.," of Hull, ask for feathers, in your paper of Nov. 11, for fly-making—if I could dispose of necks of cocks, blue, red, cock-a-dandy, white and black. I live in a neighbourhood to be able to get many, and could start selling, but do not know gentlemen to supply. I could sell them, no doubt, at 1s. 6d. on an average, if I could get a sale. Of course, honey duns would be worth more (cocks' hackles).

I keep the blue game, and could sell some good hens. I have one hen now with feathers as good as a cock; it is very old, and the feathers are good (blue, with gold edges). Bitterns are often shot—the winter scarcely ever passes that I do not get some.

I shall be glad to know still further if the scale-rule is found to correspond with the answers given in your Gazette, as regards weight of trout?

Whilst I am writing I shall be glad to know of the breeders of game fowls for fly-tying? It is said there are few left, and I hear that Devonshire is likely to contain the most of the almost extinct breed of fowls once so highly prized as English fighting birds.

Could a prize be offered at any show to encourage the breeding of fowls for fly-tying? I will gladly give my mite, and I should not be surprised to find many colours now supposed to be lost revived again.—I am, &c.,

North Devon.

THE "BROUGHTON POINT," "BLUE UPRIGHT," &c.

Sir,—I thank "J. T. H." for his description of a new mode of dressing the "cuss." I hope to try it next season, and, if successful, report the result.

As to the fly known as "Broughton point," I had some of these from a well-known angler named Broughton about fifteen years ago. He lived near Penrith, I think, and the fly was named after him. The body was blue silk, and the other dressings just as "J. T. H." states. I used it unsuccessfully on the Usk, but afterwards killed well with it in Ireland, around Dublin, and again in streams in the northern parts of that country. A favourite Irish fly is dressed in very much the same way, with the addition of silver tinsel to the body, and minus the red fibres at the shoulder. I have a fair stock of "Broughton points" by me now; they kill well here in spring, and at any time when the water is high. I had them dressed last season.

"Arncliffe" should try the "blue upright"—dressed with a dark blue game cock's hackle—among the streams in the North. It is generally considered the most deadly fly in Devon waters where I have fished, and I have had rare sport with it in Ireland. The difficulty is in getting the proper hackles. Nearly all I had are now made up into flies, but I enclose him a few large-sized ones, so that he may see what they are like, together with a "blue upright" as a pattern. If he could spare me one or two dotteril feathers, I would use them here experimentally in place of feathers from beneath the starling wing which I have made do duty for dotterils.

A friend of mine who goes in largely for blue game fowls lately bought some blue game pullets from Miss M. Badder, Welcombe Park, Stratford-on-Avon; possibly that lady may have some more birds to dispose of.—I am, &c.,

Tiverton, Nov. 28. R. A.

A MONSTER PIKE.

Sir,—I have come across the following extraordinary story, and have no doubt but it will interest your readers:—

"About seventeen years since (the event happened in 1822), when visiting the late Marquis of Clanricard, at Portrunna Castle, two gentlemen brought to the Marquis an immense pike, which they had just caught in the River Shannon, on the banks of which they had been taking their evening walk. Attracted by a noise and splashing of the water, they discovered in a little creek a number of perch driven on shore, and a fish which, in pursuit of them, had so entangled himself as to have a great part of its body out of water. They attacked him with an oar, which by accident lay on the bank, and killed him. Never having seen any fish of this species so large, they judged it worth the observation of the Marquis, who, equally surprised at its magnitude, had it weighed, and to their astonishment it exceeded the weight of ninety-two pounds. Its length was such that when carried across the oar by the two gentlemen, who were neither of them short, the head and tail touched the ground." I am well acquainted with that part of the river (Lough Derg, commonly called the "Broad Shannon") in which the event happened, and have seen very large specimens of pike taken by some of the old fishermen.—I am, &c.,

Thomas Glynn.

26, Falmouth Road, S.E., December 11.

[We have a strong conviction that if Mr. Jardine or Mr. Knechtli or any other big "pikist" were to try the Shannon, the result would be some of the biggest pike ever seen. Some years ago, when getting some flies at Mr. Bowness's, in the Strand, he showed us some artificial spinning baits, which some Irish lord had ordered for pike fishing. If we remember rightly, none of them were less than eight inches in length, and some much larger still. Mr. B. said his customer found the big pike would not trouble themselves to go for an ordinary bait.—Ed.]

MR. ANDREWS' LARGE ROACH.

Sir,—Will Mr. Andrews, of the Piscatorial Society, be good enough to give the length and depth of the 2 lb. 14 oz. roach which he took in the Thames last week, as reported in the Gazette, and oblige the members of the Westbourne Park Piscatorial Society, who have had some discussion as to the length, none of the members having seen one so large?—I am, &c., H. Adeane.

Gregory's Spinning Baits. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[Advt.]

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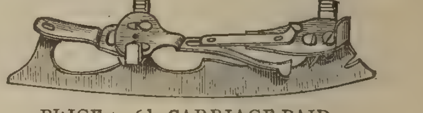

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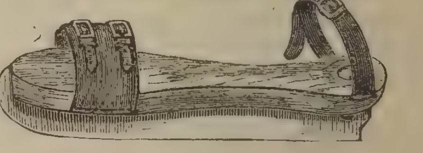

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JOHN STONE, Secretary.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1882.

NATIONAL FISH CULTURE ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

MEETING AT THE FISHMONGERS' HALL.

A PUBLIC meeting was held at the Fishmongers' Hall, London Bridge, on Wednesday afternoon last, for the purpose of establishing a National Fish Culture Association of Great Britain and Ireland.

There was a good attendance of gentlemen interested in the subject. The chair was taken by Edward Birkbeck, Esq., M. P.

The Chairman, in opening the business of the meeting, said:—

"Gentlemen,—The matter that we are met together to discuss, namely, the establishment of a National Fish Culture Association of Great Britain and Ireland, is, in my opinion, one not only of deep interest to us all, but also of vital importance to the community at large, and I must congratulate those who are taking this matter up on their being honoured with the presence to-day of many gentlemen who are so well known for the interest they take in pisciculture. The Legislature has done much to protect our waters and protect the fish that we have got in them; but in consequence of the vast numbers of anglers, and also the great and ever-increasing demand for fish as a food supply, our waters do want something more than what we have now—simply protection for the fish that are in them. The question of fish culture is one deserving of every attention and every support by us all. There is no doubt that, in an agricultural point of view, every acre of land in England is as highly farmed and cultivated as possible; but I regret to say that thousands and thousands of acres of our beautiful waters do not give that supply of fish which they might do if fish culture were thoroughly well gone into, and in the same manner as it is in America, Canada, and many other places throughout the world. I think you will agree with me that those countries I have named set us a bright example, not only as regards fish culture for inland waters, but also as regards, what to my mind is of the utmost consequence, our sea fish culture (hear, hear). That is a matter that, I am glad to say, this proposed association will take up, and it cannot be otherwise than of the utmost importance. Well, gentlemen, much has been done by private enterprise up to the present time. The names of Lord Exeter, Sir James Maitland, Mr. Capel, Mr. Andrews, and many others, are well known to you. They have done much, and I may, just in passing, allude to a small society which I have the honour to be president of, namely, the Norfolk and Suffolk Acclimatisation Society, which was started about three years ago. That society has done a great work, up to the present time, in my own district of Norfolk and Suffolk, and the hon. sec. (Mr. Oldham Chambers) has, I am glad to say, now taken up the question of sea-fish culture with great success. But though these private gentlemen have done so much in favour of fish culture, still the public will say that the question of a National Fish Culture Association is worthy of all support by the community at large, and I rejoice to think that there is a good prospect that when our foreign and colonial friends arrive—whom we hope to give a hearty and warm welcome to in London when the International Fisheries Exhibition is held—we shall be able to tell them that though England has been very slow in moving in the matter of fish culture up to the present, still we can boast of a National Fish Culture Association. I can only say that, as regards myself, this movement has my warmest support, and I shall do my best to assist it. I hope that this meeting will speak out with no uncertain voice on this matter, and bring this question prominently before the public as one worthy of support, and one which I very strongly hope the Government will in time see their way to give the same assistance to that the American and Canadian Governments give to their fish culture establishments. Before I call upon Sir James Maitland to move the first resolution, I may say that letters have been received from a great number of gentlemen throughout England and Scotland, all strongly in favour of this movement. Dr. Gunter, of the British Museum, writes very strongly indeed. We have also had letters from Dr. Wills, Mr. Youl, Mr. Andrews of Guildford, Mr. Archibald Young (Inspector of Fisheries for Scotland), Mr. Burdett-Coutts, Mr. Louis Buxton, and Mr. Brady (the Inspector of Fisheries for Ireland), as well as from many other gentlemen."

Sir James Gibson Maitland.—"Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, in the unfortunate absence of Lord Exeter, I have been called upon to move the first resolution, which is to the effect 'that in the opinion of this meeting it is desirable that a National Fish Culture Association of Great Britain and Ireland should be established, for the purpose of improving and extending the cultivation of our fresh and salt water fishes in the best possible manner.' Of the advisability of establishing this association, I think there can be no doubt, and the objects of it will be very beneficial to the country. At the present moment there are very great difficulties in the way of pisciculturists. Even in Scotland, at the present moment, we have no reports from our salmon commissioners of the nature of the English report. There are no means of communicating with foreign countries and learning what great strides have been taken in Austria, in Germany, in America, and in our colonies. This association will provide a convenient and, I hope, a very perfect method of putting us on a par with the pisciculturists in all parts of the world, from which, I hope, not only we ourselves, but they also, will derive great benefit. The question of cultivation of fish in this country is almost in its infancy; if I mistake not, it has only been studied five or six years in America, and considering the enormous value of fish as a cheap and nourishing food, considering the enormous population we have engaged in the industry, and the great portion of the national wealth which our fisheries constitute, we must all see the importance of developing them. Those fisheries depend very much on the food of the fish. The habits of the herring have been studied by Mr. Mitchel and others; but even now there is a very great uncertainty as to why or wherefore herrings frequent our coasts at different times. We know they come into the Forth to spawn in March, but we do not know where they are in January. It is highly probable that the migrations of the herring are to a very large extent affected by the food on which it feeds, and I hope the question of the food of fishes, both salt-water and fresh, will form one of the objects of this association. I think that what we ought to aim at is this: the association should be national in its character, and cosmopolitan in its objects. I have great pleasure in moving the first resolution." (Applause.)

Professor Huxley.—"I came to this meeting, gentlemen, for the purpose of listening and learning; but our friend, the chairman, insisted upon my speaking, and I am very glad indeed to obey his behests, particularly in regard to seconding the first resolution. I think there can be no sort of question about both the practical and the scientific importance of the objects of the society, and I may venture to say that I look upon the movement which is now taking place as of two-fold importance—not only on account of its positive value, but because you have in the composition of your council, and especially in the person of my friend, Sir James Maitland, a great guarantee that whatever is undertaken in this way will not be undertaken hastily and without consideration. Those who have looked at the progress of fish culture from the time that a large movement was set on foot in France by M. Guise, some thirty years ago, will assuredly not wish to see repeated in this country the extremely unfortunate experiment which was made in France, when the plan having succeeded by a sort of fluke, for the first year, and succeeded wonderfully, companies were formed and large sums of money were subscribed for carrying on operations, the conditions of which had not been carefully studied, and the difficulties and the dangers in the way of which had not been duly considered for the want of proper practical knowledge. The result, as everybody knows, was that a very great proportion of the money then invested was lost, and that a large number of the undertakings which followed upon the stimulus came altogether to grief. There is no one, perhaps, who is so thoroughly familiar with, and who has so scientifically studied the conditions of salmon culture as Sir James Maitland, and I am sure he will apply the practical knowledge and the critical power he has gained in that particular study to all other kinds of fish culture. In this country I think our backwardness is very largely due to the fact that we are practically spoiled by the extreme abundance of admirable sea-fish of all kinds. It has hardly been worth while to extend fish cultivation to anything but salmon up to this time; but what the chairman observed is quite true—that the demands upon our sea-fish are becoming greater and greater, and that it certainly behoves us to look about, and see whether, in the first place, there is a clear occasion for endeavouring to supplement the efforts of nature in supplying that demand, and in the second place, if that should turn out to be needful, then to devise measures which may be justly calculated towards the bringing about of that end. Speaking of the matter as a man of science, I must say I look upon the movement with great interest, for it is perfectly certain that whether it be to a great extent practically necessary and successful or not, the operations of the society will give us an amount of knowledge of the early conditions of sea-fish, of their food, and the conditions under which they develop, and under which they flourish, and of the enemies to which they are exposed, of which at present we have hardly an appreciable fraction. I was for a long time a Sea Fisheries Commissioner, and I must confess that nothing struck me so much in the course of the inquiry as the extreme ignorance of the fishing population with regard to everything about fishing, except that which related to catching them. It was absolutely impossible to obtain in the course of those inquiries the commonest information about the habits, and many essential points, with regard to the mode of life of every-day fish. Whatever happens to this society, I am sure it will make good the deficiency which still to a great extent exists. I am extremely glad to see the society formed, and I have great pleasure in seconding the resolution."

The Marquis of Exeter having arrived, the chairman called upon him to support the resolution.

The Marquis of Exeter.—"Gentlemen,—In obedience to your chairman's call, I rise to say a few words in support of the resolution; but I confess I am hardly prepared to make a speech on the present occasion, there having been so short a notice. I hope, therefore, you will excuse me if my remarks are very brief. All who know anything about pisciculture and the fishery interests of Great Britain are agreed that we are very far behind some other nations in matters pertaining to the welfare of our fisheries, and I was exceedingly glad when I received a letter stating that it was proposed to hold a meeting with a view to establishing a National Fish Culture Association of Great Britain and Ireland. Fishing about in different parts of England as I do, I have many opportunities of seeing how much is wanted for the encouragement and protection of our fisheries. Not only do the fisheries require protection, but I think it would be a very great thing if fish culture could be carried on by associations. We have plenty of it carried on privately, but there are very few who have sufficient funds or means for carrying out pisciculture to a large extent. Not only should it be conducted on a large scale with regard to fresh water fish, but I believe it might be carried out very successfully so as to greatly increase the supplies from our sea fisheries all round the coast. I am therefore very glad to have an opportunity of saying a few words in support of the motion, and I am exceedingly pleased that Mr. Birkbeck and some of my friends here have thought proper to invite gentlemen to attend a meeting with a view to establishing a National Fish Culture Association for Great Britain and Ireland."

Mr. Barrington Kennett.—"Mr. Chairman and gentlemen,—I shall confine my remarks to what, no doubt, we all consider a most important branch of fish culture, namely, the purification of our rivers. If this society is formed, I hope that it will devote a certain amount of its energy to that important subject It is useless to bring fish into existence if we place them afterwards under conditions in which they cannot live. Many of us must know a great many streams which would support fish-life, and in which we might enjoy fishing, and fish might increase until the streams are almost as full as those in Norway, if it were not for some mill or manufactory which pollutes the river. A great many attempts have been made at legislation in the direction of the anti-pollution, if I may so call it, of these rivers; but in some cases it is found that the manufacturers' rights are paramount—that is to say, that the interests of the manufacturers are so great that it is really almost impossible to stop the pollution. In such cases I suppose we must give up the task as hopeless, but there are a great many other cases where the manufacturer might stop the pollution of the river if he adopted proper means. And what is more, he could do this without seriously interfering with his commercial interests. The Act of 1876 was passed giving powers to Sanitary Authorities and also to certain Conservancy Boards to stop the pollution of rivers. A great many cases were tried under this Act, and it was found that very often the defence was that the manufacturer said he could not afford to pay for the cost of the work, and that if the regulations were enforced he must shut up his business. In order to prevent that, another Act was passed in 1881 (which was not generally known), forming an association very much on the same lines as the Lands Drainage Association. The object was to get over the difficulty of the manufacturer having to pay at once for all the works. The Act was very carefully drawn up, and it was provided that if the manufacturer carried out works to the satisfaction of the Local Government Board, he could borrow money through the association, and that money could be repaid by statutory charges on the freehold, such charges having priority over all other charges and encumbrances, except those due to her Majesty and under the Lands Drainage Act. The manufacturers have now very little excuse if they say they cannot afford to carry out these works. The riparian owners, the Conservancy Boards, and angling societies can say, 'Why cannot you borrow the money under the Act and distribute it over a certain number of years?' and by means of this there are mortgages or bills of sale, and the Legislature, by passing the Act, has given every assistance to the cause of fish culture. I think I ought to mention in connection with the Fisheries Exhibition that the committee have given every possible help to that association, and I only mention it now because I think it is a most important adjunct to your fish culture association. I assume that the attempt to encourage fish culture will end in our rivers being quite pure, and that we shall not have to cross the seas to find rivers well stocked with fish."

Mr. Oldham Chambers.—"Mr. Chairman, my Lord, and gentlemen,—It must, I think, be generally admitted that interest in the study of our food-producing fish is considerably on the increase, and I would venture the suggestion that that increase is to a great extent attributable to the recent National Fisheries Exhibitions at Norwich and Edinburgh, and to the forthcoming great International Fisheries Exhibition that we shall have in our metropolis next year. When it is remembered that this exhibition will be attended by some of the leading scientists of the day, I think we ought, in justice to ourselves and credit to the nation, ask ourselves if we are capable of taking part in the conference that will be held on this subject during the time the exhibition will remain open. I fear we shall say that our colonies and foreign states will be able to teach us many and many a lesson. Feeling that our representation might be considerably improved, in conjunction with my friend, Mr. Marston, and with the co-operation of our esteemed chairman and others, we caused a circular to be sent round asking your attendance here to-day to take into consideration the advisability of establishing a National Fish Culture Association, whereby our *locus standi* might perhaps be strengthened. The objects of the association are, of course, very large and important. We have in this country many acres of water entirely neglected and depleted of fish-life that would, under scientific cultivation, produce a food supply to our nation rich and remunerative in the extreme, and, we might almost be inclined to say, inexhaustible. I think it must be assumed that the success that has attended the exertions to re-stock with fish-life our rivers and tributaries would be equally successful as regards our deep-sea fish culture. During the past year I have been enabled to carry out some very interesting experiments in the artificial hatching and spawning of our deep-sea food species, especially as regards the cod (*Gadus morrhua*). I have established the fact, perhaps not devoid of value, that it is perfectly practical to transport from one part of the coast to the other the artificially fecundated ova of the cod for the purpose of improving depleted fisheries, or for the formation of fresh industries. When it is remembered that every full-grown female cod-fish sheds during the season something like eight or nine million of eggs, who after that would be able to say that experiments of this nature are not well within the sphere of our proposed association? After the young have lost their umbilical sac, it is necessary that they should be fed on minute crustaceans; and I would suggest to this association that some of those large tracts of land partially covered with water to be found at the entrances to our estuaries, and rivers, and harbours, should be utilised for this purpose. That can be done at a very small comparative cost. Our friend, Mr. John Lasseur, could tell us that the trawl fisheries of England are certainly in an unsatisfactory state. I would also suggest that the cultivation of soles and turbot should be undertaken by this association. The Legislature has very properly enacted a close time for our salmon, for our trout, for our British coarse fish, for our oysters and crabs, and lobsters, and I would ask this meeting why a similar protection should not be afforded to our soles and turbot? The period might vary in extent along the coast in accordance with their spawning precisely the same as in the case of salmon. Your chairman could tell you that the Act affecting crabs and lobsters will, next February, die out; but what do we find? The fishermen themselves are coming forward to plead for a renewal of this Act, and, as a matter of fact, we have never had so many crabs and lobsters in our markets in previous years as during the last twelve months. That is entirely to be accounted for by the protection given to those fishes. I am afraid that I have wearied you with these rambling remarks, but I do feel, as a keen and ardent devotee of the science of fish culture, that the objects of this association are certainly of the most vital importance to us, because they affect the national wealth, and I take it that the promoters of these objects will certainly do their utmost to further the great cause we have before us, and to assist in the grand work of the amelioration of our fellow-creatures."

Mr. R. B Marston.—"Mr. Chairman, my Lord, and gentlemen. It is a very great pleasure to me to be here to-day, and to see so many gentlemen from various parts of this country interested in pisciculture, who have attended in consequence of the circular to which my name is attached in connection with that of my friend, Mr. Oldham Chambers. For many years past I have given a very great deal of attention to what has been done in foreign countries in the way of pisciculture, and I am always astonished that in England, Scotland, and Ireland we have really done nothing. We have no association of any standing, more than perhaps a local angling club, which goes in for pisciculture. It is, therefore, a very great pleasure to me to see so many gentlemen here who are well known in connection with fisheries generally. There are one or two things which I should like to point out to you that an association of this kind can do. I have been asked, 'What are you going to do?' The best way to answer that question, I think, is to refer to what has been done in other countries. If we turn to Germany, we find there that there are more than 300 fish-breeding establishments and associations, at the head of them being the German Fishery Association, under the patronage of the Crown Prince. Herr Max von Dem-Borne has sent me a copy of the last report of the association, and, I think, it will suffice to show what has been done in Germany if I give you a short account of that report. Eggs distributed to various waters, consisting of salmon, sea-water trout, lake-trout, common trout, char, grayling, various species of coregonus and carp—total, more than ten millions in two years; eggs imported from America, consisting of California salmon, brook trout, rainbow trout, land-locked salmon (and I think land-locked salmon is a fish we ought to know something about in this country; probably it would be suitable to the Thames), and American coregonus—total, 1,208,000. Then he goes on to give some of the results attained by putting these fish into the waters of Germany. He says Herr Von Winterstein in Saarburg reports that in the lower Saar the yearly catch of salmon is nearly twice as large as it was in 1874, and that all the fishery inspectors report the more frequent appearance of salmon and sea trout in the river. Herr von Dem Wergen, of Freiburg, reports the appearance, in the late autumn of 1881, of numerous salmon in the Saale at Kissingen—the first time within the memory of the inhabitants that this fish had been seen there. Salmon had also been seen and caught as high up as Münster on the Weser river, where they were unknown before. Herr G. Seelig, of Cassel, reports the appearance of salmon in enormous quantities in the Weser, in consequence of placing fry in the tributaries. Then there is a long chapter giving you facts of that kind which I need not now go into. With regard to trout and grayling, there is a similar good result. If we turn to Canada, we find there about nine government fish-hatching establishments, sending out yearly millions of fry and ova. In the United States they have a National Fishers' Commission, with Professor Baird

Messrs. Livingstone Stone, Fred Mather, Seth Green, Page, and other gentlemen, whose names are well known all over the world. They are doing a great work there, and I have heard from them that they are glad we are trying to get up an association of this kind. In Australia efforts in the same direction are also being made by gentlemen, some of whom are present—Mr. Youl and Mr. Francis Francis, I wish I could also say the late Frank Buckland. How glad he would have been to see such a meeting as this. About sixteen years ago, Mr. Buckland and Mr. Francis Francis collected a lot of trout ova in Hampshire, and Mr. Youl sent them out to Tasmania and New Zealand. At the present day those rivers are swarming with splendid trout. I had an account the other day from a member of the Otago Club, in which he says that their president (Mr. Stoddart), in two days caught twenty trout, weighing 80 lb., in one river. The fish go up to 20 lb., and are even said to be superior to our English fish in food qualities. I have purposely not referred to what has been done in England, because there are gentlemen here who practically know more about it. We have heard Sir James Maitland, and I hope we shall hear from Mr. Francis Francis something about Sir James Maitland's establishment at Stirling—one of the finest in the world. My friend, Mr. Oldham Chambers, has referred to the great question of sea-fish culture, and I think that entirely covers what I have to say. I thank you, gentlemen, for the way in which you have received me, and also for your coming here in such large numbers to support this movement."

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Sir Henry Peek, M.P.—"Gentlemen,—As the first resolution has been carried unanimously at so important a meeting as this, of course the second becomes necessary to give effect to the first. The resolution which I have the honour to propose is:—'That this meeting, knowing the interest which his Lordship the Marquis of Exeter has for many years past taken in fish culture and the introduction of valuable foreign fishes, is of opinion that it would be of great advantage to the interests of the Association if his Lordship would accept the position of President. Also, that the following noblemen and gentlemen interested in fish culture should be asked to become Vice-Presidents:—Their Graces the Dukes of Wellington, Sutherland, Portland, and Manchester, the Marquis of Ailsa, and Sir Samuel Wilson, Earl Ducie, Lords Suffield, Waveney, and Lovat, Sir J. Gibson Maitland, Bart., the Prime Warden of the Fishmongers' Company, E. Birkbeck, Esq., M.P., W. Burdett-Coutts, Esq.' I think you will agree with me that a better selection of names could hardly be put before you, and you will join with me in the cordial wish that this association may be a success. I take an interest in it because for more than fourteen years I have represented more than fourteen miles of river frontage to the Thames. I am sorry to say that our work there has been limited rather than positive. We keep associations there for putting down poaching and that sort of thing, but I am afraid we do not do so much towards the positive part of the business—stocking the river with fish—as we might do. I am very glad indeed to think that this association is started to take up in a practical and systematic way every branch of this important subject. One of the preceding speakers spoke of many rivers being so polluted that fish life becomes impossible. When he was speaking I thought how important that matter is. I recollected some twenty years ago there was a very large factory which sent out such very bad fumes that no vegetable could live within half a mile of it. The manufacturers were voted a great nuisance: public opinion was brought to bear upon them; they took that matter in hand, and they positively succeeded in so condensing those noxious fumes that for many years afterwards they brought them in no less than £10 or £15 a week. What had been thrown into the atmosphere to the detriment of vegetable life and the discomfort of everybody living within half-a-mile, was really converted into a source of profit to the extent I name. I cannot help thinking that by the circulation of information on all points connected directly or indirectly with fish culture a great deal of good may be done, and a great deal of interesting reading may be furnished for people who take an interest in sea or freshwater fisheries. I am very pleased to be here to move this resolution."

Mr. Francis Francis.—"Mr. Chairman, my Lord, and gentlemen: I did not come here prepared to speak to any resolution, therefore my remarks will necessarily be brief. The Chairman and Mr. Marston have both referred to the fact of our being somewhat slow to move in establishing a Pisciculture Association; but I must take leave to say that I established one something like twenty years ago. For two years we had a great and most promising success; in fact, it looked at one time as though we should make a great national affair of it, but unfortunately differences arose, and it was scotched almost in its inception. From that time it has been an example to those interested in the subject, and perhaps may account for their slowness in again taking up the matter. Mr. Marston has been kind enough to refer to the stocking of the rivers of Tasmania and New Zealand with trout. It certainly has been a marvellous success. When they get over to New Zealand, the trout appear to grow to be finer fellows than their fathers and mothers in England, and I believe that a change of the kind is sometimes beneficial both to the human race and to fish. That was carried out by a small and almost accidental matter. My friend, Mr. Youl, applied to me to give him a few ova to send out, and I think I sent him some 600 or 700, and Mr. Buckland gave him about the same number. From those the greater portion of the rivers of New Zealand, and Tasmania are now stocked with certainly most magnificent trout. It only shows how a very small matter may sometimes turn out a very great success. Then Mr. Marston has also referred to Sir James Maitland's establishment, and to ask me to say what I saw there. Really, the difficulty I feel in the matter is to say what I did not see there. It was the most prodigious sight I ever saw. In one pond, about 60 or 70 yards long by perhaps 30 or 40 wide, there were something like 1800 enormous trout, from 2 lb. to 5 lb. a-piece, all in the most perfect health and condition. If in a small pond like that you can have a stock of trout that would do credit to a great many miles of river, I say it is a most extraordinary result. It certainly astonished me. I never saw anything else in the way of pisciculture at all to approach it. As to the smaller stocks of fish, you must go and see them yourself. I cannot give any description of them. It is an extraordinary sight. Swarms of fish of all sizes come up to be fed, and they seem to know the feeder as well as domestic animals do. Sir James Maitland told me when I came into the room that he had just been engaged in sending off a large stock of trout ova to rivers in Natal. Although Natal is a very warm climate, it is not too warm, I believe, for trout to flourish. The rivers are most magnificent. Some are perfectly pattern trout rivers. I have had many letters from many people in that country, who spoke very highly of the rivers and their capacity. Last year Sir James Maitland—for I really had very little to do with it—sent out ova; but owing to some delay occurring at the landing they did not succeed. This year, however, profiting by the experience of the past, an excellent arrangement has been made, and a quantity has been sent out. There will be no delay, and, I believe, the matter will be successful. There is one thing that perhaps I may say with regard to an association of this kind, and that is, that if you want to make it a popular association, a very important factor in our life at the present time is the working man. If you do not consider the working man you will be nowhere, and there is a great opportunity of considering him in this matter. We have, in London, large spaces of water in the various parks, in which there is at present a small amount of fish; but I am of opinion that these spaces might be stocked with fish of various kinds, and might be kept so to a very large extent, and, by means of judicious arrangement, certain well-disposed working men might be able to obtain tickets from time to time to amuse themselves on the banks of those waters. It would be a very excellent resource, and a very great change from nothing but the publichouse. They have the parks certainly to walk in, but they sometimes want something more than that, and I think that is a matter which might be taken up by an association of this kind. It would be an extremely popular thing, and it would certainly tend to give the association a certain amount of public character and public support. I am very pleased indeed to see our worthy chairman here, who is always at the head of every movement of this kind, and who certainly has made everything he has taken up a success; therefore his name is a warrant for the success of this association, and I have not the slightest doubt that it will be a success. Gentlemen, I have very great pleasure in seconding the resolution."

The resolution was unanimously agreed to.

The Prime Warden of the Fishmongers' Company.—"Mr. Birkbeck, gentlemen—The resolution I have been requested to move is as follows:—'That the following gentlemen interested in fish culture be asked to form the Council (with power to add to their number), to draw up rules and hold meetings for the management of the association and its properties.

Sir James Gibson Maitland, Bart.

E. Birkbeck, Esq., M.P.
Professor Huxley.
W. Burdett-Coutts.
Dr. Francis Day.
Lieut.-Col. Stuart Wortley.
C. L. Buxton.
T. J. Mann.
P. Geen.
J. P. Wheeldon.
F. C. Clench.
J. Forbes.
Francis Francis.
Lieut.-Col. Custance.
Archd. Young.
C. Fryer.
W. Senior.
A. Jardine.
C. C. Capel.
Greville Fennell.
T. Spreckley.
H. Ffennell.
O. T. Olsen.
T. Andrews.
W. Oldham Chambers.
C. Bates.
R. B. Marston.

I think it is not necessary to add anything in proposing this resolution. The names have doubtless been fully considered. I am only sorry that my engagements in connection with this company in another part of the building prevented my hearing the discussion, which I am sure has been a very interesting one. I have great pleasure in moving the resolution."

Mr. Youl.—"Mr. Chairman, my Lord, and gentlemen—I have very great pleasure in accepting the honour your chairman has conferred on me in asking me to second this resolution. I shall take the opportunity of correcting a little mistake which my friend, Mr. Francis Francis, has fallen into, with regard to my request to him to send the trout ova out to the Australian colonies. I do so as a warning to the committee to take care what they do in introducing fish into rivers. I did not make a request to Mr. Francis Francis to send trout out there on that occasion: it was a voluntary gift on the part of Mr. Francis Francis. I then had the determination not to send the trout out until I had secured the salmon in the colonies, because I knew, from the experience I had gained, that the trout grew a great deal faster than the salmon, and that they would become the greatest enemies the salmon could have in the waters of the colony. So much was I impressed with that feeling—and it was borne out by the advice of friends who were more skilful than I was in the matter at that time—that when Mr. Frank Buckland sent me the first contribution of ova, I hesitated whether I should not throw it into the docks so that the ova should not go out there at all. I should have done so, but for the fact that the ship went to Melbourne, and I consigned them to Mr. Edward Wilson, President of the Acclimatisation Society, urging him to keep them there, because if he sent them to Tasmania they would be the greatest enemies of the salmon. It was like establishing a new country, and sending out sheep and wolves at the same time. Over and over again I have written to a friend of mine there, 'For goodness sake destroy all the trout in the Derwent, or put them in rivers where there are no salmon.' The trout have grown and increased beyond all possibility or conception. The eggs were sent out in 1864. I received 1800 in two lots from Mr. Francis Francis, and 1200 from Mr. Frank Buckland, and now not only are the rivers of Tasmania and New Zealand stocked with them, but there are also a great number of them in Victoria. They have also been bred in South Australia, which I thought had a climate most unsuited to them, in consequence of the smallness of the streams and the dryness. I take this opportunity of saying that it was in consequence of the letter I wrote to the *Times*, that my friend, Mr. Francis Francis, sent me that contribution, and not as the result of any request by me to him. Afterwards I did make a request, because I wanted them for Victoria. I am sorry to say that the labours of Mr. Francis Francis and Mr. Frank Buckland in giving me ova at their own expense, and sending them down to the ships, have never yet been properly recognised. If they had been, I think there would have been a great inducement to other people to help me in the various shipments I have since made, and I should have received a great deal more assistance than I have. I think we should be very cautious as to what fish we introduce into the rivers, so that we do not destroy the natural fish in the rivers. With these few observations I have great pleasure in seconding the resolution."

The resolution was put and carried unanimously.

Dr. Francis Day.—"Mr. Chairman, my lord, and gentlemen,—I have been called upon to move the following resolution:—"That Sir James Gibson Maitland, Bart., be asked to become Chairman of the Council, and Mr. Francis Francis, Deputy Chairman. That Mr. W. Burdett-Coutts be asked to become Treasurer. That Messrs. Coutts and Co. be Bankers. That Mr. W. Oldham Chambers and Mr. R. B. Marston be asked to become Honorary Secretaries of the Association. That the Annual Subscription for Membership be One Guinea, and that a Donation of Ten Guineas secures Life Membership.

I do not think it necessary that I should offer many remarks with reference to these gentlemen. We all know Sir James Gibson Maitland, and what he has done with reference to pisciculture. Within the last few weeks I was at his piscicultural establishment, where I saw thousands of eggs he was preparing, and which in due time will be hatched and sent to all parts of the country. We also know Mr. Francis Francis, one of the most expert anglers in this country. Nobody in the United Kingdom has the good of fishing more at heart. There is one little thing I should like to mention, and which I think ought to be brought before this meeting. The proposition was that the association should be called the National Fish Culture Association of Great Britain and Ireland. We have heard a great deal with reference to the pollution of rivers, but the subject could not well come under the head of fish culture, and I should like to see the title altered to the National Fisheries Institution. However, that is a matter of detail which may be settled with the committee in due time. Sir Henry Peek has suggested that we should be life members on payment of ten guineas each, and he has been good enough to hand in a cheque of ten guineas as a life member."

Mr. Crossman.—"I have much pleasure in seconding this resolution. I think when we consider, at the present time, that meat costs a shilling a pound at first hand, it is quite enough to convince us of the necessity of forming such a society as this to increase in every possible way such a brain-producing food as fish. I think the names of the gentlemen in this resolution, with Sir James Maitland as chairman, and Mr. Francis Francis as the deputy-chairman, are quite sufficient to ensure the success and prosperity of this society. I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution."

The resolution was unanimously agreed to.

The Marquis of Exeter.—"Mr. Chairman, and Gentlemen,—I am really very much obliged to you for the honour you have proposed to confer upon me in electing me President of this great association, but I really feel that there are many other names down in this list of gentlemen who know a great deal more about the culture of fish than I do, and who have done a great deal more for it than I have. I feel very diffident in accepting so distinguished a post. You will allow me to say that I do think that the best president you could have would be our chairman here. He has devoted all his time and all his energies, not only to the culture of fish, but also to the promotion of the grand Norwich Exhibition, and the still greater exhibition which we hope to successfully hold next year. The are other gentlemen who are far before me in pisciculture."

The Chairman,—"The resolution has been carried."

The Marquis of Exeter.—Then I suppose, gentlemen, I am in your hands. I really must thank you again for conferring on me the honour of being your President. It is entirely owing to your kindness that I am put in this position. I will now proceed to the next duty I have to perform, and I assure you it is a very pleasant one. Very little will be required from me when I mention the name of the gentleman to whom I ask you to pass a vote of thanks—Mr. Birkbeck, our chairman. I am sure we must all feel how highly indebted we are to Mr. Birkbeck for the interest he has taken in all matters relating to fish culture, whether in his own country or elsewhere. To him, too, we mainly owe the success of this meeting to-day. I call upon you to pass a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Birkbeck for his kindness in taking the chair, and for the able manner in which he has performed the duties of chairman." (Applause.)

The Chairman.—"Lord Exeter and gentlemen,—I assure you I am deeply gratified at the noble Marquis's kind expressions. It has given me the greatest pleasure to be here, and I consider it a very great honour to have been asked to preside at so very important, and, I venture to say, highly successful, a meeting as this has been. I hope and trust it will lead to most successful results, that not only pisciculturists, but the community at large will be proud of, so that we shall be able to tell our foreign friends, as I said before, that Great Britain has a National Fish Culture Association worthy of this great country. I thank you most sincerely. There is one matter which ought to be brought to your notice: I wish to express, on behalf of all here present, our deepest gratitude to the Prime Warden and the Warden of the Fishmongers' Company for their kindness in placing this hall at our disposal on this occasion."

The Prime Warden.—"I beg to thank you for your kind expression of thanks. I am only glad that any portion of our building has been applied to so useful a purpose as that which has brought you together."

The proceedings then terminated.

Many subscriptions for annual and life membership were promised in the room and by letter. Mr. Marston and Mr. Chambers received many congratulations on the great success of the meeting. It is proposed to hold a meeting of the council early in January. A great many letters have been received from noblemen and gentlemen promising to support the movement.

THE GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The special musical evening given by this society on Tuesday last proved an unqualified success, and of which we must defer a detailed report until next week. Suffice it for the moment that Mr. Franklin Clive, a vocalist of exceptional powers, and splendid bass voice, delighted the audience by singing several songs, which were boisterously encored. The Messrs. Fennings displayed their talent in solos on the violin and violoncello, playing with a touch and finish that left nothing to be desired. Mr. Norman Harrison, Mr. Jardine, and many other gentlemen took part in the proceedings, also Mr. Page, the well-known musical writer. Dr. Brunton ably occupied the chair, Mr. Clench and numerous visitors from the Richmond Piscatorial and other societies being present. The Anglers' Benevolent Box was handed round to non-subscribing members only, and on being opened £4 2s. was added to the funds of that useful and worthy institution. The next paper will be read by Mr. Charles Bates on Tuesday, January 2, at 7 p.m. Subject, "Perch," and on this occasion Mr. R. B. Marston has kindly consented to preside. The paper is likely to be of considerable interest, and the committee hope to see a large attendance at this, the first meeting in the new year. The Secretary announced that Mr. Edward Bennett, of Great Yarmouth, had taken one pike of 15 lb., and it is hoped the trays will be well filled on Tuesday week.

"I am sure that my readers will be glad to learn during these very bad days on the land, when snow and slush are particularly trying to boots, of a very simple and easily-applied composition that not only keeps soft, but also waterproofs leather. It is not a new thing, for it has been in use some years, and has been a speciality with gardeners, though why gardeners should alone require dry and comfortable feet in bad weather passes my comprehension. Gishurstine is the composition, and is sold by Price's Candle Company for gardeners' boots. I have known and used it for some time, and during the past week or fortnight have found it to be really a blessing, for I have been out a good deal in most miserable slush and soft ground. It has no smell whatever, and thus a very horrid concomitant of common dubbin is done away with, while the boots can be polished with ordinary blacking immediately after its application. I feel sure that shooting-men, farmers, and all engaged in outdoor work will feel thankful for this hint, and will take very great care that in future they will share with gardeners the blessing of comfortable feet in all weathers.—*Morning Post.*

Trout Culture in North Lincolnshire.—Trout culture will be considerably advanced during the coming season in this locality. Mr. Thomas Ford, of the Manor Fishery, Caistor, has recently erected a new and convenient hatching-house, with all the appliances requisite for turning out a good supply of both ova and fry. His terms are so reasonable that he must be fairly patronized, in fact he has already orders to stock sundry fine becks and ornamental waters belonging to local gentlemen with salmonidæ. We hear he has pretty well established the Fontinalis in one of the chalk streams of the neighbourhood.

At a recent railroad dinner, in compliment to the legal fraternity, the toast was given: "An honest lawyer, the noblest work of God." But an old farmer in the back part of the hall rather spoiled the effect by adding, in a loud voice, "And about the scarcest."—*Sea World.*

"The New Crusades: a Vision and a Warning" is the title of a *brochure* which, under the *nom de plume* of "Saladin," will be published immediately by Mr. W. Satchell. It deals with what the writer regards as the socially and politically dangerous tendencies of the Salvation Army movement, and foreshadows the state of England under Salvationist domination at the year 1900.

FACEACHE, TOOTHACHE, PAINS IN THE GUMS, NEURALGIA. —Adam Smith's Neuralgine is a Certain Cure. Bottles, 1s. 1½d., 2s. 9d. Post free from Proprietor, Chemist, Wednesbury. London Agent, W. Edwards, 157, Queen Victoria Street; and all chemists.

CLUB REPORTS.

ACTON AND EALING SOCIETY.

On Friday, December 16, our members and friends sat down to a capital tripe supper, kindly given by Mr. Richardson, one of our members, who had bought one of the prize bullocks from the late Cattle Show. After supper the prizes won in the last competitions were presented by the chairman. Mr. Cook was the winner of a silver cup given by our vice-chair, Mr. W. Eydmann, for the largest jack in a competition for that species alone. The champagne that the winner passed round in the same was some of Host Brook's best. Mr. W. Howell and Mr. Eadbrooke also took prizes. The remainder of a most enjoyable evening was devoted to harmony, friend Cooper's book coming in very handy. Our next competition will be open in the Christmas week for three days, December 26th, 27th, 30th, in any public water from the bank, gross weight to win; first prize, gold pin; second, tackle case; third, bottle of brandy. Mr. E. Eydmann this week had a splendid show of roach and dace. Mr. W. Eydmann and Mr. Howell, a brace of jack each from the Colne.—Black Bag.

ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Eighteen of our members fished a peg-down match on Sunday, the 17th inst., at St. Margarets, only one prize being taken. Mr. D. Davis, roach 2 lb. 13 oz. Mr. T. Bowling also had fish. Presented by our worthy host, a cup for the largest perch taken before close season; also a prize given by Mr. F. Richards for the second largest. Our members fish for the remaining three prizes left over from the 17th inst. on Sunday, the 24th inst. at St. Margaret's; pegdown.—D. Davis, sec.

ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Since my last report I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the handsome sum of £4 2s. from the donation box of the Gresham Angling Society.—R. Ghurney, sec.

BERMONDSEY BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members fished for the Christmas prizes last Sunday, Mr. Frost taking Mr. Smith's (Queen Victoria) prize, value 10s. 6d., with a good show of perch from Lalham; Mr. Ayton, leg of pork, with perch; Mr. Gafney (the host prize) 1 bottle of gin. Mr. Coun and Mr. Mitchel also took prizes.—A. G. Croker.

BRIGHTON ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

The members of this association have been very unfortunate during the present year, owing to the bad weather in the South, so that it has been somewhat disheartening to take out the rod; therefore, nothing particular has been done in the shape of competitions, but there has been during the last month an entire change of officers, which seems to put fresh life into the whole affair. On Boxing Day, a competition is announced to take place, weather and water permitting, in the Ouse. First prize, £1; second, 15s.; third, 7s. 6d. All fish bar eels. Members will please remember that all communications must be directed to the new secretary, Henry Spink, 109, Western Road, Brighton; or to the chairman, A. Cardy, Brunswick Street, East Hove. Wind, west-south-west; water, thick; and towpath very dirty.—Paste.

Dec. 21.

BRUNSWICK PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The brothers of the above society mustered in very good force last evening (Wednesday) Mr. Booth, president. The business was gone through in a very satisfactory manner. Several members stand over for election. Mr. Wane was elected a member. A circular was read from Mr. Hatfield, of the Star and Garter Hotel, St. Martin's Lane, respecting the noble knights of the rod who formed a part of the Lord Mayor's procession. It was unanimously resolved that Mr. Booth be deputed to purchase a large size photo of the above, which will be framed and hung in our society room, and we hope to have the pleasure of receiving a visit from these champions of angling. Mr. Dunn weighed in a very nice jack from Wraysbury. The President and several members are going to fish a friendly match at Datchet on Boxing Day. Mr. Keeble will present an additional prize to the winner, and I am happy to state that the members enjoyed themselves after business in a very jovial manner. Messrs. Booth, Dunn, Jones, Reynolds, Bayley, Daniels, Wane, Barrett, Keeble, and several others contributed to the harmony of the evening. Mr. Allsopp presided at the piano.—Miles Doughty, sec.

BURDETT ANGLING SOCIETY.

The second annual distribution of prizes of the above society took place on Wednesday evening last, when about forty prizes were given to the successful competitors. There was a very good attendance of members and visitors, and about thirty prizes were given for the ensuing season. Mr. John Hadkiss occupied the chair, faced by Mr. Gibbons, and a very pleasant evening was spent by those present.—T. G. Walker.

CROWN PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The members of the above society have been out and trying very hard for Mr Welch's prize, which is given for the gross weight of all fish taken in December, most of them meeting with very bad sport. They live in hopes of getting some the next two Sundays. N.B.—Quarterly-night next Thursday, Dec. 28. Mr. Newbold gives a handsome prize for the gross weight of jack taken in January.—W. H. Burwash, sec.

Dec. 21.

GOOD INTENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above club to the number of fifty-four, fished a pegged-down match at St. Margaret's on Sunday last for twelve prizes, but the water being so much out of condition, running like a mill stream, and so thick we could only bring off seven of them: Mr. W. Hall taking 1st., £2 and 20 lb. of beef; Mr. Guntrip, 2nd, £1 1s. and leg of mutton; Mr. Bell, 3rd, £1 1s., leg of pork; Mr. Murphy, 4th, £1 1s.; Mr. King, 5th, 10s. 6d.; Mr. Miller, 6th, 10s. 6d.; Mr. Smart, 7th, 10s., with a bottle of whisky to each. The prizes left will be fished off after Christmas with some more added.—R. Murphy.

ORIGINAL ALEXANDRA ANGLERS.

Most of our members were out on Sunday last, Mr. Towndrow had some very nice roach, some of them scaling over a pound. Messrs. Morton and Dymond had some jack, and several other members also had fish.—E. Dymond, sec.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The following members weighed in on Sunday last:—Mr. Laundy, jack and roach; Mr. Edwards, roach, from the Thames. On Monday, the half-yearly distribution took place. Mr. Marshall, in the chair, presented the prizes to those successful; Mr. T. Longman winning a good ham. 5-lb. chest of tea, handsome lamp, and a roach basket; also Mr. W. Longman, prize; Mr. Laundy, a tankard, pair of decanters, and cruet; Mr. Craffard, a gold pin, teapot, and cruet; Mr. Roberts, a barometer and roach rod, with tackle book (furnished); Mr. G. Drew, 10s., given by Mr. Murray; Mr. Obbard, umbrella; Mr. J. Drew's prize not being won. Several prizes were booked for the members to fish for; after which some good harmony, with the toast of "Success to the Society," brought the evening to a close. A general meeting will take place on January 1, 1883, to arrange prizes.—J. Obbard, sec.

Dec. 16.

ROYAL PISCATORIALS.

At the headquarters of the above (Mr. T. S. Hughes's, the Foxley Arms, Foxley-road, North Brixton) there were exhibited on the 17th 23 handsome jack that turned the scale at about 112 lbs; the largest went 15 lb., caught by Mr. T. Hughes and friend. "It is the finest show that I have ever seen," remarked a well-known member of the Central Committee to me—and I quite believe him.—Pixie.

Dec. 18.

STANLEY ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

With two solitary exceptions, I am sorry to say, our register contains no record for the last week of any takes of fish by our members. The exceptions, however, in both instances, are very good, Mr. Wheatstone contributing 23 lb. 13 oz. of handsome jack, the largest scaling 8 lb. 15 oz.; Mr. W. R. Humby showing a handsome tray of roach, 33 fish, weighing 17 lb. 1 oz. It has been decided to hold the annual ball on Wednesday, February 14, 1883, when we trust to see all our old friends with us once more.

THE HAMMERSMITH UNITED ANGLING SOCIETY.

Some of our members competed on Sunday and Thursday in a match for a tripe supper, which took place last Thursday. Mr. Hobden took first prize with 3 lb. 3 oz. of roach and perch; Mr. Arnold, the second, with 1 lb. 7 oz. of roach and perch; and Mr. Walters, the third, with 1 lb. of roach. A capital supper was put on the table by host Green, which was fully appreciated. After the cloth was removed, the remainder of the evening was devoted to harmony. Mr. Choveaux played a pianoforte solo, for which he was deservedly applauded. Mr. Burgess then sang "As good as they make 'em," which was very well received. Mr. Gatwood followed with that fine song, "The Gallants of England" in his usual spirited manner. Mr. Reynolds then sang "In a Collar, a Belt, and a Pair of Boots." Mr. Maezy was cheered for his song, "Good Company." The most effective part of the programme was a duet, called "Music of the birds," by Messrs. Choveaux and Chapman. Our chairman then gave "Love's Request," and Mr. Chapman followed with "The Old Brigade." The secretary, Mr. Penny, sang "My Own, My Guiding Star." Mr. Maezy then sang "The Distant Shore," and Mr. Choveaux followed with "The Bedouin's Love Song" Mr. Bacchus gave a good rendering of "Old Simon the Cellarer." Mr. Gatwood was applauded for "The Storm Fiend." Mr. Burgess next gave "I've never done anything since," and Mr. Reynolds' "And so has Mrs. Johnson" was the last song of the evening.—Argus.

THE LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our members were out last Sunday, and fished very successfully for a number of prizes, which were all taken. The successful members were as follows: Mr. Keene came first, with a fine show of jack and roach; Mr. Scott second, with jack and roach; Mr. Barr third, with jack; Mr. Letch fourth, with jack; Mr. Hopton fifth, with roach; Mr. H. Moore, sixth, with jack; Mr. Petrie seventh, with roach and dace; Mr. Townsend eighth, with perch and roach. Mr. Thompson had some roach and dace; Mr. Humphreys, roach. They also weighed-in.—W. H. Evans, secretary.

THE SOUTH EASTERN PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

There was a good muster of members who met at the Prince Arthur, Stamford Street, S.E., on Wednesday last, and will meet every Wednesday and Sunday evening at 8.30. Several anglers were enrolled.

UNITED BROTHERS, DEPTFORD.

On Tuesday evening, December 12th, a No. 3 West Central Association visit was paid the above society at the Druid's Head Tavern, Broadway, Deptford. The chair was filled by Mr. Watts, faced in the vice by Mr. Tyler. The singing and the pianoforte accompaniment were all that could be wished for a Brother Bob. But I am very sorry to say the attendance was very small, possibly through the near approach of the Christmas holidays. The societies represented were the Bermondsey Brothers, South London, and City of London, and North Western. I hope we shall have a better muster next time. The following gentlemen contributed to the harmony of the evening:—Messrs. Allen, Brewood, Perkins, sen., P. Perkins, Freeman, Bonvoisin, Muggeridge, Watts, W. Tyler, Frost, H. Tyler, Currans, Ellis. Messrs. Bonvoisin and Field spoke a few words about the Great International Fisheries Exhibition, 1883, the Anglers' Benevolent Society, and several other subjects. I am glad to say the members have voted half a guinea to the Netting of Reservoirs Fund. Will forward the same shortly.—Roacher.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

Some of the members of this society have been having a nice time among the jack at Blunham this week. Mr. La Feuillade forwarded to the headquarters on Monday evening 12½lbs. of nice fish. Messrs. Bansback and Cain visited Windsor on Tuesday in hopes of getting among some of the jack that lie in the Clewer stream: they saw several playing about, and that was their share of the jack. However, they managed to get some plump roach. Broxbourne is the place appointed for the Boxing Day competition.

Dec. 20—Pixie.

The weaknessiz uv swells en' wurkin'-men—cigars en' wine—bakky en' beer—is metch about the sime. Doin' ez little ez possible, en' gittin' ez much ez possible, is pecooliar to bouth.—*The Kauknaigh Awlminek.*

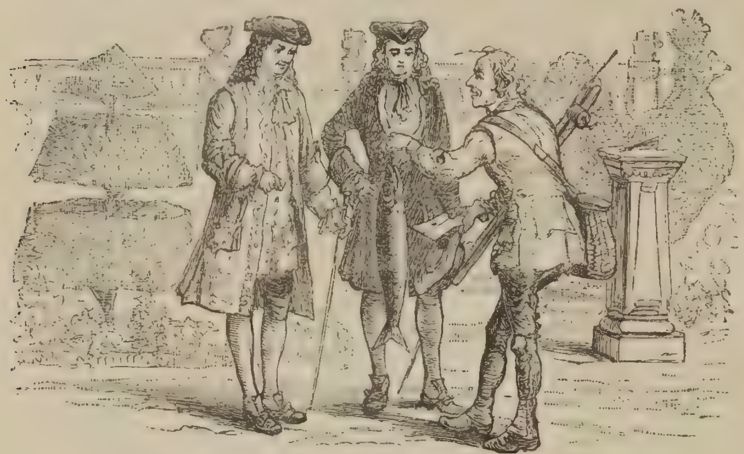
NOTICES OF BOOKS, &c.

SIR ROGER DE COVERLEY.*

Reimprinted from *The Spectator*. With 124 illustrations. By C. O. MURRAY. London: Sampson, Low, Marston and Co. Price 6s.

IF any of our readers wish to make an appropriate Christmas present or New Year's gift, they certainly cannot do better than select this delightful little volume. It contains no less than one hundred and twenty-four most charming woodcuts, which Mr. Murray has designed and Mr. Cooper has engraved in a spirit of true love and appreciation for their hero. Dear old Sir Roger is exhibited in all the quaint and humourous phases of his admirable character. There is also a frontispiece etching by Mr. Murray representing "Sir Roger and the Widow," beautifully executed.

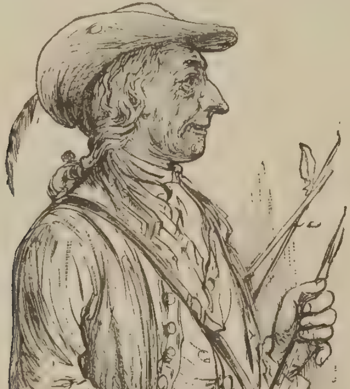
It is almost needless to say that this fine old country gentleman was a sportsman and an angler. "He has in his youthful days taken forty coveys of partridges in a season; and tired many a salmon with a line *consisting but of a single hair*." (Here at all events is an unmistakable triumph for hair!)



"A country-fellow brought him a huge fish."—P. 37.

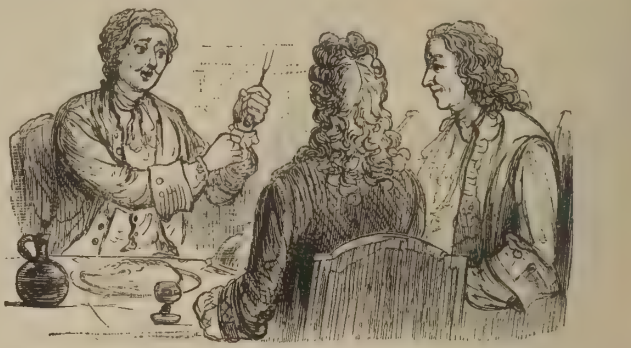
We have much pleasure in giving three of the illustrations, one representing the presentation to Sir Roger of "a huge fish," sent to him by his eccentric friend, "Mr. Will Wimble," "which he had caught that very morning." The fish was accompanied by a letter from Will, which is worth quoting: "Sir Roger,—I desire you to accept of a jack, which is the best I have caught this season. I intend to come and stay with you a week and see how the perch bite in the 'Black River.' I observed with some concern, the last time I saw you upon the bowling green, that your whip wanted a lash to it; I will bring half-a-dozen with me that I twisted last week, which I hope will serve you all the time you are in the country. I have not been out of the saddle for six days last past, having been at Eaton with Sir John's eldest son. He takes to his learning hugely.

"I am, Sir, your humble servant,
"WILL WIMBLE."



Will Wimble.

Accordingly Will paid his visit to Sir Roger, and "In the midst of his discourse the bell rung to dinner, where he had the pleasure of seeing the huge jack he had caught served up for the first dish in a most sumptuous manner. Upon our sitting down to it he gave us a long account how he had hooked it, played with it, foyled it, and at length drew it out upon the bank, with several other particulars that lasted all the first course.'



"Upon our sitting down to it he gave us a long account—how he had hooked it, played it, &c."—P. 41.

If any reader has not yet made the acquaintance of "Sir Roger de Coverley," this charming little book will introduce them to one of the most delightful characters in English literature. Those who already know the story will here find Sir Roger very daintily presented to them, and the best thing we can recommend them to do is to buy it for themselves or present it to their friends.

THE GARDEN ORACLE AND FLORICULTURAL YEAR BOOK.

By Shirley Hibberd, 4, Ave Maria Lane, London.

THIS is the twenty-fifth year since this useful guide first appeared. It now finds a place in most households where an interest is taken in the flower, fruit and vegetable garden.

PRESENTS FOR ALL SEASONS.

By W. Thornhill and Co., 144 and 145, New Bond Street, London.

THE above is the title of a most attractive little volume issued by Messrs. Thornhill. It is full of carefully-executed illustrations of the thousand and one things which are to be had at Messrs. T. and Co.'s establishment. In previous years we have referred to the sterling value and artistic merit of the articles manufactured by this firm. Among this season's novelties we notice some curiously modelled designs of fish forming the "New Fish Writing Suite." The inkstand is a patriarchal-looking old carp, the paper-weight represents a pike; but the candlestick is the *chef d'œuvre* of the set. Two chub form the stand of the candlestick; these fish are bolstering up an eel, which in a most graceful manner balances a candle-holder on the end of its snout.

The "New Crocodile Smoking Companion" is another capital novelty; the capacious inside of the reptile keeps your tobacco cool and moist and your cigars dry and safe. If you want the end taken off a cigar, the saurian will bite it off for you.

The "New Patent Tricycle Skate," for which Messrs. T. are sole agents, is having an immense sale; it was favourably noticed in the *Field* and other papers recently. It can be used on any ordinary floor, carpet, &c. The Telescopic Cup-cap Flask has only to be seen to be at once appreciated by sportsmen, and the same may be said for the Bent Beech Folding-Seat with cane bottom.

The New Hammered Bronze Flower-holders, Trays, Candlesticks, Inkstands, Paper-knives, &c., &c., are most elegant in design and attractive in appearance. But it would require a volume to do justice to the really beautiful things manufactured by Messrs. Thornhill. Their great success is undoubtedly due, in the first place, to the value and merit of the goods; and secondly, to the bold but judicious manner in which they are put before the public.

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

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* Sir Roger de Coverley is one of the earliest and most interesting characters in the *Spectator*, to which publication Addison, the author of "Sir Roger," was the principal contributor. The *Spectator* was originally started in 1711 as "a censor of manners, a teacher of public taste, and an exponent of English feeling,"—and it contains a series of essays as brilliant as they are pure—truly "A well of English undefiled."

FLY-FISHING-SPINNING.—I.

"SAT CITO, SI SAT BENE."

"SOON enough, if good enough," *that* must be my motto. For my promise to write these articles has been so long pending, that they have attained quite an ancient history of their own.

As far back as the summer of '79 I read with great interest the articles on "Spinning for Trout with the Natural Minnow," which appeared in the pages of the FISHING GAZETTE from the pen of the late Mr. W. J. Bullock. (*Requiescat in pace.*) The writer, I at once perceived, was a master-spinner. On certain not unimportant points, however, his teachings differed somewhat widely from those of the Gamaliel at whose feet I had sat of old. I ventured to state those divergencies of doctrine—not intolerantly or intemperately, I hope—in a letter which I adresed to our Editor. He, always desirous of seeing any angling-subject

"Set in all lights by many minds,"

did me the honour of accepting my contribution, and of raising my letter to the rank of an article. Expansions followed on my part. And in the midst of it all I fell into correspondence with my old friend and piscatorial-instructor, John Ward, of —— in Staffordshire, whom I had lost sight of for some years. To my extreme surprise I learnt that he had, in the interval, totally changed his style of spinning. That put a sudden stop to my intended articles, then actually in type. The compositor's labour was all lost, to say nothing of mine and the printer's devil's. And I daresay some of the readers of the FISHING GAZETTE wondered how it was that the Editorial announcement of the forthcoming of those articles came to nothing.

In the autumn of the same year, on my holiday-journey to fish grayling with Mr. Bullock, at Eardisland, near Leominster, I went round into Staffordshire, and had ocular demonstration of my old trout-master's new style of spinning. "Seeing's believing." The moment I saw it I said: "Why, this is fly-fishing with the minnow, and grand fishing it is, too!" "Of course it is!" was his instant answer. But the brook he was showing off his new style on, was in high, thick flood, and, as an angling friend of mine would quaintly phrase it, was quite "unfishous." Our respective engagements precluded me from remaining to see more of the art on that occasion. But we arranged to meet at Corwen, on the Dee, at Whitsuntide of the next year; so that I might then become more deeply indoctrinated in the art and mystery of the new craft, and at the same time might see for myself the results of a little practice of it by an old hand. The guardian-angel of all true anglers kept watch and ward over our compact. And I, with what patience I might possess, awaited the advent of that time when, under such a teacher, I should be learning such an art,

"With deeper and with ever deeper love,
As the south-west that, blowing Bala lake,
Fills all the sacred Dee. So past the days."

The Thursday before Whitsunday '80 came, and I went down by the night-train to Corwen; and on alighting at the railway-station there the next morning, I found Ward duly in waiting. "It's a bad time," said he, "but we shall make some of 'em sit up soon." And very soon we did, or, rather, he did. I fished for a few hours on one day only, preferring to watch my master's finished performance, and not waste the water, already far too disturbed for him to make what, to his mind, would have been good fishing, by the whippings and the wadings of the usual host of holiday-anglers, never absent now from any trout-stream within this British Isle, in these latter days. What will it be by-and-by,

"Far off in summers which we shall not see,"

I wonder! Ah, well, never mind! Sufficient for the day is the evil thereof. And we shall be in the Happy Hunting Grounds then, I hope.

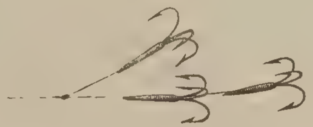
"Sport for the Immortals! Fishing!
Lies that inner voice which saith
(Is thought father'd by the wishing?)
We shall angle after death!"

But to return to terrestrial angling and its trials. Notwithstanding all those crosses, my companion caught enough during the few days we were at Corwen to "astonish the natives." For, in addition to all the flogging and splashing of the river, the weather was very unpropitious—no rain since Easter—very low, bright water, bitter north-east wind, and cloudless sky, each day, with a sharp frost every night. So surprised and so suspicious (I won't *say* so jealous) were the Dons of the Dee, that one day both the keepers lay in wait for us, pounced upon us just as Ward had commenced fishing, and insisted on inspecting our baits. His minnows had been caught that morning—*secundum artem*—by himself, in his small-meshed landing-net, and they passed muster, being alive. But mine, preserved in methylated spirits of wine, were, after many sniffings and mutterings, carried off—by French leave—to show to the chief magnate of the Corwen Angling Association, a large, local, landed-proprietor. In vain I protested that they were merely minnows,

"Only that, and nothing more."

"Ah, but what have you put them into?" said the gray-beard keeper, shaking his head more than ever gravely. He evidently didn't like the "*methylated*" odour. There was far too much *nous* in it for his nose. Obviously, we were the victims of a plot, a snare—and a delusion. Subsequently we found out we had been suspected of using salmon-roe, and uncanny oils and unguents, and I know not what other *piscatorial diablerie*. In the afternoon of the same day the junior keeper, upon whose younger brow "shame was ashamed to sit," rejoined us, and, knavely smiling, restored to me my minnows, remarking that, after investigation, the chief magnate had pronounced them to be only what he himself sometimes used in salmon-fishing, adding, that if that was all the indictment against us, the more sport we had the better he should be pleased.

I



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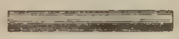

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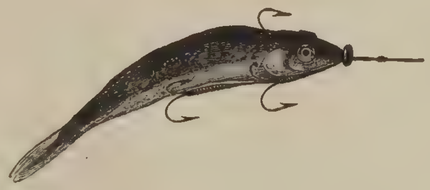

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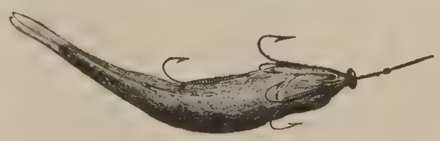

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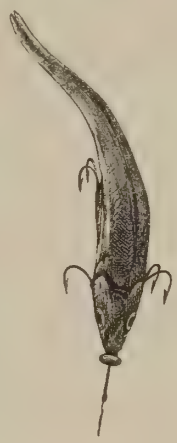

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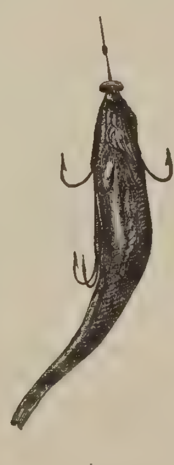

"Honi soit qui mal y pense!"

Eh! mine Editor? As we were dining in the coffee-room of the Owen Glendower, ere leaving Corwen, and were chatting over the events of our stay, a gentleman sitting at the same table informed us that he had just come from Bettws-y-Coed, where rumour (a little wide of the mark, as usual) ran that a couple of Cockneys had come down to Corwen, and were teaching the natives how to catch trout. I mention these incidents merely, in the interest of the art I am about to describe, to show that the execution done—*and certainly not by me*—was considered something out of the common. Indeed, the eyes of the host and hostess of the hotel—and their tongues, too—told that tale pretty truly every evening when the creel was emptied out and dished up to the experts aforesaid. In three days and a half Ward caught between 40 and 50 lb. of fish—and that at one of the worst of times. I may say, that on a former visit to Corwen, some eight years previously, he had in six short days, or parts of days, killed upwards of 300 trout, besides a salmon of about 12 lb., played out,* but lost by a bungler in the landing. One day during that visit, Ward was fishing near Llangollen; the keeper—another keeper—who was on the other side of the water, wanted to see his ticket. Wading across the river to show it, and fishing as he went, Ward hooked and lost a trout. The keeper laughed and chaffed. Continuing to fish his way steadily over, Ward hooked and landed five trout before he reached the keeper. Some swells who were looking on from a bank above, cheered him to the echo.

---

* On very fine-drawn gut and an all-hair winch-line, tapering down to six hairs.

On my return from Corwen I drafted out my views on the new style of spinning—they lie before me now. But on consideration I was not satisfied with them, feeling that I needed more than a little further practical experience before venturing to take upon myself the promulgation to the angling-world of the secrets of an art so high.

Mainly with the view of getting that practice, I, not then knowing of any better place within reach, went to reside on the Thames, at Taplow, during the summer of '80, coming up to my avocations in Town daily. Old Father Thames, however, offers very little temptation to practise spinning from his banks for trout, in the fly-fishing style. Soon I became introduced to another, to me, new art, and one more adapted to the time and place—whipping for chub with the baby-frog. Thenceforth all my spare time was devoted to that. It has this in common with fly-fishing-spinning, that the bait cast is much heavier than even a very large chub-fly, and is, in fact, about as heavy as a lightly-leaded minnow cast in the fly-fashion. Thus, in learning to whip out the frogling, I was happily acquiring (quite unconsciously) the knack of casting the minnow in fly-fishing-spinning, so far as acquiring command over the weight at the end of the line was concerned; but of the manipulation of a loose line, which is another specialty of fly-fishing-spinning, I at that time learnt nothing.

My autumn-holiday of '80 was passed in Ireland, at Killaloe—or, as some folks call it, *Kill-a-lot*—fishing salmon, trout, and pike on the Shannon and in Lough Derg. I don't say I killed a lot there. I did not. My daily average (in 16 days' fishing) was only between 14 and 15 lb. My heaviest day was but about 35 lb., and that but of pike. I got, however, a few good fish, viz:—

Six salmon and grilse	56 lb.
Three brown trout	8 "
Four pike	57 "

My largest salmon was 14 lb., and my largest pike 21 lb. On the last day of the then salmon-season, the 30th September, I had the good luck to catch a salmon of 14 lb., another of 12 lb, and a brown trout of 3 lb.—all on the fly, and all within about an hour.

On a former—my only other—angling-trip to Ireland I caught—with a certain amount of professional assistance—10 salmon and grilse in 11 days.

I state these facts, not out of any vanity (or I should certainly have advertised them in these columns long ago) but only in the hope of satisfying the reader that I am not quite without a general, as well as a particular title to write these articles. I do not pretend to set up for a professional angler; at the same time I should be very sorry to be set down as "but a blatant scribbler," and that to the injury of the art I have undertaken to describe. Indeed, but for my repeated promise, I assure the reader I should have been sorely tempted to shirk the undertaking. It is a labour of love, but rather a *hard labour*.

During the spring and summer of '81 I did not leave Town; and in the autumn of that year I devoted a short vacation to the *sulky* pike of Slapton Ley.

So when spring came round again, and

"All crystal-clear were the falling waters,"

I said to myself: "It's high time you began to practise that fly-fishing-spinning in earnest, devoting to it all your hours of idleness this next summer, if you ever mean to learn the trick, and make good use of it hereafter." And, in accordance with that decided opinion of the best authority, I quitted London, and went and squatted on the banks of the Colne, not very far from where Sir Humphrey Davy places the scene of "Trout-fishing" in his "Salmonia." I resided there from the middle of April to the end of August. I journeyed up to Town and down again daily, Sundays excepted, travelling, in all, during that period, as I have calculated, some 6200 miles, upwards of 900 of which I walked. One of my daily walks was to and from the country railway-station, along a canal-towpath, about 5½ miles both ways, ways of the stoniest. So I don't think that any one can truly say that I had not my subject seriously at heart. Do you? The length of trout-water I had the right of fishing was very, very limited. The trout, though *good*, were few and far between, and *almost* as shy as Sprint's little "*cusses*" in the Kent. For the water was a subscription-water, sadly over-fished and under-stocked. What with a day of business in Town, and four hours of journeyings up and down, besides all the other inevitable daily deductions, my time for practice was gone—like the gliding of a grayling—how quickly! even in the longest midsummer-days. And then *those cut weeds*! everlastingly coming down—as constantly as the current itself—now scattered broadcast, blade by blade, with the most provoking impartiality, over every square foot of the river—from top to bottom—fouling the minnow fatally at almost the very first instant of the cast—anon blocking up tumbling-bay, and weir, and mill-pool with their huge *bergs*, until the big boys and the hobbledehoys would be jumping from the bridge above, 10 or 12 feet down, upon the buoyant mass, as though it were their own flock-bed—*those cut weeds*—that Curse of the Colne—worse than "The Curse of Kehama"—worse than any mere "*cusses*" of midges, black, or brown, or gray, or yellow—*those cut weeds* were certainly not conducive to sport. Often I could hardly get a weedless water for an hour of an evening for a week together. Nevertheless, fishing hard for some time—till such time as I sickened and tired of it all, with all its hope deferred—I caught, not a good few, but a few good trout. No fish under 1 lb. was takeable. My six largest trout this summer weighed 20 lb., the largest of the lot was 6½ lb. And I got a fair share of practice—and of sharp practice, too—with those fresh-water sharks, those pikes and pickerels. Sometimes I was sheared off by them twice and thrice a day. Those attorneys and solicitors, those wretches and rascals of so many of our best trout-streams, I observe that Mr. Francis Francis has declared war *à l'outrance* against them, and not without an excellent *casus belli*. He has referred to their former ravages in the Hungerford water, on the Kennet. Why, I lost 5 or 6 trout-spinning-tackles bitten off by them there in one day. I thinned out a good few of them from the Colne, though.

In September now last past I went to finish my education on the Usk at Usk. I never made a worse mistake. For I found the river was a very early spring one for trout, all trouting worth a name being over and gone by the middle of May. The best of the trout-fishing is in March and April. They say—the natives say—that their river is then the first of trouting-waters, and ever has been so from King Arthur's days, when tilt-at-trout, no less than salmon-tournament, was often holden

"Up the vale of Usk,
By the flat meadow."

Thereat, no doubt, Tristram, the Hunter-Knight, would aye compete, and the Blameless King was wont to award the prize, which, I trow, was no eight-day clock, nor roll of oil-cloth, nor bottle of Day and Martin's blacking; but was—*rather*—some

"Robe of samite, mystic, wonderful,"

or magic rod, the work of Merlin, or, haply, even that carcanet of rubies, "the jewels of the Dead Innocence." I daresay it is so—and I durst not say it was not so—all just what they, the natives, say that it, their river, was and is. Still, for all that, I am quite free to confess that, even at the best of times, it is too large and strong a water at Usk for trout, to my thinking. What is that Latin line about the rarity of the union of Majesty with Love? How I forget! O, Mr. McKerrow! I shall have to come to your Usk Grammar-School, to get you to get me to get my classics up again. And what a getting upstairs that will be at this time o' life! But that yours is a grand salmon-river for those who, like you and me, do not mind deep wading, *for salmon*, in very strong streams, I readily grant. I was informed by the head-keeper, that more than *one thousand* salmon had been killed on the rod in the river—throughout its whole course—in three months, ending some time in September, and that one angler, Mr. Alfred Crawshaw, (who made his mark with the trout last March) had had some 200 salmon out of it this season. I saw one gentleman hook three salmon in less than three-quarters of an hour in one stream. I had fully intended having a few days' salmon-fishing—just to keep my hand in—when the trout-fishing, for which I had gone to Usk, proved worthless. But first the brightness of the weather, and afterwards a cold which (Usquebaugh notwithstanding) I caught, owing in part to repeated wettings, through wading in leaky fishing-stockings, prevented me from carrying out my intention. So I had only a single day's salmon-fishing. That, by the kindness of Mr. McK., and the liberality of the lady-owner, was, with him, on private water. But, a flood having run off, the fish were not kindly on that occasion. They would not be taught to rise, though the Schoolmaster waa abroad to teach them. A week or two before Major T. had "rugged" 12 salmon, killing 3, on that preserve in one day. But it was a lovely spot; and the good scenery made the *amende honorable* for the bad sport. The little hamlet of Ll—— lay nestling beneath the range of the Blorenge, which ran on until it was lost in the blue distance, away by the Sugar-Loaf-Mountain at Abergavenny. Under the hill rose the turreted church-tower, amid full foliage, and near it stood the newly-whitewashed—yes, the *newly-whitewashed* tenement of the Harper to H.R.H, the

Prince of Wales. A brother of mine, taking a sketch in oils of the view, had taken the liberty of leaving out the newly-white-washed tenement aforesaid, until he learnt the special appointment of its occupant. And even then he would insist on touching it in of a less staring tone—a more artistic tint. Of course I made him work in a (more or less silvery) salmon on the jump, with the ring on the water, and all that. Do you know, reader as learned as æsthetic, that there is only one word in the English language which rhymes with "orange," and none which rhymes with "month?" But there is a certain holy-book of the Hindoos called "grunth." Learning all this, a poet—perhaps the Laureate—inspired by the Muse, or most likely by all the Tuneful Nine, turned out this melodious verse

"All the way from Indus to the Blorenge
Came the Rajah in a month,
Sucking now and then an orange,
Conning by the way his grunth."

Neat, that? I read it years ago in a magazine-article. Now I can't quite say

"Coming events cast their shadows before,"

because, you see, I was no Rajah all the way from Indus to the Blorenge, nor was I sucking any orange, and most assuredly I was not conning *my* "grunth" on my way to Ll—— But we had some splendid peaches amid all the good things in the luncheon-basket sent down to us so liberally from *The House*. And their mellow numbers did undoubtedly—and not unmelodiously—melt in our mouths, more especially (if I mayn't say more espeachially) in my brother's, to whose lips *somehow*—I suppose, as to those of an artist, by some sort of *elective affinity*—came the bloomingest of the blooming lot, with the juiciest of consequences. He has an excellent eye for colour (for peach-colour, *par excel'ence*) has that A.R.A. After luncheon I bundled into the braw keeper's wading-breeches, and waddled off, and waded down the middle of one broad, short stream to the head of a deep pool, artistically fishing the stream on either side alternately—*usque ad finem**—as I went. It took me about a quarter of an hour to work my way back, sideways—*inch by inch*—about 20 or 30 yards only—from waist-deep to knee-deep, the stream all the while rushing up six inches or more, above its level, against my side. When I got out, and remarked to the keeper on the strength of the water, he coolly told me that if I had lost my footing I should never have got it again. At one time I was within 10 or 15 yards of 7 or 8 feet of water. The Major, who is not wanting in valour, and who carries a good deal more weight than I do, had, on a somewhat heavier water, exercised the better part of his valour, a sound discretion, in avoiding a wading of that stream. So said the keeper, adding, that he himself never cared to wade it much above his knees. Such, bold though gentle reader, is something like, or something not so very unlike, the sort of salmon-fishing to be had—with a 17 or 18-foot rod, and a 25 or 30 yard cast—at Usk on Usk. A good few fish were killed during my fortnight or so's stay there, several being over 20 lb. As a trout-stream, though, I much prefer the Dee at Corwen. I managed, however, to get a few trout, together with some useful practice, out of two little overwooded brooks in Monmouthshire and Somersetshire, during my holiday lately ended. On the very last afternoon on which I handled a rod this season, I caught three brace of trout, half-pounders, and ran as many more, in about 40 yards of water, which was virtually the only open, unbushed water I had to fish, so that I had to fish it over and over again, *ad nauseam*. "Well," I said to the miller's man on leaving, "I suppose that's better than some of 'em do?" "Yes, sir, *a d—— sight*!" he answered. I confess I had thought the fish were rather *a pretty sight*. But I suppose that was practically only his way of expressing the same opinion. With the run of the brook for a mile or two, and plenty of good baits—mine were few and bad—I think I might have had 10 or 12 lb. of trout that day, on a moderate computation, and that too at the end of September, when I should have scarcely caught a fish with the fly. The reader can judge from that latest incident of my experience of fly-fishing-spinning whether the art is likely to be *good enough* for him. He will in his judgment bear duly in mind that I was but a journeyman on the job.

A. R. I. E. L.

London, October 14th, 1882.

(*To be continued.*)

Worms in Dogs.—" Scalford, near Melton Mowbray, Jan. 7, 1871.—Keeping as I do so many valuable mastiffs, probably as many as any breeder in England, I have used 'Naldire's Powders,' and consider them an effectual, speedy, and safe remedy for dogs. M. B. Wynn." "Naldire's Powders" are also a splendid alterative, keeping dogs in excellent condition. Price 1s., 2s., 3s. 6d., and 5s., of all Chemists, and of Barclay and Sons, 95, Farringdon-Street, London.

A CHALLENGE FROM GERMANY.

In No. 50 of the "Deutsche Fischerei Zeitung," (Dec. 12, 1882), we notice an interesting article by Mr. Hermann Danner, on "Die Federschnur" (The Feather-line). Mr. D. is an enthusiastic fly-fisher, and in some old chronicle, describing how Georgius, Abbot of the Garsten Abbey at Steyr, and other noblemen, in the year 1572, issued certain laws for the regulation of their fisheries, found that "fishing with the ground line and feather-line" was permitted. For a long time Mr. D. could not find out what "feather-line" referred to, until one day, after grayling fishing in the Traun, he was chatting with some local anglers in a little inn, when one of them happened to ask an acquaintance if he had been fishing with the feather-line. "'What feather-line? Who has a feather-line?' I asked. 'That I can easily show you," said one of the company, and he pulled out of his pocket a coarsely-made stout hair line, with four artificial flies attached. The line was strong enough to haul a two or three pound fish clean out of the water, and the flies were wondrous works of art, dressed on No. 8 hooks; the lower part of the body consisted of black horse-hairs, and ribbed neatly with white, brown, and purple horse-hairs. The upper part was formed of peacock herl wound round, and the fly dressed buzz fashion. The improportionately big head was formed of dark red wool. The owner of this wonderful fly-cast said that from the oldest times there had always been a fisherman amongst them who occupied himself with the manufacture of these flies, which were sold at 60 kreutzers a-piece." Mr. D. considers that this evidence clearly proves what the "feather-line" is, and also that its use was known in Austria 310 years ago as "an ancient method of fishing." He goes on to say,—"And now let the English prove that fly-fishing was practised with them at an earlier date!"

Here is proof, friend Danner:—

In the year 1496, *i. e.* 386 years ago, and 76 years earlier than the time you mention, Winkin the Worde, printed at Westminster the second edition of the famous "Book of St, Albans," the reputed authoress being the beautiful Dame Juliana Barnes, or Berners, prioress of the Benedictine Nunnery of Sopwell, in Hertfordshire. This work, written in English by an English lady, not only gives instructions how to fish for salmon, trout, and grayling with the fly, but also describes a number of flies, viz:—

> "For March.—The dun-fly—the body of the donne woll and the wings of the partridge. A nother donne flye, the body of black woll: the wynges of the blackyst drake: and the jay under the wynge and under the tayle.
>
> "For April.—The stone flye—the body of blacke woll; yellow under the wynge, and under the tayle and the wynges of the drake. In the beginning of May a good fly, the body of roddy woll and lappid about wyth blacke sylke: the wynges of the drake and of the redde capons hakyll.
>
> "For May.—The yellow flye, the body of yellow woll: the wynges of the red cocke hakyll and of the drake lyttid yellow, &c.
>
> "For June.—The Donne Cutte; the body of blacke woll, a yellow lyshe after eyther syde: the wings of the bosarde bound on with barkyd hempe."

Then follow descriptions of other flies for June, July and August.

Here we have, then, a really excellent description of flies and how to make them, and we are told they are to be dressed neatly on small hooks on single hair. There is not the least doubt that all subsequent English writers on angling, including Walton, are indebted to Dame Berners for the groundwork of their descriptions of flies for the different months. Now, although this "Boke of St. Albans" is the earliest English work known which describes artificial flies and fly-fishing, it is perfectly certain that an art which was in such a state as to permit of its being so systematically described by a lady—was no new art invented by her, but must have been practised, perhaps centuries before her time. The winged imitations of living insects—such as the stone fly, for instance, described by Dame Berners as to be used on single hair, are centuries ahead of the clumsy flies in use 310 years ago in Austria, even supposing they were not superior to the clumsy bees described by Mr. Danner as in use at the present day on lines strong enough to pull out a trout of two or three pounds.

The Pollution of Rivers.—It is announced that among the exhibits at the forthcoming Great International Fisheries Exhibition will be the "processes for rendering streams polluted by sewage and chemical and other works innocuous to fish life." The directors of the Manufacturers and Millowners' Mutual Aid Association, of which Mr. W. Wentworth Fitzwilliam, M.P., is chairman, have secured a space at the Exhibition, and have invited all patentees, inventors, and workers of processes for preventing the pollution of rivers to show their processes, with a view to the demonstration of the assertion that there is a remedy for all cases of river pollution, and also that such remedies may be applied with advantage to the occupier of the premises. Inventors and patentees are invited to communicate with the Association at the office, 5, The Sanctuary, Westminster.

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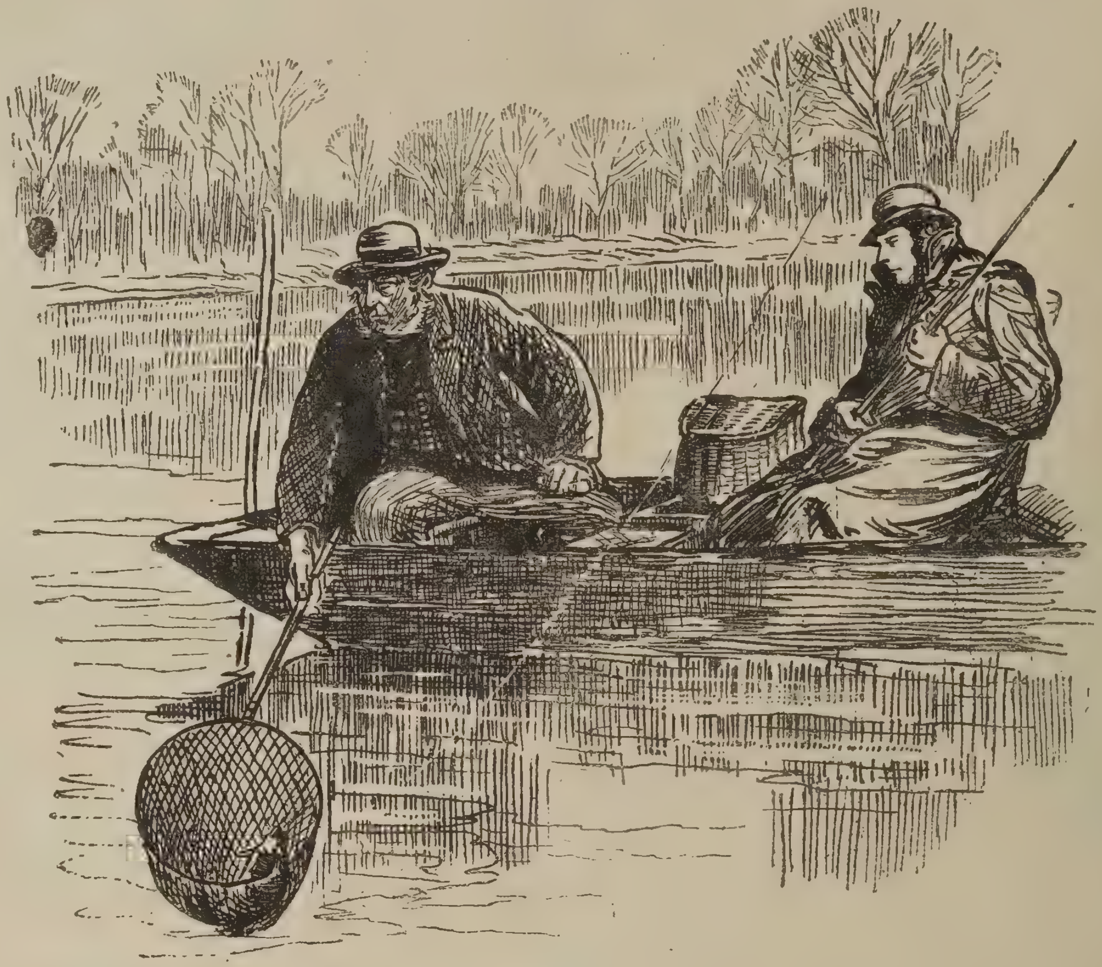
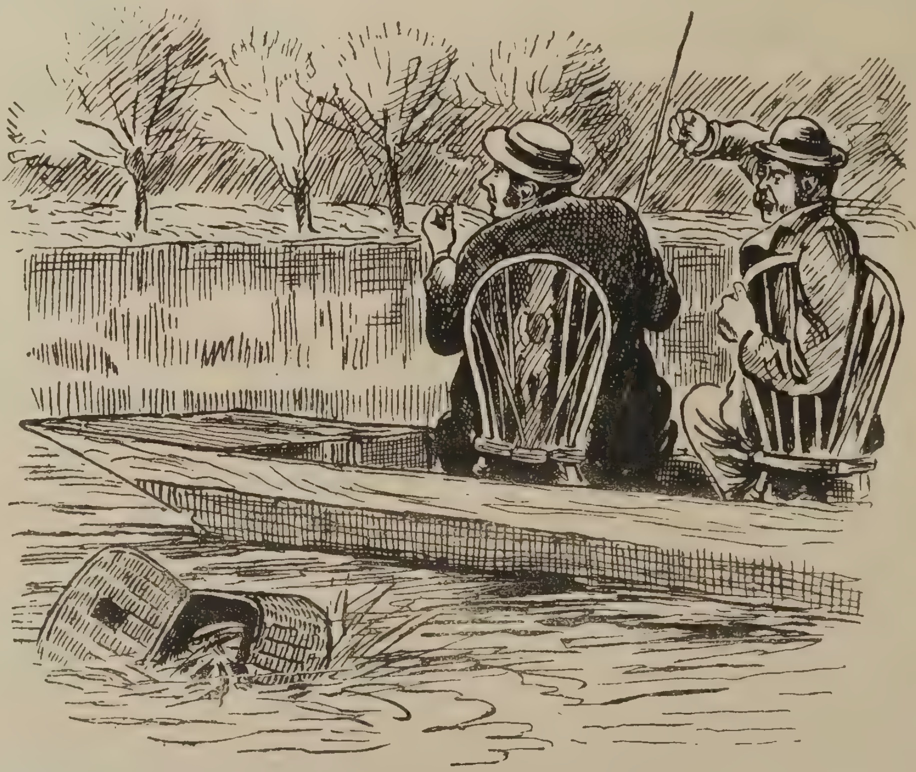
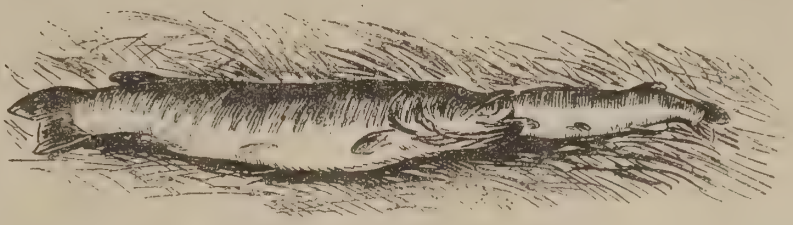
* To the end, or bank, of the Usk. *Not* Mr. McK.'s translation.



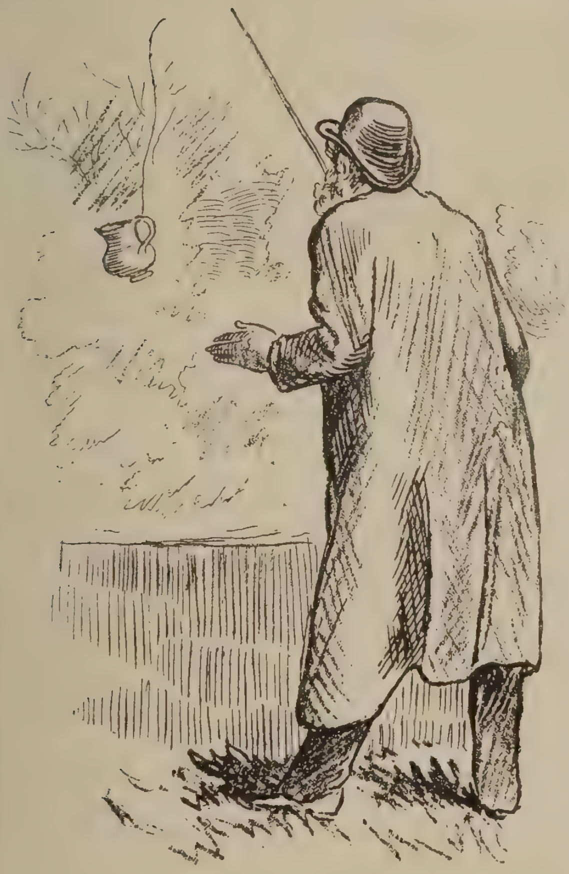
Perch-Fishing in the Thames.



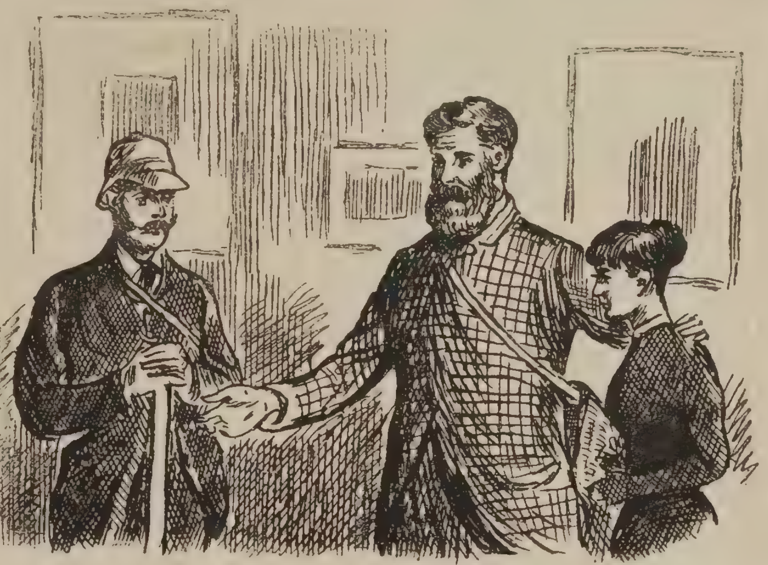
Two well-known members of the Piscatorial Society speaking in a fatherly way to a sculler who has dashed their hopes of the dace prize overboard.



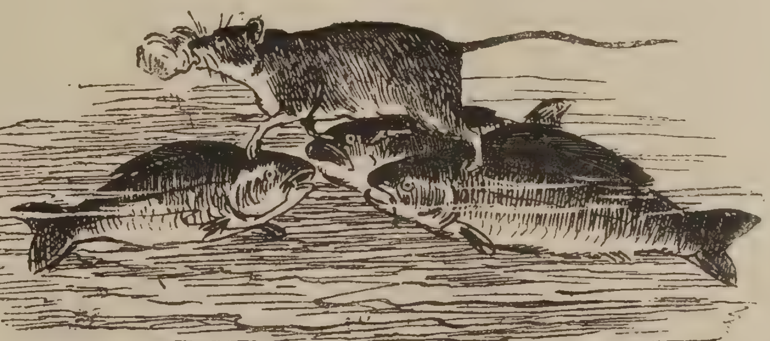
The Union Jack.
In death they were not divided.



"Biting! Yes, bites by the quart."



"If one had a daughter, one hardly could wish her
A fortune more blest than to marry a fisher."
—*Cotswold Isys.*



"While fishing in the park of the Prince of Hesse at Homburg, I threw a roll in the water to some carp, which tried to seize it; a rat swam out from the bank, scrambled over the backs of the fish, got the roll, and returned to the bank."—*Cotswold Isys, M.A.*

CHUB-FISHING IN THE THAMES.

"Look you here, sir, but you must stand very close, there lie upon the top of the water in this very hole twenty chubs."—*Izaak Walton.*

TWENTY chubs! Where are you to find that number nowadays—at least in the Thames—lying together? Steam launches, canoes, and picnic parties have intruded upon and disturbed the haunts of this the artfullest and wiliest of fishes. Picnic parties, oh! how I hate you; my chub-fishing soul rises in anger at the sight of you. Whenever I meet on the river, when I am out fishing, a boat laden with men, women and baskets, I know for certain that when I quietly sneak my boat round a certain corner under the lee of a particular island, where I happen to know there are a few fat old chub still left—yes, I know for a fact that there I shall find you—men, boats, women, dogs and baskets, all over the place; with all the big river at your disposal, you will go and pick out the only place where there is a chance for the poor fisherman—and for what?—to eat in, and to strew the bank with papers, that erst held foods and condiments, which I confess I often hope may have disagreed with you, and that you may not have found the apple pie improved by having the bottle of pickles spilt over it; and if the cork of the vinegar bottle that was packed close to that particular blanc-mange, which somebody so prided herself on, did not prove an exact fit. Well, I am not sorry, and that is the fact, uncharitable as it may sound. Having got rid of my grievance, I will endeavour to come to my point. I want to say something in favour of what I think is a slightly-understood and not sufficiently appreciated sport—fly-fishing for chub. There are many people as devotedly fond of fly-fishing as their more fortunate friends, but who cannot afford to pay for that expensive luxury, trout fishing, and who, perhaps, have not the time at their disposal to be constantly running down into Hampshire or elsewhere, even supposing they could belong to a "water"; and it is to those persons that I address myself, in order to show them how, at a very small cost, they may get health, exercise, and good sport. Of course, chub fishing is not what it used to be ten or fifteen years ago; but even now very good sport may be obtained if the angler only set about it in earnest. I don't know why the poor old chub should be such a maligned fish. "Leather-mouthed," "logger-headed," &c., &c.—perhaps he is all this; but at any rate he takes a deal of catching, and if you can circumvent an artful old four-pounder, who always arranges his habitation so that you can't get a fly to him from behind, and there is a bush which prevents you throwing across stream to him, and it is all bare in front of him, so that you cannot get nearer than thirty yards without his seeing you, which, if he does, he will instantly apprise you of the fact by silently disappearing—I say, if you can outwit that fish, even though he be "leather-mouthed," you will admit you have had some fun and sport, by which latter word I mean you have had to put out all your skill and knowledge against the creature's natural shyness and craft. Charles Kingsley pays the chub a compliment on his artfulness in that delightful little book of his called, I think, "Chalkstone Sketches," or "Studies"; and old "Izaak" speaks of him as the "fearfullest of fishes," who will "sink down if but a bird flies over him, and makes the least shadow on the water." In chub-fishing from a boat there is another advantage: it is a companionable sport, and there is just as much fun and skill in managing the boat properly as there is in hooking the fish. The boat I use is what is broadly known as a "gunning" punt. Mine I had built for me, as I wished a few little alterations and improvements made; but you can hire them at many places up the river. Perhaps a few particulars of this boat may not be without interest, as, besides ordinary work in the daytime, I always sleep in her at night. Flat-bottomed, with a pointed nose and stem very nearly so, 24 ft. overall, upright sides, or nearly, with about 3 in. of decking round the edge of a small coaming, a well in the centre so arranged with a plug as to be used dry, and a locker forward and aft. The lockers are made so that they can be used (as a rule, you can very rarely get anything into the ordinary locker, and once in you can never get it out again); the fire-locker has no door at all; it really is only decked over, so that you can with perfect ease get at anything that is stowed there, and the after-locker has an opening of about 2 ft. by 18 in. at the top, and is covered with a hatch. The advantage of this is that you can put larger things into it and pack it more perfectly than you can the usual locker, which has generally a small door opening on to the floor of the boat, allowing all the end of it to be wasted, and causing dislocation of the back in any attempt to make use of it. Round the inside, under the gunwale, runs a ledge, so that there is never occasion to put odd trifles that one may be using on the floor of the boat, or in the thwart, when done with. Gorge hooks and boxes of fusees are both very useful things, but the former put down hastily on a thwart and forgotten is apt to remind oneself of its existence unpleasantly, and the latter dropped among some fishing tackle, or mixed up in a landing-net, and then stepped upon may cause considerable damage. On opposite sides, near the well, are two small lockers, which are handy for stowing knives and forks and plates (tin), and on the other sides of the well two rows of half-a-dozen hooks, which are very convenient for corkscrew, keys, watch, &c., &c. With regard to the sleeping arrangements, there is ample space for two people, one fore and the other aft of the well; the thwart, of course, is made to easily unship. The supports of the awning are made of bent timber, built at a regular shaft-bender's establishment—the same, in fact, only lighter in make, that are used to hold up the tarpaulin of a cart or van; there are four of these. When wanted for use, the ends are slipped into holes cut through the little piece of decking, and rested on a small block fastened to the inside of the boat; the ridge rope is made of brass wire, each hoop or support having two wires fastened to either side at its top, which are then hooked on to the wires of the next hoop, and when all are up and fastened together, the end at the bow is hooked on to a ring at the extreme end of the boat, and the end at the stern is fastened by a stout cord to another ring, the object of the cord being to pull everything taut, and also to slack off a bit with when the awning gets wet in rain. The awning itself is made of the common thin unbleached calico, about tenpence a yard. Thick material, besides being cumbersome, lets the wet through and takes a long time to dry; but the thin stuff tightens up directly rain falls upon it, and beyond shrinking a little, is no trouble whatever, and never lets a drop of wet through. On a wet day it becomes a trifle warm inside, but all things considered, that is not much to grumble at. The year before last I tested this awning to see what it would stand in the way of rain. I was sleeping ashore at the time. It came on to rain pretty hard (it was towards the end of the autumn), and as I did not want the boat to get wet inside I put up the tent, and after forty-eight hours' continuous rain the boat was as dry inside as the proverbial "lime-burner's clog." On the outside of the awning are put at intervals large stay hooks, which fasten on to a line run through eye-bolts let into the outside of the boat just under the edge of the gunwale; this is slacked off a bit when putting up the canvas, and when all the hooks have the line through them it is pulled taut fore and aft, and then you have a firm, sound and dry shelter, five feet, or a little more, high, which, when you are lounging luxuriously on your blankets, with your back against the side of the boat, looks, as you gaze dreamily up towards the lamp hanging to the centre support, like a little palace. Why people should take the trouble to go "camping out" on shore in large tents, with tent-pegs to be driven in, everything to be handed out of the boat, wood to be procured for fire, mackintoshes to be laid down to sleep on, water to be kept out of the tent if it comes on to rain, and all the other inconveniences of crawling creatures investigating you in the night and cows walking about among your tent-ropes—why people should do all this, when, for almost a few shillings, they can get a snug, dry roof over their heads, with all their goods close handy to them, is a mystery to me. I once timed the rigging-up of my awning, and, from the time of opening the after locker to get the tent out, what with fixing the supports, &c., down to making everything fast and ship-shape, the time occupied was two minutes and a quarter. A few other little particulars, and I have done. I keep the food in the well, and use the top of it as a dining-table. I use a spirit-lamp to boil the water for the tea, and I find that tinned meats, &c., with country bread and butter and jam, make as good a dinner as a sportsman need wish for, particularly as everything tastes so very nice after a hard day's fishing and rowing; and the only difficulty is to keep your eyes open till nine o'clock, at which time you are glad to turn in amongst your comfortable rugs, and never move till six o'clock the next morning. You will think I have strayed a long way from my chub-fishing, but as it is only satisfactorily to be accomplished by means of a boat, and you *must* live in your boat in the upper Thames, perhaps this somewhat vague description of a really serviceable craft may not be so much beside the question. In consequence of the river being so much disturbed by boats, you can only drop on the chub in the lower part of the Thames now by going after them very early in the morning, and if you are sleeping out you are on the spot, and may often have an hour or two's very good sport before people have begun to move about. As to where to go, I think Abingdon makes as good a centre as any I know. It is only eight miles to Oxford, and from there up to the top of the navigable river at Cricklade you can take your fill of "chevins," and the fish in these upper waters are much more unsophisticated than their brethren lower down; and though I never took any quite so large there as I have done below, still you can get a good many three-and-a-half pound fish, with an occasional elder brother of a pound heavier. Supposing you do not care about living in your boat, I know no place that will yield so much sport as the above-mentioned town—that is to say, four miles above and below. Appleford Reach, below, used to be a famous place, but is not so good now, I think. A few years ago, with one rod, we got fourteen fish, averaging three pounds each, in an afternoon; and as the poor people are always glad of them for food, it does not come under the head of "ruthless slaughter." There used to be a good many fish below Culham, or rather below Sutton Courtney Mill, but lately they seem to have deserted this place. Above Abingdon, up to the Lock, there are some fish, and good ones too, on the left as you go up; after that, except one or two places which have to be accurately known, there is nothing much till you get above the rustic bridge at the Island, about two miles up, but from there right up to Sandford Mill there are any quantity of big fish. A year or two ago, among eleven fish (besides those turned in under a pound), I had one of 5 lb. and all the rest between 3 lb. and $3\frac{3}{4}$ lb.; and if a man cannot afford to pay half a guinea a yard for trout-fishing, which I believe is about the price now, I say, go and catch big chub with a single-handed rod.

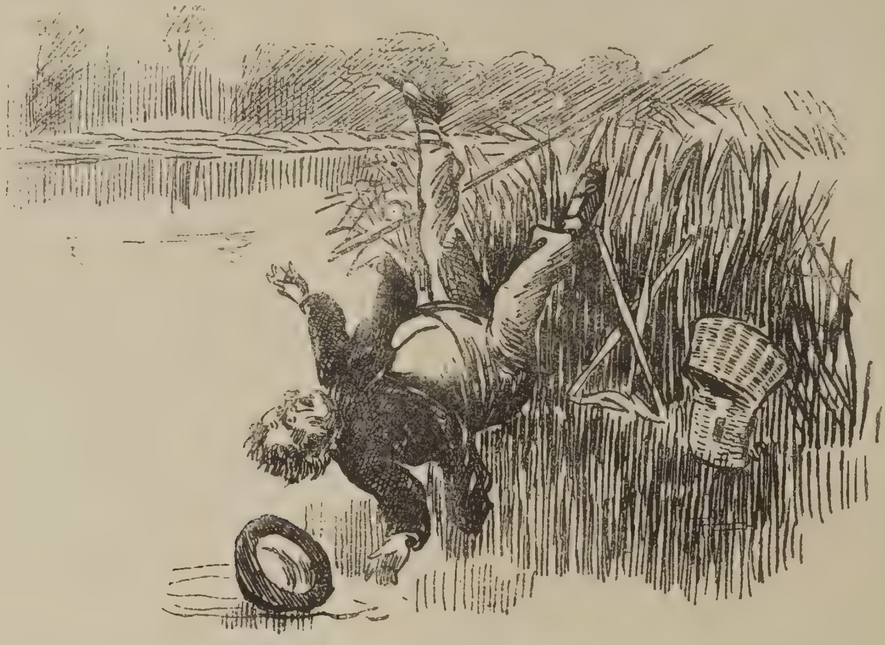
People who go after chub in the winter with "pith" or "brains" and other nastinesses do not know the sport of getting the fish on a fly rod in the summer, as they generally use stouter weapons, and, besides, the great enemy to the fly-fisher is in their case absent, viz., the weeds, which in the winter are all rotten and gone; they cannot imagine the feelings of the fly-fisher who has hooked a 4-pounder, and who sees him steadily working into a bed of weeds, knowing that once into this sanctuary his fish will be gone, for it is really marvellous what chub can do in the way of getting rid of the hook once they succeed in "weeding."

I have heard it asserted that, once into their favourite shelter, they run the line round some extra tough piece of weed, and then turn round and pick the hook out with their tails, but this I can't vouch for, never having witnessed the operation; but, really, I can believe almost anything of a chub. I know a piece of water near London, a bit of the Colne, in fact, where, under a large willow tree that overhangs the river, you can see "twenty chub," aye, thirty, sometimes; but do you think those fish will take a fly? Not a bit of it, they have picked out the only place in the river where you can't approach them without showing yourself, and there they lie and waggle their tails; and though no one goes into the field to disturb them, you may go down, and picking out the biggest blade of grass you can find to hide behind, you may throw the fly on to their noses, and they only go away in a sad and bored sort of way, as much as to say:—"Oh! here's that fellow with his yellow-bodied fly again; he's been throwing a black and silver thing at us lately; but what's the good of that when we can see the top of his head sticking up there between those two rushes?" A curious thing about these fish is that they always pick out a place to live in, they don't live anywhere about, like many other fish; you soon know where they are to be found, or if not, be found where they ought to be. You will find them under one bush, and not under another, though the places may not be a dozen yards apart, some set of the stream, some alteration of the nature of the bottom, determining their choice no doubt; but it is a fact that there are many parts of the Thames where you may go down the stream past a bank with bushes on it, apparently all alike, and you may say from your previous experience, "There are chub under that bush, but the next two are no good, and occasionally there is a fish under that little one yonder." I saw this exemplified once at Goring, where I was staying some time since. I had done very little with the chub, though I was not after them all the time, having something else to occupy me in the middle of the day. I only fished morning and late afternoon and evening. In one part of the stream—the main river, too—under some drift that had collected against a fallen tree, I discovered a real old "father" chub. I had always thought there must be a fish in that place, and at last I found him, and got hold of him, and after a good fight he was presently lying on the floor of the boat; 5½ lb. he weighed, and very magnificent he looked, being in the pink of condition. When we got back in the evening to the landing-place there were, as usual, two or three village children sent down by their mothers waiting for my catch. Close by was a somewhat gorgeous person standing near an equally gorgeous new boat talking to his boatman. When this fish, with three others not so big, but all good ones, was handed out on the shore, the very magnificent person came up, and, addressing me in a loud and rather arrogant manner, wished to be informed if I had caught this particular fish myself, and what I had caught it with. I had got out of the boat and had stuck my rod in the ground, and was quietly filling my pipe, when he spoke to me, and not liking either the looks of him or his manner, I replied quietly that I *had* caught the fish myself, and that the fly was on my rod, where he could examine it for himself. My rod had not any silver-mounting to it like his own, which I could see in his boat, and was, moreover, rather dingy from the effects of some six weeks' constant exposure to a blazing sun, besides being knocked about a good deal in the boat. I saw him look with a half sneer at my poor "stick," and when he saw the fly—a good large "Alder"—he said something about my catching a fish with "that thing," and "Pray, where do you get these fine fish? I've tried everywhere and I can't catch them, and I've got plenty of flies." I said perhaps he didn't go to the right places, and then civilly wishing him "good evening," started off up the village to dinner. The next morning we started to go down the river as usual. I had forgotten all about my swell friend of the night before, and we proceeded to make our morning calls at certain bushes and other places where we knew there were fish. Presently my friend, who was sculling, called out, "I say, there's that swaggering fellow of last night following us," and there he was certainly, standing up in his boat—a punt—dressed in the most splendid of knickerbockers and stockings, flailing away with a big rod, and his man standing up as well, flourishing a punt pole. They were stopping and fishing every place they saw us try, so we thought we would give him a little dance, as we did not want him going to all our pet places and disturbing them. Instead of fishing our usual spots, we went carefully down the river and fished every bit of bank, bush, and tree that we knew did *not* hold a solitary fish, our friend following us about three "places" in the rear. Of course we did not get any fish, and of course he did not neither, and we had the intense pleasure for two mornings after of seeing him hard at work fishing these unprofitable places; we fished our usual corners when he was not about, and the next time we met him at the landing-stage he was packing up his traps and using bad language, which didn't seem to improve when our usual four or five fat chub were pitched out on to the shore. This was in August, a very hot August too, when the fish had to be rather artfully stalked, and when if the first cast was not exactly in the right place—accurately dropped between those two pieces of weed, between which Mr. Chub was lying—it was all up, for he either saw you or else the disturbance of the fly and line sent him off. I know you can get fish sometimes by rough work, with a big fly and a long line, but there is not half the fun in it compared to quietly stalking them on a hot day, when you have to be as quiet as a housebreaker, and as much out of sight as possible. Your sensations are not to be described as you smoothly work the boat round that rush-bed to that little run at the end of it, where there is about a foot of water below it and the bank, and where you know there is a wise old chub who, the instant he sees you, will disappear. If you can get the fly on to his nose before you have attracted his attention, there is a swirl in the water, and then a considerable row. Very often, too, he will jump like a trout, and before now I have had to go and fetch a fish out of a tree, he having got himself fixed in the roots or lower branches. I remember one particular fish doing this with me. It was at the back of Queen's Eyot, below Bray. He was not a very big fish either—about two pounds and a-half—but directly he was hooked he made a rush for his home, under a very snaggy tree, and, when there, he gave a mighty leap, not liking the strain that was on him very likely, for I held him as hard as I could, though without succeeding in stopping his first rush. When he jumped, he managed, somehow or other, to go up on one side of a snag, and, striking it as he fell, he toppled over on the other side among a lot of drift and dried branches, and being half supported by the line over the branch, he stuck fast; so I had only to take the boat up to the bank and quietly pick him out of the tree in rather an ignominious fashion. That was the very best day's chub-fishing I ever had in the Thames. Forty-four fish; a few "pounders," but most of them between two pounds and three pounds and a-half, besides one "grandfather," four pounds and three-quarters. They were all caught with one fly, a thinly-dressed, yellow-bodied hackle—very little hackle, and that red—and a medium-sized hook. But, alas!—"ils ont changé tout cela"—the poor old chub is driven to hide himself in deep holes, and places where he is quite inaccessible—at least, that is the case in the lower waters. It makes me sad to visit some of these old haunts now. Old fallen trees and other obstructions that made runs and harbour for the fish, and where you were pretty nearly sure to see something more, are gone, many of them, thanks to that senseless body, "The Thames Conservancy." Of course the fish have gone too; and if it is not too disrespectful, I should like to express a wish that the conservators would follow the "other obstructions." They are rapidly succeeding in knocking all the picturesqueness out of the river, and making it to suit their notion of beauty. This is a kind of level-banked, even canal, and chub don't like canals; they are fond of queer, tumble-down, out-of-the-way places, and that is one of the reasons why I love him—we have something in common. In conclusion, let me say, if you are not overburdened with this world's goods, and want some fresh air, and plenty of exercise, and you prefer fly-fishing to any other form of angling, take the river at Oxford, and go up. You will find hardly anyone there, as there are no inns to speak of, no launches to bother you, and no picnic parties; and if you don't mind roughing it a little, you will get a fair amount of sport, and will, I think, be inclined to agree with me that if you cannot get trout-fishing, you may do worse than spend a week or ten days on the Thames "Chubbing."

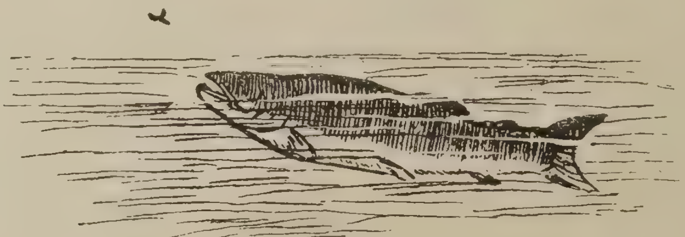
Wanderer.

EXE SALMON FISHERY.

A statutory meeting of the Board of Conservators for the Exe Salmon Fishery District was held at the Castle of Exeter on Friday, December 8th, to ascertain and declare the amount of licence duties paid in respect of licences for fishing otherwise than with rod and line, and the number of representative members for the ensuing year, and also to receive a report from the Weirs Committee of what had been done in the matter of Mr. Daniel's offer. Sir J. Duntze, Bart., presided, and there were also present Sir J. T. B. Duckworth, Bart., General Drewe, General Timbrill, Major Wyatt-Edgell, Captain Waldy, Captain Marder, Rev. P. Coleridge, Rev. G. S. Jellicoe, and Messrs. T. C. Daniel, Wippell, and W. J. Richards. The clerk reported that the total number of net licences taken out during the year was 22, against 26 last year, and the amount received for the licences was £77. The number of rod licences issued was 81. The value of net licences gave the licensees two representative members, and the chairman signed a declaration to that effect. The Rev. G. S. Jellicoe observed that the fish were going back to the sea very much earlier this year than he ever remembered. From his neighbourhood—Dulverton, near Lord Carnarvon's place—15 fish had gone back, of which he had marked seven. He had marked the fish simply as a matter of interest, and he was sure he could go on marking up to at least 100. He placed the number and date and weight of the fish on the label, and the fish would be interesting when they were caught. A matter which Mr. Collins thought very necessary was the provision of gratings to prevent the fish from going down numerous small side-streams. These streams gave great facilities for poaching, and with all their trouble and pains they could not put a stop to the practice. Farmers objected to the gratings because, they said, they stopped the water from flowing over to irrigate the land, but he thought that if the gratings were only used between November and the end of January, and taken away in the summer, that would meet the difficulty, and would certainly preserve a great many breeding-fish. A great deal of destruction of fish was further caused every year by the mills, and as they were mostly young fish, it would be well if they did something to prevent the slaughter of fish that would be so useful for next year. Poaching was carried on extensively at Withypool, and fish were taken in spite of the keeper. Fish were taken there as early as May this year, and that fact gave an idea of how early they came up. The head and tail of the fish caught in May were hung up outside the publichouse door to show the keeper that it was possible to take them while he was not there. With regard to the number of fish in the upper waters, he saw seven salmon together at one spot, and trout were helping themselves to the spawn. The fact of seven fish being seen at one place showed what a great number there must be in the river, and the value of the upper waters was very great, therefore keepers were most essential. There was a doubt as to the exact character of a cross-bred fish in his locality, and as a gentleman in London had offered to diagnose some specimens, he doubted not that the Board would sanction the catching a few for that purpose. Generally speaking, no opposition was offered by the farmers to the keepers going through their meadows to search those little mill-streams, and they took care to show them that they would not commit any damage. The chairman suggested the appointment of a committee to consider the matters referred to, and to report to the Board, consisting of the Rev. G. S. Jellicoe and Messrs. Collins and Daniel, and the proposition was adopted.



Which side up? This picture has a natural appearance from whichever side you regard it



Out of season!

The Chairman said there was no doubt that they ought to begin to construct passes at Salmon Pool and gradually go up the river. If, however, they attempted to lower the water they would get the mill-owners against them. It was thought advisable to make the whole of the passes recommended, if practicable, and it was stated that in addition to Mr. Daniel's offer of £100, a sum of about £200 had been subscribed, leaving only about £105 to be obtained to complete the work. Mr. Daniel suggested that they should first make the two passes recommended at Salmon Pool and see how they would answer. If they were satisfactory they could do the remainder. After some discussion, on the suggestion of General Drewe, the Chairman consented to write to the mill-owners at Salmon Pool to inquire if they had any objection to the construction of two passes on that weir. The 18th of January was fixed for the next meeting.—From the *Tiverton Gazette*, Dec. 12, in which a full report of this interesting meeting will be found.

A LADY HANDLES A BIG BLACK BASS.

JUST previous to writing you from Traverse City, Michigan, I had received a post-card from some warm-hearted friends who were camping near Traverse Bay, telling me they were having a grand time fishing. I had occasion to write them, and. in closing, said:—"Kind regards to Mrs. ——. I hope she will have a good time fishing; and I think she will come out of camp high hook, for the bass can never resist her bewitching eyes. She is sure to get the biggest bass in the crowd, and they'll come and bite on purpose to come in out of the wet"

I saw them five weeks after, and found the joke had indeed become a fact. With eyes sparkling with animation, and the words fairly leaping from her lips, in answer to the greeting and inquiries as to the enjoyment of the trip: "Why, Mr. T., would you believe it, I beat them all? I caught the biggest bass of the whole party—handled him all alone; but, 'pon my word, I thought he was going to pull me into the lake. You must be a prophet or are endowed with second sight."

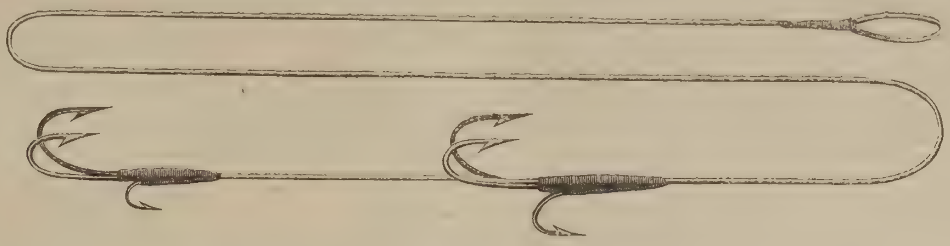
A little questioning, and I found they were out boating, and the lady had a line out trolling, rowing quite slowly, when she screamed, woman-like: "Ah! I've got something!" And, as the tugs came sharp and strong, her line gave out pretty lively. Recovering her presence of mind, she hung to the line, though he was pulling fiercely. Out of the water he came, throwing a somersault in the air, splurging and splashing on the surface, all the time trying to rid himself of the hook fastened in his jaw. Away he went down into deep water, and camp up again panting. She drew him near to the boat, when one of the men quietly slipped him on board. Was there fun in the water—it redoubled now. No log of wood was he, but game to the backbone. He sprang up almost into the lady's lap as she sat in the boat. "Et-u-brute!" There was such a scrambling around that they came within a trifle of getting dumped into the lake. Finally, a blow on the head stunned him, and he was at once killed, and weighed 4¾ lb.

Think of it, ye who fear the introduction of black bass into your waters. What prime sport for an afternoon's fishing such a fish would be. You would go home satisfied. Though years since I fished in your gentle streams, yet we can assure you that your primest jack, or pickerel, are as a stick of wood when playing them in comparison with these bronzed-backed armed warriors of our fresh-water seas and streams.

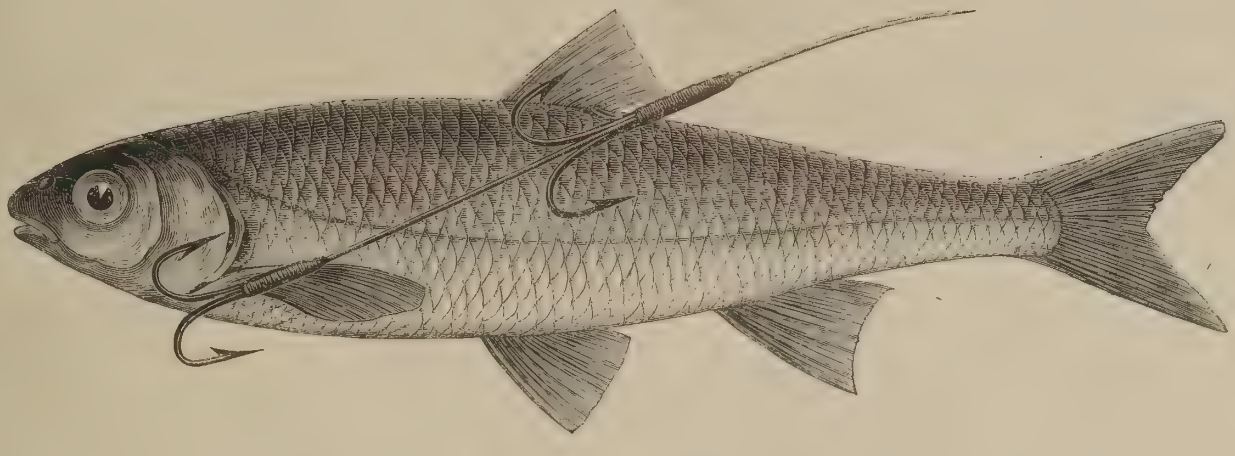
The party enjoyed their camping trip so much, they intend going again next summer.

Chicago, U.S. W. David Tomlim.

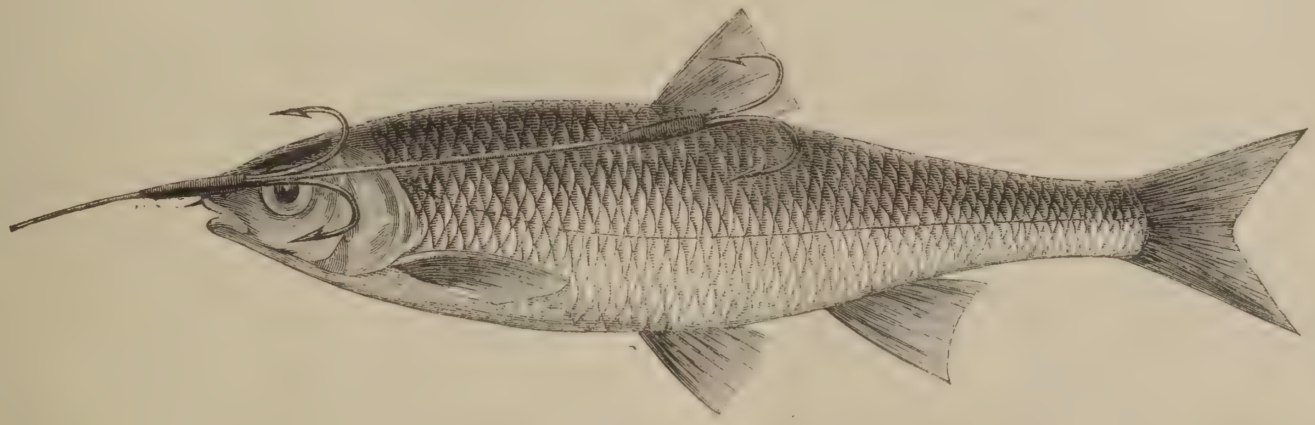
The Great Eastern Railway and the Christmas Holidays.—The Great Eastern Railway Company announce that to prevent crowding at the booking offices of the stations, tickets, dated in advance, will be issued at the stations, the usual parcel offices in the different parts of London, and at the offices of the principal tourist and excursion agents. Special trains "for parcels only," will also be run for the purpose of carrying Christmas presents, and extra facilities will be organised for the prompt delivery of such parcels.



Mr. Jardine's Perfected Snap Tackle for Pike Fishing.



Live Bait Snap.



Paternoster Snap.

THE PERFECTED "JARDINE SNAP" FOR PIKE FISHING.

THE dorsal-triangle has a large rider-hook, which is to be put through the base of back fin, thus obtaining a firm hold on the live bait. The small rider-hook on the end triangle is to go into the base or joint of pectoral fin, thus lying close to the bait, but without injuring it.

I have my snaps made in three sizes, so as to suit bait of various lengths, and on copper gimp, because it is not so showy in the water as brass or silver.

This tackle can also be used for "snap paternostering" (a very killing method) by putting the large dorsal rider-hook through the lips of live-bait, and the small pectoral rider-hook through the back fin, as illustrated in models herewith.

If preferred, the dorsal triangle can be made to slide up and down the gimp, like the lip-hook of a Thames spinning flight, but bound to the gimp is a neater method. This tackle can be obtained of Messrs. Carter and Sons, St. John's Street Road, who have some capital copper gimp in stock; also of Messrs. Gillett and other fishing-tackle makers.

A. G. J.

THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

THERE was a good muster of members and visitors at the ordinary weekly meeting in the club room, Astley's Hotel, Covent Garden, on Monday evening—Mr. Thomas Ransom Sachs was voted into the chair. Mr. J. Ross Faulkner weighed in a beautiful dace of 14½ oz. from Thorney Broad; Mr. G. Robinson registered two chub weighing 7lb. 7oz., the largest 4lb. 15oz. from the Thames, and fourteen pike from private waters weighing 80lb.; Mr. Thomas Huggett showed two perch from Henley weighing 3lb. 2oz., the largest 2lb 1oz. The silver cup of the value of ten guineas offered this season for the greatest number of specimen fish according to club prize rule, is causing great emulation amongst the members, several of whom have registered three and four each, and it is anticipated the report at the annual dinner will show that the members generally have been very successful during the year in their fishing ventures. The annual meeting is fixed to take place on Monday, the 8th of January, 1883. The claims of the Thames Angling Preservation Society in reference to the netting expenses, was brought before the meeting, and resulted in three guineas being unanimously voted by the meeting, in addition to the annual subscription of three gunineas given by the society.

B.

YENG men, down't smouke. It's wickid. It's un'elthy. It's sinful. Send yaw cigars ter me en' let me burn 'em up. Swear auf en' reform afore it's too layte.—*The Kaukneigh Awlminek.*

RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

In consequence of an unlooked-for accession of snow and ice-water to Mid-Thames, the river during the past week has risen in height some six inches, and become the colour of between a green shutter and a dirty door mat. Men have come and men have gone—the river has pursued the snow broth even tenor of its way, but no fish have rewarded the patient, and weather or no defying piscators. At Medmenham, Mr. Sturges, out with Bob Young, has been indefatigable without a result worth recording, and Messrs. Davis and Hawton in the same waters yesterday only secured two dozen white livered looking roach, and lost a monster pike on a gut paternoster. At Henley some fair baskets of roach were obtained on Sunday by visitors to "Ye Bell," and at Marlow I hear Rockwell has been the death of a big pike—by hearsay, about the size and weight of a turnpike. My other items from Bourne End, Cookham, and Bray are not worth ink. Thursday evening, 6'clock. The river is toning down to a better colour, and the snow broth, being rapidly sucked away by the capacious mouth of Father Thames, so I am thinking, after all, good sport may yet accrue to Christmas holiday folks, and that such may be the case, and that a happy and prosperous new year is in store for all angling confreres and gentle readers of the Fishing Gazette, is the sincere wish of—Marlow Buzz.

Ancholme District.

Owing to the melting of the snow the river has recently been in a high state of flood. This has not merely put a temporary stoppage to the angling, but also flooded the gas works of Brigg to such an extent that no gas could be supplied to the inhabitants, and the town has been in a state of darkness. The last inconvenience has been remedied, and as the waters are beginning to run well down again, it is hoped that angling operations will soon be again in full swing, and that many of the fine pike with which the water abounds will make their last run.—Thomas Ford.

Chichester.

Sunshine and showers have usurped the reign of King Frost the past week, but preparation for the festive season has kept rodsters otherwise employed, but few trying their luck at the water side, small jack have been taken, also some good roach. Mr. Rodgers took first prize in the weekly competition with roach. The competitions are now varied; pike and perch, and perch, roach or bream, being fished for in alternate weeks, to give all anglers a chance. "Old Joe," the bargee, took a nice pike of 6 lb. in the basin yesterday. Well, what shall I call it—trimmering? "I got on his eel line," says Joe, "'twasn't live baiting, cos the bait was nearly dead." Esox Lucius was lugged out neck and crop and sold with a pound eel for eighteenpence. It is a pity more legitimate methods cannot be enforced. Rodsters are busy preparing for the holidays, and live bait is at a premium. A happy Christmas and plenty of sport is the wish of a brother rodster.—George F. Salter.

Derwent (Chatsworth).

There has been a great change in the weather since my last communication. The snow has all disappeared, and the atmosphere is now very mild, but owing to the snow going so rapidly the river is again in high flood; but it is now materially subsiding, and if weather continues good will soon be once more in fishable order. Anglers have been doing nothing in this neighbourhood for a fortnight now.—Wheatsheaf Hotel.

Dove.

Since my last a thaw has prevailed, and I am glad to say that most of the snow and ice are now gone. To-day (Thursday), in fact, it is more like the beginning of spring, the sun shining out warm and bright. However, the river is unfishable in consequence of its height and the enormous quantity of snow-broth therein. It must be several days before angling of any kind can hope to be resumed with any degree of success. Should the present weather continue, however, I don't see why the water should not be in order for the Christmas holidays, in which case we are certain to have a large number of fishermen out.—The Splodger.

Medway (Tonbridge).

The river is running down nicely, and with a few days' fine weather will be in capital condition for rodsters. Jack should be well on the feed, and no doubt but that a lively dace will be a telling bait, though a golden carp has been tried lately with great success. Some good roach will be caught with a well-scoured worm by those who have the patience to stay in one spot.—Ye Medway Water Rat.

Nene (Northampton).

We have had no angling of any description in the Nene since my last report, on account of the flooded state of the river. The water has rapidly gone down since Tuesday, and if we have open weather I think I shall be able to send you a good report next week.—F. F.

Ouse and Ivel (Blunham).

Both rivers are in very good condition for fishing.—P. E.

Ouse (St. Ives).

I have been unable to report for some weeks past owing to the unfavourable state of the water in consequence of recent and numerous floods, but am now in a position to state that the river here is in splendid condition, and that roach especially are on the feed. During the last few days also some excellent sport has been had amongst the pike. Weather being favourable and the floods having subsided, plenty of fish may be caught during the next few days.—

Tom Odams.

Thames (Datchet.)

The water is in splendid condition for all fishing. The roach and perch are biting freely. Several jack have been had near Surby Hall, the largest 6½ lb. Altogether, the takes that have come to my knowledge have been moderate; but taking into consideration the very few rods at work this season of the year, things are not so bad. Water splendid, and delightful weather.—George Lumsden.

Thames (Goring).

Water now a little thick, in good order for roach-fishing; by Sunday, if it keeps fine, water will be in good order for jack and perch. Sport during the past week: perch have been biting very well. I have been out two days since my last report. Best day was Saturday, two jack, largest jack 3 lb, and two dozen of very good perch. Prospects at present look well for the next few days.—John Rush.

Thames (Halliford.)

Although the river is still high some fish are to be taken on the eddies and backwaters. I had two days' work within the past week with different gentlemen: first day, three good jack; second day, four jack and some nice perch, the seven jack altogether weighing 30 lb.—George Rosewell, fisherman.

Trent (Alrewas)

Nothing doing; river reported to-day, Thursday, bank full and the waters too much discoloured for any prospect of sport. It is now three months since the river was in anything like good fishing order, and I do not think it very long odds we shall get a change for the better before close time.—James Gregory.

Trent (Newark).

During the latter part of last week the water was fining down very nicely, and the spirit of the anglers rose in anticipation of some fairish winter's sport; in fact, a few very nice roach, dace, and chub were taken, and an odd pike or two; the cockspur worm doing the most execution among the former fish; but on Saturday a very heavy rain fell, accompanied by a rapid thaw, and on Monday the river was again running bank-full and very thick; by Tuesday night a very heavy flood was sweeping down the valley of the Trent, and some hundreds of acres of the low-lying meadows submerged. To-night, Thursday, the water is rapidly going down, and fining nicely, so if the present condition of things continues, some fairish fishing may be anticipated for the Christmas holidays. Slack corners and eddies should be productive of sport among the roach and dace, and if the angler has any, a few gentles should nobble those fish; if not, try the cockspur worm. If the water fines down sufficiently, chub should revel in the attraction of pith and brains. Snow broth is the only drawback to good sport, but the water will improve every hour now, and perhaps next Tuesday, or Wednesday, a decided improvement will be found; anyhow, I hope all readers of the Fishing Gazette will have a merry Christmas, and succeed in nobbling some good fish.—The Trent Otter

Wharfe (Yorkshire).

An entire change has taken place in the weather since my last report, the snow having nearly all vanished, and the temperature to-day reminds one more of April than December. As a natural sequence the rivers are all full of "snow broth," and it will, therefore, be useless fishing for grayling until it has all got away. Referring to Mr. Corry's remarks anent grayling taking the minnow, there is no doubt whatever that they sometimes do so; but according to my own experience, they do not run at it "like a bulldog," but on the contrary, take the bait very quietly, generally just when it is curving round near an eddy. I entered fully into this disputed point in my article on autumnal grayling fishing in this paper last year, but no one except A. R. I. E. L. took the matter up. I hope that our worthy Editor and all the contributors to and readers of the Fishing Gazette may spend a very "merry Christmas," and that the coming season of 1883 may prove a highly successful one to all of you. —Francis M. Walbran.

Witham (Boston).

Mild, and almost Spring-like, weather has prevailed during the week in East Lincolnshire, and the waters throughout the Fen District have been in fairly good condition for the winter, with the exception, perhaps, of the Witham. This latter might be a trifle better in colour, but both it and the larger drains have run down pretty well. As I anticipated, some of the more anxious anglers went out on Friday and Saturday last, and although they were only partly successful, the sport they met with was not to be despised in these precarious times. Some were busy on the Bargate Drain early among the roach, and had six to eight pounds for the day, and since they have done well on this water. On Sunday a batch went to the Aqueduct and Cross Drain waters, after pike; but they did not land many, the fish being sluggish, I suppose, from the snow broth that must have been present. As the week progressed the sport improved, and on Tuesday and Wednesday some pretty good pike were taken from the Hobhole Drain at different points. On the Forty-Foot some of the later roach takes have run up to 9 lbs. and 10 lbs. per angler. On the Witham at Kirkstead, I heard of a nice pike of nearly 10 lbs. being taken between tides on Tuesday, and there have been odd hauls at stations higher up. These were the first pike taken from the Witham for some weeks; at least, the first I have heard of. Pike of 6 lbs. to 9 lbs. each have been included in several of the takes this week in the locality. We expect some good sport for the holidays.—The Yellow Belly.

Wye and Derwent.

On Monday last we had floods on both of the above rivers. The cleach nets were at work, as usual, on some parts of the Derwent, but I heard they killed very little fish, owing to the water being so clear and snow broth being in the rivers. The bottom fishers on various parts of the Derwent have killed a very fair quantity of fish with both cockspur worms and maggots, the worms killing the greatest quantity of fish and the largest sized ones. The fish killed were grayling, roach, dace, and a few small perch. To-day (Thursday) I have just seen a fisherman with nine or ten brace of coarse fish, all killed with cockspur worms. Fair quantity of anglers out. There will be no more fly-fishing this year. Weather showery and quite mild.—G. J. Eaton.

Yare (Norwich).

My anticipations have been realised with regard to sport improving on this stream. At Buckenham, the latter part of last week, some good roach-fishing was had, forty being taken in about three hours. A day or two later, a most skilful angler, locally known as "Tubby Death," had a splendid catch of bream, at Thorpe, near Norwich, many of them weighing 2½ to 5 lb. As I saw this catch, I write with great pleasure, it being quite a treat after the long spell of non-success which has attended the efforts of old Izaak's followers. On Tuesday last, another gentleman caught upwards of 4 stone of good bream in the same locality; and on the same day, Mr. G. G. Whincop, of the Champion Angling Club, landed 3 stone of bream in a short time. His note informs me he was only fishing from 11 until 3 p.m. The result of my enquiries proves that the fish are up with the flood waters, and anglers will do well to note this fact, and not go down stream. A friend and myself were at Buckenham Ferry last Saturday, trying for a jack, but we did not have a single run. The water was not clear, and we were rather late. No accounts of jack-fishing have reached at present. I am anxiously looking out for them, and consider some fish ought to be brought to bank now, as the water is getting into good condition for all-round fishing. Prospects good.—Robert Moll.

NETTING THE RESERVOIRS FOR STOCKING THE THAMES.

Subscription List for Expenses Incurred.

It is with much pleasure we have to acknowledge subscriptions to the above as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Mr. A. Nuthall	1	1	0
Mr. H. B. Eyre	1	1	0
Mr. F. C. Clench	1	1	0
Mr. W. Thomas	1	1	0
Mr. A. J. Little	1	1	0
The Piscatorial Society	3	3	0
Mr. P. Geen	2	2	0
Mr. R. F. Lines, Kensington	1	1	0
Mr. A. G. Jardine	1	1	0
Mr. R. B. Marston	2	2	0
Mr. T. R. Sachs	1	1	0
Silver Trout Angling Club	1	1	0
Larkhall Angling Society	2	2	0
Hammersmith United Angling Society	2	2	0
Good Intent Angling Society	1	1	0

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

E. L. G.—Yes ; we hope to use it soon.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*]

Owing to pressure on our space several letters from correspondents are left over till our next issue.

THE SURGICAL NEEDLE HOOK.

Sir,—I have as little desire as Mr. G. Fennell to enter into a "literary duel," and with this letter I close the correspondence on my part. Yet I cannot allow Mr. Fennell's letter to pass unnoticed, especially as he assumes and backs up his assumption by assertion.

It is a "curious coincidence" that both he and I should have fallen into the same mistake in using the words "Glover's Needle." I have withdrawn the expression, as I am not indebted to it for any hint. Mr. Fennell is quite welcome to retain it if he likes.

Since my letter appeared I have made enquiries "in both trades," and am informed that no glover or furrier will permit the use of a triangular needle, and that the saddler uses a round one, a four-sided awl, and sometimes a four-sided needle.

It strikes me forcibly that when Mr. Fennel read my letter, he became like J. McD., wise after the event, and said to himself "Oh ! ah ! it is what I *meant.* I will thank the doctor for pointing out my 'inadvertence.'" There is, I say, no inadvertence – the fact stands plain as day in his book. "The points should be filed SQUARE," and if the saddler's needle, which Mr. Fennell alludes to, had been the form advised, instead of glover's, the passage would have been correct.

"Instances of the same notion occurring to more than one mind" are quite common. My notion, as I said in my former letter, was not derived from Mr. Fennell's "Book," but some twelve years before its publication—i.e., when I first had much to do with surgical needles. Long before this had I sharpened hooks, but not till then thought of the kind of point. Neither am I indebted for the idea to a much more ancient writer, whose instructions to sharpen a hook I will quote:—"Have also a little whetstone, about two inches long and one quarter square ; it is much better to sharpen your hooks than a file, which either will not touch a well-tempered hook or leave it rough but not sharp." (Paragraph 7. p. 10. "The Experienced Angler, or Angling Improved," by Col. Robert Venables, fourth edition, London, Richard Marriot, 1676). This little whetstone is at the present day carried in the pocket of veterinary surgeons, to sharpen their triangular needles, which are daily used in stitching up wounds penetrating the skin of the lower animals.

Col. Venables is right when he says a file will not touch a well-tempered hook. So said a member of the "Gresham," when I was giving a demonstration with the surgical hook. He said, and I take it he is best qualified to know, being an iron and steel manufacturer, "You cannot file a well-tempered hook." I answered, "This hook was ground to its present shape in the untempered condition."

After all, what is the use of squabbling over the matter ? Suppose I gave Mr. Fennell all the credit of the idea, what is the use of the idea if it is not brought into practice ? If the same "notion occurred" to Col. Venables 200 years ago, to Mr. Fennell forty years ago, and to myself at a later period, what then, if the "notion" remains only a notion ? I claim credit for having brought it into use. What anglers want is something of use.

"M. F." says, "I freely and unconditionally exempt the Doctor from the slightest desire to plagiarise." I must thank "M. F." for nothing, as I neither had the desire, opportunity, nor means of plagiarising, and I am sorry he made use of such an evil-sounding word.

Wishing Mr. Fennell the kind compliments of the season, and yourself also. —I am, &c., John Brunton, M.D.

21, Euston Road, N.W., Dec. 20.

MR. ANDREW'S LARGE ROACH.

Sir,—This was an error : it should have been 2 lb. 14 oz. of roach.—I am, &c., Jas. Lander, hon. sec., Piscatorial Society.

THE SURGICAL NEEDLE HOOK.

Sir,—I have been much interested in the correspondence on Dr. Brunton's surgical needle-shaped hook.

As Mr. Greville Fennell admits, the triangle is preferable to the square ; and although there is a substantial agreement in principle, yet the practical difference is great. Mr. Greville Fennell has evidently anticipated the doctor in appreciating the advantages of angularity, but the difference in cutting power of a point with four rectangular cutting edges, and one with two acute angles, and an obtuse one like the surgical needle, is so enormous as to render comparison almost out of the question.

Mr. Fennell may have really had his hooks made somewhat similar to Dr. Brunton's, and the fishing world must feel much indebted to the doctor for eliciting from him the fact. I write hoping that, through your medium, all fishing-tackle makers will take note of this, and in future influence the manufacturers in providing this latest improvement, so essential to the success of all anglers, without waiting the issue of another edition of a work that may not be published for some time to come.—I am, &c.,

56, Richmond Road, Barnsbury, N. A. C. Tucker.

THE BAYONET GLOVER SURGICAL NEEDLE HOOK POINT.

Sir,—It is to be hoped that we are not to have another unpleasant controversy as to "who is the father of the above." We have all got the facts before us now, and no amount of acid writing will alter them. Will Dr. Brunton kindly say if any retail fishing-tackle house keeps hooks made to his patterns ?—I am, &c., D. McJ.

GLOVER'S NEEDLE HOOKS—ROACH BITES.

Sir,—It would doubtless be useless, in Dr. Brunton's present frame of mind, to attempt to convince him of the fact that in my letter headed "Bayonet-pointed Hooks, &c.," I had no thought of detracting from his merits in any particular, of accusing him of a desire to take credit for anything not his own, or even of "damning him with faint praise," as he avers. However, if he has been damned in any way, I can imagine nothing more likely to have performed that operation than his own ungracious effusion of the 9th inst.

In my reference to the "Book of the Roach," I endeavoured to show that to Mr. Greville Fennell belongs the credit of the idea of, let us say, "Glover's needle-pointed" hooks, and having succeeded in that endeavour, as most unbiassed readers of the correspondence will allow, my medical opponent's opinion of myself, my motives, and my writings are to me a matter of the greatest indifference. I certainly did not give the author's exact words, nor attempt to do so, as it is quite six years since the work in question was in my possession. The point upon which I laid particular stress was the use of the simile "Glover's needle," in which Dr. Brunton was undoubtedly preceded by Mr. Greville Fennell, who made use of it, as his letter proves, to exemplify a triangular cutting point, although by an inadvertence he employed the word "square"—a very small matter, as the triangular shape of a Glover's needle is sufficiently well known.

My memory may possibly be thin, but it can scarcely be as flimsy in quality as those of some of the Doctor's numerous fellow-members, who did not remember what I have now pointed out when their friend introduced his invention to them. It is scarcely probable that among so many anglers none of them had ever read the "Book of the Roach," especially when it is considered how readily one was produced in the futile endeavour to refute the main, or "triangular," point of my argument.

Passing over the advice, which I do not admit the Doctor's right or ability to give me, and his charge of untruth which is dispelled by Mr. Greville Fennel's letter, I come to his petty accusation that I lack the courage of my opinions because initials only appear at the foot of my communications. Now, if the Doctor is at all anxious to know my name, there are at least two members of his own society who can give him the information ; but it is, perhaps, due to you, Sir, to explain that I adopt initials for purely business reasons, and in consequence of a prejudice against fishing on Sunday, not shared by myself, but which I cannot afford to wholly disregard.

As "Mark Antony" appears to be deeply engaged just now, I will not this week occupy much space in writing on the roach-biting question ; let me, however, assure him that I did read the letters he refers to, not once, but at least half-a-dozen times—and carefully too—but could find nothing therein to induce me to alter my previously expressed opinion that an average of four bites lost out of six in ordinary roaching is very much more imaginary than real.

While wishing you, Mr. Editor, "Mark Antony," and even my more implacable opponents all the compliments of the season, I cannot conclude without thanking Mr. Greville Fennell for his kindly-expressed sentiments in the same direction, and in hoping he will accept the same from me. Let me further take this opportunity of placing on record my deep indebtedness to him for many happy hours spent at home in the perusal of his writings, and in the practical application of them at the water-side.—I am, &c.,

J. McD.

DINNER TO THAMES RIVER-KEEPERS.

Sir,—Will you kindly allow me, through the columns of The Fishing Gazette, to solicit a small contribution of half-a-crown each from the anglers of the Thames, towards giving a seasonable dinner to the whole of the river-keepers employed by the Thames Angling Preservation Society and the Board of Thames Conservancy, and also to the lock-keepers who now hold deputations to act as river-keepers, and to those fishermen and others who have at times assisted the keepers when extra watching has been required ?

I am desirous of appealing, more especially to the large body of anglers who do not at present subscribe towards the protection of the fishery, but may be ready to recognise the duties of the river-keepers by sending me the very small amount I have asked them for.

May I venture to hope the response will be liberal and prompt ?

Swagfield Villa, Hounslow, Dec. 21st. W. H. Brougham.

P.S.—A Statement of Accounts of the receipts and expenditure will appear in the "Blue Book."

BARBEL BITE.

Sir,—Has "Lay-brother" tried the barbel tackle with small hook fastened on gut at top of shank of large hook ? This helps to keeps the worm on, and the barbel also.

He should read "The Trent Otter's" chapter on barbel-fishing.—I am, &c,

Mark Antony.

A ROACH PROBLEM—A SPINNING QUERY—AND PASSING REMARKS ON THE ROACH CONTROVERSY.

Sir,—It appears to me "E. W. A.," "A. T.," and "J. McD.," esquires, think I and "The Trent Otter" have been humbugging them. "A. T." says in his last, "Where did you catch these fish?" I will tell him. At Norston Holt, at the Sentry Box, at Besthorpe Fleet, at Monspool, at Blackpool, and when in flood, in the rivulet running between Collingham, near Newark, Notts, and Besthorpe Fleets; at Carlton-on-Trent, at Sutton-on-Trent, at Cromwell-on-Trent, at Muskham-on-Trent, in the lordships of Langford and Winthorp, at the Meering Ferry, near Muskham Ferry, at the corner of the Beck end, Carlton-on-Trent, in the Oven—get hold of a barbel on a fine dace line in this place about 6 lb., and see what you think of it—at the Hook Doors, near Girton, at the Muck Tub, at the Flags, the Red Bank—a bank between Meering and Girton, about 12 feet plumb—near old Ire Hunt's Fishing Hut near the Jolly Bargeman, Collingham Ferry, at Besthorpe Staith, Collingham Staith, under Carlton boat-fishing, Pool Hearne, at the mouth of Wilson Pool, in a freshet of water, and in every field, without a single exception, right and left from Muskham Ferry to Girton, some six or seven miles, and at Dunham Dubs, where there is *the* celebrated bream hole, which is 30 feet deep at low water, and, friend "A. T.," allow me to tell you as many as 2 cwt. of bream have been taken here in one day. You do not believe it. Write to the postmaster at Newton-on-Trent, Lincolnshire, mention my name, and ask him if the fisherman, Williamson, will let him know the weights of bream taken out of the Bream hole at Dunham Dubs, and tell me the result.

You doubt everything. You say it is most peculiar he should have fished the Ravensbourne 20 years—how old he must be. Not a bit, "Anti-Theory," Esq., you are not in the secret. I am happy to say I am rather too old to fish there in the daytime. Now you are no wiser. Last summer I paid about 20 visits to the Ravensbourne. I generally start at half past one in the morning (much to the disgust of several members of my family, and one in particular), and arrive there about 2.30. Come with me one morning, "A. T., Esq.," next summer, and see the sun rise and hear the lark. This is a beautiful arrangement, as you have it all to yourself. No lovers, no dogs, no crutches, no toothpicks. It is simply glorious. Keston—supposing I walked, I should arrive at Keston about 3 starting at about 11.30. I am a slow walker. I should have to walk 10 miles back, and if I staid for a little *Woodsia ilvensis*, *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, not to mention *Hymenophyllum tunbridgense*, when should I get back? Happy thought. In my opinion, commend me to the study of ferns for a quiet, lonely, simple study. I shall not forget "Bracken" in a hurry. I shall be delighted to accept your kind invitation; but what do you mean when you say, "No excuses, 'M. A.'"? I cannot understand you. Even to see three such masters of the art as yourself, "E. W. A." and "J. McD." esquires, evidently are—ah, I know you—I would walk 10 miles to see such a performance. You should learn the Nottingham style of paying the line out from the reel, and get into one of those grand quiet, deep eddies—say the one at Sharp's Corner, or the one at Fosttet's Hole, and as you watch your float moving along like a thistle down moves through the air on a very still day, or like a toy ship being taken along the water by a gentle breeze, along she glides, that inch of slender white quill with the red tip silently cutting through the water like a living thing gliding along without the least hitch, she sails down the stream without the least shaking. Gracefully, beautifully, as the line is gently paid out, on she goes 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, and even more, yards, when under she pops, and the angler, like lightning, with a strike he has studied to a nicety, sends the hook home. The rod at once bends to the fish, and if it is a good barbel and a clever man, you will see sport to perfection. You don't believe it. Then what do you believe? One word about the Welsh Harp. You doubted that I began to fish at half past 12. I used plenty of ground bait. It was nearly 2 before I had my first bite—a grand bite, I said to myself. At last I struck, missed; rebaited, struck again, missed. Now listen "Anti Theory," they smashed the float under as if it had been shot out of a gun; they dragged it here, they dragged it there, tilted it, wobbled it about, they reared it straight up, they laid it flat—pray, believe me—ran away with it like the very devil; sailed out with it, sailed in with it; on some occasions they came rushing towards the side with it, and this game kept on at intervals for hours, and when I left off the result was five small silver bream, about ½ lb each. Why, the bites I missed, if they had been decent fish, I ought to have had about 30 lb. I sincerely hope and trust I know better than to tell deliberate untruths simply for the sake of telling them. As I said in my report, others had been served the same. One man said they sucked the bait off! Sucked the bait off! More like lashed it off with their tails. Now I am almost sure I know what it was, but am afraid to say. I have always tried in all I have said to keep to the truth.

Now listen, "Anti-Theory": I wonder what you, "E. W. A.," "J. McD.," and J. F. Waters, would say if I were to tell you I recollect the time when some people never used a reel when spinning for jack—never thought of such a thing. There was Blood Wilson, of Besthorpe, Sol Nicholson, of Collingham, and my late uncle, George Hewes, always spun for jack without a reel. The end of their line was tied to a piece of cork, card, or wrapper, and they coiled it on the ground near their feet, and they could spin, I tell you, and throw in a bait almost as softly as a swallow kissing the surface. Mind you, they seldom made long casts, and after all, these terribly long casts are scarcely worth the candle, for seven times out of ten the best jack in rivers are taken either in back waters or deep holes near the sides.

If "E. W. A." and "Anti-Theory" say they can strike 23 out of 24 bites, I am bound to believe them; but will they tell me how many times they fail to do it in the course of one season? However, they now know my address, and I hope they will keep their word. I ought, perhaps, to have said, ordinary roachers sometimes about once in 10 years miss four bites out of six. In conclusion, Messrs. "Anti-Theory" and "E. W. A.," you have proved yourselves gentlemen, and I shall look forward with intense anxiety to the day.—I am, &c.,

Mark Antony.

A QUERY FOR "MARLOW BUZZ."

Sir,—I noticed in to-day's Fishing Gazette, under the river report "Mid-Thames," by "Marlow Buzz," an account of a jack taken from the Thames weighing 27½ lb., length 37½ inches, and girt 22 inches; also the remarks of "Marlow Buzz" which follow, viz., "It seems strange that this fine specimen of *Esox lucinus* for its grand weight should have been so short."

Does it not also strike you, Sir, that this weight is very strange considering its length and girt?

I am led to make these remarks feeling sure there must be a mistake somewhere.

Perhaps the following particulars of two pike taken by myself, and now in my possession, may interest your readers:—

One taken November 9, 1881, weight 23 lb., length 42 inches, and girt 22½ inches. The other, taken February 3, 1882, weight 26¼ lb., length 42½ inches, and girt 23½ inches. Both fish taken in public waters.

Trusting these remarks will be taken by all parties interested in the same friendly spirit in which they are written,—I am, &c.,

Lowestoft. Lewis T. Johnson.

NETTING THE RESERVOIRS.

Sir,—At a meeting of the committee of the Piscatorial Society on Monday last, the sum of three guineas was unanimously voted to the Thames Angling Preservation Society towards the defrayment of expenses incurred by them in netting the reservoirs, and I have the pleasure to enclose a cheque to you for the sum.—I am, &c., Thomas Ransom Sachs, Deputy Treasurer.

22, Hyde Park Place, Cumberland Gate, London, W.

Re IRISH PIKE.

Sir,—Pennell gives the weight as 96 lb., and as having been caught in Broadwood Lake near Killaloe, see pp. 15 and 16 Pennell's "Book of the Pike." I think it nearly time this Irish pike was landed; but, then, you see, he's a regular slogdolager, and wants a lot of killing.—I am, &c.,

T. R. Price.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1882.

THE NATIONAL FISH CULTURE ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

IN reply to numerous enquiries from gentlemen desirous of becoming members o the above, we beg to say that all such applications are being filed, and will be attended to directly after the first meeting of the council, which will take place about January 20. Any gentlemen wishing their names proposed at the meeting for membership, are requested to write to Mr. R. B. Marston, Fishing Gazette Office, 12, Fetter Lane; or Mr. W. Oldham Chambers, Lowestoft, hon. secretaries of the Association. The annual subscription was fixed by the general meeting at one guinea.

NOTES ON A PIKE-FISHING EXCURSION WITH MR. JARDINE.

By R. B. Marston.

WHEN my friend, Mr. Jardine, called on me on Tuesday in last week to ask if I would go with him on a pike-fishing excursion into the West of England, it did not take me long to decide. After leaving everything as straight as possible for the Christmas Number of the Gazette, with sundry cautions that no libels were to be inserted in my absence, I left town by a five o'clock train, and about 11 at night found myself at a little country station, and Mr. J. on the platform waiting for me. A pleasant walk through one of our oldest English towns brought us to our very comfortable hotel. Mr. J. had been out all day spinning, and took me to the larder to see his spoil; ten splendid pike, from ten pounds down to four. I think I never saw more handsome, thick, well-fed fish. Next morning we were up early and took the train to a spot some miles up stream, where our boat was waiting for us. A boat is a necessity on the rivers we were to fish, as the country is intersected in all directions by deep dykes and ditches. We began by fishing all the quiet corners with live bait on Mr. Jardine's snap and paternoster, but the fish were not "on," and we neither of us did much this day (Friday), getting only about half-a-dozen fish, from six to four pounds. Mr. J. had his fine gimp paternoster bitten through three times. I tried spinning from the reel in the afternoon, and got two fish in that way. We discovered in the evening from some gentlemen who came in to dine with us, that much of the water we had fished was netted by the farmers, and that the water lower down, which we intended to fish next day, was more likely to yield good fish. We found our visitors very jolly fellows indeed—hunting and shooting were more in their line than angling, but what with sporting stories of all kinds, we found it was one o'clock long before we thought it was so late. Next morning the weather was again all that we could desire—mild, fine, and with a strong breeze blowing. A drive of five or six miles through a lovely country brought us to the hamlet where we had left the boat the previous day. I had noticed some fishy-looking streams near the mill, and while Mr. J. went on to the boat to try a famous hole, I had half-an-hour's spinning. I got a fish the second cast, then ran another and pricked him, then I had a curious bit of experience in a deep hole between some reeds. One of our boatmen was with me to show me the places, and he pointed out this place as one containing a 15 lb. fish to his certain knowledge, as he had stirred her out of the reeds only the day before. There was very little room to spin, so I dropped my bait, one of Gillett's capital gudgeons, by the way, into the hole, and then drew it slowly up. I saw a pike follow it slowly, so when I got to the top, near some weeds, I stopped the bait; the pike stopped and looked at it, then I gave it a little jerk or two and he had it in an instant, and was not landed without a good fight; it was about five pounds. Why that pike, after criticising the artificial so carefully, should have taken it, I cannot say; certainly the bait is beautifully coloured and looks more like a samlet than a gudgeon, and samlets are the fish these pike feed on as long as they can get them. I forgot to mention that the stream is often full of salmon. I got another fish spinning and then went to join Mr. J., who informed me he had got a ten pounder after twenty minutes' splendid sport in a strong stream. We then dropped down stream in the boat, and I put on a live bait, and in a splendid "corner" get hold of my best fish—an eight pounder, on a fine Nottingham line, in a stream too strong to row against; he gave sport that one rarely gets out of pike. We picked up a few more fish before lunch time, and then Mr. J. got hold of his best fish, one of 17½ lb. It was in a splendid bit of back water. I leave it to the members of the Gresham to say if it was a pretty fish or not. We drank her health. I got a few small fish and returned most of them, and then we dropped down again. On our way down Mr. J. called out: "Look there—two big salmon fighting!" The fish were "spent," and rolled down with the current, fighting as they went. Presently we came to a broad shallow, a splendid bit of spinning water. I put on my gudgeon and cast from the reel; Mr. J. had an artificial also, and used the Thames style, and here we had as pretty a bit of sport as I have ever seen. First, I had a fish about 6 lb., then Mr. J. got a small one, then I had another, then Mr. J., and so it went on. Finally, Mr. J., who stuck to the boat, while I fished from the bank, got hold of a fish of 14 lb., which gave him a fine dance. I hope to have another spin over that bit some day in company with friend J., for I must say, I think spinning for jack far and away better fun than live-baiting. We had to catch an early train for town, and so we rowed down for some miles; the river winding in and out like a big snake, made our journey six times as long as it would have been by land. And what a stream there was! We had to keep a sharp look-out for bumps against the bank, which often nearly shot us overboard. Reluctantly we passed numberless good places—quiet, deep bits, out of the main stream, sure haunts for pike. Every now and then our boatmen would point to some place where Mr. J. had caught a 20 pounder, or a 27 pounder, or some other monster. Wild ducks, geese, widgeon, and other birds rose screaming from the reeds as we flushed them, causing an exclamation of "My word, what a shot," from one of us every few hundred yards. Our boatmen spun yarns of sport with rod and gun, as we quietly swept along; the sun got deeper in the west, casting long streamers of light over one of the most lovely skies imaginable. "We shall have rain in marnin'," said our boss boatman—a pleasant, dry old stick of a fellow as ever handled an oar. "Why?" said Mr. J. "Don't he zee how stragulated loike them clouds be?" J. and I had a good laugh afterwards over that word "stragulated." Very expressive it was, though, of the lovely cloud picture over us. A hurried meal at our hotel, frequent hopes for our enjoying a Merry Christmas, and that we should soon come again, and we were off to London. To me this was, without exception, one of the pleasantest angling trips ever I had. Not a few good wrinkles did I learn from Mr. Jardine. His snap tackles are perfection: I did not miss a single fish with them, neither did he, except the three which bit the gimp through. It is worth a day's journey to see him work a hole with the paternoster; every corner is thoroughly searched. Often and often I expected to see him land his bait in a weed bed, but it always fell just clear of them. "You cannot get too near the reeds if you don't absolutely foul them," he would say; "in nine cases out of ten that's where the fish lie, even when the water is so shallow they have hardly room to lie in it." I must mention here, that in the drawings I gave the readers of the Gazette last week of his tackles, there were two errors. They were hurriedly done, and Mr. J. did not see the proofs. In putting the hook in the root of the dorsal fin, it should be done more forward, *i.e.*, nearer the front part of the fin than is shown in the engraving. And in the paternoster snap the lip hook should be put through both lips; if it is only put through the upper lip the bait soon gets killed, its back is broken with the jerk in casting out; but if the hook is through both lips this cannot happen, and, curious though it seems, the bait lives much longer with the hook through both than through one only.

As a conclusion to these hurriedly-written notes, I will append a letter just received from Mr. Jardine.

Dear Mr. Marston,—I weighed in 10 pike on Saturday night at the Gresham Club-room, the lot weighing 85 lb. The two largest weighed 17½ lb. and 14 lb.; 4 small ones I did not weigh. Thus our bag was over 1½ cwt., viz:—

Caught	10 pike ..	85 lb.
,, ...	4 ,, ..	12 ,,
Left at hotel	5 ,, ..	12 ,,
Kept of your take	8 ,, ..	50 ,,
Given to Farmers	4 ,, ..	16 ,,
Put back in river or given to keeper	8 ,, ..	14 ,,
		189 ,,

I think this was good sport, and I hope you were pleased with the trip and enjoyed it as much as I did. The 17½ lb. pike measured 35½ inches in length and 19 inches in girth. It and the 14 lb. have gone to Sanders to be set up in one case for the Critchfield Angling Society, of which I am a memher. I read in Saturday's F. G. "A Query for Marlow Buzz," and I feel convinced the pike he wrote about never weighed 27½ lb.—that is to say, if his measurements are correct, viz., only 37½ inches long and 22 in girth—for I have one 37½ inches long and 21 in girth of 21 lb.—another 38½ long and 21 in girth, 23 lb., and my 27½ lb. pike, caught last February, is *very much* *larger* all ways, *i.e.*, *length and girth*, than the one he mentions in the F. G. of the 16th inst.

P.S.—Since writing the above I have referred to the measurement of my 27½ lb. fish, caught February 24, '82 : the length was 44 inches and girth 23 inches, and for contour and fine condition it was considered by good judges as one of the best fish caught for many years. How, then, is it possible for the fish described by "Marlow Buzz," as measuring only 37½ inches in length and 22 in girth, to have weighed 27½ lb.?

Very truly yours,

Alfred G. Jardine.

38, Old Change, Dec. 26, '82.

I might mention that all our fish were taken on gut traces, and I am sure they are, as compared with gimp, infinitely stronger and more durable, as well as less visible in the water.

FLY-FISHING-SPINNING.—II.

"The Slaves of Custom are the Sport of Time."

THE history of these articles, as far as regards myself personally, I gave in the former article. I would commence this one with a few remarks on the origin of the art itself. For many years, from his early youth up, Ward had practised with very great success, not only fly-fishing, but also the pitching system of minnow-spinning, with a line a little more or a little less in length than the rod, generally a little less long, an art which, in many of its elements, was the one described by Mr. W. J. Bullock's articles, to which I have already adverted. But some 10 or 12 years ago, when fishing on the Monnow at Pontrilas, near Hereford—a very clear water with very little cover—Ward was made aware that the mode of angling which worked so well in the wooded brooks he was in the habit of fishing, would not answer for the open, crystal shallows of the Monnow. Necessity is the mother of Invention :

"Die Menschenwitz des Menschen Nothdurft leiht."

He set his wits to work, and began by slinging out a minnow on his spinning-tackle, from his single-handed fly-rod. He soon found

"'Tis distance lends enchantment to the view"

of a minnow in the eye of a trout—distance from the angler! He caught a very large basket in a very little time—I believe some 35 lb. in the afternoon. That was the egg or embryo stage of the new art. He dropped the pitching form of spinning at once and for ever.

'Twas

"The old order changeth, giving place to new",

once more. Gradually he developed his first crude form of casting out a minnow from a fly-rod, and refined his never-coarse tackle, until, in the usual scientific way, by "the survival of the fittest," he had elaborated a complete system of fly-fishing-spinning, a whole

"Perfect in each minutest part."

So he thinks. And so I think. And so I believe that you, Mr. Editor, and any of you, my readers, would think if you once saw the art in practice at *his* hands. As regards his title to the invention, I am not ignorant that the very natural idea of whipping out or casting out a minnow with a fly-rod, whether a single-handed or a double-handed one, is said to have been put in use by others long before Ward adopted it. You, Mr. Editor, have assured me that the practice—with the natural minnow—is common enough in the North of England. And I know that in salmon-fishing an artificial minnow—the phantom—is often cast out from the fly-rod, *over-handedly*, like a fly. There are those who have pooh-poohed to me the notion that there is anything at all new in the matter. But, as at present advised, I venture to doubt, and that most sceptically, whether any angler has ever reduced the crude casting out of a minnow on a fly-rod either to one and the same, or to any other and as deadly an art as Ward has done. Exceedingly light and delicate tackle, and the use of small minnows of the most perfect spin are, equally with long, light casting, and slow drawing in of the spinning-bait, among other essentials, chief elements of his present style of spinning. The greatest specialty of all in it is the use of a considerable quantity of loose-line, which is cast out and drawn in, in addition, or as a supplement to the—not short—line which is taut out in the air behind the angler at the moment of the cast forward. But even if any other angler could prove his title to an earlier invention of this art, that would not disprove *Ward's* title to the honour of an independent invention of it, for there certainly was no prior user of the art to *his* knowledge. *He* will always be the Adams in the discovery of this bright, particular star, whoever may be the Leverrier. However, my object in making known the art is not so much to call fame on the inventor, to

"Spread *his* name o'er lands and seas,
Whatever clime the sun's bright circle warms,"

as, with his permission, to show, through your columns, to those—all the world over—who are passionately fond of minnow-spinning, another and a far higher and deadlier form of it. For should not Friends have all things in common? And are not Anglers Friends—all the world over? And is not Fly-Fishing-Spinning some thing?

"It *must* be so—Plato, thou reasonest *well*."

My preface ended, I proceed to describe the rod, and line, and tackle requisite, and the manipulation of them needed. And first, as to the rod. When fishing with fine tackle we should, I think, in our choice of a rod, endeavour to take the golden mean between maximum casting-power, maximum hooking-power, and maximum holding-power, if all those qualities of casting, hooking, and holding are, in their highest perfection—as I conceive they are—incapable of union in one and the same weapon, being, in fact, the effects of contradictory causes—stiffness and pliancy of the rod. By maximum holding-power I mean, in other words, minimum tackle-breaking, and that by virtue of the pliancy of the rod, yielding, reed-like, to every blast and gust of strain. But maximum holding-power in a stiff rod, used with coarse tackle, means a very different thing, to wit, what Dame Juliana calls "good haleing," but which we of the modern "fine and far off" school should call "skull-dragging." And the inference I draw is that one's rod should be just powerful enough for capturing the fish one is angling for, and—beyond a mere prudential margin for contingencies—no more. Each angler must, however, define "the golden mean" for *himself*, according to the relative importance which *he* attaches to raising a fish, to hooking it, and to holding it when hooked. And it must be recollected that the relative importance of these points means their importance relative to the angler's skill in handling the rod, and means, of course, relative also to the fineness or the coarseness of the tackle he is using. The more the angler by his skill aids the rod and the tackle either in raising, or in hooking, or in holding a fish, the more he can dispense with either the casting, or the hooking, or the holding power, both in the rod and in the tackle, having that power already, and in a far higher degree, in his own brain and arm. We have here another exemplification of the truth of the old Greek saying : "Man is the measure of all things"—to himself, the individual man. And my master's measure, and mine, of the rod for fly-fishing-spinning may be taken from the following remarks. The best form of rod is a light, pliant—*but not weak-backed*—one of from 10 to 11 feet. A weak-backed rod is as bad as a broken-kneed horse. For large fish, or for wide waters, or in a high wind the 11 foot rod is better, as being both longer and more powerful. It is also more useful in fishing brooks which in places are so heavily wooded that no casting can there be made, but recourse must be had to pitching the bait in those places. The extra foot of rod will be very handy for that pitching purpose. Eleven feet is an ample length for the rod in fly-fishing-spinning, in which the labour is heavier, and the rod is required to be a good deal more under command than in fly-fishing. Good fishing cannot be made with a rod that hangs at all heavily on the hand. As I have myself had built and have fished a good deal with single-handed fly-rods of all lengths between 13 feet and 10 feet, I am not without some practical experience on the subject. A 10 foot rod strikes more quickly than an 11 foot one of a like build, which is a great advantage. I work with three light rods, one of 10 feet and two of 11. The shorter the rod (the build being alike, or in the same ratio) the lighter, of course, it is, and the lighter, consequently, is the cast, another considerable gain. A stiff rod, and particularly a stiff and heavy rod, cuts the minnow, and casts it violently, or with a splash, upon the water; and it decreases the comparative strength, or, if you prefer the expression, it increases the positive weakness of fine tackle. It calls for a lighter hand. But in fishing with the finest tackle you sometimes want the lightest hand, even with the most pliant rod, as when you are playing a "*dangerous*" fish, as Patsy Ryan would call him. My rods are all modified Castleconnells, of the best London-make, and made to order, and "tried-on" in the making. They have an equal, gradual taper throughout, and thus a regular play from point to grip—which latter rises rapidly to the occasion—of the handling. It is very rarely I break tackle on striking with them, without adopting the expedient called "striking from the winch," which, as regards striking a fish, I look upon as but a palliative for a stiff rod, or a heavy hand, or both of those vices. No doubt, now and again, when, on making an extra long and strong cast, you catch your fly or fly-minnow in a bush, or a bent, or even a "sweet little buttercup" behind you, you may, striking in the usual way, come to grief and break tackle. And "once in a blue moon" you may in this wise be so unfortunate as to smash a rod-top, though fishing with a pliant rod and a light hand—yet then not light. But I do not think the evil is great enough to make it worth while attempting to remedy it by adopting the make-shift expedient of "striking from the winch" in fly-fishing, when fishing with a pliant rod and a fairly light hand. And in fly-fishing-spinning that expedient would not be applicable, inasmuch as the manipulation of the loose-line requires it to be always kept taut by the hand at the moment of the cast, as we shall see; the hand is also always on the line, drawing in the spinning-bait, when striking a fish, so that no winch-action could take place in either case. For the wood of the rod I use greenheart, in three joints, with cane points, which I carry very fine, as I like the lightest point to a rod. A heavy-pointed, pliant rod is necessarily a top-heavy one. If the rod be made with a second or inner tongue at each joint, as some of the American hexagonal, glued-up, solid-cane rods are made, so much the better. That obviates the need of wire-catches, and the fastening-together by their means of the rod with twine or silk. The inner tongues, I am told, prevent the rod-joints from being shaken apart by the most continued casting. In fly-fishing-spinning, if a very fine winch-line be used, it is apt to get under those wire-catches. That is owing in great measure to the fact that the casting is made with, in part, a loose-line, which, when very fine, and light, and *limp*, and especially in a wind, gets frequently danced or blown round the rod, and is then often caught in those wire-catches. I, therefore, when fishing with such a line, bind the edges of the catches down close to the rod with waxed silk, which effectually prevents their making mischief. As regards rings, it may be thought off-hand that standing-rings would be best, for the freer running of the loose-line. Not so, experience teaches. However small—and I have tried them not only large, but very small indeed, made of very fine German-silver wire—standing-rings catch the line round them, and are extremely troublesome. But the down-lying rings should be quite loose, so as to yield to the least force or pressure of the running-line. If stiff with varnish and tight-fixing in their sockets, as they always are on a new rod, of course there cannot be free motion of the running-line. When buying a new fly-rod for spinning, a special point should be made of having the rings perfectly loose. We have now, I think, dealt enough with the rod for aught but a fool's back.

Touching the reel or winch. The perfect form of it for the work under consideration is the now general one, with the handle fixed on a revolving plate, thus preventing the line from getting under the handle; but with that ordinary form modified by having some appliance, such as the Fishing Gazette winch, for preventing the line from getting round the winch itself. For that purpose I should much prefer to see the sides of the Fishing Gazette winch, at least at the lower end, towards the butt, slope or curve a good deal more outwards or buttwards. Mr. Cholmondeley Pennell seeks to accomplish the same object by a spring fastened to the hindmost bar of the winch, and running to the rod below the winch, or towards the butt. He gives a wood-cut of his appliance in his "Book of the Pike," p. 136. I believe Dr. Brunton has a somewhat different mechanism of his own invention to cure the evil in question. And, not to be outdone by them, or any, or either of them, I, too, have myself—

"In my mind's eye, Horatio,"

more than one or two other modes of effecting the end in view. One is a spring, attached to the rod-butt, to fasten on to the middle or hindmost bar of the winch, and when the winch is not on the rod, to lie along the winch-groove, being kept down by the sliding ring or band which holds, or helps to hold, the winch to the rod. Another mode of mine is a peg or button on the butt, from which an indiarubber band or cord passes round the middle or hindmost bar of the winch, and returns to, and is fastened on the peg or button. And when the winch is off the rod, that band or cord lies round the butt of the rod, and is fastened to the peg or button, just like the elastic band on an umbrella. And a good-enough make-shift remedy is a bit of twine tied to one of those bars of the winch, and then stretched out, and tied to the rod an inch or so below the winch. I confess I have never suffered much from the nuisance complained of either in fly-fishing or in any other form of spinning. But in this fly-fishing-spinning I own that I have found winch-entanglements of the line, especially when it is light and limp, and when a breeze is blowing, rather a characteristic, a consequence obviously of the running-out of the loose-line, particularly when it is light and blown about by a high wind—but increased a good deal, I suspect, by the awkwardness of the angler. The winch may be "check" or "plain," large or small, light or heavy, as the angler likes. The smaller and the lighter, the better I like it; but that is only my individual fancy.

And now we come to the winch-line. Owing to the delicacy of the angling—the casting from a fly-rod, and with, in good portion, a loose-line—the winch-line plays as important a part in fly-fishing-spinning as it does in fishing in the Nottingham-style, though in quite a different way. And here, at the outset, we have those issues of Hair v. Silk, and Hair v. Silk-and-Hair, and Silk v. Silk and-Hair, and Hair Twisted v. Hair Plaited, and Silk-and-Hair Twisted v. Silk-and-Hair Plaited, with all sorts of cross-issues; and also all sorts of sub-issues or side-issues as to dressings and colourings—rather a long list—standing for judgment. I have followed the controversy on some of them in the Fishing Gazette with much interest, and have marked one episode of it with deep regret.

"They stood aloof, the scars remaining."

Ward, years ago, always used the twisted silk-and-hair lines, undressed. But his fancy-line, nowadays, is an all-hair twisted line, of his own making, tapering from 9 hairs down to 6; in colour, a deep-chesnut, or sorrel. One reason why he prefers an all-hair winch-line, fishing as he does with very fine drawn gut, is its greater elasticity, and therefore the greater strength it practically gives to the fine gut. On such flimsy tackle he played-out that 12 lb. salmon I spoke of in my former article. His experience is every year so extensive, and his angling—after forty years of practice in spinning—is now so perfect, that any opinion of his is, to me, an authority of the very highest order. Still, I have to consider whether for my hands, or for any others less artful than his, all-hair is the best form of line for use in this fishing. Delicate tools call for skilful workmen. I must not forget that I can have an all-silk line very much finer, and even a silk-and-hair one a good deal finer than an all-hair line, and yet as strong as it. And there arise numerous nice or knotty questions of kinking, colour, length of casting, lightness of casting, &c., all or most of which affect an apprentice or a journeyman more or less differently to what they do a master-workman. Let us consider a few of the more important of the points involved in those issues. And first, as regards strength of line. I once introduced an all-hair line to the notice of a very-well-known fly-fisher. His fiat was that the line was fit for nothing, because when he got hung up in the bushes, 'twas always breaking. Now I never could quite understand the force of that objection of his, knowing that he always angles with the most gossamer of gut. And so I said to myself: "What business has he to be always breaking off his winch-line in the bushes, when he is fishing below his all-hair line with gut so superfine? The gut *must* have been the weaker of the two. How was it, then, that it was not the first to break in the bush? Was he doing "angling in all its branches," I wonder? If you are spinning with tackle, the gut of which is weaker, by a good margin, than your all-hair winch-line of six hairs—as you undoubtedly ought to be fishing when you are fly-fishing-spinning for *ordinary* trout—your all-hair winch-line is strong enough under all conceivable *proper* circumstances for your angling. But in spinning for Lea, or Thames, or even Colne, or Test trout? Ah! that is quite another question. They are *not ordinary* trout. They are *crack* trout. All I point out is that your winch-line—whatever be its material—should be *at least* so far stronger than your gut below it, that you can always depend upon the gut breaking first when both are under one and the same strain. And the winch-line may be somewhat stronger still with advantage, so as to resist the other and greater strains which it has from time to time to encounter in the wear and tear of practice. For instance, a line made wholly or partially of silk rots. And you should allow a certain margin for the rotting. Hair does not rot to any appreciable extent, I believe. It is brittle when dry, and should always be wetted before use, and should be kept moist. But an all-hair line is subject to other diminution of strength, as will presently appear. You may break or cut your winch-line by many a bungle in angling, and especially during your early apprenticeship to this art. I have done so more than once or twice this season. Now, an all-hair line does not allow you quite so wide a margin of strength to resist the devil of bad workmanship as other lines do. One great advantage which an all-hair line has, and which in a less degree a silk-and-hair line also possesses, is that in wet weather, or when a heavy mist is rising, or a heavy dew is falling, the line will not cling or stick to the rod as an all-silk line will do, more or less, according to the dressing, thereby checking the cast, cutting the minnow, and causing very considerable physical, if not also moral, inconvenience. The next best line to an all-hair line, in wet or damp, is a silk-and-hair line, dressed in linseed oil, or *pure* copal varnish, or some one of the other hard varnishes used by line-dressers, taking care that the varnish-dressing is not overdone by laying on a heavy surface-enamel, and thus making the line unduly heavy. Again, an all-hair or a silk-and-hair line fishes better hanging over and lying on bushes, or about banks which are overgrown with brambles, thistles, nettles, docks, or other rubbish, as it does not get round them and cling to them so much, owing to its greater stiffness and stoutness. One great disadvantage of an all-hair line is that the ends of the hairs start out and stand up stiffly, impeding the run of the loose-line in the cast. They should be clipped off close every time or every few times before the line is used. Still, they will start out again. Of course, the loss from time to time of those ends, sometimes two or more pretty close together, tends to weaken the line considerably. Twisted-hair winch-lines should, if possible—and surely it is not impossible that they can?—be so made as not to have two or more hairs ending near each other. To lose at any one part of the line three, or even two, hairs out of six is simply to weaken the line by the loss of a half or a third of its original strength. That, in a weak material like hair, is a very great and dangerous loss of strength. And here I must call attention to the fact that this evil occurs far too often—so far as I know invariably—in the all-hair lines which one buys in London tackle-shops, even the best, and—such is my experience—notwithstanding that the line has been made to order at a double price, and in spite of the plainest and strongest written injunctions. I *always* find that at intervals of a yard or two—particularly at the fine end of the line—there comes an inch or so of line in which it is weakened by the loss of one, and often two, hairs. And this goes on for perhaps 8 or 10 yards, till the line becomes so stout or coarse that the loss of even two hairs ceases to be material, or even very noticeable. I find also that all-hair lines are exceedingly uneven in size—a fine bit—then a bit much stouter—then a good deal finer bit—and so on. Those are two of the greatest drawbacks to all-hair winch-lines. And until they are got rid of, the use of such lines by a careful angler is practically prevented. I have broken up line after line—in disgust and indignation—for those reasons. And I know that I am not the only angler who has done so. I suppose "Sprint" finds those lines better made in the North, where they are so much more used? The evil of the starting of the ends of the hairs occurs in a much less degree with a silk-and-hair line, owing to the greater firmness of the texture. And when such a line has been set still firmer by a dressing of linseed oil, or some varnish, the evil becomes a nominal one. I prefer a twisted silk-and-hair line to a plaited one. The plaited ones are never so fine, are far rougher—the surface being less firm—more fluffy, and they become much more ragged in the wear. I doubt whether they would become as firm-set when dressed in oil or varnish as the twisted ones do. A twist is, *per se*, a firmer or stiffer form of line than a plait. The twisted ones may kink a little more than the plaited. But if the twisted ones were "cable-laid," that evil would probably be to a very considerable degree cured. Yet with all their faults I love those lines better than their plaited brethren. A friend of mine in the North—a *hair-man*—(who can fill his trout-basket with the best) says he gives his preference just the other way, to silk-and-hair plaited, because he finds that the twisted silk-and-hair winch-lines throw their twist on to the single-hair casting-line in playing a fish. Oddly enough, I had never found fault with them for doing that to a gut casting-line. And Ward—a *gut-man*—cannot be much troubled by it, or he would use a plaited all-hair winch-line, I presume. I have used the twisted silk-and-hair lines, with gut casting-lines, for many years in fly-fishing, and I have always found their kinking-proclivities principally confined to making themselves in a very great mess indeed on my pulling them violently—on a very taut line—away from some bush or other obstruction in which the fly had caught. But that was a very occasional calamity. And the mischief was remedied in a moment or two. I am strongly inclined to think that a plaited all-hair line—of horse-hair—tapering gradually from 8 stout hairs to 8 very fine ones—half the size of the stout hairs, or still finer—would make a superior line for fly-fishing-spinning. It would, I apprehend, be bound to be even throughout, and it would not, I feel sure, be subject to the end-of-hair-starting-nuisance, to any appreciable extent. But the sweetest of all lines, the *belle-idealle* of a line for fly-fishing or fly-fishing-spinning would be—*maiden-hair*—

"The gowden locks of Anna;"

her back-hair. I will back it against all creation. All the rest is, as 'Arry would say, "'airy nothing" to it. For it would be fine, and light, and long, and smooth, and pliable, and elastic—yet (in the lump) not limp. It would have all the good qualities of horse-hair and none of the bad ones. There is but one thing in creation that I can imagine beating, or having the ghost of a chance of beating it. And what is that? Why, gut drawn as fine as it. But I don't think our gut-drawing is quite as "gossamer" as that yet—is it, Mr. Editor? Still, if gut is now drawn as fine as the finest horse-hair (as I understand you to say it is)* why don't we now make plaited and twisted winch-lines of it, as we do of horse-hair? Eh? Those gut-lines might be made as fine again as the hair-lines, and finer, yet fully as strong. Why does not some enterprising tackle-maker bring them out? The time must be fast coming when they will have to be brought out, I imagine. A four-plait, *Quâ* maiden-hair, "gossamer"-gut winch-line ought to be a good line for our new style of fishing, care, of course, would have to be taken that it had not rotted; through the application of "Auri-comus" or other the concoction in any like "capillary attraction." It may be "gowden," though it might better be dark-auburn; but it must not be as white as a turnip or as red as a carrot. I almost fear

"Lassie wi' the lint-white locks"

would hardly help us. It should—I mean I think it would—be proof against all the blandishments of Jupiter Pluvius, if he came "a courting" it in one of his heaviest aureal April-showers. Would it be better plaited or cable-laidly twisted, I wonder? That is a very nice question. *Cur advisari vult.* Like all good things, it would be apt to come a little costly. But I daresay it could be got at more easily for love than for money. Fancy a lassie, after giving her laddie a goodly lot of her flowing tresses for his fishing-line, being overheard singing:—

"O dear! what can the matter be?
O dear! what can the matter be?
O dear! what can the matter be?
Johnnie's so long at the mere!
He promised to bring me a brace of pink troutlets—
He promised to bring me a brace of pink troutlets—
He promised to bring me a brace of pink troutlets—
He took on my bonnie back-hair!"

What a pretty companion-picture to the

"*Pyrrha? . . . .*
Cui flavam religas comam,
Simplex munditiis?"*

of our old friend Horace—one lady binding-up her back-hair for her lover: the other cutting-off hers for him! The limpness of an all-silk line, when fine, and dressed in oil or any of the ordinary varnishes, often breeds difficulties to which

"The tangles of Neæra's hair,"

under the finger-comb, were trifles. When fishing with such a line, always carry a pin to unpick knots, and—swear not at all! But yet in a bright, hot, airless day—above all, when fishing on such a day over clear, shallow water—a very fine, level (non-tapered) darkly-stained and lightly-dressed Nottingham-silk line, used on a light 10 foot rod, casts *exquisitely*—so smoothly and effectively, making the longest and lightest of casts, and the least visible. Fishing under such conditions I shall probably continue to use such a line, dark-brown in colour, and home-dressed in the stiffest of (uncracking) varnishes which I can discover. Even when only dressed in linseed oil it, under a hot sun, keeps as dry as a bone, and *flies* forth—like Mercury, the Messenger of the Gods, or Azrael, the Angel of Death, or, if you don't like either of those illustrious illustrations, then say, flies out like a flash of forked-lightning—being as smooth as glass—and almost as fine, and as light, and as free from friction as a single stout horse-hair. It puts no weight on the tiny minnow to make a splash in the water, which merely dimples as the little fellow dips below its surface, not with any "header," but in a gentle dive. And its spin is—splendid. How I should like to test that tackle on a certain Hampshire river on a sunny July day; or to do the job with it—by Jove! on those celestial Littlecot-shallows! I will defer to a later article such remarks as (having regard to past and pending experiments) I may have to make on the staining and the dressing of lines. But in favour of my favourite colour I must ask here how much, of the real virtue and value of a great deal of the horse-hair used in roach-fishing does not arise from its being of a dark-chesnut, or sorrel colour? And before our present closure I would add that, though some anglers consider that it makes very little difference what the size and colour of the winch-line may be, so long as the two or three yards of gut below it are fine, I cannot agree with them. How often in a weir, or mill-pool, or other similar place, particularly where your fishing-ground is limited, or the fish are feeding freely, have you not to cast again and again over every part of the water? Surely the continuous showing of a great and shining line, no less than the repeated heavy casting of it, must considerably scare the fish, especially if large and shy. And does not the experience of most of the best anglers bear me out? In a high wind the winch-line must be fairly stout to cast against it, I grant. But it need not be as "'ighly coloured" as the Christmas-cards they sell in the streets to do *that*. Even when seeking for a weighty line to cast against a strong wind, some regard should be had to the ill-effect of a coarse line on the water after the cast. And it must be remembered that there is such a knack as cutting the wind with a fine line; and also that the need of a heavy line for a high wind in half-a-dozen days of the season is no good reason for using such a line every calm day throughout the season. A like remark might be made as to a stiff rod. And now I think I have run out all my intended remarks in this place on the winch-line, and may reel up again.

A. R. I. E. L.

(*To be continued.*)

[We do not think we ever said "as fine as the *finest* horsehair," but the finest horsehair that is used in angling. You could land a troutlet on a woman's hair with care and time; bna who would care to boggle about after troutlets, which could be wipped out at once, uneducated fry.—Ed.]

* "Pyrrha? for whom bind'st thou in wreaths thy golden hair,
Plain in thy neatness?" —Milton's translation.

A WELCOME TO '83.

A welcome to thee,
Eighty-three!
A welcome with rod and with gun;
A welcome to thee,
Eighty-three!
In thy race so newly begun.
We meet thee
With promise and vow,
We greet thee
With evergreen bough,
And halls are resounding with cheer,
To usher thee, happy New Year!

A welcome to thee,
Eighty-three!
Wings over the mountains and dells;
A welcome to thee,
Eighty-three!
Rings out from the merry church bells,
Forgetting
The pain that is gone,
Regretting
The wrong we have done,
Our sorrow we check, and the tear,
To usher thee, happy New Year!

A welcome to thee,
Eighty-three!
A welcome with music and feast;
A welcome to thee,
Eighty-three!
A welcome from greatest and least;
Recalling
The times of neglect,
Forestalling
The good we expect;
With banners outspread we appear,
To usher thee, happy New Year!

Like a cloud in the sky
Will fly by
The days that thou bringest to men;
To those who do right
Shall delight
Repay in full measure again,
Then a welcome to thee,
Eighty-three!
A welcome with rod and with gun,
A welcome to thee,
Eighty-three!
In thy race so newly begun.

Thomas Ford.

Caistor, Lincolnshire.

THAMES RIGHTS DEFENCE ASSOCIATION.

Chairman: Francis Francis, Esq.

Committee:

L. Bonvoisin, Esq.
F. G. Clench, Esq.
Greville Fennell, Esq.
P. Geen, Esq.
R. Ghurney, Esq.
H. Hall, Esq.
R. W. Hobden, Esq.
T. Hoole, Esq.
F. H. Leman, Esq.
Geo. Ledger, Esq.
R. B. Marston, Esq.
S. Morgan, Esq.
J. P. Wheeldon, Esq.
J. While, Esq.

Hon. Sec.: J. M. R. Francis, Esq.

Treasurer: W. A. Crump, Esq.

Report of the Committee of the Thames Rights Defence Association.

On the 24th November, 1880, a public meeting was held at Simpson's Tavern, Strand, convened by a circular issued by Mr. Francis Francis, for the purpose of taking some steps to resist encroachments on the rights of the public in the River Thames by riparians or others.

The association was then formed, a chairman chosen, and an honorary secretary appointed, and a committee selected to carry out its objects.

On the 10th January, 1881, a deputation from the committee waited on the Conservators of the Thames, and stated generally the causes of complaint by the public against riparians and others, and inquired if any steps were intended to be taken to prevent their continuance. The Chairman of the Board suggested that the deputation should withdraw and send in writing what they would wish the Conservators to do. Two or three memoranda to the Conservators were subsequently drafted and discussed at great length, and with several adjournments. In the mean time, answers made by the Conservancy Board to references and questions put by the Board of Trade and by the Corporation of London had been made known to the committee, and proved to them that further correspondence with the Conservancy Board was unnecessary, as no assistance in respect to the views and objects of the association could be expected from that quarter, and the matter was therefore allowed to drop. A request was then made to the Local Government and Taxation Committee of the Corporation of London, in whose hands the reply of the Conservancy Board had been placed, for an interview, which was duly afforded, and a deputation from your committee waited on the Local Government Committee at Guildhall on the 8th March, 1881. A statement was made, and a discussion at some length took place, and Mr. Francis requested permission to examine the ancient charters of the City, and he was iustructed to memorialise the Court of Common Council on that head; and the deputation were further advised to get a case and lay it before the Common Council, in order that the Corporation might then decide how best they could assist us. In reference to this matter, your chairman and Mr. Ledger subsequently had an interview with Mr. Deputy Bedford, at the Guildhall, and discussed the matter with him at length, and Mr. Bedford, who was very favourable to the views of the association, expressed himself satisfied and willing in every way to forward their action, and wrote subsequently to your chairman to that effect. A memorial was then drawn up, upon which a good deal of discussion took place, but in the mean time a matter occurred which required the active interference of the association. Sir Roger Palmer, a riparian proprietor, and one of the conservators of the Thames, summoned a fisherman and bailiff, named Gill, for fishing on his private waters in the Thames near Maidenhead. Your committee took this case up, and instructed Mr. Crump, who acted as their honorary legal adviser, to defend it. This was done, and the case was heard at the Maidenhead Court on Tuesday, the 22nd November, 1881. It has been fully reported, and need not be further related; it resulted in Sir Roger Palmer being the loser, and having to pay £7 7s. in costs; it being held that he had no exclusive fishing rights at the spot where Gill was fishing.

Subsequently to this your committee were engaged in watching a case of some importance at Nottingham, in which they gave all the advice and assistance they could, though of course they could take no active part in it.

Mr. Fletcher was threatened with a summons by Mr. Lewis, the prosecutor in the ensuing case, and applied to your committee for assistance, he having to go abroad just then. The committee agreed to take up the case, and Mr. Lewis's solicitor was written to to that effect, but no summons was issued. The prosecutor apparently preferring to deal with private individuals.

Mr. Layard, of 5, Fenchurch Buildings, next applied to your committee for assistance in another case of summons for fishing in the same so-called private waters on the Thames, near Maidenhead, on August 3, 1882. Mr. Lewis, who owns a house and grounds near the bridge, claimed to be proprietor of two eyots situate adjacent, and also of a considerable stretch of the fishing of the river adjoining.

Mr. Layard, being himself a lawyer, was prepared to defend his own case; Mr. Crump, therefore, went over the case carefully with him, pointed out the line of defence to be made, collated and arranged the various documents and authorities bearing on the case and belonging to the association, and placed them in Mr. Layard's hands, and at the same time expressed his belief in the willingness of the Association to bear a portion of the cost of the case if it were required.

The case was heard before the Maidenhead Bench on September 4 last, and resulted in the complete success of Mr. Layard; it being held that the prosecutor had failed to prove that he had an exclusive right on the portion of the river which he laid claim to. Mr. Lewis thereupon asked for a case for appeal, which was granted. Mr. Layard, on receipt of notice to appear to the case, has applied for aid and assistance to the Corporation of the City of London, and it has, on Mr. Bedford's motion, agreed to support the respondent. This action on the part of the Corporation, following immediately on the display of a banner in the Lord Mayor's Show on behalf of the rights of the Thames anglers, along with those of Burnham Beeches and Epping Forest, is fraught with the happiest presages for the future, and relieves your committee of serious apprehension and misgiving, knowing as they do the strong opposition they would have to meet in any legal appeal; as they feel that the Corporation are hardly likely, having once put their hands to the plough, to draw back until they have fully completed the work. Your committee have great satistaction in congratulating the association on the complete success of its efforts, and the maintenance of the public right of fishing in the Thames in the only two cases which have arisen since your association was called into existence. They undoubtedly have proved a heavy blow and a great discouragement to persons who were, before the establishment of this association, fabricating claims to exclusive rights from one end of the river to the other. Other claims, too, since then which were partially enforced (on those who submitted to them) have since been abandoned.

Advertisements have been judiciously published, and cards setting forth the objects of this association have been widely distributed along the valley of the Thames, and everything that could be suggested to induce an interest in the cause advocated by the association has been done. The success so far has been fully adequate to the means, but should any prolonged litigation take place hereafter, as a matter of course much larger assistance would be needed.

The accounts of the committee are open to the inspection of any subscriber upon application to the honorary secretary, at the office of the association, No 11, Old Jewry Chambers, or to the treasurer, at 10, Philpot Lane.

George James Eaton, of Starkholmes, Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[Advt.]

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

Angling in the above 160 miles of Father Thames has during the past week been conspicuous by its absence, and all-round fishing seems to have been utterly deserted for all "round of beef" and other concomitant luxuries. At Hurley, Bray, and Maidenhead, a few braves have ventured out, but the tot-up when the shades of evening closed o'er them was small indeed, if not "beautifully less." It seems hard lines, at the close of such an eventful year, to have to report nothing (as the Irishman might say); but "I lives in hopes" the ensuing year will astonish the "natives," in punt and on bank, and give plenty of occupation for "Marlow Buzz." By the bye, I noticice a "'query for 'Marlow Buzz'" in last week's GAZETTE. I am at present suffering from a plethora—not of news, but of plum-pudding, which weighs heavily on my chest, stomach, and mind, seems to increase my girt and add to my length from gills to fork of tail, and so jumbles up weights and measures that I must ask your correspondent, Mr. Ransome, to kindly wait until next year for an answer. Weights of fish, waits of music, and waits for cash just now utterly confuse yours obediently—"with the compliments of the season,"—MARLOW BUZZ.

Bure (Norwich).

As far as I can ascertain no one has been doing anything at the numerous stations on this stream for some time past; the reason can easily be found in the flooded state of the river, and the constant rains and storms which have lately prevailed. I had hoped a week ago for some jack fishing on this river, but Christmas morning broke thick, foggy, and soon a settled mist obscured the view in all directions. Anglers who had arranged (as I had for next day) looked glum and spoke not. Boxing Day commenced no better, but it cleared up after eleven, and myself and a friend drove over to Horning Ferry to see our much respected Host Thompson; we called on our way at Jimpson's, Hoveton "King's Head," and their learned that a local fisherman named "Mathew," well-known in this district, caught a nice lot of little jack, some ten or a dozen, in number, but none over 4lbs., and three were taken on Boxing Day in private water, the largest scaling 12lbs. My notes for the year 1882 with regard to the Bure, convince me that the river is teeming with fish, but the size is of such dimensions as hardly any angler would care to show. Exceptions to this rule have occurred here and there; but for a good catch of large bream you must bait the ground over night on Wroxham Broad, and commence angling at daybreak. I hope many of the London subscribers to the FISHING GAZETTE will become subscribers to the "Bure Preservation Society," whose efforts every angler on the stream ought to help by annual donation or subscription.

ROBERT MOLL.

Chichester.

Small results have resulted generally from the great preparations made by piscators for the Christmas holidays. Jupiter Pluvius resumed his reign on Christmas morning, and has been busy since. The country a mass of slub, and rivers in high flood of the consistency of pea soup. Mr. Young, who made Selham the venue of operations, was rewarded with some good roach. I journeyed to Petworth on Tuesday, fishing the Rother; a small pike taken with spoon was the extent of the basket, three London rodsters returning fishless, and yet a likely day for pike; but, as a disappointed rodster remarked, "It was all howing to the helements." At the Canal, Chichester, some members of the Portsmouth Waltonians landed some good roach, and a small pike taken on a roach line. Bream are getting cunning, nocturnal fishing the only way of capture; some good fish having been taken the past week. Mr. L. L. Lane took with him on Saturday twenty-seven nice bream in the Society's bait can to Thame, in Oxfordshire, where all but two arrived safely, and were placed in Dr. Lee's waters, the Dr. returning Mr. Lane a cordial vote of thanks for the same. And now, ("Old lamps for new ones!") what society will exchange chub for bream? We shall be glad to stock our water with chub, and will return some of the bream for which our canal has long been famous.—GEORGE F. SALTER.

Derwent (Chatsworth).

Owing to the continuous rain in the beginning of this week, the river is quite bank full, and fishing prospects are out of the question for some time now. To-day (Thursday) the weather is somewhat better—the atmosphere is very mild, the temperature being quite 50 degs., which is a great change from the weather of a fortnight ago. If the weather should keep fine and dry, it will be some time before the water has materially subsided to be again in fishable order after such a heavy flood.—WHEATSHEAF HOTEL.

Dove.

We have had a green Christmas, and I, for one, greatly prefer it to a white one. Notwithstanding all the much talked-of and written-about beauty of the snow, I look upon it as an intolerable nuisance, and after the heavy fall we had three weeks ago, I confess to the hope that we shall have no more of it this side Christmas next. We have had out a moderate number of rodsters during the holidays, despite considerable wet, and I am glad to be able to report that nearly all kinds of fish have been well on the feed. Each day there has been a fair rise of grayling on the river, and though the river was very high, some nice samples were killed on Tuesday and Wednesday, with the winter duns on the stills and backwaters. The worm and maggot fishers have, however, been doing best amongst roach, bream, perch, dace and chub. These fish were found freely on the feed wherever they could be got at. To-day (Thursday) the river is becoming quite unfishable. A good deal of water is already out in the meadows, and owing to the great quantity of rain that has fallen in the Peak district I am afraid it will be several days before sport can be resumed.—THE SPLODGER.

Exe (Exeter).

Since my last report, we have experienced a severe frost, one day's good skating being the outcome of the change. The last few days have been very wet, and the river high and much coloured, so that empty creels have been the order of the day. No doubt, with the Christmas holidays, pike and perch fishers will try their luck, when I hope fine weather and large takes will add to the anglers' delight, whom, one and all, I wish a merry Christmas and a happy New Year, especially our worthy editors.—J. A KELLY.

[Received too late for last week.—ED.]

Grand Junction Canal (Boxmoor.)

The weather has been very favourable for fishing, and there have been some very good catches in the canal. Mr. Harris, from London, stopping at my house, caught 12lb. of perch, six fish at 2lb., and I caught a jack of 5lb. Bait for perch, red-worm; jack, small roach.—R. COMBER.

[Rather an even catch that—six perch of 2lbs. each! Eh, Mr. C.?—ED.]

Lea (Ware).

River very high and thick, and seems likely to continue for some days—consequently a poor look-out for "brethren of the rod." Mr. Hall and self have obtained some good roach and dace during the week in the "Manifold." I think it a pity that this water (the Manifold) cannot be fished by our London brethren when the river here is unfishable, as excellent sport is generally obtainable therein when the river is so high and discoloured.—JAMES H. F. EARLL.

Leicester.

During the latter part of last week the weather was exceedingly fine, and with the waters in capital condition for angling, a large number of rodsters, having left work, made their way to the water-side, and up to Saturday some good baskets of roach and perch were taken; Mr. Stafford and Mr. Bird especially showing some capital roach, and in both these baskets were a number of roach that would weigh close upon a pound. Unfortunately, the rain came down most persistently on Monday, and continued almost without intermission up to Wednesday night, and as a consequence the waters became greatly discoloured and floods out everywhere, so that angling was again out of the question. At Aylestone the last few days of the past week some good sport was had, and the subscribers to these waters showed up in large numbers, and, upon the whole, had no cause to complain, as most of the fish seemed well on the feed. From Barrow-on-Soar, with the exception of a few out pike fishing, but little was done. To-day (Thursday) we have had another change, the weather being almost spring like; but in consequence of the floods, it will be some few days before anglers are again able to resume operations.—ALERT.

Ouse and Ivel (Blunham).

Since the late rain the water runs rather thick; but if the weather keeps fine it will be in good condition by Friday.—E.P.

Ouse (St. Ives).

This river is again flooded, and the water as thick as pea-soup.—WM. ADAMS.

Thames (Goring).

Water now very thick and rising fast; every prospect of another flood. Sport during past week—I have had one day since my last report, Monday, a few good roach and perch. Water here Sunday and Monday was in good order for jack and perch. Fishing prospects now look bad for some time to come unless better weather.—JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Oxford).

My prognostication anent the rising of the Cherwell was not fully verified until this morning, but to-day both rivers are out over the meadows and coming down a thick pea-soupy colour, so that at least for a few days the rods will have to lie *perdu*, and the disconsolate angler curse the adverse fates which combine to spoil his sport. Friday was a good day for roaching, Mr. Stephen Davis, ("do you know him, ye Birminghamites?") had twelve splendid roach weighing 10 lbs., the biggest turning the scale at 1¼ lb. Saturday was a fatal day for the unfortunate jacks who have come down the Cherwell with the recent floods, and also the roach and perch at Botley Mill Stream, a bye of the Thames. In the former river Mr. Davis had three jack, weighing respectively 9 lb. 3 oz, 3½ lb., and 1¼ lb. He was rather unfortunate at beginning. The first he hooked slipped off as he was being drawn up the bank; the second, the 9-pounder, bit the gimp, but in about ten minutes he fed again; this time the ferrule of the bottom joint opened; but not discouraged at his former mishaps, Master Stephen grasped the rod at her rupture, played his fish for about 2½ minutes, and at the expiration of that time succeeded in slipping the gaff under his gills, and the beauty was safely grassed, the broken hooks being found fixed in the roof of his mouth. Soon after the others followed their big brother, and Mr. Davis returned to the bosom of his wife and family well contented with his good fortune. Higher up Mr. Chas. Harman lost a big one just below the Victoria Ferry, and a little further on landed one of 3 lbs. In the Mill Stream Mr. Harry Brown had 14 lbs. of roach and perch. On Tuesday I was invited by Pickard Hall, Esq., to try my hand against a big Esox lucius, who has resided in the Clarendon Press fountain for several years. He succeeded in abstracting one of my baits whilst I was absent at the porter's lodge in quest of a light for my pipe, for fishing without giving up a burnt offering, is about as jolly as living with your mother-in-law. Some of my much-worried readers will agree with me there; however, my lack of sport was fully compensated by the opportunity I had of watching the motions of a gull and a coot, who live together in the gardens. To day I received a visit from Mr. L. L. Lane, of the Chichester Society, a gentleman who kindly sent the Oxford Angling Society his copy of rules at their first formation, but the flooded state of the river precluded all chance of fishing. The New Year is at hand—may it prove to you, Mr. Editor, and all your readers, a happy and a prosperous one.—CHERWELL OTTER.

Trent (Newark).

By last Sunday the water had fined down very nicely, although it was running at a great height; still, we thought that slack corners, &c., &c., away from the main stream, would be productive of sport, and preparations were made accordingly for a bit of roach-fishing—gentles were got out of the damp sand in the old tub, ground bait prepared tackle made up, &c., &c., and Christmas morning found us by the river's side, eagerly scanning a promising-looking swim or two; but alas! a very heavy rain fell, and continued all Christmas day, so that by Tuesday night the river was running bank full and very thick. I had an interview with the old Trent, this afternoon, but he was in a very bad humour and his bed was not big enough for him, so he had gone on a voyage of discovery all over the field—in short, a very heavy flood is now the state of affairs.—THE TRENT OTTER.

Trent (Nottingham).

The river has run down rapidly, and was on Thursday week in capital condition for bottom fishing. A large number of anglers have been out, and in the upper reaches a splendid lot of dace, roach, and chub were killed on Wednesday with maggots and worms. One of the roach weighed 1 lb. 5¾ oz., whilst the largest chub turned the scale at 2 lb. 8¼ oz. Several very nice bream have been bagged at Sawley, which in a rise generally yields plenty of fish to the subscribers. Lamprey fishing has been splendid, upwards of two thousand fish having been caught by the keeper at King's Mills weirs. The other weirs below have also turned out large quantities.—THE MAN AT THE CLUBS.

The Trent in this district was in splendid condition for bottom fishing in the early part of the week, and being the holidays a large number of anglers went downwards. Some nice lots of dace and roach were got with the cockspur worm, and a few bream were taken with the maggot. One of the roach weighed 1 lb. 5¾ ounces, whilst seven others averaged 1 lb. each.—On Wednesday and Thursday, through heavy rains, the water came on rapidly, and those who went out were much disappointed in the state of the river. There have been plenty of pike killed with live bait in the private lakes in the neighbourhood, one turning the scale at 18½ lbs.—THE MAN AT THE CLUBS.

The Yare.

The record for 1882 on this stream, as far as my experience goes, will not bear comparison with the last year or two—I mean with regard to size; number, I think, has been equal or more, but I never remember a season when I and my friends have caught so very many small roach on the Yare. I only allude to this as an uncommon thing, for I can bear testimony to the catches of splendid roach that have been taken nearly every month by Norwich anglers. Some trays have been shown, containing fifty, or sixty, which would have made any Lea roacher or a brother from any stream anxious of emulation on our favourite deep, swift-running Yare, than which I doubt if one exists that could produce finer roach, or one to give the angler better sport, as the depth increases the difficulty of catching and also of killing them. I refer more particularly to those who, like myself, fish with a tight line. Our stock of fish of all kinds have, thanks to the efforts of the Yare Preservation Society, increased, and is still increasing year by year, as is proved by the catches of bream, roach, perch, jack, &c., taken. Now, a word to my brother anglers of London who visit Norfolk waters. I submit a list of contributions contained in the collecting-boxes at the various stations—Reedham, 1s. 3d.; Cantley, 5d.; Buckenham, 18s. (of which 5s. was subscribed by Mr. R. Hawkins, Seymour Arms, Seymour Street, Euston Square, and whom I would advise to become an annual subscriber, as he would have several advantages by so doing); Surlingham Ferry, 1s.; Thorpe, 8d. I hope, should I be your correspondent next year, to report a different result to the foregoing; and should any gentleman feel conscience-stricken, the address of the honorary secretary is Mr. C. J. Greene, London Street, Norwich. Owing to the unsettled state of the weather since Christmas morning, no catches have been made, and there are no prospects of good sport at present, as the marshes are flooded and the water is thick. Atmosphere in the room I am writing in, with no fire, over 70.—ROBERT MOLL.

Witham (Boston).

What bid fair to be a rare time for sport during the Christmas holidays turned out the very reverse, and the hopes of many of getting amongst the pike were rudely dispelled at the very moment of realisation. Friday and Saturday were all that could be desired; but on Sunday came a sharp frost, which partially covered most of the drains with ice, and sent the fish to warmer quarters. Christmas day was of the worst description. Rain came freely, with some wind, and the state of things was about as bad as possible. More rain on Tuesday and Wednesday, and the anglers were, to a man, thoroughly disappointed. Many strangers came down this (Thursday) morning, but from what is apparent their journey has not benefitted any of them so far. But, as a rule, anglers are used to such things, and are content with a grumble. The regular angling contingent, as it may be called, however, had the fortune to secure sport when it offered, and since my last I have heard of some fairly good takes of pike, perch, roach, &c., principally before Sunday last. On Friday, for instance, some anglers did pretty well at Sibsey, and near the Northlands Bridge Mr. West caught several pike running up to nearly 6 lb., and at Cherry Corner there were some taken, the best about 6 lb. also. At Swineshead and about the pumping engine others were caught, as well as a few perch at the latter. There were also some good roach takes on the forty-foot made by Mr. Wakefield, Mr. Day, &c., on Saturday. Prospects for the coming week are anything but rosy, but there is an improvement to-day (Thursday), and, after all, the holidays might be productive; the chances, however, are that they will not be.—THE YELLOW BELLY.

Wye and Derwent.

The Christmas holiday piscators have been quite disappointed this Christmas, as both rivers have had large floods on them since Monday, and no fishing has been had, only by the clench net fraternity, who have killed a good lot of fish with their nets while the Derwent was in flood. Both on Friday and Saturday, and also on Christmas Day, a very fair quantity of grayling, roach, and dace were killed on various parts of the Derwent, chiefly with cockspur worms. The continued heavy rain which has fallen since October has kept a very great deal of company away from visiting and enjoying both scenery and fishing. I know a great many gentlemen that have scarcely killed a good dish of good grayling this autumn with the artificial fly, owing to the rivers being sadly too high for successful grayling fly-fishing. The lower the river is the better it is for grayling fishing; in fact, the last autumn fishing is the very worst I ever knew, in all my life, as a practical fisherman. I have noticed, this last season especially, that there is not half the quantity of duns frequenting either the Wye or Derwent that there used to be; not even March browns, lame flies and spiders appear more abundant—in fact, there is a quantity of flies that have quite forsaken these rivers. I quite agree with Francis Francis's ideas in the F. G. of last week respecting the changing of the breeds of trout, &c. I have remarked it years and years ago, both in the *Field* and the FISHING GAZETTE, that the breeds of both trout and grayling want changing both in the Wye and Derwent, and that fish-hatching wants carrying on to a greater extent. If these things are only carried out we shall have first-class fishing again in Derbyshire, the same as we used to do twenty years ago. I wish all true disciples of the angle a better fishing season next year than the past has been.—GEO. JAS. EATON.

Yore (Hawes).

A splendid thaw set in on Saturday week, and has continued until now, when the river is full of snow-broth, and is likely to be so for the next few days. I do not hear of anything being done for a week back. I was speaking the other day to one of the best of our local rodsters with respect to grayling taking the minnow, and he informed me that on more than one occasion he has known them to take it most voraciously. I find the she-fish I have taken this last six weeks back have been full of spawn, but, of course, not anything like matured. I cannot assist Mr. Walbran to account for this in any other way than that the last summer has been a very congenial one for the fish; they have had plenty of feed, and are, therefore, more forward than usual. How is it you will sometimes get a trout early in spring with a large amount of spawn in it? Might I say I think all the fish do not spawn at the same season? Trout is said to be decreasing in the Yore, whilst the grayling is rapidly increasing. I think the reason is not far to seek. Grayling are comparatively little sought after; trout are beset on every hand. During the heavy floods the "cowl net" (*sic*) does no end of mischief, whilst when the waters are low the drag net works wholesale destruction. Where trout and grayling congregate the speckled one has to take a subordinate position, owing to the pugnacious disposition of the armour-clad gentleman. I have taken trout full of grayling spawn in the months of May and June. One of our locals has taken twenty brace this season with a single hair stinting. He is a most careful angler, and never uses gut except in a heavy water or when trolling for trout. I am going to the other side of the Penines next week, and will perhaps be able to send you a few notes as to the kind of season the piscators of Ingleton Dale have had.—JOS. CORRY.

CLUB REPORTS.

BERMONDSEY BROTHERS ANGLING CLUB.

The members were saved a blank on Sunday by Mr. Godfrey with roach from Pangbourne. The half yearly meeting of the club will take place on Thursday next, when all members are requested to attend. A member of this club, fishing at Pangbourne a few weeks ago, lost the bottom joint of his rod, which has been given to a London angler. Will the person please communicate with the secretary of the above club at the Alscot Arms, Alscot Road, Bermondsey?—A. G. CROKER, secretary.

BRIGHTON ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, being Boxing Day, the members of the above club had their first competition in the river Ouse, at the beautiful village of Barcombe. The following are the sportsmen that faced the heavy rain and thick water:—Messrs. Noah Clark, W. H. Clark, W. Smith, Sharp, Saunders, Cardy, Hassell, Artis, Wm. Saunder, Foord, Tomkins, and Noble. The water being thick, and a strong south-west wind blowing, proved to be very much against the spinner, so that the live-bait fishermen had the best of it. Mr. Noah Clark took one jack 9 lb. 5¾ oz., and one weighing 2 lb., which secured the first prize, value £1. The second prize, value 15s., was not taken. Mr. Noble had good sport with a jack; but on landing him it proved he was born too recently to be any good. The winner at the weighing-in was applauded. Wind, W.S.W.; full of rain.—LIVE SNAP.

Dec. 28.

CAVENDISH ANGLING SOCIETY.

A distribution of prizes of the above society took place on Thursday, the 21st, when a great number of members put in an appearance. The annual supper is arranged for the 4th January, and several valuable prizes will be fished for at Rickmansworth on the following Sunday.—E. CHAMBERS.

HAMMERSMITH UNITED ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday, the 17th, Mr. Pitts had a good show of roach and perch from Henley. Mr. Lewis had dace from Kew on the 20th, and also on the 21st. Some members the same day competed for a guinea, given by Mr. Green, and Mr. Aldridge took it with 8 roach weighing 3 lb., Mr. Walters being the only other to weigh in. On the 26th, Mr. Peachey had dace from Richmond; Mr. Reynolds, perch from Cowly Broad; and Mr. Pitts, roach from Henley.—ARGUS.

UNITED LONDON ANGLERS.

Mr. J. P. Coote, of Royston House, adjoining the Rye House Railway Station, has been appointed local bailiff by the Lea Conservancy Board for the upper district of the river Lea. The stretch of water in the navigation stream from the bridge below King's Weir Lock to Aqueduct Lock is now included in the free water. The usual monthly meeting will take place on Monday evening next, January 1st, 1883, at nine o'clock, Mr. S. Morgan, chairman.—R. GHURNEY, sec.

Dec. 27.

THE UNITED LONDON ANGLERS' CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

INCOME—1064 privilege tickets at 1s., £53 4s.; 1064 fishery tickets at 1s., £53 4s.; other items, £13 17s. 0½d.; balance last audit, £6 13s. 11½d.; in bank last audit, £79 12s. 2d.; total, £206 11s. 2d.

EXPENDITURE—Lettering cases, £1 11s. 4d.; printing, £10 3s. 6d.; stamps, £2 2s. 10½d.; secretary's salary half-year, £12 10s.; chairman's salary half-year, £2 2s.; auditor's, 7s. 6d.; trustees drawing from bank, 2s.; Thames Preservation grant, £5 5s.; 28 dozen cases for tickets, at 4s. 6d. per dozen, £6 6s.; stationery, 12s. 1d.; paid to Fishery Society, £50; for watching river, convictions, bailiffs' salaries, &c., £14 1s. 4d.; cash in hand, £7 15s. 4½d.; cash in P.O. Savings Bank, £93 12s. 2d.; total, £206 11s. 2d.

TOTAL VALUE OF STOCK.—Cash in bank, £93 12s. 2d.: cash in hand, £7 15s. 4½d.; 600 instruction cards, £1 7s.; 400 privilege cards, 16s.; 14 lettered cases, 7s. 7d.; 104 plain cases, £1 19s.; total, £105 17s. 1½d. Trustees, J. T. Cundall and G. Manning; chairman, Mr. S. Morgan; secretary, Mr. R. Ghurney; auditors, J. G. Baglee, W. High, and M. Dymond.

STRAWSON'S WATERPROOF.

"I HAVE always said (and always asserted in my books) my belief that your waterproofing is the *best in the world* for sporting purposes, and indeed the only one which will keep out melting snow." This is the opinion of one of the best anglers and angling writers living, Mr. H. Cholmondeley Pennell, on Strawson's Waterproof, and it is an opinion which every angler who has tried the preparation willingly endorses. Some time ago we sent a sample of it to an angling friend in the West of England to get his opinion on it. He wrote back at once to say that if the waterproof was the same as the "original Strawson," there was no necessity to try it, for its value was too well known by sportsmen in the West of England to need any further testimonials in its favour. Mr. John Blakey, of Leeds, in reply to a question we put on this point, assured us that he had bought the right to manufacture the original article from Strawson, so that there is no doubt about the genuineness of the article. A great feature in this preparation is that, while rendering the leather impervious to dew, rain, snow, and sea-water, it does not make it hard as do some waterproofing compositions. Another friend writes: "I have used it myself over fifteen years, for the purpose of dressing all kinds of leather, and found it the best thing to dress my long boots with before going shooting or fishing. For wading, however, I always use rubber waders with thick felt soles —the felt, by the bye, acts splendidly in preventing your slipping on slimy rock. I once walked up the middle of a rocky waterfall with them on." If the North British Rubber Company would make their rubber wading-boots with thick felt soles, they would be the very perfection of waders for the angler.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

The usual monthly meeting of the West Central Association of London and Provincial Angling Societies took place on Friday evening, the 15th, at the Portman Arms, Great Quebec Street, Baker Street. Mr. Beckett occupied the chair, Mr. Field the vice-chair, Mr. L. Bouvoisin officiating as secretary in the absence of Mr. T. Hoole, who, I regret to say, is still confined to his bed.

After the reading and confirming of the minutes of the previous meeting, Mr. Adeane proposed, and Mr. Bates seconded, a proposition to the effect that the action taken by the officers of the West Central Association, in conjunction with those of the other associations, in countermanding the meeting at the Forester's Hall on December 6th under existing circumstances, is heartily approved of, was unanimously carried. The enrolment of the Grafton Piscatorial by the committee was then confirmed. Upon a proposition by Mr. Crumplen, seconded by Mr. Reynolds, a new society, viz, the South-Eastern, holding its meetings at the Prince Arthur, Stamford Street, S.E., secretary, our old friend Mr. Copeland, was unanimously enrolled.

Upon a proposition by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Avon, a reward of £1 1s. was voted to police-constable Crook for a very useful conviction obtained against certain persons for illegal possession of fish in the neighbourhood of Cowley, near Uxbridge so long ago as last August, the matter having been adjourned for the furnishing of sufficient particulars.

Mr. Bates next proposed, and Mr. Thomas Crumplen seconded, that another letter be sent to the Central Association, Star and Garter, St. Martin's Lane, cordially inviting them to send representatives to all meetings of the West Central Association, which was unanimously agreed to.

The roll was then called by the sec. pro tem., eighteen clubs being represented, viz., Bostonian, City of London, Cambridge Friendly, Duke of Norfolk, Good Intent, Gresham, Hammersmith Club, Hammersmith United, North-Western, Prince of Wales Piscatorial, Queen's, South London, St. John's Wood Piscatorial, Westbourne Park Piscatorial, South-Eastern, Grafton Piscatorial, and the Rodney, Mr. Chambers representing the East Central Committee, a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman, vice-chairman, and sec. pro tem., bringing the meeting to a close.

The North-Western Angling Club have voted £2 2s. from the club funds to the Thames Rights Defence Association, and a like amount to the Thames Angling Preservation Society.

At a recent meeting, where above a score of angling clubs were represented, the well-known secretary of a well-known club denounced the present prize system as "the great bane of angling societies," and several representatives present approved of the remark. The question thus opened up is a very broad one: much can be said against it, and probably more in favour of it. In the end, however, most unbiassed persons will arrive at the conclusion that there is nothing contrary to the true spirit of sport in the giving and taking of a few prizes; but that the thing can be carried to excess is undeniable, as, indeed, can almost every other thing—good in itself—originally intended for man's enjoyment. The foregoing remarks naturally lead one to ask a little more about this system of prize giving and taking. There are in London and suburbs nearly 200 angling clubs; a proportion of the prizes competed for in almost any angling club is paid for from the funds of the society, the remainder being presented by individual members. These prizes in several cases represent an annual money value of upwards of £100; while even in the humblest society it would rarely sink below £10 or £15. Taking, however, the average as £30,—which, speaking from long experience and with a number of books of rules and prize lists by me to refer to, I believe to be exceedingly fair, we arrive at a total money value of £6000. This is a large sum, and represents a heavy weight of fish taken from our rivers, probably far more than mere casual readers would believe, as I had occasion to clearly prove in the pages of the GAZETTE some months ago. Now, what one is tempted to ask is—do these prize winners assist in replenishing the rivers to anything like the extent they assist to deplenish it? I would the answer could truly be given in the affirmative. We have the Thames Angling Preservation Society, the Upper Thames Preservation Society, the Thames Rights Defence Society, all sadly hampered for want of the support they so well deserve. Mr. Editor and kind readers, would it be too much to ask these prize winners to voluntarily contribute, say, 5 per cent. on the money value of their prizes, and allow the £300 thus raised to be distributed in fair proportion among the above societies and one or two kindred bodies. Would not such a step be going a long way in the direction of removing the stigma so frequently laid at their door that they, in all but exceptional cases, utterly refuse to support those who ungrudgingly lavish time and money, and sometimes health, to increase, maintain, or defend the interests of angling? I sometimes think our club friends don't fully realise the use of preservation societies. Let them ask themselves, if these societies ceased to exist to-morrow, if poachers and polluters were unchecked, if riparians were unopposed, &c., in two or three years' time, what use would we have for our rods? And could we show cause why Betsy Jane should not chop up "them rubbishing old rods" to light the kitchen fire with? Probably these and kindred questions will be dealt with when readings become more firmly established among angling societies, and I anticipate much good will come of it. I believe there are hundreds of homely chub anglers who would readily support deserving institutions if the necessity for so doing were clearly defined and brought home to them.

In answer to "Renrut," I have caught heavier fish, particularly roach and rudd, with straw or wood cads than I have with any other bait. I first used them in Belgium, about fourteen years ago, while fishing in a fine Grand Junction Canal, navigable to three-masted seagoing ships of good tonnage. I was staying at the little village of Thildouck, some miles from Louvain; it was in January, and very cold. I had been fishing all day, and my brandlings and paste had failed to secure me a bag, or, indeed, anything except a few small perch. As dusk was coming on, I came across a Louvain angler: with him I got into conversation, of a kind—French, Flemish, English, and pantomime on my side, and Flemish, *pur et simple* on his. However, he made me understand by throwing my lump of paste into the water that that was no good, and replaced the worm on my hook by a cad; moreover, giving me a small supply of these interesting insects, with every one of which I secured a fish. My good-natured host, who was not a fisherman himself, when I explained to him what I wanted, armed with a rake, soon showed me how to secure a supply from the bottom of the canal and among the rush roots, and many and many were the heavy bags of roach and half-bred (bream roach) I have secured with this killing bait. When the fence months were over, and the summer season began, I went in search of my friends—the cads—in their old home at the bottom of the canal, but soon found they were not there; plenty of empty cases but no caddis. Many of them had turned to flies, and the few I found were on the top of the water attached to floating bunches of weeds, &c., and far too advanced in the stage of transition towards the perfect insect to be of any use. I, however, found some in a running water close by, but they were not nearly so bright or big as my old friends in the still water. I have fished with cads since in England—among other places at West Drayton, and in the Grand Junction Canal, and have taken good fish with them. I believe, with your correspondent, that good roach can be had with cads, and, I would add, blood-worms, when other baits utterly fail. Unfortunately, cads are not always easily procurable; blood-worms are exceedingly difficult to put on artistically, and say, "Renrut," Don't the minnows and sticklebacks come at them? It's worse than gentles, inasmuch as both the cad and blood-worm are far tenderer than a well-scoured gentle.

I am glad to say that Mr. T. Hoole is much better, and his medical attendant states he will be able to resume active work by, or shortly after, New Year's Day.

LARKHALL ANGLING SOCIETY.

THE third smoking concert of the season took place in the club room at "The Larkhall," Larkhall Lane, Clapham, on Wednesday evening, December 20, which was largely attended by the members and friends. Mr. G. F. Spencer occupied the chair, and Mr. B. Boyce the vice-chair. Amongst those present were Mr. W. H. Brougham, Mr. E. M. Mallett (secretary), Mr. W. Tucker, Mr. Davidson, Mr. J. H. Morris, (treasurer), and Mr. E. Dangerfield. The room was appropriately decorated for the festive season, and numerous mottoes were placed on the walls. This being the first appearance of Mr. G. F. Spencer, after an absence of a fortnight through indisposition, his presence was most cordially greeted by the members. These concerts are always made attractive on account of the great musical talent that is introduced, and they are conducted in good style by the president, each piece following in rapid succession. Mr. J. Halle, formerly of the Westminster Aquarium, opened the Concert on this occasion with the "Maid of Orleans" march, which he performed in good style, and displayed great ability in accompanying the various songs. Mr. Lockwood Hanadine, who possesses a splendid baritone voice, sang during the evening "The King of the Company," "The Brave Old Temeraire," and Torreadors' song from "Carmen," all of which were loudly applauded. Mr. J. Lovett, who is another great favourite at these concerts, has a fine tenor voice, and sang in very good style "Mignonette," "Ehren on the Rhine," and "Killarney," and the duet of "The Soldier and the Sailor," which was sung by these two gentlemen, was greatly admired, as also was "Excelsior." Mr. E. Branscombe, who has a very sweet tenor voice, was rapturously encored in "My Little Sweetheart," and "Tell her I love her so," but the rules of these Concerts is not to have encores, as the vocalists appear in other parts of the evening. Mr. T. Craven gave an excellent recitation "The Stowaway," which was thoroughly appreciated. Mr. Bishop, who is a very clever comic singer and extremely popular, sang with great effect "I'll make him suffer," "Rather too old for me," "Full inside," "Rip Chip Chip, Mary" and three others. Mr. F. C. Everill, who is also very good, highly entertained those present with "The picture of my Dad," "Treacle," and "An Awful Little Scrub." Mr. W. Spencer sang a very appreciative comic song "I'veCaught the Speaker's Eye." The following gentlemen in the course of the evening sang with good taste and spirit:—Mr. Carman, Mr. Renant, Mr. Pistroni, Mr. Harris, and Mr. Moncrieff. Between the parts Mr. G. F. Spencer expressed the gratification they all felt at being honoured with the presence of Mr. W. H. Brougham, and he was sure they would be glad to hear a few words from that gentleman. Mr. Brougham, on rising, received a hearty greeting, and assured those present it was always a pleasure for him to visit the Larkhall Anglers, whether in the club room on those occasions or at their annual dinner at Mouflet's Hotel in Newgate Street. He felt the latter was more adapted for speech-making than the Smoking Concerts, where the voice was specially required for musical harmony. In referring to the five tons weight of fish that had this year been turned into the river, he remarked they were all big fish, and there was scarcely one so small as could be designated one of "Brougham's Babies." In the Sunbury district, if they had witnessed the putting in of large quantities of big perch, he was sure some of them would go there and endeavour to obtain the prize of a perch rod he had offered them for the three best specimen perch. In conclusion, Mr. Brougham wished them one and all the best compliments of the season and heartily thanked them for their warm reception. At the conclusion of the Concert, a cordial vote of thanks was accorded to the chairman. Mr. G. F. Spencer, in reply, heartily thanked the members for their kindness, but stated the success of the evening was due solely to the great exertions of their honorary secretary, Mr. E. M. Mallett, and it gave him very great pleasure to propose that gentleman's health, which was responded to with great acclamation. Mr. E. M. Mallett, in well chosen words, briefly returned thanks. It is worthy of remark there has been a large increase of members this year. The club is altogether in a very prosperous condition. Some extensive improvements are shortly to be made, including the enlargement of the club room, and Mr. J. H. Morris, the proprietor, is most attentive and courteous on all occasions. The most successful Concert yet given under the management of the society was brought to a termination by the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" and the National Anthem.

B.

THE GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

THE excellent concert, for such it was, given by this great City society on Tuesday of last week deserves a word or two more than our space would then afford. Several members of the Bell Musical Society kindly gave their aid, Mr. C. E. Aveling, a member of the Gresham, arranging the programme, and selling Mr. Crumplen's "Welcome, Anglers" with great force and feeling; Mr. Elwin, a favourite in musical circles, also giving his valuable services. Mr. Winterbottom, whose talent is so frequently at the disposal of his brother anglers, gave one of his brilliant pianoforte solos. Not forgetting the skilful violin and violoncello playing of the Messrs. Fennings, or Mr. Harrison's clever whistling solo, mention must again be made of Mr. Franklin Clive, whose clear intonation and fine bass voice not only made a deep impression, but largely contributed to the success of the evening. This gentleman should certainly be a star in the musical firmament, and there is some reason to hope that with his help and that of other celebrities whose names are familiar as household words, there may be a Gresham concert in which musicians who "go a-angling" will give their services, and the Anglers' Benevolent Society accept the proceeds. Mr. Page sang "La-de-da" (of which he is the author) in his own inimitable way, and being warmly encored, gave "Still They Come," which provoked even further merriment. Mr. F. S. Gillett sang "The Bashful Man" very facetiously; Mr. J. E. Harding, Mr. Jardine, Mr. Young, Mr. Cartwright, Mr. Copeland, and others all doing their best to make the entertainment one that will long linger in the memory of those present. Mr. S. C. Harding gave his able recital of "Daniel *v.* Dishclout," and Mr. A. Ford an effective rendering of "Scrooge the Miser." Dr. Brunton made a capital chairman, introducing the vocalists very pleasantly, running them in, one after another, as his bayonet-pointed hooks do the fish who come under their potent sway. Mr. Charles Bates reads his paper on "Perch" on Tuesday next, so that another good meeting is assured. Mr. R. B. Marston has kindly undertaken to preside, the chair being taken at seven o'clock. Several members (weather permitting) hope to place a good show of fish on the tables that evening, and members of other societies will, as usual, be welcomed on signing the visitors' book.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. C. FRANCE, Moseley, Birmingham.—"A.R I.E.L.," in his fly-fishing-spinning articles, is going to give some recipes for waterproofing lines. They are good; and we have seen his dressed lines, which are beautifully smooth. But you will find it cheaper to go to some good firm in Birmingham, and buy a silk line ready waterproofed. If you are not in a hurry wait a week or two for "A.R.I E.L.'s" recipes. You can get an 8-plait plain silk line very cheaply indeed.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.*

WHEN WERE SALMON LAST TAKEN IN THE THAMES?

SIR,—I shall feel much obliged by your informing me when the last *Salmon* was taken in the Thames. Anticipating that you will kindly supply the desired information,—I am, &c., W. J. MCMULLEN.

East Dulwich.

We imagine it would be a difficult matter to give the exact date of the last capture of a salmon in the Thames above London—where they once were so plentiful. We give a few extracts from some angling books which refer to the matter.

Yarrell in his "History of British Fishes" (2nd edition, 1841), says: "A Thames salmon is a prize to a fisherman, which, like other prizes, occurs but seldom. The last Thames salmon I have a note of was taken in June, 1833. The appearance of the common tern or sea-swallow, which, on its arrival in May, wings its flight for miles up the Thames, is the signal to the fisherman to keep a good look-out for a salmom."

In his "Hints on Angling," published in 1814, Palmer Hackle says, page 297: "Salmon are now very rarely caught in the Thames." Dr. W. Wright, in his work on "Fishes and Fishing," published in 1858, refers to having seen a fish, said to be of seventy pounds weight, in the nets at Laleham, in 1789. He also says, p. 56: "Formerly, in walking by the side of the Thames on a summer's evening, anywhere above Sunbury up to Windsor, you would see large numbers of salmon leap out of the water by the side of the osier aits. Now the locks and weirs are so badly constructed that if salmon were to run the gauntlet of passing the pool, their further passage upwards would be completely obstructed by these badly-contrived erections."

In that very capital little work, "The Angler's Guide," by T. F. Salter Gent (sixth edition, 1825), the author says, p. 156, "Salmon are found in the river Thames, and, I believe, are justly considered superior in flavour to any bred in other rivers." He then describes the Thames and Medway methods of fishing for it with flies, or ledger-line, baited with mussels, prawn, or cockle, two large lob worms, &c.

Mr. Greville Fennell very kindly says, in answer to an enquiry we sent him on this matter:—

"DEAR MR. MARSTON,—You over-rate my powers of memory. I will, however, try and trace what you desire to learn.

"I am inclined to believe it was about the year 1852 that old John Harris, of the Lincoln Arms, Weybridge, said that he, with Harris, of Laleham, and two other fishermen, caught the last salmon (proper) in the Thames. I recorded his statement in the *Field*. They sold it at 7s. 6d. per lb.

"In 1860, two salmon were caught at Erith, one of 16 lb., the other 11 lb., and two grilse at Dartford Creek, one of 6½ lb. In 1866, a young salmon was taken at Isleworth by an angler dibbing with the house-fly.

"Yours very truly,
"J. GREVILLE FENNELL."

[This last was doubtless one of Mr. Buckland's youngsters, *put in*.—ED]

RESPECTING BARBEL BITES.

SIR,—Respecting barbel bites, in answer to "Lay Brother's" inquiry, I may say, as I am constantly fishing for them ledgering, I have often felt the bite he mentions in bream as well as barbel swims, but it is not always barbel that knock so hard as to take the rod nearly out of your hand. Master Trout has a little to do with it. I have found barbel bite like that when a swim has been overfished. For instance, fish a swim three days (I have longer), and after a time the fish know what's up—they are shy; that is, afraid; they snap and leave go. I have tried all manner of dodges—let the line slip, still no use. When I find that they are biting like that I leave the swim, say, three days or a week, bait and try again; but if they turn out to be trout, the sooner you catch them the better (of course if out of season put them back). Fishing with Mr. Allan one day, I had a heavy jerk. "See that bite, sir?" "No." Presently the gentleman had just such a tug, with better luck, as he got a trout two pounds. I have seen others caught this season in this way, so I think trout are often in the swim with barbel. You may strike how you like, but if the fish do not hook themselves there is little chance for the rod. The bream are on the feed these last two or three days, but the water is rising and coloured as well. No one has been down to fish, or I could have got some bream on for them, I think.—I am, &c., JAMES HASLETT.

Dec. 23, 1882.

BARBEL BITES.

SIR,—I expected in your last issue to see some answer to "Lay Brother's" inquiry on barbel-fishing; but finding that no veteran has enlightened him, I wish, although a novice, to assure him on one point regarding the fish—namely, they are not barbel at all that have led him such dances, but chub. I have fished (ledgered) mostly with the two hooks mentioned by "Mark Antony," and have fared the same as "Lay Brother," with the exception that I have generally managed to get one or two of the varmints, and they have always turned out to be chub. I have asked anglers up the Thames, and they have confirmed my belief. "Chub," says one shortly, in answer to my question. "Little chub," says another; "bite—bite like bulldogs." A third spoke to me about it, said he had tried his sharpest practice, but was scarcely ever in time. G. F.

P.S.—Of course I refer to day fishing. I believe they are caught at night better.

ROACH BITES—A NORFOLK OPINION.

SIR,—I do not intend to allude to any of the numerous opinions contained in the many letters from your correspondents on the above subject, but thought that perhaps a word or two as to my experience on the Yare and Bure might bear out the views expressed by some of them. I have had many years' practice amongst the roach on both streams, and can well remember many occasions on which it seemed next to impossible to miss a bite (even in a heavy rain and storm); but I must add that the bites on these occasions were what I should describe as steady, even bites, the float first showing to the practised eye a sign of a fish being at the bait, then going down steadily, though, of course, quickly. Not many bites are missed under these circumstances—not more than 10 or 15 per cent., I should think. At other times, in perfectly calm water, I have myself, and have seen several friends whom I look upon as some of the best roachers in Norfolk, miss bite after bite, the float always at these times disappearing like lightning, and, strike as you may, nothing results but loss of bait or temper. I believe these bites are caused by small fry, which seize the bait and take the float under, but are not often hooked. I use the old-fashioned tight line. The above is my experience, and I can find no better explanation. The same happened to the friends I mentioned, who were using a reel and fishing in the most approved Nottingham style. I should be glad to hear the opinions of some of our Norwich anglers or Yarmouth brethren, to all of whom I wish a successful and prosperous New Year.—I am, &c.,

ROBERT MOLL.

Hon. Secretary, Norwich Angling Club.

Prospect Cottage, Thorpe Hamlet, Norwich.

PIKE BITES.

SIR,—Can you inform me if the bite of a pike is poisonous? I was showing one that I had caught at Shepperton last week to a friend of mine, and he, thinking it was dead, put his finger in its mouth, and the brute closed its jaws so tight that he foolishly shook it off instead of getting some one to force its jaws open. I regret to say his hand and arm are very painful and swollen, and he is nervous about it. I assured him that I had received several bites, but had never been any the worse for them.

The fish had been out of water three hours.—I am, &c.,

Putney. J. HEWETSON.

[We do not think your friend need be alarmed, but he should be careful, as long as there is any inflammation or pain, to avoid stimulants and rich food. In a similar case, we found cold water bandages brought down the inflammation in a few days. A pike's bite is poisonous; the effect it has depends on the state of health of the party bitten.—ED.]

SPINNING FOR TROUT FROM THE REEL.

SIR,—In the last Occabot Club papers, the idea of applying the method of casting off the reel in spinning for trout is entered into. I have tried it, and found that there are two important practical defects which will always, I believe, prevent it from proving a successful style when practised upon wide rapid shallows, the most favourable water for spinning the minnow. The first of these defects has already been noticed, viz., that the unavoidable weight of a lead, in addition to the minnow, causes a splash that will disturb a shy fish like the trout. The second objection is that in Nottingham casting a wide circular sweep of the rod is necessary, and this much hampers the spinner in the neighbourhood of trees and bushes, rendering him in most trout streams unable to cast to the best feeding spots. The use of a lead in spinning for salmon is not so fatal, for the salmon usually takes in heavier, stronger streams, while on a salmon river the fisherman is more often at work on open water.

"Redspinner's" allusion to a method of Nottingham float-fishing, which enables him to get out 30 yards of line with a couple of swan shot on the trace, I do not clearly understand, unless he refers to paying the line off the reel, in which case the recovery of the line and spinning of the bait would be up stream. I have always found that a rapid, level spin of the bait down stream is the first essential in trout-fishing in shallows. A trout then makes a bold dash at the bait escaping him, whereas a slow, up-stream spin allows him time for inspection, which is quite against the chances of the fisherman.—I am, &c.,

SCOT.

[If "Scot" will try an eight or nine-foot rod, with few and *large* rings, he will find he can get his minnow out from the reel in a very confined space; but the reel must run like "greased lightning."—ED.]

TO PREVENT REELS WARPING, LANDING NETS, &c.

SIR,—I have been going to write you for some time past *re* several things that have cropped up in the FISHING GAZETTE.

How to prevent wooden reels warping, &c.: Give them two coats of painter's knotting—two pennyworth will last a long time; also good for binding of rings on rods, flights, &c.; dries in five minutes.

Should like to have a graining from Mr. Woolfall.

Plenty of azurine or blue roach in lake on estate of Col. Loyd, at Hawkhurst, Kent, and in several other ponds in the county.

I quite agree with you that a net is necessary, more especially as a means of lessening the strain on your fine tackle, as well as a means of landing your fish quickly. I do not agree with a short handle, but have one about 5 feet.—I am, &c.,

T. R. PRICE.

Maidstone Angling Society.

[Mr. Price gives an illustrated description of his method of carrying the landing net; but when we say that it entails carrying the handle on the basket horizontally, with the ends projecting on each side, our readers will, we think, agree with us that it won't do. The plan is radically wrong. Are the bushes, trees, &c., which Mr. Price meets with as he fishes all over six feet apart? Are all gates and gaps in hedges of this size? If not Mr. P. must be constantly on the look-out for a smash. On a treeless canal his plan might answer, but not in trout fishing.—ED.]

SIZE AND WEIGHT OF JACK.

SIR,—In reply to Mr. Lewis T. Johnson, I beg to inform that gentleman that I had the pleasure of taking the first jack at Wimbledon Lake last season, the weight of which was between 10 and 11 lb. (see list in cottage on wall), and the length was 35 inches. I am almost afraid to speak, but it seems simply marvellous that a jack weighing 27½ lb. should only be 2½ inches longer than one weighing 10¾ lb. or 10½ lb.—I am, &c.,

MARK ANTONY.

[See also what Mr. Jardine says on this point elsewhere in this number. —ED.]

TWICKENHAM FERRY.

SIR,—It is no doubt well known to most anglers who are in the habit visiting this well known spot, that there exists a first-rate roach swim, one th is seldom visited by anglers without their taking away a decent number and weig of fish, as almost every roach taken will weigh from ¼ to ½ lb. The members of o club, the Acton and Ealing, frequent this spot, and what we complain of is th annoyance we receive at the hands of the "old ferryman," who, to-day, whe we had fixed our punt at this well-known roach swim, persisted, in spite our admonitions, to cross our swim, his sculls almost touching our punt wh he had a fare to ferry over; and he had the audacity to tell us we had business there, and that we were preventing him ferrying his passengers ov That was, of course, ridiculous as it is patent to everyone who knows the sp that there is length and width to ferry over, let you pitch where you ma What we want to know is, can anything be done to put a stop to this gentl man's future annoyances? We are quite willing to make allowance for Chris mas time to the old fellow.

Can Mr. Brougham advise us what course it would be best to pursue if should repeat his conduct of to-day. We are informed that he has been the a number of years, and upon that account, we suppose, he considers the stret of water across which he ferries his own. Can we take any proceedings again him if it is renewed. That is what we wish to know, Mr. Editor.—I am, &

W. E.

[This is rather a difficult question. On the face of it, we think old Charon quite within his rights. The ferry is for the convenience of the public, and n to put money into old C.'s pocket. Suppose W. E. is a medical man call urgently to some case, and to save time he goes to the ferry and finds a pu or a dozen punts, in the way—for if one punt has a right to be there why n a dozen? We think W. E. would have an action against C. for permitti the punts to be there at all. As to the amount of space required by ferryman, as far as our experience goes, that varies according to the state the tide, strength of the stream and number of passengers. But doubtle some legal angler will give us the law on this point.—ED.]

HOUNSLOW FISHING.

SIR,—I should like to ask some of your numerous readers whether they ha experienced the same bad sport in their districts as we have this season Hounslow.

All our fishing-places, private or public, have been equally poor. At t Black Dog Water, Bedfont, roach did feed a little in June and July; sin then the record has been growing less and less, and many are the blank days have heard of.

The extreme lowness and brightness of the streams, added to the luxuria growth of water weed, which completely choked the rivers, may have cause last summer's bad sport; but what prevented our having some small amount fishing in the autumn and later?

There are plenty of fish, we know. How those big roach did splash about the evening, and even as late as September you could plainly see the dark for of monster bream and roach moving in shoals over the sunlit gravel shallow They didn't seem to care for the deeper water. I suppose they do now, a are snugly ensconced in the deep holes.

Perhaps it was the extra mass of weeds that gave the fish plenty of food a made them independent of the eternal bread and bran. It consoles one b little to say, as a brother angler here says, "that there are more fish left for next year." Perhaps there may be, and perhaps the same old never-tiring ga of empty baskets will continue.

Another complaint and I have done. It is about eels. I should be glad know where all the wrigglers have departed to this season. In former yea fishing for them, we have generally had some every night's fishing, but late the rule has been perhaps one, and that a little 'un; more likely none at all.

No doubt some of your readers have visited us this season and have far as we locals have. Let's hope it will improve next year.—I am, &c.

Lampton Road, Hounslow, Dec. 18. G. HAWKINS.

ODDS AND ENDS.

SIR,—Young anglers must be especially benefited, if not at times a lit perplexed, from reading the increasingly interesting correspondence in t F. G. The letters that have of late appeared about roach-fishing, and t different percentage of "nabs" to "nibbles" and "knocks," plainly show, my mind, how different is the experience of the same angler at different tim and under different circumstances. It is the same in shooting, as I know fro personal knowledge. It must be remembered that the roach of, say, the l fifteen or twenty years has been more and more pampered with ground-bait the upper Thames as far as Reading, and also in the Lea, than in most oth south-country rivers; and how can anybody expect but what at times t roach, full of the tossed-in stuff, merely nibble in a half-hearted fashion co pared with unfed roach in such a river as the Kennet for instance, and some the more distant stretches of the Isis or Thames? I know when a fairish cr of good roach could nearly always be got in the Kennet with far less fi tackle than is used nowadays, and when the fish were really "dead on" the was little difficulty in "nabbing" nine out of every dozen "knocks," "nibbles." But I think in an unbaited swim the bigger roach—say, from a pou weight and upwards—generally give a deliberate "knock" or pull at the flo not very unlike a chub at a piece of good old cheese, and the said roach seld missed being landed. It is certainly an advantage when fishing a canal river in deep water, close in, because you only require a rod of moderate lengt and can strike with facility. I have often been amused to see a lot of big fi of one sort or another swimming about near a well-known inn a little the Lea, at Tottenham, when a number of "disciples" failed to get a sing "knock," try as they would. It will no doubt be answered that anglers these days of "mad rush" to win prizes and become heroes in their own lit world, that they must use ground-bait or drop fishing altogether. But, I s that any man is only half an angler if he had not learnt lessons above a beyond mere success with his angle. It was the lessons thus learnt by Izaak Walton that make his writings so dear to all. Every flower, every bi every pretty "peep," or bend in river of stream—each and all speak to man the goodness and beauty of God's wonderful works, for did not a very gr man find sermons even in stones?

Every angler has at times, especially when in a dry, clear-water autum seen perch and chub in back waters or in shallowish streams, swimming ab heedless of the contortions of a nicely-scoured worm or the liveliest of live minnows dropped just in front of the dear fishes' noses. The fish were plai out for a holiday and a good sunning, and had lunched before starting. B speaking more particularly of live-baiting for perch or jack, I believe the less y throw your bait about, the longer and livelier your dace or gudgeon, bleak or m now will, of course, last. This is often very important. When I was a lad, I made it a point to watch intently an old and clever trout angler, and I always found that when he was ledgering with minnow he was especially careful not to let the little fish fall with any dash or splash upon the water. Modern anglers might smile when I say that on one occasion, finding the perch wouldn't look at worms, I caught a minnow in an adjoining stream and dropped the bait as caught in the perch hole, and a beautiful perch soon lay on the green grass. This I repeated for sixteen times, and didn't miss a single knock or a run. I often tried the same hole, but never got 'em on like that again. Therefore, there is no rule but what there are many exceptions to it, and the safest way is to take a middle course; though I cannot but believe that the fish nowadays are pampered and stuffed most inordinately, so that they have become as dainty as epicures. Complimenting you on the success of your little journal,—I am, &c.

London, S.W. FEED 'EM LESS.

BLUE DUN FOWLS.

SIR,—As the blue dun seems to be taking up the attention of anglers, probably the enclosed may prove of interest to your readers—it is copied from "Ornamental and Domestic Poultry," by the Rev. Edmund Saul Dixon, M.A.

"For an acquaintance with and a description of this very neat and pleasing variety I am entirely indebted to the kindness of a valued correspondent, as also for good living specimens of the birds.

"The blue dun fowls were first procured by us from Dorsetshire, but I know not from what part. They are under the average size, of a soft and pleasing bluish dun colour, the neck being darker, with high single combs deeply serrated. The cock is of the same colour as the hen, but has in addition some dark, handsome stripes in the long feathers of the tail, and sometimes a few golden or even scarlet marks on the wings, which, by their contrast, give the bird a very exotic look. The blue duns are exceedingly familiar, impudent, and pugnacious—indeed, I strongly suspect this sort to be a variety of, or nearly related to, the game fowl, having exactly that shape, and also disposition.

"I have fortunately hit upon a lovely little hen for you, but the cock I must apologise for; his colour is unimpeachable, but you must imagine that little crest to be absent and the comb to be single instead of double. His brother, who fully intended waiting on you in Norfolk, and was exceedingly perfect, was killed by a wireguard being blown down on him. I would send my own grown cock, but I believe it would cause a mutiny among the labourers, who sometimes give him and his wife the greater part of their dinners, he being impudent enough to take it either from their mouths or hands! They have named him Fred. It is the greatest fun to see a cock of this sort keeping up a playful fight with another, rather his superior, spinning and waltzing about him like a French dancing-master. Without more convincing proof I do not approve of their being called blue bantams, as although the breed is certainly small, it is still respectable in size, and the eggs are very fair in that respect. The hens are good layers, wanting to sit after laying a moderate number of eggs, and proving attentive and careful rearers of their own chickens—but rather savage to those of other hens. The eggs are small and short, tapering slightly at one end, and perfectly white. The chicks, on just coming from the egg, sometimes have a ridiculous resemblance to the grey and yellow catkin of the willow, being of a soft bluish-grey, mixed with a little yellow here and there.

"There is one peculiarity in this breed, which is that, if the variety is kept perfectly unmixed with any other sort, you will seldom obtain more than half the number of the proper blue duns, the rest being either black or white. (This would make us strongly suspect that, if their history were known, they are but a cross between two distinct varieties or species of fowls, and that they must eventually disappear by assimilation to the type of one or the other progenitor.) The white chickens, however, are afterwards sprinkled with dun feathers. Perhaps the original sort may have been either black or white, as we know animals will, after many cross breedings, 'cry back,' as it is called in some counties, to the origin whence they arose.

"The blue duns are nearly equal to game of any sort for eating. The hackles of the cock are always in great request for making artificial flies for fishing."—H. H.

"The theory that the colour of the blue duns results from a combination of black and white (*i.e.*, very dark purple or slate colour) in the progenitors, as betrayed by the habitual "crying back" of the breed, is confirmed by the fact of the speckled black and white or grey and white Spanish producing whole-coloured slaty-grey birds, though of a darker hue than the blue duns, in which the permanency of the tint appears to be equally uncertain. It will be worth while to keep some of the aberrant chickens of the blue duns and record the result of their propagation *inter se*.

"Had I time and space at my disposal, should try to re-introduce the breed by breeding from dark Andalusian pullets running with a pile or white game cock, then mate these with others similarly bred, choosing the bluest birds to breed from. This, I think, would produce birds of the right colour and stamp."—I am, &c., S. HOWARTH.

13, Station Street, Burton-on-Trent.

THE CHESTERFIELD ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

SIR,—The above association has been formed with a view of encouraging fish culture and preserving freshwater fish for angling purposes.

Arrangements are already completed with the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway Company for the use of the canal from Chesterfield Basin to Staveley Church Bridge, and some of the streams adjoining and tributary to the same have been secured, and we hope to have more shortly.

There have been 6500 trout fry put in at likely places, and we are now in want of some coarse fish for the canal, viz., perch, roach, tench, &c., which would require distributing according to the nature of the waters.

We have put in a considerable quantity of coarse fish.

We are desirous of obtaining railway travelling assistance. Will you kindly inform us what steps to take, where to apply, &c.?

If you could inform us how to get information as to rules, &c, we should take it as a great favour.

Hoping I am not interfering with your space,—I am, &c.,

26, Durrant Road, Chesterfield, G. R. HORNSTOCK, sec.
Derbyshire.

[Will some London club secretary kindly answer this?—ED.]

NATIONAL REFUGE HARBOURS.

SIR,—The following facts are almost unknown—we have it on authority of the Board of Trade returns—that in the official year 1881-82, the loss of life by shipwreck on our coasts was 984; in the last 27 years no fewer than 19,534 lives were sacrificed, and 55,410 vessels.

We have now a most powerful organisation composed of a very great number of our nobility, naval authorities, and leading public-spirited people of the greatest capacity and highest influence, who at the beginning of the new year will make a united effort for the protection and safety of our fishermen and mariners, and which effort, if supported by the many who care for the welfare and safety of our seafaring population, must command success.

The general aim of the Society is the prevention of loss by shipwreck of life and property on the coasts of the British Islands, and the improvement of harbour accommodation.

Each locality will be treated with strict impartiality on its merits alone as a purely national matter.

Such an organisation can never be too strong, and I shall be glad to hear from all volunteers desirous of working with us to mitigate these most serious losses of life and property, and be pleased to forward to them a list of the names of those by whom the movement is supported.

The Society's head quarters will shortly be in London, and it is desired to establish branches throughout the provinces, in the same manner as the Royal National Life-Boat Institution, and the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society.

Thanking you for granting a little space for me to plead the cause of seafaring men who perish in such large numbers annually from causes which are in great measure preventible,—I am, &c.,

F. JOHNSON,
Hon. Managing Sec.

23, Norman Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea.—Dec. 1882.

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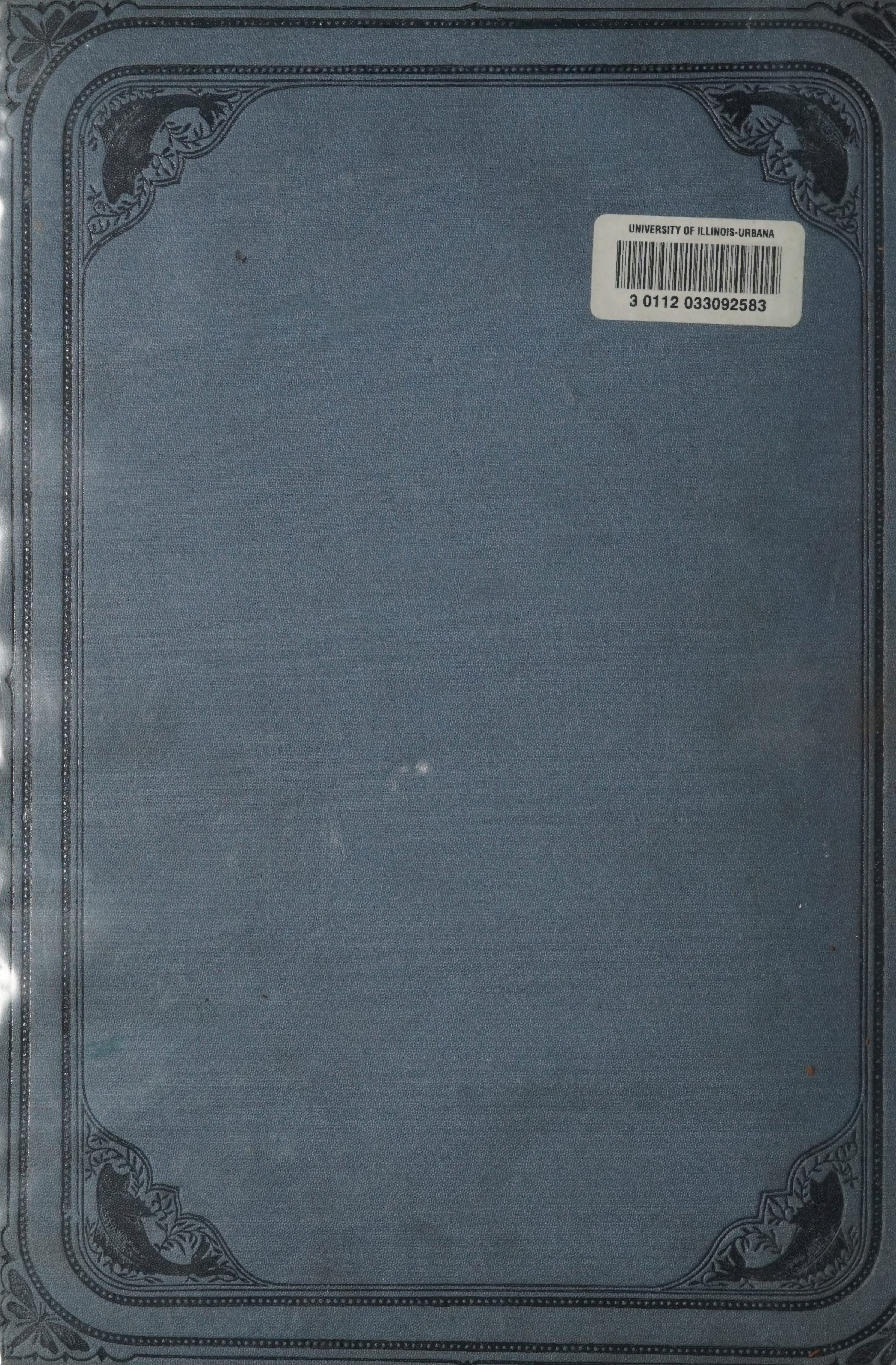

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